

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, KINGTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1185453

## Details

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Other names	ST MARY'S CHURCH, KINGTON, ST MARY'S PCC, KINGTON, ST MARY'S, KINGTON
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2019-09-23
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Website	<a href="https://www.kingtonparishes.org.uk/">https://www.kingtonparishes.org.uk/</a>

## Activities

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

**Activities:** The activities of St Mary's, Kington include the holding of regular church services in the church, the publication of the monthly magazine, the raising of funds for the maintenance of the church property and for various charitable purposes, holding bi-monthly meetings of the trustees in the Parish House, organising activities for children and adults in the Parish House.

## Classification

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

## Geography

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- Herefordshire

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£169,094	£279,638	-	-
2023-12-31	£168,649	£153,052	-	-
2022-12-31	£101,771	£117,200	-	-
2021-12-31	£252,587	£170,941	-	-
2020-12-31	£85,089	£101,242	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Ann Elizabeth Edwards		1991-04-08
Beverley Fensom		2019-04-08
Christine Robinson		2023-04-18
Deborah Sell		2023-04-18
Eileen Valentine Thomas		2002-04-15
Elizabeth Banks		2025-05-04
Gregory Wight		2026-04-12
Julia Reid		2023-11-14
Margaret Anne Cooke BSc		2017-04-10
Margaret H Pengelly		2023-04-18
Nicholas Cooke		2017-04-10
PENELOPE HALCROW		1996-04-10
Philip Sell		2018-04-08
Rev Phillippa Wright		2025-06-29
Rev Sally Wright		2024-11-29
Robert MacCurrach		2019-04-08
Stephen Lacey		2022-05-10

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# Accounts

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# ST MARY'S CHURCH, KINGTON

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Registered charity number 1185453



### TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS for 2024

St Mary's Church is situated in Kington, in the Kington and Weobley Deanery in the Diocese of Hereford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Church Office, The Vicarage, Church Road, Kington, HR5 3AG.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and is now registered with the Charity Commission (Registered charity number 1185453).

As Charity Trustees, all PCC members are mindful of the Charity Commission's six core principles for charity trustees, which are as follows:

- 1. Ensure your charity is conducting its purposes for the public benefit.**
- 2. Comply with your charity's governing document i.e. PCC Measure and Church Rep Rules – and the wider law.**
- 3. Act in your charity's best interests., by making sure that you act for the church and not for any conflicting interest, e.g., a related school or other organisation. Ensure that the decisions are yours, not those influenced by others.**
- 4. Manage your charity's resources responsibly.**
- 5. Act with reasonable care and skill.**
- 6. Ensure your charity is accountable.**

PCC members who have served at any time since the Annual Church Meeting 2024 until the Annual Church meetings in April 2025 are:

<b>Licensed Clergy:</b>	Vacancy since 28/02/2023 until 25/11/2024 The services have been covered by a team of deanery and cathedral clergy coordinated by the Rural Dean Mike Kneen , Sally Welch, Paul Roberts and Judith Pollard
<b>Licensed Reader</b>	Mr Rob MacCurrach
<b>Churchwardens:</b>	Miss Ann Edwards

	Mr Rodney Bowdler (Vice Chair) until his death in December 2024
<b>Deanery Synod Representatives:</b>	Mrs Eileen Thomas (sacristan) Mr Stephen Lacey Mrs Penny Halcrow
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Mrs Christine Robinson
<b>Elected members:</b>	
<b>2022</b>	Debbie Horne, (resigned November 2023,) Stephen Lacey
<b>2023</b>	Mrs Margaret Pengelly, Deborah Sell, Ms Julia Read coopted from November 2023 Nick Cooke, Margaret Cooke, Malcom Price re-elected
<b>2024</b>	Malcom Price resigned Mrs Rosemary Brown

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary's, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar when in post), churchwardens, the reader licensed to the Benefice, parochial representatives elected to the Deanery Synod, and members elected by those on the electoral roll of the church. All members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. There were six PCC meetings during the year of which were chaired by the lay chair Rodney Bowdler during the vacancy for vicar of the Parish. It was with great sadness that we learnt of Rodney's death in December 2024 and the PCC would like to note their gratitude for all he gave to St Mary's

## **AIMS AND PURPOSES**

St Mary's (Kington) PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent (when in post) and the Rural Dean in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Church and of the Parish House.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at the church and to become part of the parish community at St Mary's. This includes those who worship via the live stream. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and in 2024 has overseen the introduction of a new Prayer and Praise service once a month at St Mary's.

Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music, and sacrament. We try to enable everybody to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St Mary and the Parish House and build up the church community. We are indebted to the Rural Dean for supporting the parish and the PCC, to continue to maintain the life and worship of the church.

## **WORSHIP AND PRAYER**

### **Worship and Prayer**

This reports on worship, prayer, services, home groups and other ways and occasions where we have worshiped our Lord in and around St Mary's during the second year of the vacancy. There has been plenty of coming together to turn ideas and small dreams into practice. It's been encouraging! There has certainly been a buzz of the Spirit, and a flurry of new members. In no small measure thanks are owed to Mike Kneen, our Rural Dean, who led so many services and encouraged us with his enthusiasm.

Music should have its own report since it has been playing such a central part in our worship. Philip Sell, our director of music, has been busy, and the choir, often with new additions, is a spiritual force. Paul Roberts regularly stands in or supports Philip. The newly renovated organ makes its presence known by its lusty sounds. We are very blessed!

Our normal Sunday service is the Eucharist, and our most popular service. We have enjoyed some visiting priests leading and preaching, including the Dean of the Cathedral and the Bishop's Chaplain. When 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays arise, a group Eucharist was celebrated in one of the churches.

A small team leads a monthly Morning Praise. This has been developing encouragingly and allows a less formal tone with greater variety in worship and prayer. There is certainly room and need for new leaders to join the team and be trained. The new sound system will offer the opportunity for a wider range of music and liturgy.

Freda Lymath and Alison Hird run a well supported and popular monthly morning service at The Garth and Kington Court care homes.

The Read Mark Learn study group, led by Trish MacCurrach, progressed to our first Alpha group. There was a mixture of finding faith, recovering faith, and growing in faith. Paul

Roberts led a small team that then ran a second Alpha course in the Parish Hall. Alpha is described as 'an introduction to the Christian faith,' but for some it is also a 'refresher course' for their faith. The heart of the meetings was the discussion in a small group where guests were invited to share their comments and questions about the Alpha video. No question was off limits. We spent a day in the lovely setting of the Friends Meeting House in Almeley finding out about the Holy Spirit – who he is, what he does, and how he can fill us. All of us – team and guests – felt our lives touched in some way by the grace of God as a result of Alpha.

Little happens without prayer; God expects us to talk to him and listen to him! A very helpful prayer course (part of Pete Grieg's ministry) was run during Lent at Nick and Margaret Cooke's and at Paul and Nicy Roberts'.

Rob MacCurrach

16/01/25

### **Music at St Mary's**

A key aspect of the provision of music at St Mary's is the choir and organ and this year we are delighted that the restoration of the organ is complete. The following is the summary provided to one of our main funders.

#### **Summary of work on the Organ**

The overhaul and refurbishment project was carried out by Clevedon Organ (UK) Ltd. As well as a total dismantle, clean and reassemble, they have *revoiced* some ranks of pipes to make a more balanced whole. As planned, they added in a 16ft trombone stop to the pedals. They also added, free of charge, an acoustic bass, named as a *32ft Gravitass* stop to the pedals. - which has made a much more robust and exciting sound.

#### **Obstacles and problems**

Once the company commenced the disassembly work, they became very aware that access to the upper regions of the organ presented great risk. Put simply, the organ did not conform to current health and safety requirements. Consequently, they had to install internal ladders to allow safe access to all areas. There was no internal lighting, some of the original cabling was deemed unsafe. This resulted in the need for extra, unplanned and uncosted electrical work.



Once the organ was completely dismantled, tests were made on the organ substructure, and it was felt that there wasn't sufficient robustness in the framework to take the additional weight of the new wind chests and trombone pipes. It had been planned to add those in a void at the top of the organ space. Now the choice was either to incorporate a new sub frame in steel to allow this, or to reposition the pipes at the rear of the organ. It was decided that this would be the cheapest option, but it would require a redesign on the organ case. Given that the rear of the organ was basically a wall of painted plywood, we saw great advantage in producing a case to incorporate the new pipes and sound chest. At the same time giving great enhancement to the aesthetics of the instrument. The new case incorporates a high-level access door, with ladder fixings/platform. This a further enhancement of safety.

**Extra costs**

The works described above added considerably to the cost of the project. Around £18,000 for the new case work and internal/external ladders. £5300 for the extra electrical work/lighting. The new work also required amendments to the original specification of work/ Diocesan approval which delayed progress greatly. Consequently, the scaffolding was required for an additional 6 weeks, adding a further £2300 to the project costs.



The restored metal flute (8ft rank)  
The completed front case. Note the silvered finish of pipe work

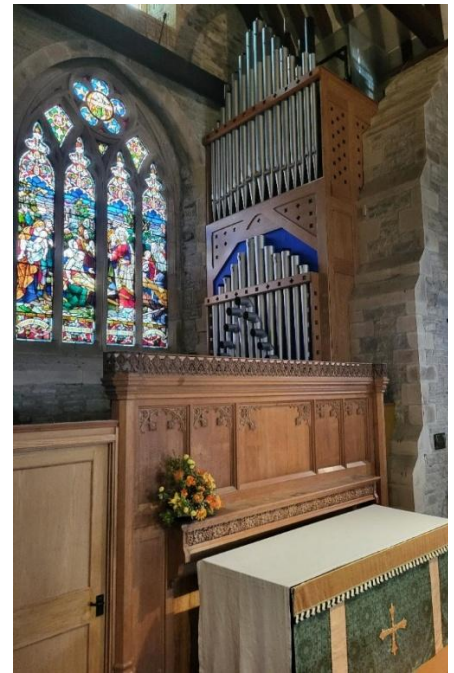


The beautiful new rear case, showing some of the 16ft trombone pipes and access ladder.  
The new rear case, showing the new exterior access ladder and top entrance



The 8ft stopped diapason pipes after restoration and cleaning

The new rear case, as seen from the north aisle with all trombone pipes installed.



### **Reflections and observations**

the restoration of the organ has provided us with a reliable instrument that will serve us well for the next hundred years before it requires further major work. From a long-term financial point of view this makes very good sense. From a historical point of view our organ is usable rather than gradually declining into unusability and over a hundred years of history is contributing to the musical life of our church and town. **(PCC Treasurer)**

From this project we have a reliable instrument, much improved sound, much improved usability and a great improvement in terms of the visual appeal. **(church member)**

The organ is now a pleasure to play. Before they work was carried out it was unreliable, out of tune, and badly balanced, but now all those problems have been resolved. The organ can now be featured in a number of solo, choral and instrumental concerts as well as providing a good lead in congregational worship. **(One of the organists)**

I have never heard the organ with so much power. It made the ground shake! **(member of the congregation)**

It has been a joy and an encouragement to have our organ back in good fettle, soaring upwards and grumbling deep. We love it, and we are so lucky to have several able musicians to make it sing and weep for joy **(Member of the congregation)**

### **Summary**

This project required a great deal of effort and determination. There were obstacles over the course of the work, but it has all been so worthwhile. We now have a truly splendid looking and wonderfully sounding, reliable instrument that will serve the church and wider community for decades to come. Thank you to all who contributed their time, skills and donations to enable this huge achievement. Thank you especially to The Garfield Weston Trust for their valuable support and encouragement.

**Philip Sell (Director of Music)**

**MISSION AND EVANGELISM**

## **Messy church**

Ten Messy Church sessions were run over 2024 mainly featuring the Fruit of the Spirit Theme and fitted around the other key Christian calendar events. The format has been typically an introductory story, linking into 3 activities and a game, followed by a short worship and a meal. Numbers have reduced towards the end of the year and following a review we look forward to trying a new day and format for 2025.

A big thank you to all helpers without whom running Messy Church would not be possible.

Themes covered:

<b>January</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Feb</b>	<b>Kindness</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Easter</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Goodness</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Holy Spirit</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Faithfulness</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>Gentleness</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>Self-Control</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>F of S summary</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>Walk in the Light</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Christingle</b>

Attendance:

<b>2024</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Helpers</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>31</b>

### **Kington Creations – St Mary’s Lego Club**

The aim of the club is to get children playing, sharing, listening and solving together within the church environment. Eleven Lego club sessions were run in 2024 with the theme challenges shown below. A few picture suggestions are provided, but no detailed instructions are given and so it’s up to their imagination to create the build. We are constantly amazed not only by the models created, but the stories the children tell as they present their finished items. Once pictures of models have been taken, they are actively encouraged to sort and put away all the bricks.

Numbers have continued to steadily grow and encouragingly parent participation with the children has also increased.

We have also supported Weobley Church Easter & Summer Kids Clubs with Lego build challenges too.

A big thank you to all helpers without whom running the Lego Club would not be possible. We are also grateful to a significant donation of Lego which has helped grow the collection.

<b>January</b>	Shops, playgrounds, parks & buildings
<b>Feb</b>	Space and alien worlds
<b>March</b>	Musical instruments, bands & concerts
<b>April</b>	Sports
<b>May</b>	Fish and sea creatures
<b>June</b>	Tower blocks, tower villages
<b>July</b>	The Olympics
<b>August</b>	N/A

<b>September</b>	Tree Houses
<b>October</b>	Fruit & veg figures
<b>November</b>	My imaginary bedroom
<b>December</b>	Nativity scene, games & bridge challenge

<b>2024</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Helpers</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22</b>

(Average numbers shown would be higher, but on 2 occasions significant flooding and snow fall led to particularly low attendance)

Stephen Lacey 24 Feb 2025

### **LOCAL WORSHIP LEADERS**

Five members of the church community trained as Local Worship Leaders in order to lead the non- eucharistic worship on the third Sunday in the month. Freda Lymouth, Alison Hird, Trica MacCurrach, Elaine Roche, and Ann Edwards have all been commissioned as Local Worship Leaders for a period of three years from 2023. Together with the Lay reader Rob McCurrach they have ably led the worship and introduced innovative approaches to worship.

### **NURSING HOMES SERVICES REPORT**

During the past year, our team of Lay Worship Leaders - Alison, Ann and Freda - have been holding a Church Service on the third Tuesday of each month, with Kington Court at 10.30am and the Garth at 2.30pm. At each service we build up an Altar with a lighted Candle to represent the light of Jesus sent into the world, a Bible to represent the Word of God and finally a Cross to signify Jesus' presence with us.

Until January Ann brought the Candle and Cross from the Vaughan Chapel at St Mary's, but in February Sally blessed and dedicated a Cross of our own.

After building up the Altar, the service moves on to a Confession, Bible story, Reflection, Prayers and the Peace. These items are interspersed by four hymns chosen by the residents. We then end with the Grace, close the Bible, and extinguish the Candle, whilst reminding the residents that although the candle has gone out, Jesus is with us always.

Freda leads the service. Alison plays the piano or keyboard for the hymns and reads the Bible story. Ann builds up the Altar and reads the Prayers. The reflection moves between us.

The needs of the residents are basically the same at each home although the atmosphere is very different. We can have an attendance of 20-25 at Kington Court and 8-12 at the Garth. Although there can be challenges each month in delivering the service, we always feel a sense of fulfilment and of a job done to the best of our ability. We were pleased to see the following comment from Kington Court on Facebook *"We were delighted to welcome representatives from St. Mary's Church for their monthly service at Kington Court. The theme for this month's gathering was thankfulness, and it was truly a beautiful and uplifting experience. We had a wonderful turnout from our residents, who appreciated the opportunity to reflect, connect, and find comfort in the message of gratitude."*

Alison, Ann and Freda Lay Worship Leaders

### **GIVING AND COMMUNITY**

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. Through various special collections and donations, **£254** was sent to two charities. Through the Deanery, we continue to support the Diocesan Train-a-Priest scheme in Tanzania (please see Deanery Synod Report).

Our parish magazine keeps our parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our Church as well as providing a valuable source of community information. Thanks are due to Freda Lymath who having done a sterling job for nineteen years has now retired. We now have new joint editors for the magazine, David Redmayne and Craig Freece. St Mary's is fortunate to have a week at the community shop and this not only raises money for the church but also emphasises that the church is an integral part of the community.

### **Bell Ringing Team**

For the last eighteen months, we have been holding regular Bell Ringing Learner's Practices every Thursday afternoon from 3.30pm until 5.00pm. Before this time I was the only regular ringer at Kington Tower.

At present Tim Hollinghurst and I are teaching about fourteen people.

Two of our most advanced learners have completed quarter peals, which involves ringing methods, nonstop, for approximately forty-five minutes,

Some of our learners have advanced to help ring for the first Sunday of the month 10 o'clock Kington Service. They have also travelled with me to ring for services at Lyonshall and Bredwardine.

Kington held the Hereford District's Striking Competition; we entered a learner's band and came second in that class. There was excellent feedback about the way St Mary's had

hosted the event. We are now one of the leading towers in the Hereford Diocese for learning.

Having been a bell ringer for over sixty years it gives me great pleasure to be teaching such a great crowd of learners, especially as there is a great shortage of new people taking up the art of bell ringing. It does take a long time to become a good ringer, but the tower will always welcome new people.

John Clayton March 2025

## **SAFEGUARDING**

St Mary's church is committed to ensuring that children and vulnerable adults have a positive experience of church and are safeguarded and protected. The Safeguarding Officer ensures that adults in positions of responsibility and helpers with children's work are checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service and that the correct processes are in place. The PCC has agreed to display information about safeguarding in the church and has agreed to update all the policies and procedures. The Safeguarding lead Christine Robinson is conducting an audit of activity and ensuring every volunteer has a role description to ensure that we keep children and adults safe in all church activities.

Christine Robinson Benefice Safeguarding Lead

## **ECUMENICAL LINKS**

*Behold, how good and pleasant it is for us to dwell together in unity (Psalm 133).*

We continue to enjoy good, flourishing links with churches of other denominations in the town. St Mary's Parish Church, Kington Baptist Church and St Bede's RC Church form a strong trinity!

Regular meetings are held to share news from each church and to plan joint ventures and services. This past year has been particularly fruitful.

A Pentecost Praise Service was held at the Baptist Church on 19<sup>th</sup> May, when each church selected hymns and songs according to their own traditions and styles of worship. The service was well attended and an uplifting experience for all involved (Rounded off with a scrumptious tea)

A Second Praise service took place on 20<sup>th</sup> October at St Bede's Church. This time on the theme of *Jesus the Healer*. Another time of fellowship and worship together.

In addition, members of each church participated in the traditional Lent Groups led by various members of St Mary's Church. These sessions proved very popular.

On Good Friday members from all churches and people of the town gathered at Kington Court for a simple service followed by fellowship and hot cross buns.

On every month of the year, a visit has been made by Kington Churches Together to Kington Court to lead an informal service, with readings, prayers, hymns and a short address by a member of the group.

Churches Together in Kington produced a colourful leaflet listing all the Christmas services, together with a seasonal message from the Chair of the Committee.

Members of the committee welcomed a speaker from KICK, a Christian organisation providing training for volunteers, mentors for students and sports coaches. They explored how we might be involved in such activities. One member has now trained as a mentor. We also explored the possibility of running a Summer Activity Club using KICK staff and volunteers from our 3 churches. This would be a big undertaking- but certainly worthwhile.

The Chair of the group is appointed on a rotating basis across the three churches. From February this year, it fell to St Mary's. We are pleased that Revd Sally Welch has taken on this role. We now look for a successful year ahead, starting with some form of joint service at St Mary's in the Spring.

PJGS

## **MEMBERSHIP OF CONGREGATION**

### **Kington St Mary's Electoral Roll Officers Report 2025**

I took over the role of Electoral Roll Officer towards the end of 2024.

2025 is the year that the Electoral Roll had to be completely restarted and all members contacted where possible.

The new roll is somewhat down on the numbers from the 2024 roll. Currently there are

60 people resident in the parish

10 people outside the parish

4 people have moved away.

4 people have died.

7 people have joined the register.

30 people, although contacted, have not responded.

Total on 2024 Roll 103

Total on 2025 Roll 70.

Alison Hird

Electoral Roll Officer for St Mary's Church Kington

March 2025

## **KINGTON AND WEOBLEY DEANERY SYNOD DEANERY SYNOD**

Three members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod. The Deanery Synod provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

Only one meeting has taken place since our last APCM and was held in St Andrew's Church, Presteigne.

The Synod began with the Eucharist, led by Rev Hollinghurst.

The meeting which followed was chaired by the Rural Dean, Rev Mike Kneen.

An opportunity was given to those present to share news from the parishes of upcoming events and activities.

The Rural Dean reported that the Diocese needed to know who the Deanery representatives will be to the Diocese. Nominations for representatives to the Diocesan Synod were invited. The rural dean made the point that unless the Deanery have representation at Diocese level, decisions may be made that do not represent the Deanery requirements.

The Treasurer's Report included the information that, in 2024, the Deanery was to pay some £274,600 to the Diocese towards the professional costs of ministry in our deanery. These professional costs of ministry are normally assessed at about £63,000 per full time incumbent – i.e. around £315,000 for our Deanery's full complement of five incumbents. Our total offer shows a considerable shortfall (c £40,000) from the full costs of professional ministry and the gap is made up by deficits at the Diocese level mitigated by some relatively small savings made during vacancy.

Significant shortfalls (from the £63k per benefice) are seen in two of the benefices. The other three, including the Kington Group are close to or in excess of full offers.

The Deanery is currently earning interest on money held at a sufficient rate to fund the Deanery's donation to Train a Priest in Tanzania (£1,500).

A volunteer is still being sought to take on the role of Deanery treasurer.

On 2nd September 2024 Mike Kneen retired as Rural Dean. The position will be filled in time.

As Steve Hollinghurst said in thanks to Mike, “We have been deeply blessed with Mike’s presence, particularly in his Kington work. We are hugely grateful for his pastoral care and love for all of us.” We in Kington would certainly second that remark acknowledging all the help and support he gave our parishes during the Vacancy.

The new Dean is Karen Smith. It is hoped that in the future Deanery Synod will be held twice a year, going up to three if there are important issues to discuss.

Penny Halcrow (Deanery Synod Rep)

## **PARISH HOUSE REPORT**

The Parish Hall is seen as part of the Church’s mission to Kington, and we are pleased to be able to offer the hall as a facility for community meetings and activities.

The Parish Hall has continued to be let to various bodies independent of Church use, including Home-Start, the Kington Scout group and KADOS. Unfortunately, since Christmas, the Scout group has been unable to meet in Kington as they are lacking in volunteer help. The scoutmaster hopes to be able to reestablish the group soon. The hall is also used for Yoga classes and workshops and rehearsals by a small music group. It is used once a month (third Wednesday) by the Community Lunch Club and is regularly used for PCC and other Church meetings. There have also been occasional bookings for private parties and meetings of other local organisations such as the Kington Malayali Association who have held celebrations in the hall for Onam (an annual harvest and Hindu cultural festival) and for Christmas and New Year.

The highlight of the year for the Parish Hall was its use as a venue during the Marches Makers Festival in May. The Prize-winning Marches Book Art Group had a very successful weekend in the Parish Hall and have already provisionally booked the hall for the next Marches Makers Festival.

We were very pleased to receive the following from the chair of the Book Group:

*“This is just a quick line to say how much I'd like, both personally and as Chair of MBAG, to thank you and the rest of the Parish Hall team for letting us stage our exhibition in your hall. It was an absolutely perfect venue, beautifully appointed and equipped, you made us feel thoroughly welcome.”*

- and from another member of the group:

*“Just a note to thank you once again for looking after us so well in the run up to and over the weekend. We loved the hall as did our visitors and we can't believe that we had over 680 people through the doors (in addition to us!) in the three days.”*

During 2024 the floor was sanded and resealed and better lighting was installed. There is now a Wi-Fi connection in the hall, which has been much appreciated. New chairs were purchased for the hall and church and a clearer sign to the Vicarage and Parish Hall was installed at the end of the drive. The gas boiler and cooker were serviced and safety checked in November and all alarms are checked regularly. Repairs and repainting have been carried out where necessary.

Penny Halcrow January 2025

## **CHURCHWARDENS' MESSAGE AND REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH**

### **Churchwarden's report**

We extend a warm welcome to newcomers to St Mary's, and we are delighted to welcome the Rev Dr Canon Sally Welch, who was licensed as Vicar of our Benefice on November 25<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to Sally and Jeremy becoming part of the Kington community within the benefice.

The past year has seen the loss of some church members either through failing health or death. It remains difficult to come to terms with Rodney's sudden death. He contributed to life at St Mary's in so many different ways from the re-shingling of the spire, the improvement of the lighting to lesser things, like helping to organizing the Christmas Tree Festival. Above all, he cared for people. We shall all miss his presence and his wisdom. We give thanks for all that he has done, he will not be forgotten. Sincere sympathy goes to all bereaved families.

It's always good to hear the bells ringing out and we congratulate John Clayton, Bell Captain in encouraging new members to join the ringing team. Thank you, John, and all who ring.

Continuing on the theme of music we thank Philip Sell (Musical Director and Choirmaster) and all members of the choir for the leadership and enhancement they bring to our services.

The organ restoration, which began on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, has featured largely in our thoughts throughout the whole year. Philp has worked tirelessly in many different ways throughout these months, and we give him special thanks. It has been an expensive venture. We do thank the many people who shared their care for and interest in St Mary's by the generous way they responded to our appeal. We now look forward to the organ recitals that Philip is planning for 2025.

We enjoy delightful, well maintained flower arrangements, week by week, and as always, we give thanks to Gill Pennel and Lesley Walters, together with their team of cheerful, skilful workers. Sadly, Gill and Lesley have decided that it is time to retire. Their contribution to life at St Mary's will be sadly missed and we thank them for their service over many years.

Kington Primary School shared a celebration of Christmas and Harvest with us. Little Orchard we welcome too. Lady Hawkin's School made their annual visit to celebrate Founders' Day, and this year shared a varied Christmas celebration with us.

We have very much missed Kington Community Choir weekly practice, but we look forward to welcoming back Kington Choral Society for a Concert in Holy Week.

Many comments are received regarding the shining brass in St Mary's, we thank Julia Reid for taking on this considerable job.

Guliana has done a splendid job cleaning St Mary's week by week, but she too has decided that it is time to retire. We extend our grateful thanks to Guliana for all that she has done over the years. We're fortunate that Rita Roberts has agreed to be responsible for this weekly job.

The day-to-day oversights of vestments, church linen and ornaments has remained in the capable hands of our Sacristan, Eileen Thomas. Many tasks undertaken by Eileen are beyond the call of her office and we would certainly be the poorer if she were not to do them.

Beverley is both Deputy Churchwarden and Deputy Sacristan. In addition, she compiles the monthly duty rotas organises the distribution weekly of the Church Lottery Fund and the

bigger task of putting the Parish News ready for distribution. These are all important to church life and we thank her sincerely for the time she gives to this.

We all appreciate those who make and serve refreshments after the services.

Lay people play a vital role in the services at St Mary's. To each and every one we say thank you.

### **The interior at St Mary's**

The annual inspection of the security system, the lightning conductor, along with PAT testing electrical items and testing of all fire equipment has all taken place successfully. The audio system has been replaced.

Following the use as a workshop for the organ restoration, the North Aisle and Barker Chapel have been sorted and the Children's corner restored. The Barker Chapel is again a prayerful place. A large Display screen has been acquired. More comfortable chairs are now available in the north aisle and the reordering of the area of the north side of the church in front of the Craigie Altar has proved invaluable for many different uses. It is a joy to see the children at both Messy Church and Lego Club using these spaces.

More improvements including improved heating are underway.

Much paperwork is involved in such projects, and we are very grateful for the time several have given, arranging meetings, gaining faculties and undertaking general correspondence.

### **Exterior at St Mary's**

Being a closed churchyard, Kington Council are responsible for the maintenance of the churchyard. For them, a lot of expense has been incurred on some necessary work. Some churchyard trees have suffered broken branches and after investigation two had to be cut down as they were considered unsafe. Kington Town Council renewed the tender for grass cutting during the summer of 2024 and the work was satisfactorily completed.

The extension of the Garden of Remembrance has made slow progress due to the diocese not agreeing to the initial suggestions made. The diocesan architect has now drawn up plans which we hope will be accepted.

St Mary's is a treasure belonging to the people of Kington. However, its maintenance is an ongoing reality which becomes more costly every year. Fundraising remains a priority among our responsibilities, and we do appreciate the generous way in which you and people generally in Kington help to stock the community shop and making it the success it has proved to be. We have it to stock in November, so please keep sending.

Rodney and I have always much appreciated the support you have given us over more than twenty years.

A Churchwarden has the remit which is to keep the Fabric Goods and Ornaments in good shape for future generations to use for worship together with identifying ever widening opportunities and events. This report shows how this has been achieved in 2024.

Ann Edwards Churchwarden

### **VICAR'S REPORT**

This will of necessity be brief since at the time of writing I have only been licensed for two months! I have been very moved by the warmth of the welcome that I have received from the congregations and communities of the Benefice. I am impressed and delighted at the amount of time and effort devoted to the care and upkeep not only of each church building but of the church members and wider community as well. I am grateful for all the hard work that has been put into maintaining buildings and services during the interregnum and for the amount of energy and enthusiasm for new projects that is evident throughout the Benefice. You can be assured of my commitment to each church and its surrounding community in the year ahead; I look forward to getting to know everyone better and to enjoying this beautiful part of the world and the people who live in it.

As well as individual projects, I will be launching a Benefice-wide Pilgrim Paths Project for 2025. This will offer a series of printed guides to the most popular walks in the Benefice. These guides will include route instructions, illustrations, Bible passages and reflections. It is hoped that members of the Benefice will all contribute to their creation. A programme of guided walks along these routes will take place during the summer months and the booklets will also be available in the churches for independent walkers.

Sally Welch (Vicar of Kington with Huntington, Old Radnor with Kinnerton and Titley)

# Financial Review for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

We started 2024 with total funds amounting to approximately £266,000 and ended the year with a total of about £157,000, largely because of spending the funds raised in 2023 for the organ project, which was completed in 2024.

The ordinary day to day running costs of the church resulted in an overspend of around £25,000, an increase from the £10,000 overspend in 2023, which had been in line with previous years.

There is a trend over the years showing that we are eating into our capital with normal spending. Analysis of spending has shown that we are not wasting money. The overspend is the result of rising prices and a reduction in giving. It has been suggested that St. Mary's needs to run a Stewardship campaign to increase regular giving. We will investigate expanding the income potential of the Parish Hall

In this section of the report you will find the **Balance Sheet** on pages 21 and 22 the **Summary Receipts and Payments** on page 23 the **Notes on page 24-27** (these give an expanded version of the Receipts and Payments), the **Statement of Assets and Liabilities** on page 28

## Explanation of the changes to Designated and Restricted Funds.

You will see on the Balance Sheet that, since last year a number of funds which were designated and restricted have been closed except where required by the terms of the donations and are now in the General Fund.

The Gregory Trust Funds which were Endowed have been released by the Charity Commission and have been transferred to the General Fund. They will be used for the heating project.

## Notes applying to the Balance sheet:

**Note 1:** The funds in special collections have yet to be disbursed to the relevant charities. This will be done early in 2025.

**Note 2:** The published 2023 fund closing balances were found to be incorrect after a bookkeepers audit of the records for 2022 + 2023. Non-posting adjustments have been made to the Statement of Assets & Liabilities to match the published balances to the correct balances.

**Note 3:** The restricted heating fund represents the sum of the donations from parishioners given specifically for the heating project.

**Note 4:** The Gregory Trust fund has been released by the Charity Commission for the purpose of funding the heating project and is now in the General Fund.



N A Cooke (Treasurer)

17<sup>th</sup> April 2025

# St. Mary's Church, Kington

Balance Sheet and Funding Summary for Year Ended 31 December 2024  
 Registered charity no. 1185453

## 2024 Movements

	DR Payments	CR Receipts	Net Change	Transfers	2024	2023
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>						
Co-Operative Account (08-92-99 67225860)					12237	69,773
CBF Deposit (CB3026937) – Capital Reserve					12856	63,811
Cash and cheques in hand					57	2,109
<b>Cash funds accessible at short notice</b>			<b>-110,544</b>		<b>25149</b>	<b>135,693</b>
<b>PLUS: Other assets</b>						
Prepayments	0				0	
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>					<b>25149</b>	<b>135,693</b>
<b>LESS: Liabilities</b>						
Loans (Interest free)					0	
<b>Adjusted cash funds available</b>					<b>25149</b>	<b>135,693</b>
<b>ADD: INVESTMENTS</b>						
Bill Price Bequest (485 Utd Utilities shares) (K16)					5796	5,134
1,650 Haleon shares (Share issue from GSK)					6227	5,307
1,650 Glaxo Smith Kline shares (E Bowen bequest)					22209	23,928
M Edwards' Bequest (CBF Invest. Fund) CB3026938					24311	23,767
Price Bequest (CBF Investment Fund) CB3008085 (K15)					9465	9,253
Gregory Trust (Diocesan CBF Fund) CB3008122 (K11)					4304	4,304
Gregory Trust (CBF Investment Fund) CB3008040 (K11)					59680	58,344
					<b>131991</b>	<b>130,038</b>
Freehold property	0				0	
<b>NET ASSET VALUE OF FUNDS</b>					<b>157140</b>	<b>265,731</b>



# St. Mary's Church, Kington

Registered charity no. 1185453

## Financial Statement for the year ending 31st December 2024

These accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis

### Receipts and Payments Account

		2024			2023
		Unrestricted		Restricted	Total
Notes		General	Designated		
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
<b>Voluntary Receipts</b>					
Planned Giving	1	23,846			23,846
Collections at Services	2	3,082		3,576	6,658
All other giving/voluntary receipts	3	1,878	2,425	4,504	8,807
Gift Aid Recovered	6	6,419			6,419
Legacies	5	1,500	35,000		36,500
Grants	4			55,671	55,671
<b>Total voluntary receipts</b>		<b>36,724</b>	<b>37,425</b>	<b>63,751</b>	<b>137,900</b>
<b>Activities for Generating Funds</b>	7	<b>4,805</b>			<b>4,805</b>
<b>Investment Income</b>	8	<b>7,779</b>			<b>7,779</b>
<b>Church Activities</b>	9	<b>13,915</b>			<b>13,915</b>
<b>Rent/Hire of Church Property</b>	10	<b>3,358</b>			<b>3,358</b>
<b>Sale of Church Property</b>	11	<b>90</b>			<b>90</b>
<b>Sundry Income</b>	12	<b>1,247</b>			<b>1,247</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>67,918</b>	<b>37,425</b>	<b>63,751</b>	<b>169,094</b>
<b>2023</b>					
<b>Total</b>					
<b>168,649</b>					
<b>PAYMENTS</b>					
<b>Church Activities</b>					
Parish Offer	13	48,000			48,000
Prepayment of Parish Offer					
Clergy & Staffing Costs	14	251			251
Church Running Expenses	15	17,467			17,467
Cost of Services	16	6,658		350	7,008
Mission Giving & Charitable Donations	17	254	763	3,686	4,703
<b>Parish House</b>	18	<b>13,784</b>			<b>13,784</b>
<b>Administration</b>	19	<b>10,447</b>			<b>10,447</b>
<b>Weddings and Funerals</b>	20	<b>2,259</b>			<b>2,259</b>
<b>Major Works</b>	21		30,097	143,825	173,922
<b>Costs of Generating Funds</b>	22	<b>1,722</b>			<b>1,722</b>
<b>Costs associated with other church proper</b>	23				
Various	24	75			75
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>100,917</b>	<b>30,860</b>	<b>147,861</b>	<b>279,638</b>
<b>Shortfall</b>					
		<b>-32,999</b>	<b>6,565</b>	<b>-84,110</b>	<b>-110,544</b>
<b>2023</b>					
<b>Total</b>					
<b>15,596</b>					

# Notes on the accounts

For the year ending 31st December 2024

		2024				2023	
		Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowments	Total	Total
		General	Designated				
<b>RECEIPTS</b>							
<b>Voluntary Receipts</b>							
<b>Note</b>							
<b>1</b>	<b>Planned Giving</b>						
	Standing Orders Gift Aided	2,210			2,210	2,496	
	Standing Orders not Gift Aided	452			452	780	
	Yellow Envelopes Gift Aided	1,055			1,055	21,249	
	PGS Donation	20,129			20,129		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23,846</b>			<b>23,846</b>	<b>24,525</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Collections at Services</b>						
	Unrestricted Collections	3,082			3,082	1,464	
	Restricted Collections			3,576	3,576	10,632	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,082</b>		<b>3,576</b>	<b>6,658</b>	<b>12,096</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>All other voluntary Giving/Donations</b>						
	Sundry Donations	591			591	4,309	
	Goodbox Contactless	559			559	760	
	QR (give.net)					20	
	Amazon Europe Core					65	
	Easy Fundraising					602	
	Donation Box in Church	728			728		
	<b>Donations to Designated Funds</b>						
	Mission Support inc Messy/Lego Bells		944		944	258	
	Handbells						
	Flower Fund			150	150	30	
	Music (not organ fund)		1,481		1,481		
	<b>Donations to Restricted Funds</b>						
	Heating			1,250	1,250		
	Ukraine Appeal			3	3	479	
	Organ Fund donations			3,101	3,101	21,734	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,878</b>	<b>2,425</b>	<b>4,504</b>	<b>8,807</b>	<b>28,258</b>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Grants</b>						
	Roof					5,000	
	Reordering					2,120	
	Organ Fund			55,671	55,671	4,200	
	<b>Total</b>			<b>55,671</b>	<b>55,671</b>	<b>11,320</b>	

RECEIPTS (Continued)	2024				2023
	Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowments	Total
	General	Designated			
<b>5 Legacies and Bequests</b>					
Geoff Marshall	500			500	5,000
Dorothy Pritchard		35,000		35,000	
David Hill	1,000			1,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>35,000</b>		<b>36,500</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>6 Gift Aid recovered</b>					
PGS Gift Aid Tax Refund	4,198			4,198	4,898
Other Gift Aid & GASDS	2,221			2,221	4,537
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,419</b>			<b>6,419</b>	<b>9,436</b>
<b>7 Activities for Generating Funds</b>					
Bonus Ball	2,268			2,268	1,688
Beetle Drive	26			26	
Com. Shop	1,210			1,210	1,591
Peerie Boxes	23			23	28
Fete	1,265			1,265	1,065
Other Fund Raising	13			13	1,185
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,805</b>			<b>4,805</b>	<b>5,557</b>
<b>8 Investment income</b>					
CBF Deposit Fund Interest (CB3026937)	4,044			4,044	649
Investment Income	3,735			3,735	3,684
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,779</b>			<b>7,779</b>	<b>4,334</b>
<b>9 Church Activities</b>					
Fees	4,913			4,913	7,057
Parish News Adverts	5,825			5,825	5,478
Parish News Sales	3,177			3,177	2,206
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,915</b>			<b>13,915</b>	<b>14,741</b>
<b>10 Rent/Hire of church property</b>					
Hire of Church	50			50	100
Hire of Parish Hall	3,308			3,308	2,920
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,358</b>			<b>3,358</b>	<b>3,020</b>
<b>11 Sale of church Property</b>					
Sale of Church Property	90			90	
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>			<b>90</b>	
<b>Further to note 12 Sundry income (Other &amp; Net of expenses...):</b> The other parishes in our benefice are invoiced monthly for their shares of the Benefice Expenses (Office work, stationery supplies etc.) This value will vary from year to year depending upon when they settle the final invoice. Over the years it averages out to zero.					
<b>12 Sundry income</b>					
Charges for Visits					
Church Lunch					
Benefice expenses reclaimed	1,072			1,072	363
Insurance claims and other income	175			175	
Loans					50,000
Other					
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,247</b>			<b>1,247</b>	<b>50,363</b>
<b>TOTAL OF ALL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>67,918</b>	<b>37,425</b>	<b>63,751</b>	<b>169,094</b>	<b>168,649</b>

PAYMENTS For the year ending 31st December 2024		2024				2023	
		Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowments	Total	Total
		General	Designated				
<b>13</b>	<b>Parish Offer</b>	48,000				48,000	40,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>48,000</b>				<b>48,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Clergy Expenses &amp; Staffing Costs</b>						
	Kington Share: Vicar	146				146	173
	Vicarage Garden wages						
	Other Parishes: Vicar (To be reimbursed)	105				105	
	Kington's Share: Curate						
	<b>Total</b>	<b>251</b>				<b>251</b>	<b>173</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Church Running Expenses</b>						
	Upkeep of Church	73				73	2,184
	Wages	1,547				1,547	1,397
	Insurance	4,238				4,238	4,256
	Minor repairs/ maintenance	2,312				2,312	1,311
	Gas 3003486630	5,488				5,488	9,685
	Electricity 3003746581	3,258				3,258	3,084
	Water	531				531	283
	Upkeep of Churchyard	20				20	1,020
	Tower Bells						
	Handbells						
	<b>Total</b>	<b>17,467</b>				<b>17,467</b>	<b>23,220</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Cost of Services</b>						
	Cost of Services: Sundries	452				452	549
	Live streaming	540				540	593
	Payments to Organist	3,781				3,781	3,247
	Music and Choir	1,886				1,886	214
	Flowers			350		350	113
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,658</b>		<b>350</b>		<b>7,008</b>	<b>4,716</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Mission giving and Charitable donations</b>						
	DEC Ukraine						1,531
	Other special collections			3,686		3,686	7,646
	From St Mary's General Fund	254				254	561
	Mission Support: Messy Church, Lego, Alpha		763			763	586
	Family Service						
	<b>Total</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>3,686</b>		<b>4,703</b>	<b>10,324</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Parish House</b>						
	Wages	540				540	518
	Upkeep	603				603	112
	Insurance	397				397	690
	Repairs & maintenance	2,468				2,468	230
	Major repairs & improvements	7,143				7,143	
	Gas 3003519585	814				814	1,100
	Electricity 3003746592	1,143				1,143	1,382
	Broadband	543				543	
	Water						234
	Rent to Diocese	133				133	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,784</b>				<b>13,784</b>	<b>4,267</b>



**Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st December 2024**

2024					2023
Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
General	Designated				
<b>Cash on Hand Accounts</b>					
<i>Co-operative Account (08-92-99 67225860)</i>					12,237
<i>CBF Deposit (618026001D) – Capital Reserve</i>					12,856
<i>Cash and cheques in hand</i>					57
<i>Loan Accounts</i>					
<i>Prepayments</i>					
<b>Subtotal Cash /Cash equivalents</b>					<b>25,149</b>
<b>Investment Accounts / Shares</b>					
<i>1,650 Glaxo Smith Kline shares (E Bowen bequest)</i>					22,209
<i>1,650 Haleon shares (Share issue from GSK)</i>					6,227
<i>Bill Price Bequest (485 Utd Utilities shares) (K16)</i>					5,796
<i>M Edwards' Bequest (CBF Invest. Fund) CB3026938-001</i>					24,311
<i>Price Bequest (CBF Investment Fund) CB3008085-001 (K15)</i>					9,465
<i>Gregory Trust (Diocesan CBF Fund) ...1452D (K11)</i>					4,304
<i>Gregory Trust (CBF Investment Fund) CB3008040-001 (K11)</i>					59,680
<b>Subtotal Investment accounts/shares</b>					<b>131,991</b>
<b>Total</b>					<b>157,140</b>
					<b>139,997</b>
					<b>23,928</b>
					<b>5,307</b>
					<b>5,134</b>
					<b>23,767</b>
					<b>9,253</b>
					<b>4,304</b>
					<b>58,344</b>
					<b>125,734</b>
					<b>265,731</b>

**Balance Statement**

2024					2023
Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals	Total Funds
General	Designated				
<b>Opening Balances</b>					247,361
155,410	9,373	38,299	62,648	265,731	
<b>Opening Balance Adjustment</b>					
1,373	-12,034	10,661			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year					15,596
-32,999	6,565	-84,110		-110,544	
Unrealised gain/(loss) in share values					1,369
-137				-137	
Unrealised gain/(loss) in CBF investment values					7,903
2,091				2,091	
Movement on Prepayments / Loans					-6,500
Transfers Between Funds					0
21,314	4,227	37,108	-62,648		
<b>Closing Balances</b>					<b>265,731</b>
147,052	8,130	1,958		157,140	

**This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on Pages 21 – 28 of the Annual Report and Accounts, (produced by Nick Cooke) is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (“the Regulations”) and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 (“the Act”).**

**Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner**

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

**Basis of this report**

My 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.

**Independent Examiner’s statement**

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements  
– to keep proper accounting records; and  
– to prepare proper accounts from those records and to comply with the requirements of the  
Act and the Regulations  
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.

*Chris H.E. Smith*

Chris H.E. Smith F.C.M.A.,  
The Old Vicarage  
Lyonshall  
01544 340598 / 07785 708603  
17<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Approved by the PCC on 11/03/2025 and accounts approved on 17/04/2025 and **signed  
on their behalf by the vicar Sally Welch**

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# Accounts

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# ST MARY'S CHURCH, KINGTON

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Registered charity number 1185453



### TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

for  
**2023**

St Mary's Church is situated in Kington, in the Kington and Weobley Deanery in the Diocese of Hereford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Church Office, The Vicarage, Church Road, Kington, HR5 3AG.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and is now registered with the Charity Commission (Registered charity number 1185453).

As Charity Trustees, all PCC members are mindful of the Charity Commission's six core principles for charity trustees, which are as follows:

1. **Ensure your charity is conducting its purposes for the public benefit.**
2. **Comply with your charity's governing document i.e. PCC Measure and Church Rep Rules – and the wider law.**
3. **Act in your charity's best interests.**, by making sure that you act for the church and not for any conflicting interest, e.g., a related school or other organisation. Ensure that the decisions are yours, not those influenced by others.
4. **Manage your charity's resources responsibly.**
5. **Act with reasonable care and skill.**
6. **Ensure your charity is accountable.**

PCC members who have served at any time since the Annual Church Meeting 2023 until the Annual Church meetings in April 2024 are:

<b>Licensed Clergy:</b>	Vacancy since 28/02/2023 The services have been covered by a team of deanery and cathedral clergy coordinated by the Rual Dean Mike Kneen who attended the Annual General Meeting 2023
<b>Licensed Reader</b>	Mr Rob MacCurrach
<b>Churchwardens:</b>	Miss Ann Edwards Mr Rodney Bowdler (Vice Chair)
<b>Deanery Synod Representatives:</b>	Mrs Eileen Thomas (sacristan) Mrs Penny Halcrow Stephen Lacey
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Mrs Christine Robinson

<b>Elected members:</b>	
<b>2021</b>	Mr John Halcrow, Mr Philip Sell,
<b>2022</b>	Debbie Horne,( resigned November 2023,) Stephen Lacey
<b>2023</b>	Mrs Margaret Pengelly, Deborah Sell, Ms Julia Read coopted from November 2023 Nick Cooke, Margaret Cooke, Malcom Price re-elected

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary's, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar when in post), churchwardens, the reader licensed to the Benefice, parochial representatives elected to the Deanery Synod, and members elected by those on the electoral roll of the church. All members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. There were six PCC meetings during the year five of which were chaired by the lay chair Rodney Bowdler during the vacancy for vicar of the Parish.

## **AIMS AND PURPOSES**

St Mary's (Kington) PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent (when in post) and the Rural Dean in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Church and of the Parish House.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at the church and to become part of the parish community at St Mary's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish.

Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music, and sacrament. We try to enable everybody to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St Mary and the Parish House and build up the church community. We are indebted to the Rural Dean for supporting the parish and the PCC to continue to maintain the life and worship of the church.

## **WORSHIP AND PRAYER**

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. This includes occasional Services and regular Messy Church.

There is a weekly service at 10am at St Mary's and on 3 out of four weeks this is a eucharist. There is an average attendance of 30-40 people in person. We are every grateful to the Rural Dean Revd Mike Kneen for arranging cover for services and contributing regularly to the life of St Mary's.

Since the start of the pandemic, there has been a live streamed service 'broadcast' from Kington each Sunday, and each of the major feast days of the church. The facility to live stream all services from St Marys, is welcomed by many of our congregation who, for a variety of reasons, have not been able to resume attendance at church in person. Most of our live-streamed services have over 30 views, not just on the day itself, but subsequent viewing at other times during the week.

During 2023, 16 funeral services were conducted by members of the ministry team and visiting clergy including two burials of ashes only. Several funerals were live steamed from the church. This has enabled friends and families from far away to participate in these important life events. There were two weddings, and three children were baptised in St Mary's Church.

The Christmas Services were well attended by both regular and occasional worshippers, including several attendees from Messy Church.

## **MISSION AND EVANGELISM**

### **MESSY CHURCH**

Messy Church has been developing very encouragingly over the last year, as has Lego Club, both coordinated by Stephen Lacey with a wonderful team of regular helpers. Typically, some 25 children with a dozen or so parents and guardians have been attending Messy Church. This is an exciting outreach into our community with the Good News of the Gospel. The main theme over the past year has been 'fruits of the spirit' (love, joy, peace, patience) and this has been interspersed with other events at Easter (Easter Garden and egg hunt) and Summer (creation with visiting animals). Events are advertised through a WhatsApp group and posters. Ann, Eileen, and Rosemary provide a meal using the Parish House kitchen. The core team of craft organisers and leaders needs to expand; ideally some of the regular mums and dads will begin to offer to be helpers. Lego Club is similarly growing and sets a new challenge to the children each month. It aims to foster caring, sharing, and creative play while encouraging parent's involvement too and notably the Christmas special got everyone involved! We are also encouraged by those who attend both groups talking to the others about Messy Church. As both groups grow, we will undoubtedly need more helpers and while both Messy Church and Lego Club sometimes feel a bit chaotic, they are hugely encouraging and reaching a new generation.

Stephen & Rob

### **LOCAL WORSHIP LEADERS**

Five members of the church community trained as Local Worship Leaders in order to lead the non-eucharistic worship on the third Sunday in the month. Freda Lymouth, Alison Hird, Trica MacCurrach, Elaine Roche, and Ann Edwards have all been commissioned as Local Worship Leaders for a period of three years. Together with the Lay reader Rob McCurrach they have able led the worship and introduced innovative approaches to worship

### **GIVING AND COMMUNITY**

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith.

£1326 (approximately 1.1% of unrestricted income) was sent to various charities. This was in addition to a number of restricted donations for specific charities from funerals and events which were specified by the donors

Through the Deanery, we continue to support the Diocesan Train-a-Priest scheme in Tanzania

Our parish magazine keeps our parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our Church as well as providing a valuable source of community information. We are now looking for a new editor for the magazine as Freda Lymath, having done a sterling Job for 19 years is retiring from the role. The PCC are grateful for all she has done to ensure that the Parish Magazine is a much-anticipated publication each month.

St Mary's is fortunate to have three weeks at the community shop and this not only raises money for the church, but also emphasises that the church is an integral part of the community.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

St Mary's church is committed to ensuring that children and vulnerable adults have a positive experience of church and are safeguarded and protected. The Safeguarding Officer ensures that adults in positions of responsibility particularly with regards to children are checked by the Disclosure and Baring Service and that the correct processes are in place. The PCC has agreed to display information about safeguarding in the church and the Safeguarding lead Christine Robinson is conducting an audit of activity to ensure that we keep children and adults safe in all church activities.

## **ECUMENICAL LINKS**

We have strong links between the churches of different denominations within the town. Our three elected PCC members attend Churches Together in Kington meetings every couple of months, each church taking it in turns to host the meeting. This gives opportunities to discuss issues of the day and plan activities in which we can all share and grow.

The Chairmanship of the group in 2023 fell to Fr Simon from St Bede's Catholic Church

Over the past year several partnership activities took place:

- Lent Groups last year were held in The Baptist Church and at various people's homes. These groups were well attended and drew members from all town churches and some from beyond the town.
- The Gathering of Witness at Kington Court care home on Good Friday was well attended and enjoyed by all who joined with residents there. After a simple act of worship, we enjoyed hot cross buns and fellowship.
- We were invited to re-start regular visits to the care home, an opportunity to sing, pray and worship with residents. St Mary's leads two Tuesday groups each month and another group, drawn from all the churches leads an act of worship on the first Monday of each month. That group also led a very well attended Harvest Thanksgiving Service, followed by a lunch.
- At Christmas, Churches Together in Kington organised a carol singing session in the barn at the Oxford Arms. This was very well attended. Thanks to Paul Roberts for his piano accordion playing and bible reading. He was supported by Lucy for The Baptist Church (playing flute) and Paul's wife, Nicy. Drinks, Pizza, and hot chocolate were served throughout the evening and many of the children present were able to make Christingles during the evening.

Finally, we continue to work together to support the work of the Food Bank. There has been an increase in uptake and need, but this has been matched by increased support by Kington residents.

## **MEMBERSHIP OF CONGREGATION**

The March 2024 revision of the electoral roll showed an net decrease of 4 members. 6 new members joined the roll, 4 people moved away and sadly 6 members died and, so for 2023 - 2024 we had 103 members, 31 male and 72 female.

*Ray Le Tarouilly (Electoral Roll Officer)*

## **KINGTON AND WEOBLEY DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2024**

There have been two Deanery Synod meetings since the last APCM.

The meeting in June 2023 was held at St Mary's Church, Kington and began with a Deanery Eucharist celebrating the Feast of Corpus Christi. The preacher was the Revd Elizabeth Wild (Local Ministry Lead for the Diocese).

Following the service and the business part of the meeting, Revd Elizabeth Wild gave a presentation on the local ministry scheme, which enables people to be locally commissioned into any of the following four roles: local worship leader, local pastoral visitor, local missionary, or local minister. These positions enable people with all sorts of gifts to work as part of a team which offers worship, pastoral care, and mission activities in church and in the wider community. These roles are supervised by the parish priest and work alongside other lay and ordained ministers. More information can be found at [www.hereford.anglican.org](http://www.hereford.anglican.org) on the Ministry tab.

The Rural Dean reminded the Deanery that Chris Smith, the current treasurer, wishes to step down, so a replacement needs to be found. In addition, a Lay Co Chair is needed to collaborate with the Rural Dean. If anybody is interested in either of these positions, the Rural Dean will be pleased to discuss details.

The Rural Dean also reminded the meeting that it is especially important for each parish to have representation at Deanery Level in order to have a voice when big issues are raised within the Church of England.

The second meeting was held at Weobley Church in February 2024. The meeting began with the Rural Dean reflecting on the season of Lent as a time of growth, symbolised by the shoots of new growth appearing in the gardens and countryside and a time for finding space and time for quiet meditation with God.

Concerns were raised about the rules and regulations regarding safeguarding and the amount of detailed training required. In some parishes, it is felt that this is proving a deterrent for some volunteers in parish work and is especially unmanageable in churches with small congregations and few volunteers. Retired clergy and lay leaders are being discouraged by the stringent regulations, which, it was felt, are not appropriate for our parish situations.

The Rural Dean will represent these concerns to the bishop on behalf of the Deanery.

Rev'd Philip Harvey (Rector of Weobley Church) introduced a draft version of the latest Diocesan Strategy document – Proclaiming Christ and Growing Disciples. Copies had already been sent out to churchwardens and PCC secretaries so that they might prepare for meetings at which the strategy is to be shared and

discussed before the document is deliberated at parish level. It was emphasised that this strategy document is a discussion document and that changes will certainly be made.

The final item on the agenda concerned Funeral Collections. In recent years, all monies collected at funeral services held in church have had to go through the PCC accounts. It has now been decided that the responsibility for counting and allocating money collected to chosen charities should revert to Funeral Directors.

Penny Halcrow  
February 2024

## PARISH HALL REPORT

The Parish Hall is seen as part of the Church's mission to Kington, and we are pleased to be able to offer the hall as a facility for community meetings and activities.

The Parish Hall continues to be let to various bodies independent of Church use, including Home-Start, The Kington Scout group, and KADOS. It is also used for Dance Exercise and Yoga classes and rehearsals by a small music group. It is used once a month (third Wednesday) by the Community Lunch Club and is regularly used for PCC and other Church meetings. There have also been occasional bookings for parties and special occasions such as Onam, an annual harvest and cultural festival related to Hinduism, which is celebrated mostly by the people of Kerala, including the Indian Christians living in Kington. At the beginning of May this year, the Hall is booked for a weekend by the Marches Book Arts Group as part of the Marches Makers' Festival (4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> May).

It is proposed that in 2024, the floor will be sanded and resealed and better lighting will be installed. Wi-Fi is now available in the Parish Hall. The gas boiler and cooker were serviced, and safety checked, and all alarms checked regularly.

Penny Halcrow  
February 2024

## **FINANCIAL REPORT 2023 ST MARY'S KINGTON**

The Financial Report consisting of the following:

1. Summary of key items
2. Summary of Receipts and Payments - page 2
3. A Statement of Assets - page 3
4. Notes on the Accounts (Pages 4-7.) These are a more detailed analysis of the Summary of Receipts and Payments and some explanatory comments
5. Organ funding report - page 8

Summary of Key items

### **Oxford Arms**

A loan of £50,000 was made to the Oxford Arms community project to enable them to establish further funding and enable purchase of the building. This loan has now been fully repaid.

### **Church Organ**

Another year of very successful fund raising has enabled the work on the organ restoration and improvement project to proceed. See organ report for details.

### **Gift Aid**

This has not yet been fully reclaimed for 2023

### **Future financial funding requirements**

A number of significant projects are being considered for 2024 that will need funding and financial planning.

- Alternative church heating to meet the Church of England requirement to become Carbon Neutral by 2030 and to reduce fuel bills longer term
- Audio visual improvements
- Replacement of occasional chairs

# St. Mary's Church, Kington

Registered charity no. 1185453

## Financial Statement for the year ending 31st December 2023

### Receipts and Payments Account

These accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis

	Notes	2023				2022
		Unrestricted		Restricted	Total	
		General	Designated			
<b>RECEIPTS</b>						
<b>Voluntary Receipts</b>						
Planned Giving	1	24525			24525	27197
Collections at Services	2	1464		10632	12096	4923
All other giving/voluntary receipts	3	5757	288	22213	28258	15305
Gift Aid Recovered	6	9436			9436	6210
Legacies	5	5000			5000	
Grants	4			11320	11320	16933
<b>Total voluntary receipts</b>		<b>46181</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>44166</b>	<b>90634</b>	<b>70568</b>
<b>Activities for Generating Funds</b>	7	<b>5557</b>			<b>5557</b>	<b>5624</b>
<b>Investment Income</b>	8	<b>4334</b>			<b>4334</b>	<b>5175</b>
<b>Church Activities</b>	9	<b>14741</b>			<b>14741</b>	<b>16492</b>
<b>Rent/Hire of Church Property</b>	10	<b>3020</b>			<b>3020</b>	<b>1991</b>
<b>Sale of Church Property</b>	11					<b>5733</b>
<b>Sundry Income</b>	12	<b>363</b>			<b>363</b>	<b>1922</b>
<b>Repayment of loan to Open Arms Kington (OAK)</b>		<b>50000</b>			<b>50000</b>	
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>124196</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>44166</b>	<b>168649</b>	<b>107504</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>						
<b>Church Activities</b>						
Parish Offer	13	40,000			40,000	44,000
Prepayment of Parish Offer						8,000
Clergy & Staffing Costs	14	173			173	1,731
Church Running Expenses	15	23,220			23,220	15,269
Cost of Services	16	4,603	113	0	4,716	5,754
Mission Giving & Charitable Donations	17	1,326	586	8,411	10,324	9,490
<b>Parish House</b>	18		4,267		4,267	4,629
<b>Administration</b>	19	8,766			8,766	9,094
<b>Weddings and Funerals</b>	20	2,277			2,277	3,500
<b>Major Works</b>	21			3,557	3,557	12,098
<b>Costs of Generating Funds</b>	22	1,871		1,860	3,731	2,340
<b>Costs associated with other church property</b>	23					
<b>Loan to Open Arms Kington (OAK)</b>		50,000			50,000	
<b>Various</b>	24	2,022			2,022	1,294
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>134,258</b>	<b>4,966</b>	<b>13,828</b>	<b>153,052</b>	<b>117,200</b>
<b>Surplus or (Shortfall)</b>		<b>(10,063)</b>	<b>(4,678)</b>	<b>30,338</b>	<b>15,596</b>	<b>(9,696)</b>

The shortfall in 2022 looks £8000 bigger than it actually is because of the prepayment which is recouped during 2023

## Statement of Assets on 31st December 2023

	2023				2022
	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
	General	Designated			
<b>Accounts</b>					
<i>Co-operative Account (08-92-99 67225860)</i>				69,773	5,913
<i>Loan Accounts</i>					(1,500)
<i>Prepayment of 2023 Offer</i>					8,000
<i>CBF Deposit (618026001D) – Capital Reserve</i>				63,811	114,162
<i>Gregory Trust (Diocesan CBF Fund) ...1452D (K11)</i>			4,304	4,304	4,304
<i>Cash and cheques in hand</i>				2,109	21
<b>Subtotal Cash /Cash equivalents</b>	<b>88,021</b>	<b>1,727</b>	<b>45,945</b>	<b>139,997</b>	<b>130,900</b>
<b>Investment Accounts / Shares</b>					
<i>1,650 Glaxo Smith Kline shares (E Bowen bequest)</i>	23,928			23,928	22,579
<i>1,650 Haleon shares (Share issue from GSK)</i>	5,307			5,307	5,406
<i>Bill Price Bequest (485 Utd Utilities shares) (K16)</i>	5,134			5,134	5,015
<i>M Edwards' Bequest (CBF Invest. Fund) 618026001S</i>	23,767			23,767	21,723
<i>Price Bequest (CBF Investment Fund) ... 1371S (K15)</i>	9,253			9,253	8,451
<i>Gregory Trust (CBF Investment Fund) .... 1289S (K11)</i>			58,344	58,344	53,287
<b>Subtotal Investment accounts/shares</b>	<b>67,389</b>			<b>58,344</b>	<b>116,461</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>155,410</b>	<b>1,727</b>	<b>45,945</b>	<b>265,731</b>	<b>247,361</b>

## Notes on the accounts

For the year ending 31st December 2023

	2023				2022
	Unrestricted		Restricted	Total	Total
	General	Designated			
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
<b>Voluntary Receipts</b>					
<b>Note</b>					
<b>1 Planned Giving</b>					
Standing Orders Gift Aided	2496			2496	3271
Yellow Envelopes	780			780	1445
Unrestricted donations					675
PGS Donation	21249			21249	21805
<b>Total</b>	<b>24525</b>			<b>24525</b>	<b>27197</b>
<b>2 Collections at Services</b>					
Unrestricted	1464			1464	4923
Restricted			10632	10632	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1464</b>		<b>10632</b>	<b>12096</b>	<b>4923</b>
<b>3 All other voluntary Giving/Donations</b>					
Sundry Donations	4309			4309	2817
Goodbox Contactless	760			760	482
QR (give.net)					
Amazon Europe Core	20			20	6
Easy Fundraising	65			65	56
Donation Box in Church	602			602	639
Mission Support inc Messy/Lego		258		258	217
<b>Donations to Designated Funds</b>					
Bells					
Handbells					166
Flower Fund		30		30	832
<b>Donations to Restricted Funds</b>					
Restricted Special Collections (For 2023 allocated to Note 2)					4805
Ukraine Appeal			479	479	1993
Organ Fund donations			21734	21734	3292
<b>Total</b>	<b>5757</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>22213</b>	<b>28258</b>	<b>15305</b>
<b>4 Grants</b>					
Roof			5000	5000	16933
Reordering			2120	2120	
Organ Fund			4200	4200	
<b>Total</b>			<b>11320</b>	<b>11320</b>	<b>16933</b>

RECEIPTS (Continued)	2023				2022
	Unrestricted		Restricted	Total	Total
	General	Designated			
<b>5 Legacies and Bequests</b>					
Ann Caunt	5000			5000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5000</b>			<b>5000</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>6 Gift Aid recovered</b>					
PGS Gift Aid Tax Refund	4898			4898	4521
Other Gift Aid & GASDS	4537			4537	1689
<b>Total</b>	<b>9436</b>			<b>9436</b>	<b>6210</b>
<b>7 Activities for Generating Funds</b>					
Bonus Ball	1688			1688	1873
Com. Shop	1591			1591	1364
Peerie Boxes	28			28	22
Fete	1065			1065	2048
Other Fund Raising	1185			1185	27
Parish House Fund Raising					280
Music (not organ fund)					10
<b>Total</b>	<b>5557</b>			<b>5557</b>	<b>5624</b>
<b>8 Investment income</b>					
CBF Deposit Fund Interest (618026	649			649	396
Investment Income	3684			3684	4779
<b>Total</b>	<b>4334</b>			<b>4334</b>	<b>5175</b>
<b>9 Church Activities</b>					
Fees	7057			7057	10127
Parish News Adverts	5478			5478	4440
Parish News Sales	2206			2206	1925
<b>Total</b>	<b>14741</b>			<b>14741</b>	<b>16492</b>
<b>10 Rent/Hire of church property</b>					
Hire of Church	100			100	845
Hire of Parish House	2920			2920	1146
<b>Total</b>	<b>3020</b>			<b>3020</b>	<b>1991</b>
<b>11 Sale of church Property</b>					
Bradnor Green Coppice					5733
<b>Total</b>					<b>5733</b>
<b>12 Sundry income</b>					
Charges for Visits					290
Church Lunch					
Net of expenses charged to other parishes income	363			363	1329
					303
<b>Total</b>	<b>363</b>			<b>363</b>	<b>1922</b>
<b>Repayment of Loan to Open Arms Kington (OAK)</b>	<b>50000</b>			<b>50000</b>	
<b>TOTAL OF ALL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>124196</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>44166</b>	<b>168649</b>	<b>107504</b>

Further to note 12 Sundry income (Other & Net of expenses...): The other parishes in our benefice are invoiced monthly for their shares of the Benefice Expenses (Office work, stationery supplies etc.) This value will vary from year to year depending upon when they settle the final invoice. Over the years it averages out to zero.

PAYMENTS For the year ending 31st December 2023 Note	2023				2022
	Unrestricted		Restricted	Total	Total
	General	Designated			
<b>13 Parish Offer</b> Pepayment of Parish Offer <b>Total</b>	<b>40000</b>			<b>40000</b>	<b>44000</b> <b>8000</b> <b>52000</b>
<b>14 Clergy Expenses &amp; Staffing Costs</b> Kington Share: Vicar Vicarage Garden wages Kington's Share: Curate <b>Total</b>	173			173	968 102 661 <b>1731</b>
<b>15 Church Running Expenses</b> Upkeep of Church Wages Insurance Minor repairs/ maintenance Gas 3003486630 Electricity 3003746581 Water Upkeep of Churchyard <b>Total</b>	2184 1397 4256 1311 9685 3084 283 1020			2184 1397 4256 1311 9685 3084 283 1020	247 1819 4089 1049 5297 1771 423 575 <b>15269</b>
<b>16 Cost of Services</b> Cost of Services: Sundries Live streaming Payments to Organist Music and Choir Flowers <b>Total</b>	549 593 3247 214		113	549 593 3247 214 113 <b>4716</b>	936 564 2915 882 458 <b>5754</b>
<b>17 Mission giving and Charitable donations</b> DEC Ukraine Other special collections From St Mary's General Fund Burton Communion Donations Mission Support in Messy Church & Lego Other mission Support <b>Total</b>	765 561		765 7646 586	1531 7646 561 586 <b>10324</b>	3973 4197 429 64 811 16 <b>9490</b>
<b>18 Parish House</b> Wages Upkeep Insurance Repairs & maintenance Gas 3003519585 Electricity 3003746592 Water Lease <b>Total</b>	518 112 690 230 1100 1382 234			518 112 690 230 1100 1382 234	462 190 523 2106 534 609 147 58 <b>4629</b>

Payments (Continued)		2023				2022
		Unrestricted		Restricted	Total	Total
		General	Designated			
19	Administration	Wages: Office	1889		1889	1983
		Admin (not wages)	1901		1901	2525
		Parish News Printing	4975		4975	4586
		<b>Total</b>	<b>8766</b>		<b>8766</b>	<b>9094</b>
20	Weddings and Funerals	Statutory Fees	837		837	2092
		Organist/Bells/Choir/Verger	1440		1440	1408
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2277</b>		<b>2277</b>	<b>3500</b>
21	Major Works	Roof				2580
		Organ		77	77	
		Reordering		3480	3480	9518
		<b>Total</b>		<b>3557</b>	<b>3557</b>	<b>12098</b>
22	Costs of Generating Funds	Bonus Ball	1360		1360	1510
		Beetle Drive				
		Community Shop	395		395	260
		Peerie Boxes				
		Fete				570
		Cost of grant applications		1860	1860	
		Other (Ludlow Town Band)	116		116	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1871</b>		<b>1860</b>	<b>3731</b>	<b>2340</b>	
	Loan to Open Arms Kington (OAK)	50000		50000		
24	Various	Visits	1760		1760	440
		Miscellaneous	262		262	854
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2022</b>		<b>2022</b>	<b>1294</b>
<b>TOTAL OF ALL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>138525</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>13828</b>	<b>153052</b>	<b>117200</b>

## Organ Report

	31-Dec-23	29-Feb-24
Estimated Total Cost of Organ Project ( inc VAT)	125,000	125,000
Estimated outstanding costs of Organ Project	123,007	79,039
St Mary Contribution (if all grants obtained)	40,119	43,819
St Mary Contribution (if all grants obtained & Vat & gift aid are rec'd)	16,449	20,149
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>47,881</b>	<b>65,181</b>
Benefact trust (Organ Grant)	4,200	4,200
William Cadbury Trust organ Grant		3,000
Garfield Weston - Organ fund		10,000
Heritage Lottery Fund		3,500
Total Organ Fund donations rec'd (includes £21,947 from 2022 donations)	43,681	44,481
<b>Remaining Grants anticipated</b>	<b>37,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>
Laslett's Hinton Charity	8,000	2,000
Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust	10,000	10,000
The Rowlands Trust	2,000	3,000
William Cadbury Charitable Trust	3,000	rec'd
The On Organ Fund	1,000	1,000
Garfield Weston	10,000	rec'd
Heritage Lottery Fund	3,000	rec'd
<b>Refunds to be claimed</b>	<b>23,670</b>	<b>23,670</b>
Estimated Gift Aid to be claimed	4,000	4,000
Vat to be claimed on Organ payments (£98,350)	19,670	19,670
<b>Payments already made</b>	<b>1,993</b>	<b>45,961</b>
Philip Sell (Organ project stationery etc see comment)	62	62
Philip Sell (Banners for Messy Church and Organ appeal)	71	71
Hightech Industrial Service - Organ Scaffoldings		2,976
Clevedon Organs - first payment		11,712
Clevedon Organs - 2nd stage payment		29,280
Cost of grant applications	1,860	1,860

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's, Kington, Herefordshire**

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out in FINANCIAL REPORT 2023 ST MARY'S KINGTON , (pages 1 – 7, produced by Stephen Lacey and Nick Cooke) is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (“the Regulations”) and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 (“the Act”). Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations. Basis of this report My 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. Independent Examiner's statement In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention: (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements – to keep proper accounting records; and – to prepare proper accounts from those records and to comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations 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. Chris H.E. Smith Chris H.E. Smith F.C.M.A., The Old Vicarage Lyonshall 01544 340598 / 07785 708603 2nd March 2024

### **CHURCHWARDENS' MESSAGE AND REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, 2023**

We extend a warm welcome to newcomers to St. Mary's.

The past year has seen the loss of some valued Church members, either through failing health or death. Sincere sympathy goes to all bereaved families. It is good to know that many, unable to be with us in person, are with us sharing our worship via the livestream.

It is always good to hear the Church bells ringing and we congratulate John Clayton, Bell Captain, on increasing the number now meeting in the Belfry. On Occasional Sundays it is good to hear the bells ringing forth as they welcome us to our 10a.m. service. Equally we enjoy them as they ring out at a Thursday practice.

Continuing the theme of music we all benefit from the numerically increasing number of members in our choir. We thank Phillip Sell, our Music Director and Choir Master and all Choir members for the leadership and enhancement they bring to our services. One special event was the Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas 2023. We hope that their increased repertoire has given them as much pleasure to sing as it has to all who enjoy their singing. They well deserve the new robes which they will be wearing very soon.

Music and the organ restoration have featured in our thoughts throughout the year and work on the organ began in earnest on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. This has involved scaffolding and reorganising the church, but we look forward to the completion of the work and hearing the much-improved organ. Phillip Sell has worked tirelessly in many different ways to reach this stage and we give special thanks to him, to Hannah Vernon who has helped in securing grant funding and to the many who have shown their care for and interest in St Mary's by the very generous way in which they have donated to the appeal. That generosity has been much appreciated.

We enjoy delightful, well maintained flower arrangements week by week and as always, we give our sincere thanks to Gill Pennell, Lesley Walters and their team of skilful, cheerful workers who enrich our lives in this way.

We are always pleased to welcome the schools to St. Mary's. Kington Primary School came and shared their celebration of both Harvest and Christmas with us. Little Orchard nursery also responded to our invitation to make a Christmas visit which we all enjoyed.

In September Lady Hawkins' School made their annual visit to celebrate Foundress' Day.

Kington Community Choir rehearsed weekly with us until Christmas, and we hope we can look forward to welcoming them back in the Spring. We much enjoyed their Christmas concert with its audience participation and thank them for the donations to the Organ Fund.

We have always received many comments both from our regular congregation and in the Visitors' Book, regarding the shining brass in St. Mary's and have Beryl Thompson to thank for this. For the last ten years she has cared for the brass, coming in on a regular basis and working her way round the considerable brass involved. Sadly, Beryl has decided that it is time to screw the cap on the brasso and fold her polishing cloths away. We are so grateful to her for all that she has done and what she has achieved - she will be sadly missed. We are delighted that Julia Reid has agreed to take on Beryl's mantle.

Giuliana Nazari has continued to do a splendid job cleaning St. Mary's week by week and we offer her a big thank you for that and for all that she does to help particularly in transporting goods when we have the Community Shop.

The day-to-day oversight of vestments, church linen and ornaments has remained in the capable hands of our Sacristan, Eileen Thomas. Many tasks undertaken by Eileen are beyond the call of her office and we would certainly be the poorer were she not to do them. Thanks also go to our Deputy Sacristan, Beverly Fensom. In addition to helping Eileen, Beverley undertakes the task of compiling duty rotas and organising the lottery.

We also appreciate those who serve refreshments for the fellowship time following services. Lay people play a vital role in the Services at St. Mary's and to each and to everyone we say thank you.

#### THE INTERIOR OF ST. MARY'S

The annual inspection of the security system and the lightning conductor along with P.A.T. testing of electrical items and the fire equipment have all taken place successfully this year.

The organ restoration is now under way and the north aisle has been taken over by the firm for their equipment and on-site work. The scaffolding will be in situ for as long as it is needed which means that the Craigie altar is out of use. We thank Penny and John Halcrow for refitting the Children's Corner. This will return to the north aisle from the Vaughan Chapel when current work is complete.

The re-ordering of the area on the north side of the Church, in front of the Craigie altar has proved invaluable for many different uses.

It is a joy to see the children at both Messy Church and Lego Club enjoying and using this space The number at both these events is increasing, as detailed above.

We look forward to The Marches Makers returning to St. Mary's for their May event.

Carpet was taken up during the re-ordering exposing tiles which await treatment.

We must look ahead to changing our heating system by 2030 and we thank Nick and Margaret Cooke for the time they are giving to investigating different systems and for keeping us up to date with their progress.

#### THE EXTERIOR OF ST MARY'S

Kington Town Council renewed the tender for grass cutting and the work was satisfactorily conducted in 2023. The Council also authorised the cutting of branches on the horse chestnut by the Lych gate. A working party was organised to tidy up the churchyard on February 1<sup>st</sup>. A splendid job was done, and low growing branches were removed and shredded making it easier for mowing this year We thank Elizabeth Banks and Phillip Sell for organising this and all who took part. It is good to be able to see across the Churchyard again.

The Garden of Remembrance.

Our grateful thanks go to Jean and Frank Williams, to Nick and Margaret Cooke and to Eileen Thomas for their regular care and oversight of the Garden, flowers dead headed, weeds removed from the gravel and edges trimmed all contributing to a cared for garden.

New benches have been placed in the area.

Please, we would repeat our request that dead flowers are regularly removed from the vases and taken away whenever possible for disposal. This is particularly so following major festivals such as Christmas and Easter.

Space in the Garden is now extremely limited, and plans are being discussed relating to the extension of the Garden.

St. Mary's is a treasure belonging to the people of Kington; however, its maintenance is an ongoing reality which becomes more costly year by year. Fundraising remains a high priority among our responsibilities, and we do appreciate particularly the generous way in which you help to stock the Community Shop, so making it the success it has proved to be.

We value the support given by The Friends of St. Mary's and look forward to the future events they may organise. They are always pleased to welcome new "Friends."

The feature that stands out in the past year is Ben and Jean Griffiths leaving us for North Wales. They both played a vital part in the life of St. Mary's and are very much missed. Tributes have been paid to them both before they left and since.

We wish particularly to thank Malcolm for his expertise in dealing with all things practical relating to the Church maintenance. He has been assisted from time to time, by John Halcrow and Michael Horne and our thanks are also due to them.

The churchwardens continue to carry out their remit which is to keep “The Fabric, Goods and Ornaments in good shape” for future generations to use for worship together with identifying ever widening opportunities and events.

Ann Edwards and Rodney Bowdler.

**There is no vicar’s report this year as we are still in a vacancy with interviews being held on 25th April 2024. The first round of interviews in November 2023 were not successful in identifying an appointable candidate and we pray that a suitable candidate will be identified this time.**

**Approved by the PCC on ...14/03/2023..... and signed on their behalf by Rodney Bowdler Churchwarden and Chair of St Mary’s PCC during the vacancy.**

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# Accounts

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# ST MARY'S CHURCH, KINGTON

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Registered charity number 1185453



### TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS for 2022

St Mary's Church is situated in Kington, in the Kington and Deanery in the Diocese of Hereford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Church Office, The Vicarage, Church Road, Kington, HR5 3AG.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and is now registered with the Charity Commission (Registered charity number 1185453).

As Charity Trustees, all PCC members should be mindful of the Charity Commission's six core principles for charity trustees, which are as follows:

1. **Ensure your charity is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit.**
1. **Comply with your charity's governing document i.e., PCC Measure and Church Rep Rules – and the wider law.]**
1. **Act in your charity's best interests.**
  - *i.e., by making sure that you act for the church and not for any conflicting interest, e.g., a related school or other organisation.*
  - *ensure that the decisions are yours, not those influenced by others.*
1. **Manage your charity's resources responsibly.**
1. **Act with reasonable care and skill.**
1. **Ensure your charity is accountable.**

PCC members who have served at any time since the Annual Church Meeting 2022 until the Annual Church meetings in April 2023 are:

<b>Licensed Clergy:</b>	Revd Benedict Griffith (until 28/02/2023)
<b>Assistant Curates:</b>	Revd Paul Buckingham
<b>Licensed Reader</b>	Mr Rob MacCurrach
<b>Churchwardens:</b>	Miss Ann Edwards Mr Rodney Bowdler (Vice Chair)
<b>Deanery Synod Representatives:</b>	Mrs Eileen Thomas (sacristan) Mrs Bev Fensom (deputy sacristan and deputy churchwarden) Mrs Penny Halcrow
<b>Elected members:</b>	
<b>2020</b>	Mrs Janet Price, Mr Malcolm Price, Mrs Margaret Cooke, Mr Nick Cooke
<b>2021</b>	Mr John Halcrow, Mr Philip Sell, Mrs Jackie Ferreira

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary's, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), assistant curates, churchwardens, the reader licensed to the Benefice, parochial representatives elected to the Deanery Synod, and members elected by those on the electoral roll of the church. All members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. There were four PCC meetings during the year.

### **Aims and Purposes**

St Mary's (Kington) PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Church and of the Parish House.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at the church and to become part of the parish community at St Mary's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish.

Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music, and sacrament. We try to enable everybody to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St Mary and the Parish House.

## **WORSHIP AND PRAYER**

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling.

Since the start of the pandemic, there has been a live streamed service 'broadcast' from Kington each Sunday, and each of the Major feast days of the church. The facility to live stream all services from St Mary's, has been maintained and is welcomed by many of our congregation who, for a variety of reasons, have not been able to resume attendance at church in person. Most of our live-streamed services have over 30 views, not just on the day itself, but subsequent viewing at other times during the week.

During 2022, twenty four funeral services were conducted by members of the ministry team including four burials of ashes only. Several funerals were live streamed from the church. This has enabled friends and families from far away to participate in these important life events. There were three weddings, and seven children were baptised in St Mary's Church.

The Remembrance Day and Christmas Services were well attended by both regular and occasional worshippers.

## **MISSION AND EVANGELISM**

### **MESSY CHURCH REPORT 2023**

Messy Church has been going for over a year and a half and proving itself to be a successful way of drawing in young families. It has been running roughly once a month and attracts, on a good day, about 10 parents, up to 20 children and needs some 10 helpers. We make good use of the newly created open space in the north aisle of the church. There are creative activities, a gathering with a bible talk, music and songs, finishing with a meal. Stephen Lacey is chief coordinator, and Ben has usually led the music and teaching; however, we are well established as a lay team. It is proving popular, it's encouraging for the team and we intend to keep it growing and deepen the roots. Stephen has also started Lego Club, which has a large stock of Lego but is very much in early days. So far this is attracting older children.

What else can we say about Messy Church?

- It is its own congregation gathered to get to know Jesus.
- It is not just for children but for families, single people, all ages.
- It is not just for those new to faith or seeking God; it is for all stages of the faith journey.
- Why messy? We are allowed to make a mess being creative and sharing a meal, but our lives are messy too. God loves to be a part of our messy lives.

Are there challenges? Yes! Families are fairly inconsistent; some come regularly, and some come only occasionally. We compete with Parents' jobs, after school activities like sports, and the challenges of coordinating a family's many commitments. But our consistent message is to welcome parents, care for their children and give them hope in their lives.

A key factor is advertising. The Messy Church WhatsApp group is the most successful way of alerting and reminding parents that Messy Church is coming up. We have also started flagging up the Morning Praise on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays; plenty of room for mess and children's activities there. Posters and fliers are going out. The Primary School helps with posters and website.

*Robert MacCurrach*

## **GIVING AND COMMUNITY**

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. Through various special collections and donations, £9490 (4% of income) was sent to various charities including a donation to support Ukraine. Through the Deanery, we continue to support the Diocesan Train-a-Priest scheme in Tanzania (please see Deanery Synod Report).

Our parish magazine keeps our parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our Church as well as providing a valuable source of community information. In addition, weekly notices and updates are provided on the Sunday pew sheet. Weekly pew sheets are available on-line, as are service booklets produced for special service.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

St Mary's church is committed to ensuring that children and vulnerable adults have a positive experience of church and are safeguarded and protected. The Safeguarding Officer ensures that adults in positions of

responsibility particularly with regards to children are checked by the Disclosure and Baring Service and that the correct processes are in place.

## **ECUMENICAL**

St Mary's is a member of Churches Together in Kington and we have continued to maintain good relations with the other member Churches. During the past year, the Vicar has been Chair of this group and through this office, further strengthened ecumenical links.

## **MEMBERSHIP OF CONGREGATION**

The March 2022 revision of the electoral roll showed a net loss of 5 members. 1 new member joined the roll, and sadly, 5 members died and one moved away, so for 2022 - 2023 we had 108 members, 33 male and 75 female.

*Ray Le Tarouilly (Electoral Roll Officer)*

## **KINGTON AND WEOBLEY DEANERY SYNOD**

Three members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod. The Deanery Synod provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

Only one meeting was held during 2022, when three very interesting talks were given on the future of our communities by Jo Hilditch (farmer), Ellie Chowns (Green party councillor and university lecturer) and Charlotte Worthy (Herefordshire Council). At this meeting, the resignation of the Rural Dean was announced, and the lay co-chair stated that she would be stepping down from the role at the end of the summer.

An update was given on the Weobley and Staunton Joint Benefice Council, replacing the individual PCCs of each parish. Each parish has representation on the council and a Finance Officer has been appointed to oversee the finances of the group. A Church Administrator was also being sought.

At the first meeting of 2023, the new Rural dean, Revd Mike Kneen, introduced himself. After twelve years as Team Rector at Leominster, he retired in 2020, ready to enjoy pursuing his hobbies, which include driving steam trains on the Severn Valley Railway. In 2022, he was then appointed as Rural Dean to the Kington and Weobley deanery. He is looking forward to visiting all parts of the deanery and helping church communities to grow and develop.

The position of Lay Co-chair remains vacant and Chris Smith, the Deanery Treasury stated that, after sixteen years in the position, he would like to make plans to stand down. If there is anyone interested in either of these positions, please make yourself known to the Rural Dean, Chris Smith, or a Deanery synod member.

The treasurer was pleased to report that the Parish Offer from the Deanery had been paid in full to the Diocese. The Deanery also continues, on behalf of all parishes in the Deanery, to support the Train-a-Priest scheme in Dar-es Salaam, with an annual donation of £1500.

*P Halcrow*

## PARISH HOUSE

The Parish House is seen as part of the Church's mission to Kington and the PCC is very grateful to all those who have done so much to keep the building in a good state of repair. Thanks go especially to Eileen Thomas, who gives a lot of time to check that everything is in order for each group which comes in to use the Parish House

In 2022, the exterior of the Parish House, at first floor level, was repainted. This was made possible by a generous grant from Kington United Charities. A replacement water boiler had to be purchased for the kitchen. The cost of this was shared between the PCC and the Community Lunch Club. The gas boiler and cooker were serviced, and safety checked, and all alarms checked regularly.

The Parish House continues to be let to various bodies independent of Church use, including Home-Start, The Kington Scout group, and KADOS, and is also used for Dance Exercise and Yoga classes. It is used once a month (third Wednesday) by the Community Lunch Club and is extensively used by the PCC and other Church meetings. There have also been occasional bookings for parties and special occasions.

*P Halcrow*

## FINANCIAL REPORT 2022 ST MARY'S KINGTON

### Introduction

This new format Financial Report consists of the following statements:

1. Summary of **Receipts and Payments** (Page 2).
2. A **Statement of Assets and Liabilities** (Page 3)
3. **Notes on the Accounts** (Pages 5 -7.) These are a more detailed analysis of the Summary of Receipts and Payments and some explanatory comments

### Review

The Receipts and Payments account (Page 2) shows a shortfall. This is exaggerated by the partial prepayment (£8,000) of the 2023 Parish Offer. Other reasons for this include the increased cost of energy, (The contract that we have with Parish Buying ran until October and was renegotiated for 2022-2023. Gas in 2022-2023 is now four times as expensive. The Heating Subcommittee is investigating alternatives to gas.) and there has been a fall in income from Planned Giving. (This is partly due to the deaths of several generous donors.)

Gift Aid for 2022 is not yet fully claimed. This has been addressed (February 2023) and will appear in the 2023 accounts.

The big expense for the coming year is the restoration of our very fine organ. At the end of 2022 funds raised for the Organ Appeal amount to nearly £22,000 and are, in March 2023, continuing to flow in. Grants are being applied for which should cover much of the remaining costs. It is anticipated that only a small sum will require to be drawn from the General Fund.

The unrestricted funds held at the end of 2022 are sufficient for 11 months at the normal rate of expenditure in 2022. This is in excess of that recommended by the diocese.

Reserves are invested in CBF deposit fund.

*N A Cooke 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023*

# St. Mary's Church, Kington

Registered charity no. 1185453

## Financial Statement for the year ending 31st December 2022

### Receipts and Payments Account

These accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis

		2022				2021
		Unrestricted		Restricted	Total	Total
		General	Designated			
Notes						
<b>RECEIPTS</b>						
<b>Voluntary Receipts</b>						
	Planned Giving	1	27197		27197	28110
	Collect ions at Services	2	4923		4923	2864
	All other giving/voluntary receipts	3	4000	383	10922	8539
	Grants	4			16933	26549
	Gif tAid Recovered	6	6210		6210	7970
	<b>Total voluntary receipts</b>		<b>42330</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>27856</b>	<b>74032</b>
	<b>Act vities for Generat ing Funds</b>	7	<b>5614</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5624</b>	<b>5177</b>
	<b>Investment Income</b>	8	<b>5175</b>		<b>5175</b>	<b>3350</b>
	<b>Church Act vities</b>	9	<b>16492</b>		<b>16492</b>	<b>11738</b>
	<b>Rent/Hire of Church Property</b>	10	<b>1991</b>		<b>1991</b>	<b>692</b>
	<b>Sale of Church Property</b>	11	<b>5733</b>		<b>5733</b>	<b>152532</b>
	<b>Sundry Income</b>	12	<b>1922</b>		<b>1922</b>	<b>5066</b>
	<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>79256</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>27856</b>	<b>107504</b>

		2022				2021
		Unrestricted		Restricted	Total	Total
		General	Designated			
Notes						
<b>PAYMENTS</b>						
<b>Church Act vities</b>						
	Parish Of ér	13	44000		44000	43000
	Prepayment of the 2023 Parish Of ér	13	8000		8000	
	Clergy & Staf ing Costs	14	1731		1731	4167
	Church Running Expenses	15	15269		15269	15921
	Cost of Services	16	5297	458	5754	3924
	Mission Giving & Charitable Donat ions	17	2416	5024	2050	9490
	<b>Parish House</b>	18		4629	4629	2238
	<b>Administrat ion</b>	19	9094		9094	8407
	<b>Weddings and Funerals</b>	20	3500		3500	2411
	<b>Major Works</b>	21			12098	77622
	<b>Costs of Generat ing Funds</b>	22	2340		2340	1970
	<b>Costs associated with other church property</b>	23				2166
	<b>Various</b>	24	1294		1294	5072
	<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>92941</b>	<b>10110</b>	<b>14149</b>	<b>117200</b>

<b>Short fall</b>	<b>-13685</b>	<b>-9718</b>	<b>13707</b>	<b>-9696</b>	<b>81646</b>
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The short fall looks £8000 bigger than it actually is because of the prepayment which is recouped during 2023

# Statement of Assets and Liabilities

For the year ending 31st December 2022

## Assets

	2022					2021 Total	
	Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowments	Total		Change
	General	Designated					
<b>Cash funds</b>							
<i>Co-operative Account (08-92-99 67225860)</i>					5913	-803	6716
<i>CBF Deposit (618026001D) – Capital Reserve</i>					114162	-28903	143065
<i>Cash and cheques in hand</i>					21	10	11
<i>Maggie Edwards bequest (awaiting reinvestment)</i>						20000	-20000
<b>Total cash funds</b>	91843	2818	25435		120096	-9696	129792
<b>Investment assets (Status to be confirmed)</b>							
1,650 Glaxo Smith Kline shares (E Bowen bequest)	22579				22579	-3930	26509
1,650 Haleon shares (Share issue from GSK)	5406				5406	5406	
<b>Total investment assets</b>	27985				27985	1476	26509
<b>Total current assets</b>	119828	2818	25435		148081	-8220	156301
<b>Other Assets</b>							
Prepayment of 2023 Of �r	8000				8000	8000	
<b>Total other assets</b>	8000				8000	8000	
<b>Liabilities</b>							
Loan (Interest Free)	1500				1500		1500
<b>Total liabilities</b>	1500				1500		1500

## Endowments

The capital is to be retained but the interest can be used for general church purposes.

<i>Bill Price Bequest (485 Utd Utilities shares) (K16)</i>			5015		5015	-259	5274
<i>Price Bequest (CBF Investment Fund) ... 1371S (K15)</i>			8451		8451	-1122	9573
<i>M Edwards' Bequest (CBF Investment Fund)..6001S</i>	21723				21723	18870	2853
<i>Maggie Edwards' Bequest (awaiting reinvestment)</i>						-20000	20000
<i>Gregory Trust (CBF Investment Fund) .... 1289S (K11)</i>				53287	53287	-7074	60361
<i>Gregory Trust (Diocesan CBF Fund) ...1452D (K11)</i>				4304	4304		4304
<b>Total endowments</b>	21723		13466	57591	92780	-9585	102365

## Freehold property

<i>Bradnor Coppice (Sold in 2022)</i>						-8000	8000
<b>NET ASSET VALUE OF FUNDS</b>	148051	2818	38901	57591	247361	-17805	265167

## Balance Statement

Total Assets Opening	265167
Change in net asset value of funds	-17805
<b>NET ASSET VALUE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>247361</b>

# Notes on the accounts

For the year ending 31st December 2022

		2022			2021
		Unrestricted		Restricted	Total
		General	Designated		
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
<b>Voluntary Receipts</b>					
<b>Note</b>					
<b>1</b>	<b>Planned Giving</b>				
	Standing Orders Gift Aided	3271			4976
	Envelopes and other donations	1445			1162
	Non gift aided planned giving	675			21972
	PGS Donation	21805			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>27197</b>			<b>28110</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Collect donations at Services</b>				
	Collect donations at Services: St Mary's	4923			2864
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4923</b>			<b>2864</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>All other voluntary Giving/Donations</b>				
	Sundry Donations	2817			1615
	Contactless	482			224
	QR (give.net)				
	Amazon Europe Core	6			
	Easy Fundraising	56			34
	Donation Box in Church	639			
	Messy Church (was KKC)		57		37
	Mission Support		160		700
	<b>Donations to Designated Funds</b>				
	Bells				1208
	Handbells		166		
	Flower Fund			832	
	<b>Donations to Restricted Funds</b>				
	Restricted Special collect donations			4805	3317
	Ukraine Appeal			1993	
	Organ Fund			3292	1150
	Roof				255
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4000</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>10922</b>	<b>8539</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Grants</b>				
	Roof fund			16933	11000
	Reordering				13000
	Parish House				2549
	<b>Total</b>			<b>16933</b>	<b>26549</b>

## RECEIPTS (Cont nued)

		2022			2021	
		Unrestricted		Restricted	Total	Total
		General	Designated			
<b>6</b>	<b>Gif tAid recovered</b>					
	PGS Gif tAid Tax Refund	4521			5226	
	Other Gif tAid & GASDS	1689			2743	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6210</b>			<b>7970</b>	
<b>7</b>	<b>Act ivit ès for Generat ng Funds</b>					
	Bonus Ball	1872				
	Beetle Drive					
	Com. Shop	1364			3323	
	Peerie Boxes	22				
	Fete	2048				
	Other Fund Raising	27				
	Parish House Fund Raising	280				
	Music (not organ fund)		10		1854	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5614</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>5177</b>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Investment income</b>					
	CBF Deposit Fund Interest	396			38	
	Investment Income	4779			3312	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5175</b>			<b>3350</b>	
<b>9</b>	<b>Church Act ivit ès</b>					
	Fees	10127			4362	
	Parish News Adverts	4440			7376	
	Parish News Sales	1925				
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16492</b>			<b>11738</b>	
<b>10</b>	<b>Rent/Hire of church property</b>					
	Hire of Church	845			575	
	Hire of Parish House	1146			117	
	Bungalow Rent					
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1991</b>			<b>692</b>	
<b>11</b>	<b>Sale of church Property</b>					
	Bradnor Green Coppice	5733				
	Bradnor Green Bungalow Sale				152532	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5733</b>			<b>152532</b>	
<b>12</b>	<b>Sundry income</b>					
	Charges for Visits	290				
	Net of expenses charged to other parishes	1329			132	
	Other	303			199	
<b>1</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1922</b>			<b>331</b>	
<b>TOTAL OF ALL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>79256</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>27856</b>	<b>107504</b>	
					<b>247852</b>	

**Further to note 12 Sundry income (Other & Net of expenses...)** : The other parishes in our benefice are invoiced monthly for their shares of the Benefice Expenses (Office work, stationery supplies etc. This value will vary from year to year depending upon when they settle the final invoice. Over the years it averages out to zero. There was also a payment from Friends of St Mary's for Community Shop rental at the end of 2021. The Friends do not have on line access for payments so they rely on St Mary's PCC when these are necessary.

## PAYMENTS

For the year ending 31st December 2022

Note		2022			2021	
		Unrestricted		Restricted	Total	
		General	Designated			
<b>13</b>	<b>Parish Of ffr</b>	44000			44000	43000
	Prepayment of 2023 Parish Of ffr	8000			8000	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>52000</b>			<b>52000</b>	<b>43000</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Clergy Expenses &amp; Staffing Costs</b>					
	Kington Share: Vicar	968			968	3020
	Vicarage Garden wages	102			102	697
	Kington's Share: Curate	661			661	450
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1731</b>			<b>1731</b>	<b>4167</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Church Running Expenses</b>					
	Upkeep of Church	247			247	1618
	Wages	1819			1819	4085
	Insurance	4089			4089	2217
	Minor repairs/ maintenance	1049			1049	4691
	Gas 3003486630	5297			5297	1589
	Electricity 3003746581	1771			1771	505
	Water	423			423	48
	Upkeep of Churchyard	575			575	1168
	Tower Bells					
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15269</b>			<b>15269</b>	<b>15921</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Cost of Services</b>					
	Cost of Services: Sundries	936			936	418
	Live streaming	564			564	694
	Payments to Organist	2915			2915	2812
	Music and Choir	882			882	
	Flowers		458		458	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5297</b>	<b>458</b>		<b>5754</b>	<b>3924</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Mission giving and Charitable donations</b>					
	DEC Ukraine	1987		1987	3973	
	Other special collect ons		4197		4197	2752
	From St Mary's General Fund	429			429	795
	Burton Communion Donat ons			64	64	
	Messy Church & Lego Club		811		811	330
	Study Groups					165
	Mission Support		16		16	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2416</b>	<b>5024</b>	<b>2050</b>	<b>9490</b>	<b>4042</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Parish House</b>					
	Wages	462			462	215
	Upkeep	190			190	121
	Insurance	523			523	241
	Repairs & maintenance	2106			2106	729
	Gas 3003519585	534			534	290
	Electricity 3003746592	609			609	429
	Water	147			147	158
	Lease	58			58	55
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4629</b>			<b>4629</b>	<b>2238</b>

## Payments (Cont nued)

	2022				2021
	Unrestricted		Restricted	Total	Total
	General	Designated			
<b>19 Administration</b>					
Wages: Of fee	1983			1983	
Admin (not wages)	2525			2525	<b>3874</b>
Parish News Printing	4586			4586	4533
<b>Total</b>	<b>9094</b>			<b>9094</b>	<b>8407</b>
<b>20 Weddings and Funerals</b>					
Statutory Fees	2092			2092	1801
Organist/Bells/Choir/Verger	1408			1408	610
<b>Total</b>	<b>3500</b>			<b>3500</b>	<b>2411</b>
<b>21 Major Works</b>					
Roof			2580	2580	77622
Organ					
Reordering			9518	9518	
<b>Total</b>			<b>12098</b>	<b>12098</b>	<b>77622</b>
<b>22 Costs of Generating Funds</b>					
Bonus Ball	1510			1510	
Community Shop	260			260	
Peerie Boxes					1510
Fete	570			570	
QR					
Cost of grant applications					460
<b>Total</b>	<b>2340</b>			<b>2340</b>	<b>1970</b>
<b>23 Costs associated with other church property.</b>					
Bradnor Cottage Council Tax					2166
<b>Total</b>					<b>2166</b>
<b>24 Various</b>					
Invoiced to other parishes (Now netted)					4735
Visits	440			440	
Church Lunch					
Other	854			854	338
<b>Total</b>	<b>1294</b>			<b>1294</b>	<b>5072</b>
<b>TOTAL OF ALL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>97570</b>	<b>5481</b>	<b>14149</b>	<b>117200</b>	<b>170941</b>

The large total in Other (Note 24) is made up of the leaving present for our curate, some transactions paying for items for the Friends of St. Mary's which needed to be paid online (FoSM does not have online access for payments) and a cheque wrongly made out to St Mary's PCC which needed to be paid into the Friend's account. Further small payments were made to the Kinnerton and Old Radnor PCCs because their Benefice Expenses accounts were in credit at the end of the year.

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's, Kington, Herefordshire**

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on Financial Report 2022, St Mary's Kington, (pages 1 – 7, Ref N A Cooke, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023) is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ("the Act").

### **Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner**

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

### **Basis of this report**

My 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.

### **Independent Examiner's statement**

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

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

- to keep proper accounting records; and
- to prepare proper accounts from those records and to comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations

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.

*Chris H.E. Smith*

Chris H.E. Smith F.C.M.A.,  
The Old Vicarage  
Lyonshall  
01544 340598 / 07785 708603  
15<sup>th</sup> March 2023

## **CHURCHWARDENS' MESSAGE AND REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, 2022**

As we write this, foremost in our minds is the loss of our Vicar, The Rev. Ben Griffith and Jean as they leave for pastures new in North Wales. He has introduced so much to our Parish Church and has been a much-liked Vicar to the people of Kington. He cannot realise how much he will be missed.

Once again, the past year has seen the loss of some valued Church members either through failing health or death and our sincere sympathy goes to all bereaved families. We extend a welcome to newcomers to St. Mary's.

We thank Phillip Sell, our Musical Director and Choirmaster together with a numerically growing choir for the leadership and enhancement they bring to our services.

We continue to enjoy the attractive flower arrangements and give sincere thanks to Gill Pennell, Lesley Walters and their team of skilful helpers who so enrich life in this way. They played a special part in making St. Mary's fit for a Queen as they decorated the Church for our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

We thank Guilianna for the special job she does cleaning the Church and Beryl Thompson who, prior to her fall, kept our brass always shining. Get better soon Beryl!

The Parish News reached a landmark in its history this year, when after many years of faithful work Dennis and Irene Phillips retired from the overseeing of this popular magazine. We expressed our gratitude for this by presenting them with wooden garden furniture.

The day to day oversight of vestments, church linen and ornaments remains in the capable hands of Eileen Thomas. Eileen exceeds the calling of her office as Sacristan by the many additional tasks she undertakes and we would be the poorer were she not to do them.

Lay people play a vital role in the life of St Mary's and to each and every one we say a big thank you

### **Internal**

The re-ordering of St. Mary's has been a huge task undertaken throughout 2022 and will. I feel sure, be recorded elsewhere in the reports.

The open space it has created on the north side of the Church, provides an area for increased activities and has proved ideal for Messy Church, The Lego Club, for concerts and church functions when refreshments are served. We thank Malcolm Price and Penny and John Halcrow for the time and thought given to this venture.

The fixing of casters to the remaining pews on the north side has made them readily accessible for moving to suit different events.

We are pleased to welcome Kington Community Choir for their weekly choir practice. Equally we welcome Kington Choral Society for their concerts.

The annual inspection of the security system, the lightning conductor and fire appliances have all taken place successfully.

Organ Restoration. The initial fund-raising appeal has got away to a promising start. We thank Phillip Sell for the time he has given to this and Hannah Vernon for her current work to secure grants. When completed St. Mary's should be able to boast the fine organ it deserves.

The regular streaming of Sunday services and some special events has taken place and figures show a steady following of people joining us for these livestream services. We thank Nick Cooke for the time he has given to this venture.

## **External**

The work on the building itself involved roof work and much repointing. The DAC has approved the finished work.

Our grateful thanks to Frank and Jean Williams and Nick and Margaret Cooke for their oversight of the garden of Remembrance.

We would like to repeat our plea that dead flowers are removed from their pots and taken away for disposal when possible.

The bench installed as a token of Kington Remembers has graced the Garden as did the Memory Tree at Christmas time.

The mowing of the churchyard is the responsibility of Kington Council and has been regularly cut throughout the year. It is disappointing that Kington Council has not yet responded to work needed to the compost bins. despite repeated requests.

St. Mary's is a treasure, but its routine maintenance is an ongoing reality which becomes more costly every year. This results in fund raising being high on our agenda and while we thank you most sincerely for past support, we do ask that you will continue to support us in 2023.

We ask too, that you will continue to support the Churchwardens both in prayer and encouragement as we try to carry out our remit which is to keep the "Fabric, Goods and Ornaments" in good shape for future generations to use for worship together with ever widening opportunities and events.

*Ann Edwards on behalf of both Church Wardens*

## VICARS ANNUAL REPORT FOR ST MARY'S KINGTON APCM 2023

As I write this report, the vicarage in Kington is beginning to be engulfed by packing boxes and various items have already disappeared although fortunately as yet nothing whose presence is desperately needed- that moment will come, I'm sure.

The transition in this house reflects the wider transition both in our own lives and in the wider life of the Kington Parishes. As I prepare to depart for North Wales, quite literally the land of my father's but not my mother's and the Benefice here prepares for a period of Vacancy.

A Vacancy need not be a fallow period in the life of the church. I have been involved with vacancies in the past from both sides of the clerical divide which have been times of real transformational growth. The process of producing a benefice profile helps us to consider prayerfully and carefully what we are and who we are. To use modern commercial language what is our USP( Unique Selling Point )or as St John in the book of Revelation described it what is the Angel of the Church and what is its golden Candlestick.

As I reflect on the seven and a bit years that I've been vicar of these parishes there are a myriad of occasions in Kington when its angel has been hovering over it with a huge smile of satisfaction and there are moments which will remain with me and I pray with you for a lifetime.

There is much to be extremely grateful for from music and liturgy with a robed choir an excellent director of music, dedicated and committed sacristan and deputy sacristan and a tremendous group of servers, readers, intercessors sides people ,all completed by a team of churchwardens and deputy wardens .

One of the highlights for me of the past year has been the triumphant completion of the project to re-order the North Nave . I'm sure that everyone reading this will agree what an impressive space this has created and it is lovely seeing it being used for messy church and the Lego Club and even for funeral teas.

I've already mentioned messy church and Lego club and I'm thrilled to see these powerful mission initiatives beginning to prosper. I must also pay tribute to all of those people whose dedicated efforts make that possible.

We are blessed richly to have a church in which so many people give of their skills and talents with such grace and enthusiasm.

There is however only one dark cloud which occludes the horizon and that is not my imminent departure. I become increasingly concerned when I hear people criticising other people. A Church of England parish must by its vocation be all things to all people, as St Paul described himself. That is our unique vocation as the Established Church. We are compelled by our discipleship to welcome and celebrate those who may or may not be exactly like us , those whose worship of God does not feel entirely comfortable to us , because that is the only way in which we are to live up to and fulfil our precious calling as children of God and brothers and sisters in Christ.

As you move forward with the next exciting chapter of your journey of life and your journey into God please celebrate both rich heritage of faithful witness to Christ here in Kington , rejoice in the unity and diversity which is one of the great hallmarks of Anglicanism. May God bless you abundantly in your continued worship and service of him.

*Rev Benedict Griffith*

Vicar until 28/02/2023

**Approved by the PCC on ...14/03/2023..... and signed on their behalf by Rodney Bowdler Churchwarden and Chair of St Mary's PCC during the vacancy**

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# Accounts

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# ST MARY'S CHURCH, KINGTON

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Registered charity number 1185453

### TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS for 2021

St Mary's Church is situated in Kington, in the Kington and Weobley Deanery in the Diocese of Hereford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Church Office, The Vicarage, Church Road, Kington, HR5 3AG.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and is now registered with the Charity Commission (Registered charity number 1185453).

As Charity Trustees, all PCC members should be mindful of the Charity Commission's six core principles for charity trustees, which are as follows:

1. **Ensure your charity is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit.**
1. **Comply with your charity's governing document i.e. PCC Measure and Church Rep Rules – and the wider law.**
1. **Act in your charity's best interests.**
  - *ie, by making sure that you act for the church and not any conflicting interest, eg a related school or other organisation.*
  - *ensure that the decisions are yours, not those influenced by others.*
1. **Manage your charity's resources responsibly.**
1. **Act with reasonable care and skill.**
1. **Ensure your charity is accountable.**

.....

PCC members who have served at any time since the Annual Church Meeting 2011 until the Annual Church meetings in May 2022 are:

<b>Licensed Clergy:</b>	Revd Benedict Griffith (Chair)
<b>Assistant Curates:</b>	Revd Linda MacDermott Revd Paul Buckingham
<b>Licensed Reader</b>	Mr Rob MacCurrach
<b>Churchwardens:</b>	Miss Ann Edwards Mr Rodney Bowdler (Vice Chair)
<b>Deanery Synod Representatives:</b>	Mrs Eileen Thomas (sacristan) Mrs Bev Fensom (deputy sacristan and deputy churchwarden) Mrs Penny Halcrow
<b>Elected members:</b>	
	<b>2019</b> Mrs Deborah Horne, Mrs Allison Wright
	<b>2020</b> Mrs Janet Price, Mr Malcolm Price, Mrs Margaret Cooke, Mr Nick

	Cooke
<b>2121</b>	Mr John Halcrow, Mr Philip Sell, Mrs Jackie Ferreira

**Structure, governance and management**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary’s, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), assistant curates, churchwardens, the reader licensed to the Benefice, parochial representatives elected to the Deanery Synod, and members elected by those on the electoral roll of the church. All members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The working of the PCC over the past year continued to be influenced by the certain restrictions relating to the coronavirus pandemic. Following the Annual Parish Meeting held in church on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 , we were able to resume our regular pattern of PCC meetings. The meeting in July (27<sup>th</sup>) 2021 was held in church to allow greater spacing between PCC members. Subsequent meetings were held in September (14<sup>th</sup>), November (9<sup>th</sup>) and March (8<sup>th</sup>) , in the Parish House as usual, with an average attendance rate of 70%. The Standing Committee has not met during this year.

**Aims and Purposes**

St Mary’s (Kington) PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Church and of the Parish House.

**Objectives and Activities**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at the church and to become part of the parish community at St Mary’s. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish.

Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable everybody to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St Mary and the Parish House.

**Worship and Prayer**

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling.

Since the start of the pandemic, there has been a live streamed service ‘broadcast’ from Kington each Sunday, and each of the Major feast days of the church. While the Church was in complete lockdown, the vicar led a live streamed service every Sunday morning from his study. Once churches could be reopened, then it became possible to live stream the Sunday morning service from St Mary’s. The facility to live stream all services from St Marys, has been maintained and is welcomed by many of our congregation who, for a variety of reasons, have not felt, or been able to resume attendance at church in person. Most of our live-steamed services have over 30 views, not just on the day itself, but subsequent viewing at other times during the week.

During 2021, seventeen funeral services were conducted by members of the ministry team. There were no weddings in St Mary’s Church. Several funerals were live steamed from the church. This has enabled friends and families from far away to participate in these important life events.

Perhaps the most notable service of the year was on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September when Herefordshire Council held their Annual Civic Service in our church. The first time such an event has been held outside the Cathedral setting. This was

a truly splendid occasion attended by HM Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire, HM High Sherriff of Herefordshire, The Chairman of Herefordshire Council and a host of local mayors.

### **Mission and Evangelism**

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. Through various special collections and donations, £795 (0.5% of income) was sent to various charities. Through the Deanery, we continue to support the Diocesan Train-a-Priest scheme in Tanzania (please see Deanery Synod Report).

Our parish magazine keeps our parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our Church as well as providing a valuable source of community information. In addition, weekly notices and updates are provided on the Sunday pew sheet. Weekly pew sheets are available on-line, as are service booklets produced for special service.

### **Ecumenical Relationships**

St Mary's is a member of Churches Together in Kington and we have continued to maintain good relations with the other member Churches. During the past year, the Vicar has been Chair of this group and through this office, further strengthened ecumenical links.

*Philip Sell (Secretary to the PCC)*

### **MEMBERSHIP OF CONGREGATION**

The March 2022 revision of the electoral roll showed a net loss of 1 member. 1 new member joined the roll, and sadly, 3 members died, so for 2022 - 2023 we have 115 members, 37 male and 78 female.

*Ray Le Tarouilly (Electoral Roll Officer)*

### **DEANERY SYNOD**

Three members of the PCC continue to sit on the Deanery Synod, with both a clergy and a lay representative from Kington serving on the Deanery Standing Committee and on the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee. The Deanery Synod provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church, drawing together the thoughts of the Church's life in the Deanery and considering matters referred to it from the Diocesan Synod and General Synod.

The Kington and Weobley Deanery Synod met three times during 2021, twice by Zoom and with one face to face meeting, under the leadership of the Rural Dean, Rev'd Guy Wilkinson with Elizabeth Shayler as lay co-chair, Chris Smith as Deanery treasurer and Marcia Lynch-Staunton as Deanery secretary.

The Zoom meeting in January opened with an act of worship led by Bishop Richard. There followed a discussion providing an opportunity to look back at what had been learnt and experienced during the height of the covid pandemic and considering how to move forward. The importance of keeping in touch with all in the community was highlighted, together with the value and use of technology for new ways of worship and for meetings. Everyone agreed that during the lockdowns, the fellowship and singing of church services had been greatly missed.

The outline Mission Action Plan was discussed and adopted. This plan looks to find ways in which the Deanery can support the mission and ministry of benefices, identifying and providing training and support all who work and contribute to benefice life.

At the January meeting, the Deanery Accounts were approved. The only Deanery costs were the Train a Priest contribution to St Mark's College in Tanzania (£1,000pa) and the purchase of 40 diaries for churchwardens in recognition of the importance of their services and to help them in their roles.

The meeting in July was held in Norton Canon village hall. As part of his financial report, the Deanery Treasurer proposed that the annual donation from the Kington and Weobley deanery towards the Train a Priest scheme should be increased to £1,500. This was unanimously approved.

There followed an update of the Deanery Mission Action Plan.

- Benefice Sustainability Review The review is to cover each benefice in turn with a representative from each parish in the benefice. The review is to be led by the Deanery Leadership Team and is to consider every aspect of the life of the parish and benefice with a view to offering recommendations that will lead to the flourishing and growth of each parish. Each review is expected to take several months.
- Prayer Initiative The aim of this initiative, led by Rev'd Linda MacDermott, is that every week there will be one parish praying for all twenty-seven parishes of the Deanery. Each parish will have a parish prayer coordinator responsible for organising this.
- Learning Together workshop programme A training and education series of workshops has been planned: Preaching, Messy Church, Training for PCC secretaries and Treasurers, Creative Advent and Christmas, The Structure of the C of E, Inclusivity.

The November 2021 meeting was a Zoom meeting at which useful updates were given.

### **Joint Benefice Council Weobley and Staunton Benefice Update**

Philip Harvey, Rector, reported on the progress of the Joint Benefice Council (JBC). Each PCC in the Weobley and Staunton benefice has voted on a legal framework for the formation of the JBC, which will go before the Bishop's Council later in November. Two part-time posts are envisaged, one to coordinate the financial administration, the other to strengthen administrative pastoral activities. PCCs will remain constituted as before and their assets remain theirs'. There will be no pooling of asset ownerships, but there will be pooled management. Each PCC has a representative on the JBC. The larger parishes within the benefice will have the same number of votes as the smaller ones. Guy Wilkinson commented that this is the first time this has been attempted across the Diocese, and probably England. The idea of a Joint Benefice Council addresses the problem that too much administration burdens too few PCC officers.

### **Deanery Mission Action Plan update**

#### Benefice Sustainability Review

The Lay Co-Chair reported that there are continuing good discussions within the first Benefice to be addressed, Arrowvale.

#### Praying Together Initiative

The Rural Dean described how most parishes now have volunteers to be prayer correspondents for their parish. The duties involve receiving prayer requests from other parishes either through email or telephone, and for two separate weeks a year praying in church for all the parishes in the deanery an hour a day.

#### Learning Together Workshops Programme

Anne Ingham reported that all the workshops have been very well received and that there are people from outside the Deanery who would like to be involved as well. Plans for future events include talks regarding teaching groups, bible study, learning about Christianity.

Chris Smith ran two workshops for PCC Secretaries and Treasurers, and thanked Penny Halcrow for her invaluable help.

Tessa Wilkinson ran a Creative Advent Resources workshop, and is planning prayer sessions aligned to evening prayer in Lent

Bishop Richard organised a series of Listening Events, aimed at working out a strategy for the future.

**The Church of England – Who and What is it?** The Rural Dean gave a fascinating explanation of the role and history of the Cof E, putting it into worldwide context as well as parish life.

The next Deanery Synod meeting is due to be held on April 28<sup>th</sup>, in Pembridge. Following the resignation of Rev'd Guy Wilkinson as Rural Dean, the meeting will be chaired by the Lay co-chair, Elizabeth Shayler.

The Bishop will be consulting clergy and others about the appointment of a Rural Dean. In the meantime, planned Learning Together events and the Praying Together programme will continue.

*Penny Halcrow*

*(Diocesan Synod Member)*

## **PARISH HOUSE**

We are glad to be able to report that the Parish House has been fully back in use since September 2021, with most of the regular users returning. We were very pleased to welcome back the Scout group and HomeStart in September and the Lunch Club have been meeting once a month. KADOS returned for their Friday evening rehearsals in January 2022 and, on Thursday evenings, the Marches Fusion Belly Dance group meet to practice.

As the covid virus is still with us, we still ask users to take extra precautions, with plentiful supplies of hand sanitiser and disinfectant wipes provided.

The building and emergency alarms and lighting are regularly checked and the annual service of the gas boiler and cooker was carried out by British Gas.

A very generous grant from Kington United Charities has been received towards repainting the outside of the Parish House. This work should be completed by the early summer.

*Penny Halcrow*

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## **St Mary's Financial Report for the year ending 31st December 2021**

During 2021 there has been a very positive cash flow, as shown in detail on the Receipts & Payments account and in the notes on the accounts, mainly as a result of the disposal of the Cottage on Bradnor Hill. It is true to say that financially, 2021 was much the same as 2020 but for the fact that we sold Bradnor Bungalow and mended the roof. This meant that we ended 2021 with an increase in our cash funds of £81,646. So financially, St. Mary's is in a good place.

It is important to note that Covid continued to make a big difference to our fund raising. We all hope that in 2022 we will be able to raise funds as usual. This will have the benefit of making any shortfall as low as possible and allowing us to experience the benefits of the fellowship that comes from working together. The PCC can be encouraged by the fact that, although attendance at services is lower than it was before the pandemic, many of our loyal parishioners have continued to give generous donations even though they have been unable to come to church. For this the PCC thanks them.

The major item of expenditure continues to be the money that we offer to the diocese. This amounted to £43,000 in 2021 and pays for the salary of our clergy among other things. We have continued to offer the sum suggested and have rounded it up.

Reserves: We have substantial sums in a number of different accounts so the future is as secure as we can forecast it. The return to normal fundraising, the ongoing generosity of our donors and the assurance that we have from our faith bodes well for the future. "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God doth so clothe the

grass of the field, which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you.”  
(Matthew 6:28-30)

*N A Cooke*

N A Cooke (Treasurer) 2nd March 2022

## St. Mary's Church, Kington

Balance sheet for the year ending 31st December 2021

Registered charity no. 1185453



	2021		2020		2019	
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>						
<i>Co-Operative Account (08-92-99 67225860)</i>	6,716.28		8,718.80		6,622.16	
<i>CBF Deposit (618026001D) – Capital Reserve</i>	143,064.83		59,428.09		77,678.49	
<i>Cash and cheques in hand</i>	11.32		0.00		0.00	
<i>Maggie Edwards bequest (awaiting reinvestment)</i>	(20,000.00)		(20,000.00)		(20,000.00)	
<b>Cash funds accessible at short notice</b>	<b>129,792.43</b>		<b>48,146.89</b>		<b>64,300.65</b>	
<b>PLUS: Other assets</b>						
<i>1,650 Glaxo Smith Kline shares (E Bowen bequest)</i>	26,508.90	26,508.90	22,195.80	22,195.80	29,353.50	29,353.50
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>156,301.33</b>		<b>70,342.69</b>		<b>93,654.15</b>	
<b>LESS: Liabilities</b>						
<i>Loans (Interest free)</i>	(1,500.00)	(1,500.00)	(1,500.00)	(1,500.00)	(1,500.00)	(1,500.00)
<b>Adjusted cash funds available</b>	<b>154,801.33</b>		<b>68,842.69</b>		<b>92,154.15</b>	
<b>ADD: ENDOWMENT TRUST FUNDS</b>						
<b>Investment assets</b>						
<i>Bill Price Bequest (485 Utd Utilities shares) K16</i>	5,274.38		4,348.51		4,575.49	
<i>Price Bequest (CBF Investment Fund) ... 1371S</i>	9,572.64		8,385.86		7,846.30	
<i>M Edwards' Bequest (CBF Investment Fund)..6001S</i>	2,853.41		2,499.66		2,338.82	
<i>Maggie Edwards' Bequest (awaiting reinvestment)</i>	20,000.00		20,000.00		20,000.00	
<i>Gregory Trust (CBF Investment Fund) .... 1289S</i>	60,361.07		52,877.72		49,475.45	
<i>Gregory Trust (Diocesan CBF Fund) ...1452D</i>	4,303.75	102,365.25	4,303.75	92,415.50	4,303.75	88,539.81
<b>Note: Endowment trust funds cannot be spent. Only the interest and dividends from them can be spent</b>						
<i>Freehold property – Bradnor Coppice</i>	8,000.00	8,000.00	168,000.00	168,000.00	70,000.00	70,000.00
<b>NET ASSET VALUE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>265,166.58</b>		<b>329,258.19</b>		<b>250,693.96</b>	
					Continued on next page	

**Balance sheet for the year ending 31st December 2021 (continued)**

Represented by:	2021		2020		2019	
<b>GENERAL FUND - opening</b>	267,422.95		197,973.81		200,113.89	
<i>Investment Asset revaluation (Endowment + GSK)</i>	14,262.85		(3,282.01)		15,125.01	
<i>Change in the estimated value of the Bradnor property held</i>	(160,000.00)		98,000.00		0.00	
<i>Excess or (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure</i>	81,645.54		(16,153.76)		2,575.33	
<b>Total Change in Restricted and Designated funds</b>	53,199.40	256,530.74	(9,115.09)	267,422.95	(18,446.09)	199,368.14
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
<i>Fabric fund: Roof</i>	(24,274.30)		41,818.50		41,248.24	
<i>    Reordering</i>	13,000.00					
<i>Music</i>	1,211.96					
<i>Organ fund</i>	18,655.08		17,505.08		8,430.06	
<i>Mission Support</i>	1,807.13	10,399.87	1,107.13	60,430.71	221.03	49,899.33
<b>Note:</b> Restricted funds are restricted by the purpose for which the funds were raised. The PCC has to spend them for that purpose.						
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>						
<i>Parish House</i>	(2,875.60)		(3,303.16)			
<i>Messy Church (was Kington Kangaroo Club)</i>	(357.95)		(64.99)		(19.32)	
<i>S African Orphanage (Precious Blessings)</i>	63.61		63.61		39.90	
<i>Family Service</i>	1,405.91	(1,764.03)	1,405.91	1,404.53	1,405.91	1,426.49
<b>Note:</b> The PCC has full control over designated funds. They are designated for our convenience						
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>265,166.58</b>		<b>329,258.19</b>		<b>250,693.96</b>	
Cash funds accessible at short notice	129,792.43		48,146.89		64,300.65	
Less the sum of negative balances in the Restricted Funds	(24,274.30)		0.00		0.00	
<b>Corrected Cash Funds</b>	<b>105,518.13</b>		<b>48,146.89</b>		<b>64,300.65</b>	

# St. Mary's Church, Kington

Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2021

Registered charity no. 1185453



RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT		2021		2020		2019	
<b>RECEIPTS</b>							
<b>Voluntary receipts</b>							
Regular Giving	<i>Gif taided planned giving</i>	4,976.47	2.0	4,995.10	5.9	8,682.67	8.7
	<i>Income tax recovered</i>	2,743.28	1.1	3,698.33	4.3	9,195.64	9.2
	<i>No n gif taided planned giving</i>	1,162.16	0.5	1,173.00	1.4	1,079.85	1.1
	<i>Cash collect òns at services</i>	2,863.93	1.1	1,683.93	2.0	3,099.30	3.1
	<i>Donat òns through Parish Giving Scheme</i>	21,971.64	8.7	22,590.17	26.5	18,398.76	18.4
	<i>Income tax recovered through Parish Giving Scheme</i>	5,226.24	2.1	5,291.38	6.2	4,288.39	4.3
		38,943.72		39,431.91		44,744.61	
<b>Other voluntary receipts</b>							
	<i>Sundry Donat òns</i>	1,615.00	0.6	1,618.47	1.9	1,525.31	1.5
	<i>Donat òns: Contactless</i>	223.74	0.1	280.09	0.3		0.0
	<i>Easy Fundraising and Amazon</i>	33.51	0.0	70.40	0.1		0.0
	<i>Burton Charity Collect òns</i>	0.00	0.0	63.61	0.1	267.25	0.3
	<i>Funeral, wedding and charity collect òns</i>	3,317.04	1.3	1,552.71	1.8	4,387.78	4.4
		5,189.29		3,585.28		6,180.34	
<b>Legacies and grants</b>							
	<i>Legacies</i>	0.00	0.0	2,000.00	2.4	0.00	0.0
	<i>Grant for Parish House</i>	2,549.00	1.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.0
	<i>Other Grants</i>						
	<i>Roof</i>	11,000.00	4.4	3,000.00	3.5		0.0
	<i>Reordering</i>	13,000.00	5.1				
	<i>Organ</i>	0.00	0.0				0.00
		26,549.00		5,000.00			

Continued on next page

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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT		2021		2020		2019	
<b>RECEIPTS (Continued)</b>							
<b>Receipts from activities for general funds</b>							
	<i>Parish News – sales and adverts</i>	7,375.50	2.9	7,485.00	8.8	8,098.50	8.1
	<i>Rents / Hire of:</i>						
	<i>Church</i>	575.00	0.2	0.00	0.0	940.00	0.9
	<i>Bradnor Bungalow</i>	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.0	3,908.63	3.9
	<i>Parish House</i>	117.00	0.0	1,054.00	1.2	4,793.80	4.8
	<i>Fund Raising</i>						
	<i>General</i>	3,323.39	1.3	5,179.51	6.1	8,982.24	9.0
	<i>Music</i>	1,853.82	0.7	4,870.58	5.7		0.0
	<i>Parish House</i>	0.00	0.0	50.00	0.1	1,416.02	1.4
	<i>Family Service</i>	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.0
	<i>Organ Fund</i>	13,244.71		18,639.09		28,139.19	
	<i>Restricted funds</i>						
	<i>Roof</i>	255.00	0.1	280.00	0.3	800.00	0.8
	<i>Reordering</i>	0.00	0.0				
	<i>Organ Fund</i>	1,150.00	0.5	931.35	1.1	3,027.95	3.0
		1,405.00		1,211.35		3,827.95	
<b>Receipts from sale of church property</b>							
	<i>Bradnor Green Bungalow</i>	152,531.60	60.4				
	<i>Bradnor Green Coppice</i>	0.00	0.0				
		152,531.60					
<b>Receipts from Church activities</b>							
	<i>Fees</i>	4,362.00	1.7	5,328.00	6.3	5,966.00	6.0
	<i>Bells</i>	1,208.00	0.5				
	<i>Messy Church (was Kington Kangaroo Club)</i>	37.00	0.0	21.47	0.0	173.68	0.2
		5,607.00		5,349.47		6,139.68	
<b>Receipts from investments</b>							
	<i>Deposit Account Interest</i>	38.24	0.0	334.23	0.4	584.29	0.6
	<i>Dividends from Investments</i>	3,312.21	1.3	3,208.08	3.8	3,262.32	3.3
		3,350.45		3,542.31		3,846.61	
<b>Sundry Receipts</b>							
	<i>Visits and Church lunch</i>	0.00	0.0	1,076.20	1.3	1,029.60	1.0
	<i>Mission Support</i>	700.00	0.3	926.10	1.1	150.00	0.1
	<i>Clergy and admin expenses (from other PCCs in benefite)</i>	4,866.98	1.9	6,014.42	7.1	4,132.54	4.1
	<i>Insurance claims and other income</i>	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.0
	<i>Other receipts</i>	198.93	0.1	312.56	0.4	1,878.35	1.9
		5,765.91		8,329.28		7,190.49	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		100	252,586.68	100	85,088.69	100	100,068.87

# St. Mary's Church, Kington

Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2021

Registered charity no. 1185453



RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT			2021			2020			2019		
<b>PAYMENTS</b>											
<b>Contribution paid to Diocese of Hereford</b>			43,000.00	25.2	43,000.00	41,000.00	40.5	41,000.00	39,840.00	40.9	39,840.00
<b>Charities/donations</b>											
<i>Wedding, funeral and special services</i>			2,752.31	1.6		1,208.72	1.2		2,695.92	2.8	
<i>By Burton Communion Group</i>			0.00	0.0		0.00	0.0		227.35	0.2	
<i>From St. Mary's general fund</i>			795.00	0.5	3,547.31	1,021.00	1.0	2,229.72	3,420.60	3.5	6,343.87
<b>Church running expenses</b>											
<i>Upkeep (including cleaning)</i>			1,618.09	0.9		985.49	1.0		1,780.25	1.8	
<i>Insurance</i>			4,085.11	2.4		4,431.76	4.4		4,270.78	4.4	
<i>Minor repairs/maintenance</i>			2,216.83	1.3		1,604.41	1.6		4,492.27	4.6	
<i>Gas</i>			4,691.16	2.7		4,066.40	4.0		4,603.61	4.7	
<i>Electricity</i>			1,589.08	0.9		1,683.73	1.7		1,822.04	1.9	
<i>Water</i>			505.25	0.3		408.53	0.4		168.15	0.2	
<i>Upkeep of churchyard</i>			47.76	0.0		15.27	0.0		53.49	0.1	
<i>Bells</i>			1,168.20	0.7							
<i>Major Works</i>			77,621.56	45.4		3,096.14	3.1		594.00	0.6	
<i>Roof</i>											
<i>Reordering</i>			0.00	0.0	93,543.04	0.00	0.0	16,291.73	0.00	0.0	17,784.59
<i>Organ</i>			0.00	0.0		0.00	0.0		0.00	0.0	
<b>Clergy expenses</b>											
<b>Vicar</b>											
<i>Kington's share</i>			3,019.53	1.8		3,025.64	3.0		1,694.89	1.7	
<i>Vicar's garden</i>			697.47	0.4		186.98	0.2		288.00	0.3	
<i>Invoiced to other PCCs in the benefice</i>			1,936.72	1.1	5,653.72	2,076.42	2.1	5,289.04	453.18	0.5	2,436.07
<b>Curate</b>											
<i>Kington's share</i>			449.97	0.3		319.63	0.3		175.56	0.2	
<i>Invoiced to other PCCs in the benefice</i>			283.92	0.2	733.89	439.24	0.4	758.87	126.39	0.1	301.95
<b>Cost of services (including Music)</b>											
<i>Sundries (Candles, altar breads etc.)</i>			418.01	0.2		494.47	0.5		669.06	0.7	
<i>Live streaming</i>			694.21	0.4		921.06	0.9			0.0	
<i>Music and choir costs (including payments to Organist)</i>			2,811.86	1.6	3,924.08	2,327.00	2.3	3,742.53	3,113.02	3.2	3,782.08

Continued on next page

<b>RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT</b>		<b>2021</b>		<b>2020</b>		<b>2019</b>			
<b>Payments (continued)</b>	<b>%</b>		<b>%</b>		<b>%</b>				
<b>Administrative</b>									
<i>Kington's share</i>	3,874.22	2.3		4,144.89	4.1		5,219.16	5.4	
<i>Invoiced to other PCCs in the benefice</i>	2,514.06	1.5	6,388.28	2,927.03	2.9	7,071.92	3,578.60	3.7	8,797.76
<b>Fees (weddings and funerals)</b>									
<i>Statutory Fees Paid to Diocese</i>	1,801.00	1.1		3,579.00	3.5		2,045.00	2.1	
<i>Verger, Organist, choir, bells</i>	610.00	0.4	2,411.00	155.00	0.2	3,734.00	1,129.00	1.2	3,174.00
<b>Parish House running expenses</b>									
<i>Upkeep (including cleaning)</i>	336.14	0.2		1,017.28	1.0		1,291.50	1.3	
<i>Insurance</i>	241.39	0.1		305.45	0.3		232.35	0.2	
<i>Minor repairs, maintenance &amp; rent</i>	728.81	0.4		556.38	0.5		1,548.76	1.6	
<i>Maj or repairs/improvements including decoration</i>	0.00			7,741.10	7.6		0.00	0.0	
<i>Gas</i>	290.19	0.2		305.48	0.3		517.24	0.5	
<i>Electricity</i>	429.46	0.3		504.38	0.5		620.85	0.6	
<i>Water</i>	157.92	0.1		83.55	0.1		230.03	0.2	
<i>Other (including cost of lease)</i>	54.53	0.0		640.00	0.6			0.0	
<i>Fund Raising</i>	0.00	0.0	2,238.44	0.00	0.0	11,153.62	150.00	0.2	4,590.73
<b>Bradnor Cottage</b>									
<i>Insurance</i>	0.00	0.0		208.47	0.2		350.17	0.4	
<i>Sale</i>	0.00	0.0		918.00	0.9			0.0	
<i>Council Tax</i>	2,165.75	1.3		1,467.46	1.4			0.0	
<i>Repairs and Maintenance</i>	0.00	0.0	2,165.75	0.00	0.0	2,593.93	0.00	0.0	350.17
<b>Mission</b>									
<i>Messy Church (was Kington Kangaroo Club)</i>	329.96	0.2		67.14	0.1		257.26	0.3	
<i>Family Service</i>	0.00	0.0		0.00	0.0		0.00	0.0	
<i>Study Groups</i>	165.00	0.1		109.30	0.1			0.0	
<i>Mission Support</i>	0.00	0.0	494.96	80.00	0.1	256.44	49.49	0.1	306.75
<b>Various Payments</b>									
<i>Parish News</i>	4,533.10	2.7		2,913.50	2.9		4,130.60	4.2	
<i>Fundraising</i>	1,510.00	0.9		2,614.92	2.6		1,642.09	1.7	
<i>Cost of grant applications</i>	460.00	0.3			0.0			0.0	
<i>Christmas Tree Festival Costs</i>	0.00	0.0		0.00	0.0		650.00	0.7	
<i>Visits and Church lunch</i>	0.00	0.0		1,052.25	1.0		1,101.60	1.1	
<i>Miscellaneous (including Burton Communion coffee payments)</i>	337.57	0.2	6,840.67	579.98	0.6	7,160.65	2,261.28	2.3	9,785.57
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		100	170,941.14		100	101,282.45		100	97,493.54
<b>Excess of RECEIPTS over PAYMENTS as at 31st December</b>			81,645.54			(16,193.76)			2,575.33
<b>(Excess of PAYMENTS over RECEIPTS as at 31st December)</b>									

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's, Kington, Herefordshire**

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on

- 1) the Receipts and Payments Account (4 pages, showing a cash surplus for the year of £81,645.54);
- 2) on the Balance Sheet (2 pages, showing a Net asset Value of Funds of £265,166.58); and
- 3) as commented upon within the Financial Report (dated 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022), is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ("the Act").

### **Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner**

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

### **Basis of this report**

My 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.

### **Independent Examiner's statement**

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep proper accounting records; and
  - to prepare proper accounts from those records and to comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations

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.

*Chris H.E. Smith*

Chris H.E. Smith F.C.M.A.,  
The Old Vicarage  
Lyonshall  
01544 340598 / 07785 708603  
1<sup>st</sup> March 2022

## **THE CHURCHWARDENS' MESSAGE AND REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, 2021**

On reflection, what a strange year 2021 seems to have been, a year when, because of the Covid Pandemic, in order to try to keep safe, we missed out on some of the regular happenings. Particularly missed was being able to sing in church, no hymns, no anthems, no choir and the fellowship time following our regular Sunday 10am. service

Of course, we missed all these aspects of our worship and time together but we owe a great debt of gratitude to the Rev. Ben for the way in which he organised the services throughout the year. Yes, they may have been different in some respects. Early in the pandemic he organised zoom services and then, together with Nick Cooke, they succeeded in having livestream services and those are still in operation and followed. Of course, we miss the friendship of those who join services in that way and hope that those who can will soon be back with us.

Ben was strict in asking us to follow the rules about social distancing, sanitising and wearing masks but we are grateful that he managed to keep so many free from the virus for so long.

To all who have assisted in any way with the maintenance of the Church and contributed to our worship we give our sincere thanks.

Once or twice more recently our bells have rung out, a truly welcome sound and we thank John, Bell Captain, for mustering ringers.

We thank Phillip Sell, Musical Director and Choirmaster and all Choir Members for their leadership and enhancement of our services once restrictions allowed.

We thank Gill Pennell for ensuring that flower arrangements were in place during these strange times and that the Church was decked for the Christmas season. The Memory Tree was well supported and was one of the ways in which Ben saw an opportunity for us to worship together because we were outside. We thank too all who created the Easter Garden and Bethlehem at Christmas, at the Lych gate.

"Not The Parish News" was a good substitute for the regular edition of the Parish News and appreciated by many. Our thanks to all who helped to make it possible

Giuliana Nazzari has done a splendid job cleaning St Mary's throughout the year and sanitising pews etc when that was required and we offer her a very big thank you,

I could go on. I must say that we miss those no longer with us for our regular services. We hope that soon you will feel able to return so that we can all worship together and that lay people will be able to resume the valuable part they play in life at St. Mary's.

The day-to-day oversight of our ornaments, vestments and church linen has remained in the capable hands of our Sacristan, Eileen Thomas. Many of the tasks that Eileen undertakes are beyond the call of her office and we should certainly be the poorer were she not to do them. Thank you, Eileen, for all that you do.

Thanks must also go to Beverley Fensom for the time she gives to helping with various jobs. Bev has also been our Health and Safety Officer and the compiler of many of our duty rotas.

## THE INTERIOR OF ST MARY'S

1. Annual inspections of the security system, and lightning conductor have taken place. Inspection and servicing of all fire extinguishers has taken place and none had to be replaced
2. Smiths of Gloucester replaced light bulbs in the Vaughan Chapel and fitted a sensor light in the north porch.
3. Plans are going ahead for the reordering of the north side of the Church and we have already realised how beneficial this should prove to be. A Faculty must be obtained for this to proceed but it is hoped that 2022 will see the work under way
4. 2021 was the year for the Quinquennial Inspection carried out by Richard Lamb
5. To improve energy efficiency effective draught measures were discussed. Further discussion with a specialist glazier and the DAC was suggested.

## EXTERIOR OF ST MARY'S AND CHURCHYARD

1. Extensive work to the roof, downpipes and guttering was carried out by M Pritchard and approved by the Quinquennial Inspector.
2. The report advised that much work was needed in the churchyard and the recommendation was passed to Kington Town Council whose responsibility it is.
3. The Community Pay Back Team worked regularly in 2021 to trim trees, remove ivy from walls and to cut down the overgrown Leylandii adjacent to the steps to the crypt. They have returned to work on a fortnightly basis in 2022.
4. We thank those who care for the Garden of Remembrance so regularly, an act much appreciated by many.

The south entrance porch gates and the door and gate into the Vaughan Chapel have been renovated.

Although not officially a part of this report, you will be pleased to know that the sale of the bungalow on Bradnor is complete and the money is in Church funds. We await completion of the sale of the coppice

We have all missed Rodney's presence at St. Mary's and while he has continued to keep in touch with all that is happening we look forward to the day when he can be back among us.

We do ask that you will continue to support the Churchwardens both in prayer and encouragement as we try to ensure that "The Fabric, Goods and Ornaments" are in good shape for future generations.

*Ann Edwards on behalf of both Church Wardens*

## **VICAR'S REPORT FOR KINGTON APCM 2022**

For me, owing to the Coronavirus pandemic, the last two years have felt very much like stop-start, stop-start and I'm reasonably confident that you've felt very much the same. As we stand now in May 2022, the future still seems extremely uncertain. However, the images and reports that we've been seeing from Ukraine remind us that our complaints and irritations are as nothing compared to others and it's imperative that we keep sight of what is precious and what isn't.

As we look back over the past tumultuous years, I think that there are some developments of which we can feel some justifiable satisfaction. The first of these must be our ability to live-stream all our worship; this has enabled those who would otherwise have been excluded to join us in worship. I've lost count of the number of people who've told me how grateful they have been for it. Although our viewing figures for it have declined significantly from what they were at the height of the pandemic, they remain very encouraging indeed. I'm extremely grateful to Nick for all his efforts but it would be really helpful if more people were willing to help operate this; it's easier than you might think!

As has been stated elsewhere in this report, I'm sure that the highlight of 2021 was the much delayed Herefordshire Council Civic Service. This was a significant honour for Kington, as this service has never previously been held outside Hereford itself. Our profound gratitude to Councillor Sebastian Bowen, Chairman of Herefordshire Council for asking us to host it in the first place.

A few weeks before, we were delighted to welcome Bishop Richard our comparatively new Bishop who presided at a Confirmation Service; it was a huge privilege to witness our candidates making their commitment to Christ.

Christ's words at the end of St. Matthew's Gospel remind us that mission must be at the heart and centre of what we do. Despite the challenges of the past two years the Church's mission and witness to the town remains of paramount importance.

One of our most powerful mission tools remains the Parish News and I'm deeply grateful to Freda for all her efforts as our editor. I'd also like to pay particular tribute this year to Denis and Irene Phillips, who've been involved with Parish News since its inception in the 1970s. Their hard work, much of it, behind the scenes for so long will be hard to replace but it's essential that we acknowledge with deep gratitude their commitment for so many years.

Among the post-Covid-19 mission opportunities has been the revival of the Kington Kangaroo Club renamed as Messy Church which is what it was anyway. I'm extremely grateful to Stephen and all the team who are ensuring that the messy Church sessions are both fun but also opportunities for worship and catechesis.

We live in an age in which visual images dominate and we've not been lagging behind there either; the transformation of the Lych Gate into a Christmas Crib and Christ's tomb for our life-size Easter Garden have been much appreciated and admired by the many people who walk through the churchyard. Huge thanks are due to Malcolm Price, Linda Ellams and Michael Horne who turn ideas into incredible reality. We must also thank Gill Pennell for the incredible crib figures.

Another valuable mission opportunity was the revived travelling crib; the figures of Mary, Joseph and the donkey visited shops, both schools and Little Orchard Nursery before coming up to Church to be at the centre of the church crib. The reaction from both local businesses, Little Orchard and the schools to the request to host them was really encouraging.

Without doubt, one of the most significant challenges over the past two years has been adjusting worship to ensure that we are both compliant with legislation (we don't want Partygate here!) whilst also endeavouring to offer meaningful worship. I'm delighted that on the vast majority of occasions we've got this right, although the recent surge in Kington cases is a reminder that vigilance is still necessary.

My huge thanks are due to Eileen, Bev, the servers, readers and intercessors but also to Philip and the choir for their willingness to adapt to unprecedented circumstances throughout and that is some considerable achievement. The Christian year has been observed, we've altered, amended, adjusted, we've kept going, not perhaps always in the way that we might hope but we've done it and we've continued to do it and that is no small achievement. Around the turn of the year, I had a number of people asking when I was re-opening churches; it was a huge joy to be able to answer, they're all open, they're all conducting

worship. We shouldn't boast of our achievements, but we can be quietly proud that by a collective effort we've achieved something here that no other benefice has in our area.

Alongside his work as Benefice administrator and Director of Music at St. Mary's, Philip has also been a most efficient PCC Secretary and alongside our excellent Treasurer Nick and outstanding churchwardens completes our very fine and extremely effective Standing Committee. We must also thank all our PCC officers and members. I'd like to express my sincere thanks to Alison Wright who's stepping down from the PCC for her thoughtful contributions to the PCC over a great many years.

Alongside Eileen, Bev and their unstinting efforts ensuring that the altars are always prepared and maintained we must also thank Beryl for her outstanding efforts to ensure that the brass is always shining and Gill, Lesley and the flower arranging team who ensure that there are flowers in church reminding us of God's bounty to the whole of creation (even if some of the flowers remind us of human creativity and ingenuity).

Visitors often comment about how clean and welcoming the church is and alongside Guiliana and her diligence at keeping the church building clean, we also thank the myriad of others who give so generously of themselves to ensure that the church building remains so obviously a much loved and cared for sanctuary welcoming and open to all of God's children whoever and whatever they are.

One of the sadnesses over the past year has been the loss of bell ringers which means that the bells don't ring out their vital message as frequently as we'd wish. I'd like to thank out Tower Captain John Clayton for his considerable efforts and let's pray and hope that more people will offer to learn this tremendous art so that the bells will regularly call out their joyous message to everyone in Kington.

Over the past three years, we've had the pleasure of being a training benefice again while Linda MacDermott has been with us as Assistant Curate. Linda will be leaving in early June preparatory to beginning her new role as Priest-in-Charge of Alveston in Coventry Diocese. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Linda most sincerely for her ministry and friendship in Kington and across the benefice. I know that thanks to Covid-19 it's not been the experience that she or any of us expected, but I pray and hope that she's enjoyed her time with us as much as we've enjoyed being with her as she's taken her first steps in ordained ministry.

My final words of thanks must be to our incredible Church wardens Ann and Rodney and their deputy Beverley. We are incredibly blest to have such an outstanding team of churchwardens; always a source of wise counsel and unstinting hard work much of it entirely unseen but, my goodness, would we notice if it wasn't done. Grateful thanks seem so inadequate, but I do pray and hope that they appreciate quite how sincere it is and quite how much we treasure them.

As you can see from elsewhere in this report, despite the hurdles and quicksands of Covid-19 St. Mary's Kington is still here fulfilling its mission to bring the town to Christ and Christ to the town. That task is not easy or straightforward, but then, what of great value actually is? Our earliest brothers and sisters in Christ faced torture and persecution as did Christ himself. We aren't, thank God, called upon to make that sacrifice but we are called by Christ himself to share his good news with our families, friends and neighbours. As long as we keep that in our minds and Christ's love on our hearts and lips we can't and won't go far wrong.

With my love and prayers as ever Ben.

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**Approved by the PCC on ..... and signed on their behalf by the Revd Benedict Griffith**



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# Accounts

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# ST MARY'S CHURCH, KINGTON

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Registered charity number 1185453

### TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS for 2020

St Mary's Church is situated in Kington, in the Kington and Weobley Deanery in the Diocese of Hereford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Church Office, The Vicarage, Church Road, Kington, HR5 3AG.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and is now registered with the Charity Commission (Registered charity number 1185453).

As Charity Trustees, all PCC members should be mindful of the Charity Commission's six core principles for charity trustees, which are as follows:

1. *Ensure your charity is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit.*
2. *Comply with your charity's governing document ie PCC Measure and Church Rep Rules – and the wider law.*
3. *Act in your charity's best interests.*
  - *ie, by making sure that you act for the church and not any conflicting interest, eg a related school or other organisation.*
  - *ensure that the decisions are yours, not those influenced by others.*
4. *Manage your charity's resources responsibly.*
5. *Act with reasonable care and skill.*
6. *Ensure your charity is accountable.*

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PCC members who have served at any time since the Annual Church Meeting 2019 until the Annual Church meetings in May 2021 are:

<b>Licensed Clergy:</b>	Revd Benedict Griffith (Chair)
<b>Assistant Curates:</b>	Revd Linda MacDermott Revd Paul Buckingham
<b>Licensed Reader</b>	Mr Rob MacCurrach
<b>Churchwardens:</b>	Miss Ann Edwards Mr Rodney Bowdler (Vice Chair)
<b>Deanery Synod Representatives:</b>	Mrs Eileen Thomas (sacristan) Mrs Bev Fensom (deputy sacristan and deputy churchwarden) Mrs Penny Halcrow (PCC Secretary)
<b>Elected members:</b>	<b>2018</b> Mr John Halcrow, Mr Philip Sell
	<b>2019</b> Mrs Deborah Horne, Mrs Allison Wright
	<b>2020</b> Mrs Janet Price, Mr Malcolm Price, Mrs Margaret Cooke, Mr Nick Cooke

## **Structure, governance and management**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary's, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), assistant curates, churchwardens, the reader licensed to the Benefice, parochial representatives elected to the Deanery Synod, and members elected by those on the electoral roll of the church. All members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the normal pattern of meetings for the PCC had to be abandoned. Two meetings were held in January and March, in the Parish House as usual, with an attendance rate of 68%. Once we were able to meet again, albeit having to abide by Covid regulations (social distancing, wearing face masks etc) the Annual Church meetings were held in the Church on October 13<sup>th</sup> with a PCC meeting in the Church on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The Standing committee met three times (Sept, Nov and Dec), principally to discuss the sale of the property owned at Bradnor Green.

## **Aims and Purposes**

St Mary's (Kington) PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Church and of the Parish House.

## **Objectives and Activities**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at the church and to become part of the parish community at St Mary's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish.

Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable everybody to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St Mary and the Parish House.

## **Worship and Prayer**

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. However, due to the pandemic, the normal pattern of services had to be abandoned after March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

While the Church was in complete lockdown, the vicar led a live streamed service every Sunday morning from his study. Once churches could be reopened, then it became possible to live stream the Sunday morning service from St Mary's. Much work had to be done to make it possible for members of the congregation to attend services, bearing in mind the need for ensuring that everything was Covid safe. This included the need for regularly sanitising everything and the requirements for social distancing and wearing face coverings.

The March 2020 revision of the electoral roll showed a net gain of 5 members. 9 new members joined the roll, and sadly, 4 members died, so for 2020 – 2021 we have 123 members, 40 male and 83 female.

During 2020, there was one wedding in St Mary's Church. Twenty three funeral services were conducted by members of the ministry team.

## **Mission and Evangelism**

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. Through various special collections and donations, £2,229 was sent to various charities. Through the Deanery, we continue to support the Diocesan Train-a-Priest scheme in Tanzania.

Our parish magazine keeps our parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our Church as well as providing a valuable source of community information. As mentioned in the churchwardens' report, alternative arrangements had to be made for the Parish News for several months during the year.

## **Ecumenical Relationships**

St Mary's is a member of Churches Together in Kington and we have continued to maintain good relations with the other member Churches.

## **DEANERY SYNOD**

Three members of the PCC continue to sit on the Deanery Synod, with both a clergy and a lay representative from Kington serving on the Deanery Standing Committee and on the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee. The Deanery Synod provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church, drawing together the thoughts of the Church's life in the Deanery and considering matters referred to it from the Diocesan Synod and General Synod.

Unfortunately, all the planned Deanery synods had to be cancelled. However, the Deanery leadership team have been much encouraged by the amount of work done in Parishes, Benefices and at Deanery level responding to the demands of Covid-19 as well as the continued work of the church which has helped all communities.

A meeting of the Kington & Weobley Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee was held by Zoom in November 2020. An Outline draft of the Deanery Mission Action Plan, the result of much work by the Deanery leadership team, was presented and well accepted. It was agreed that the draft MAP would be presented at Deanery Synod on 14th January 2021. Also discussed was the proposal from the Diocese to transfer the Magnis Benefice from Hereford Deanery to Kington and Weobley deanery. This proposal has since been withdrawn.

## **PARISH HOUSE**

It was possible to keep the Parish House open for the first three months of 2020, generating income from the hiring out of the hall.

A detailed risk assessment was carried out in April 2020 and Special Conditions of Hire during Covid-19 drawn up, but sadly, this, together with the government guidance/law on numbers permitted to meet together etc made it impossible to reopen the Parish House. Fortunately, a discretionary support grant of £1,334 was received from Herefordshire County Council, awarded to compensate in part for loss of income due to Covid regulations. This was received in February 2021.

The building is regularly checked and the water system flushed through all points of use. The emergency lights and smoke alarms have been tested regularly. The annual service of the boiler and cooker was carried out by British Gas.

The boundary fence to the car parking area has been replaced and the car park itself has now been cleared and levelled and completed with a stone surface. Overhanging trees have been cut back.

The upstairs window at the east end of the building has been repaired and the pigeon loft has been cleared of jackdaws' nests.

A new ten year lease for the rent of the Parish House from the Diocese has been agreed and signed. (This lease dates from March 2019).

Penny Halcrow (Secretary to the PCC)

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## **ST MARY'S FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2020**

2020 has been an extraordinary year. It was the year in which the Covid-19 pandemic put a stop to much of the fund raising activity. I give my thanks to all those generous souls that have kept giving money through the Parish Giving Scheme, standing orders, envelopes, the contactless device and cash in liberal quantities. Church is not about money but money enables us to do things that would otherwise be impossible.

The total receipts for the year amounted to £85,088.69. Unsurprisingly, it was considerably smaller than the 2019 receipts (£100,068.87) and with payments being £100,856.05 meant that there was an excess of payments over receipts of £15,767.36. This looks worse than it is because a little more than £7,600 was spent on fencing and resurfacing the Parish House car park. This is not something that we will have to spend in 2021. Given our current cash reserves we can accept this shortfall for six more years before the relevant bank accounts are empty. This assumes that receipts and payments continue at their current level. It is comforting to reflect that the generosity of Maggie Edwards means that next year there will be extra income of £168,000 from the sale of her cottage and the coppice that she left to the Church in her will.

I am convinced that prayer and generosity on our part will mean that we will survive. (*"One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."* PROVERBS 11:24–25)

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) continues to be a success. Many have index linked their donations so that our income keeps pace with our costs.

Of course we have not been able to run many of the fund raising activities but the Bonus Ball continues to raise a useful sum and our thanks go to Bev Fensom for faithfully managing this and bringing in much needed extra funds to the tune of £943.20. I was so surprised by Trish MacCurrach's plant sales. By putting a small stall on Cutterbach Lane and stocking it with plants grown in the garden, along with some market sales she raised £981.10!

The big expense that we have every year is made directly to the Diocese of Hereford. In 2020 we gave the sum of £41,000 which pays for the things that the diocese does for us. Ben's and Linda's salaries come from this. We are proud that, despite the difficulties of the year, we met the commitment that we made.

### **Reserves**

At the end of December 2020 our cash reserves stood at £47,033.29. This sum is arrived at by subtracting the liabilities (see Balance sheet) from the total cash funds held in our bank accounts and in hand.

N A Cooke (Treasurer) 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.

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# St. Mary's Church, Kington

Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Registered charity no. 1185453



	2020		2019	
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>				
HSBC current account (40-28-13 31161180)	8,718.80		6,622.16	
CBF Deposit (618026001D) – Capital Reserve	59,428.09		77,678.49	
Cash and cheques in Hand	0.00		0.00	
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>68,146.89</b>		<b>84,300.65</b>	
<b>PLUS: Other assets</b>				
1,650 Glaxo Smith Kline shares (E Bowen bequest)	22,195.80	22,195.80	29,353.50	29,353.50
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>90,342.69</b>		<b>113,654.15</b>	
<b>LESS: Liabilities</b>				
Loans (Interest free)	(1,500.00)		(1,500.00)	
Maggie Edwards bequest (awaiting reinvestment)	(20,000.00)	(21,500.00)	(20,000.00)	(21,500.00)
<b>Adjusted cash funds available</b>	<b>68,842.69</b>		<b>92,154.15</b>	
<b>ADD: ENDOWMENT TRUST FUNDS</b>				
<b>Investment assets</b>				
Bill Price Bequest (485 Utd Utilities shares) K11	4,348.51		4,575.49	
Price Bequest (CBF Investment Fund) ... 1371S	8,385.86		7,846.30	
M Edwards' Bequest (CBF Investment Fund)..6001S	2,499.66		2,338.82	
Maggie Edwards' Bequest (awaiting reinvestment)	20,000.00		20,000.00	
Gregory Trust (CBF Investment Fund) .... 1289S	52,877.72		49,475.45	
Gregory Trust (Diocesan CBF Fund) ...1452D	4,303.75	92,415.50	4,303.75	88,539.81
<b>Note:</b> Endowment trust funds cannot be spent. Only the interest and dividends from them can be spent				
Freehold property – Bradnor Cottage	168,000.00	168,000.00	70,000.00	70,000.00
<b>NET ASSET VALUE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>329,258.19</b>		<b>250,693.96</b>	
Represented by:				
<b>GENERAL FUND - opening</b>				
	197,973.81		200,113.89	
Add: Investment Asset revaluation (Endowment + GSK)	(3,282.01)		15,125.01	
Revaluation of Bradnor Cottage	98,000.00			
Excess or (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	(16,153.76)		2,575.33	
<b>Total Change in Restricted and Designated funds</b>	<b>(9,115.09)</b>	<b>267,422.95</b>	<b>19,840.42</b>	<b>197,973.81</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>				
Fabric fund	41,818.50		41,248.24	
Organ fund	17,505.08	59,323.58	9,824.39	51,072.63
<b>Note:</b> Restricted funds are restricted by the purpose for which the funds were raised. The PCC has to spend them for that purpose.				
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>				
Parish House	(3,303.16)			
Kington Kangaroo Club	(64.99)		(19.32)	
Mission Support	1,107.13		221.03	
S African Orphanage (Precious Blessings)	63.61		39.90	
Family Service	1,405.91	2,511.66	1,405.91	1,647.52
<b>Note:</b> The PCC has full control over designated funds. They are designated for our convenience				
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>329,258.19</b>		<b>250,693.96</b>	

# St. Mary's Church, Kington

Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2020

Registered charity no. 1185453



<b>RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT</b>		<b>2020</b>		<b>2019</b>	
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
<b>Voluntary receipts</b>					
Regular Giving			%		%
<i>Gift-aided planned giving</i>	4,995.10	5.9		8,682.67	8.7
<i>Income tax recovered</i>	3,698.33	4.3		9,195.64	9.2
<i>Non gift-aided planned giving</i>	1,173.00	1.4		1,079.85	1.1
<i>Cash collections at services</i>	1,683.93	2.0		3,099.30	3.1
<i>Donations through Parish Giving Scheme</i>	22,590.17	26.5		18,398.76	18.4
<i>Income tax recovered through Parish Giving Scheme</i>	5,291.38	6.2	39,431.91	4,288.39	4.3
				44,744.61	
<b>Other voluntary receipts</b>					
<i>Legacies</i>	2,000.00	2.4		0.00	0.0
<i>Grant for Parish House</i>	0.00	0.0		0.00	0.0
<i>Other Grants (Including VAT refund from lighting in 2018)</i>	3,000.00	3.5		0.00	0.0
<i>Sundry Donations</i>	1,618.47	1.9		1,525.31	1.5
<i>Donations: Contactless</i>	280.09	0.3			
<i>Easy Fundraising</i>	70.40	0.1			
<i>Burton Communion Group Charity Collection</i>	63.61	0.1		267.25	0.3
<i>Funeral, wedding and charity collections</i>	1,552.71	1.8	8,585.28	4,387.78	4.4
				6,180.34	
<b>Receipts from activities for generating funds</b>					
<i>Parish News – sales and adverts</i>	7,485.00	8.8		8,098.50	8.1
<i>Rents /Hire of Church Property</i>					
<i>Church</i>	0.00	0.0		940.00	0.9
<i>Cottage</i>	0.00	0.0		3,908.63	3.9
<i>Parish House</i>	1,054.00	1.2		4,793.80	4.8
<i>Fund Raising</i>					
<i>General</i>	5,179.51	6.1		8,982.24	9.0
<i>Christmas Tree Festival</i>	4,870.58	5.7		2,400.07	
<i>Parish House</i>	50.00	0.1	18,639.09	1,416.02	1.4
				30,539.26	
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
<i>Organ Fund</i>	931.35	1.1		627.88	0.6
<i>Family Service</i>	0.00	0.0		0.00	0.0
<i>Fabric Fund</i>	280.00	0.3	1,211.35	800.00	0.8
				1,427.88	
<b>Receipts from Church activities</b>					
<i>Fees</i>	5,328.00	6.3		5,966.00	6.0
<i>Kington Kangaroo Club</i>	21.47	0.0	5,349.47	173.68	0.2
				6,139.68	
<b>Receipts from investments</b>					
<i>Deposit Account interest</i>	334.23	0.4		584.29	0.6
<i>Dividends from investments</i>	3,208.08	3.8	3,542.31	3,262.32	3.3
				3,846.61	
<b>Sundry Receipts</b>					
<i>Visits and Church lunch</i>	1,076.20	1.3		1,029.60	1.0
<i>Mission Support</i>	926.10	1.1		150.00	0.1
<i>Clergy and admin expenses (from other PCCs in benefice)</i>	6,014.42	7.1		4,132.54	4.1
<i>Insurance claims and other income</i>	0.00	0.0		0.00	0.0
<i>Other receipts</i>	312.56	0.4	8,329.28	1,878.35	1.9
				7,190.49	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>85,088.69</b>		<b>100,068.87</b>

# St. Mary's Church, Kington

Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2020

Registered charity no. 1185453

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT		2020		2019	
<b>PAYMENTS</b>					
			%		%
Contribution paid to Diocese of Hereford		41,000.00	40.5	41,000.00	39,840.00 40.7 39,840.00
<b>Charities/donations</b>					
	<i>Wedding, funeral and special services</i>	1,208.72	1.2		2,695.92 2.8
	<i>By Burton Communion Group</i>	0.00	0.0		227.35
	<i>From St. Mary's general fund</i>	1,021.00	1.0	2,229.72	3,420.60 3.5 6,343.87
<b>Church running expenses</b>					
	<i>Upkeep (Including cleaning)</i>	985.49	1.0		1,780.25 1.8
	<i>Insurance</i>	4,431.76	4.4		4,270.78 4.4
	<i>Minor repairs/maintenance</i>	1,604.41	1.6		4,492.27 4.6
	<i>Gas</i>	4,066.40	4.0		4,603.61 4.7
	<i>Electricity</i>	1,683.73	1.7		1,822.04 1.9
	<i>Water</i>	408.53	0.4		168.15 0.2
	<i>Upkeep of churchyard</i>	15.27	0.0		53.49 0.1
	<i>Major Works</i>				
	<i>Roof</i>	3,096.14	3.1		594.00 0.6
	<i>Organ</i>	0.00	0.0		0.00
	<i>Lighting</i>	0.00	0.0		0.00
	<i>Reordering</i>	0.00	0.0	16,291.73	0.00 17,784.59
<b>Clergy expenses</b>					
Vicar	<i>Kington's share</i>	3,025.64	3.0		1,694.89 1.7
	<i>Vicar's garden</i>	186.98	0.2		288.00
	<i>Invoiced to other PCCs in the benefice</i>	2,076.42	2.1	5,289.04	453.18 0.5 2,436.07
Curate	<i>Kington's share</i>	319.63	0.3		175.56
	<i>Invoiced to other PCCs in the benefice</i>	439.24	0.4	758.87	126.39 301.95
<b>Cost of services (Including Music)</b>					
	<i>Sundries (Candles, altar breads etc.)</i>	494.47	0.5		669.06 0.7
	<i>Live streaming</i>	921.06	0.9		
	<i>Music and choir costs (Including payments to Organist)</i>	2,327.00	2.3	3,742.53	3,113.02 3.2 3,782.08
<b>Administration</b>					
	<i>Kington's share</i>	4,144.89	4.1		5,667.66 5.8
	<i>To be reimbursed by other PCCs in the benefice</i>	2,927.03	2.9	7,071.92	3,578.60 3.7 9,246.26
<b>Fees (weddings and funerals)</b>					
	<i>Statutory Fees Paid to Diocese</i>	3,579.00	3.5		2,045.00 2.1
	<i>Verger, Organist, choir, bells</i>	155.00	0.2	3,734.00	1,129.00 1.2 3,174.00
<b>Parish House running expenses</b>					
	<i>Upkeep (Including cleaning)</i>	1,017.28	1.0		1,291.50 1.3
	<i>Insurance</i>	305.45	0.3		232.35 0.2
	<i>Minor repairs, maintenance &amp; rent</i>	556.38	0.5		1,548.76 1.6
	<i>Major repairs/improvements including decoration</i>	7,741.10	7.6		0.00
	<i>Gas</i>	305.48	0.3		517.24 0.5
	<i>Electricity</i>	504.38	0.5		620.85 0.6
	<i>Water</i>	83.55	0.1		230.03 0.2
	<i>Other (Legal fees for setting up lease)</i>	640.00	0.6		
	<i>Fund Raising</i>	0.00	0.0	11,153.62	150.00 4,590.73
<b>Bradnor Cottage</b>					
	<i>Insurance</i>	208.47	0.2		350.17 0.4
	<i>Sale</i>	918.00	0.9		
	<i>Council Tax</i>	1,467.46	1.4		
	<i>Repairs and Maintenance</i>	0.00	0.0	2,593.93	0.00 0.0 350.17
<b>Mission</b>					
	<i>Kington Kangaroo Club</i>	67.14	0.1		257.26 0.3
	<i>Family Service</i>	0.00	0.0		0.00 0.0
	<i>Study Groups</i>	109.30	0.1		
	<i>Mission Support</i>	40.00	0.0	216.44	49.49 306.75
<b>Various Payments</b>					
	<i>Parish News</i>	2,913.50	2.9		4,130.60 4.2
	<i>Fundraising</i>	2,614.92	2.6		1,642.09 1.7
	<i>Christmas Tree Festival Costs</i>	0.00	0.0		650.00
	<i>Visits and Church lunch</i>	1,052.25	1.0		1,101.60 1.1
	<i>Miscellaneous (Including Burton Communion coffee payments)</i>	579.98	0.6	7,160.65	2,261.28 2.3 9,785.57
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>					
		100		101,242.45	100 97,942.04

Excess of RECEIPTS over PAYMENTS as at 31st December or  
(Excess of PAYMENTS over RECEIPTS as at 31<sup>st</sup> December)

(16,153.76)

2,126.83

# Restricted and Designated Funds 2020



Restricted	<b><u>Fabric</u></b>	Receipts	Payments	Balance
	Brought Forward from 2019			41,248.24
	Throughout the year	280.00		
	Allchurches Grant	3,000.00		
	HookMason Consulting (Invoice dated 25/9/2020)		2,058.14	
	HookMason Consulting (Invoice dated 7/9/2020)		536.40	
	Pritchard Roof Repairs		115.20	
	<b>2020 Totals</b>	<b>3,280.00</b>	<b>2,709.74</b>	<b>41,818.50</b>

Restricted	<b><u>Organ</u></b>	Receipts	Payments	Balance
	Brought Forward from 2019			9,824.39
	Throughout the year	931.35	0.00	
	Net from Christmas Tree Festival	5,749.34		
	Late donation from Christmas Tee Festival	1,000.00		
	<b>2020 Totals</b>	<b>7,680.69</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>17,505.08</b>

Designated	<b><u>Mission Support</u></b>	Receipts	Payments	Balance
	Brought Forward from 2019			221.03
	<b>2020 Totals</b>	<b>926.10</b>	<b>40.00</b>	<b>1,107.13</b>

Designated	<b><u>Kington Kangaroo Club</u></b>	Receipts	Payments	Balance
	Brought Forward from 2019			(19.32)
	<b>2020 Totals</b>	<b>21.47</b>	<b>67.14</b>	<b>(64.99)</b>

Designated	<b><u>Family Service</u></b>	Receipts	Payments	Balance
	Brought Forward from 2019	1,405.91		
	<b>2020 Totals</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,405.91</b>

Restricted	<b><u>Precious Blessings (S African Orphanage)</u></b>	Receipts	Payments	Balance
	Brought Forward from 2019	0.00		
	Collections at Burton Communion	63.61	0.00	
	<b>2020 Totals</b>	<b>63.61</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>63.61</b>

Designated	<b><u>Parish House</u></b>	Receipts	Payments	Balance
	Brought Forward from 2019			6,746.46
	<b>2020 Totals</b>	<b>1,104.00</b>	<b>11,153.62</b>	<b>(3,303.16)</b>

## Fund Raising 2020



	Receipts	Payments	Net	Restricted
Beetle Drive	260.00	0.00	260.00	
Com. Shop	1,968.49		1,968.49	
Christmas Tree Festival	4,870.58	0.00	4,870.58	4,870.58
Sundry Donations	1,618.47	0.00	1,618.47	
Fete	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Bonus Ball	2,353.20	1,410.00	943.20	
Donation Box in Church	267.20		267.20	
Fund Raising for Parish House	50.00	0.00	50.00	
GoodBox (Contactless)	280.09	414.00	(133.91)	
Parish News	5,306.00	2,913.50	2,392.50	
Peerie Boxes	252.50		252.50	
QR giving (give.net)	12.12		12.12	
Other Fund Raising	66.00	790.92	(724.92)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,304.65</b>	<b>5,528.42</b>	<b>11,776.23</b>	<b>4870.58</b>

### Community Shop (29<sup>th</sup> January - 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019)

Date	Item	Receipts	Payments	Balance
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1,968.49</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,968.49</b>
	Sales	1,505.99		
	Extra sales (A bit more money on Mon & Wed)	3.50		
	Raffle	263.00		
	Tombola	66.00		
	Donations	130.00		

**So the total for the week is £1968.49!**

# Parish House



## Receipts and Payments 2020

	2020		2019	
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Hire	1,054.00		4,793.80	
Grants	0.00		0.00	
Fund Raising	50.00	1,104.00	1,416.02	6,209.82
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Upkeep	1,017.28		1,291.50	
Repairs and Maintenance	556.38		1,548.76	
Major repairs (inc. Decoration)	7,741.10		3,014.68	
Insurance	305.45		232.35	
Gas	305.48		517.24	
Electricity	504.38		620.85	
Water	83.55		230.03	
Other	640.00			
Fund Raising	0.00	11,153.62	150.00	7,605.41
<b>Excess (Deficit) of Receipts over Payments</b>		<b>(10,049.62)</b>		<b>(1,395.59)</b>

### Balance

Brought forward from 31st December 2019	6,746.46
<b>Balance at 31st December 2020</b>	<b>(3,303.16)</b>

### Major Expenditure

G M Joyce (Parish House car park resurfacing)	3,571.20	
M J Jones (Parish House fencing)	3,410.00	
M J Jones (Parish House fencing) VAT	682.00	
Boiler replacement		3,014.68

**Independent Examiner's Report  
to the PCC of St Mary's, Kington, Herefordshire**

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on the three pages [*entitled Receipts And Payments Account {Deficit for the year £16,153.76}, and Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 {Net Asset Value of Funds £329,258.19}*], is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ("the Act").

**Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner**

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

**Basis of this report**

My 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.

**Independent Examiner's statement**

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

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

- to keep proper accounting records; and
- to prepare proper accounts from those records and to comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations

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.

*Chris H.E. Smith*

Chris H.E. Smith F.C.M.A.,  
The Old Vicarage  
Lyonshall  
01544 340598 / 07785 708603  
22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

## VICAR'S REPORT

To misquote lyrics from the musical Brigadoon: "What a year this has been, what a rare mood we're in." Although we may not universally share the sentiment expressed in the next line of this song ("it's almost like being in love"), I'm reasonably convinced that the vast majority of us and indeed our fellow citizens of the planet would agree that this has indeed been a quite remarkable year and although you may not describe your own personal mood as 'rare' I'm sure that it's not normal either!

Over the past few days I've been hearing pre-tournament reports for the US Masters Golf Tournament at Augusta Georgia. Golf aficionados will know that this is an annual event with the 2021 Competition being played just five months after its predecessor. As I write this annual report I feel some considerable fellow feeling with the golfers preparing for the excitement of Augusta.

I think that it would be reasonable to conclude that not even the gloomiest of prophets could have predicted accurately what an extraordinary year 2020 would prove to be, or indeed, that at least part of 2021 would be more of the same.

When, at some unspecified time in the future we can look back over the past year, I'm convinced that in common with governments here and across the world we also will conclude that there were things that we should have done differently or even not done at all. I have always followed the maxim that as long as you do what you honestly believe to be right at the time then you're probably not far wrong, hindsight notwithstanding! I believe implicitly that is equally true of our response to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Church buildings across the benefice were closed as ordered in March and they remained so until we were convinced that they could be re-opened safely. I think that it is an incredible testimony to our remarkable churchwardens that during the most recent lockdown, all of our churches have remained open for worship.

I'm deeply grateful to Rev Linda who gained an additional first in being one of the Covid-19 ordinations, not what she, or indeed, any of us were expecting. She has continued to give of her best throughout an extraordinary year. Thanks to her competence with new technologies we were able to begin live streaming worship in March of last year and have continued to do so.

I want to pay particular tribute to Nick Cooke, our excellent treasurer who has also turned his talents and worked tenaciously to establish a secure signal to allow us to live stream services from the Church. Yes, there have been teething problems along the way, but we have persisted and I think that all will agree that we now have a relatively secure service to allow us to offer worship remotely to anyone who would like to join us. The only shame is that to obtain a microphone capable of reproducing the sound from our organ would cost £700!

Throughout the past year, endeavouring to ensure that people don't feel ignored has been a considerable challenge. The Parish News and its temporary replacement, "Not the Parish News," have ensured that month by month, as many households as possible, have been informed about what the church and equally the community have been doing, despite the considerable obstacles that have been in place. I need to pay tribute to Freda Lymath our editor and also to Will and Fiona Shone for their efforts especially with Not the Parish News, but also in providing an online edition of Parish News since its return. We should also acknowledge gratefully the work done by Ann Edwards, Rodney Bowdler and others in posting copies of the magazines when we haven't been able to deliver and also to our incredible band of deliverers who've delivered safely when that's been possible.

I'm delighted to report that by the time you read this, essential works on the church roof will have begun. Once again, thanks are due to Rodney who has been leading on this.

With the roof repair work completed, we'll be able to progress the vital work needed on the organ, having already raised nearly £20, 000 (a fifth of the final cost) ourselves - a tremendous achievement in itself. I'm equally hopeful that the re-ordering work in the North Nave will also take place this year, enabling us to have both a more flexible worship space than we currently do, and also facilitating the use of that incredible area for more community events.

Despite the foregoing, it's important to remind ourselves that the mission and ministry of the church to the community it serves, is about more than the church building alone, although that in itself is an important and powerful a tool for mission. Due to Coronavirus restrictions much of our regular work in the community has been curtailed over the past year, particularly in relation to Kington Court and The Garth although their residents, staff and families have remained firmly in our prayers.

Thanks to Zoom and Microsoft Teams, assemblies have continued at Kington Primary School and Governors' Meetings at Lady Hawkins' School. Indeed, I felt very honoured to be invited to participate with Kington Primary School in the Harmony in Herefordshire Project of which the Primary School is very much in the vanguard.

I've already noted my gratitude to Ann and Rodney, our two outstanding Churchwardens but, I'm convinced that very few are aware as I am of how much we owe to them for their unstinting and gracious leadership and very sage counsels. All of us owe them both an incalculable debt of gratitude.

Our delayed APCM last year was shocked and saddened to discover that Penny Halcrow has decided to step down as PCC Secretary. I don't as yet know who will be willing and able to step into the considerable breach that Penny's departure as PCC Secretary causes, suffice it to say that Penny has been an astounding PCC Secretary and I find the idea of not having the enormous benefit of her skills, dedication and counsel a decidedly unwelcome prospect. However, I do need to express my most profound gratitude to her for her herculean efforts on our behalf. She will be a very hard act to follow!

Gill Pennell, Lesley Walters and the flower arranging team have manufactured their own particular kind of magic, keeping the Church looking bright and cheerful with flowers as always, managing to ensure that all of the major festivals have been accompanied with the stunning floral displays we've come to be so familiar with. Eileen and Beverley have managed, through very trying circumstances, to keep the altars looking impeccable and have organised servers, readers and intercessors where possible. My thanks are also due to all who offer their gifts for these vitally important ministries.

Philip Sell our hugely talented Director of Music has shown quite how adept he is at responding to the unexpected and the occasions when we've had some of the choir have been extremely precious.

If you've been through the churchyard anytime since Palm Sunday, you can't have failed to notice our incredible Easter Garden. Malcolm Price was both the brains behind it and the creator of all of the "scenery," ably assisted by Michael Horne and Linda Ellams who painted the tomb for us so brilliantly. Thanks are also due to the gardening team. My profound thanks for such an innovative reminder of Easter seem inadequate. I'm sure that we often overlook Beryl Thompson's ministrations which ensure that the brass always gleams, but wouldn't we notice if she didn't!! I must also record our thanks to Jean and Frank Williams and Nick and Margaret Cooke for their unstinting work in the Garden of Remembrance and Dennis and Irene Phillips' long years of service with the Parish News and especially the advertising.

Those of you who heard the bells ring out on Easter morning would, I'm sure, have been delighted to hear their joyful sound after such a long period of silence. John Clayton our brilliant tower captain, together with his team of ringers, also deserves our most grateful thanks. Won't it be lovely when we'll be able to hear all 6 bells ringing out again?

As you can see from my previous comments, St. Mary's Church is truly blessed to have the services given so freely and so cheerfully by so many people in so many different ways. Each and every one of them is using their own special gifts and talents for the Glory of God and the benefit of us all. To all of those I've thanked already and especially to those I haven't, please do know that you are valued and cherished because all of us together achieve so much more than we ever could apart. With all of you, the Church is in good hands and good heart and we travel joyfully wherever God is leading us (and here I misquote Buzz Lightyear in Toy Story) "through Covid and beyond!!"

Rev Ben Griffith

## CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT - JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2020.

What a strange year it has been! It was October 2020 before we were able to hold our Annual Parochial Church Meeting with reports for 2019. Consequently reports for that meeting were extended to cover the months of 2020 up to October.

2020 was a year when we missed the part played by the retired Clergy who live among us and we have felt real deprivation because our Choir have not, except for a very brief period, been allowed to assemble and sing. Special thanks go to Phillip and Ben for the music they have shared with us at services.

We rejoice that we have been able to be part of St. Mary's services throughout the lockdown. Ben led the way with a service streamed from his study Sunday by Sunday. Then with the help and perseverance of Nick, the Church itself became equipped so that a service could be live streamed from within the Church. Our weekly Sunday Service at 10am has been streamed and it has been good to know that many were united in worship if not in person.

Christmas was fast approaching and strict and limiting rules were in force. Sadly the Hospice did not hold their Tree of Light Services across the County but, nothing daunted, we launched our own Memory Tree adjacent to the Garden of Remembrance, thereby ensuring that memories could be recorded even if in a different way. Many took up our invitation to purchase a star on which to record the name of a loved one to hang on the tree. From the money raised we sent £275 to St Michael's Hospice which they much appreciated. Standing splendidly lit in the churchyard, the Tree became a welcoming beacon to St. Mary's. Our Lych Gate was transformed into the Stable in Bethlehem and we gathered there at 4pm on Christmas Eve for our annual Crib Service and yes, being outside, we were able to sing carols. A Midnight Eucharist took place on Christmas Eve, as did our Family Eucharist on Christmas Day. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Rev Ben and the Rev Linda who worked tirelessly to ensure that, despite restrictions, Christmas carried its real message for us in 2020.

As Wardens we have tried to keep a watchful eye on the Church building. All the annual servicing of electrical appliances and the like has taken place including much additional work in sanitising. We do thank all who helped with this, especially the team who always turned up to help on their appointed day, week by week. I think I worked out that we did that for 23 weeks.

Parishioners, whether churchgoers or regular readers, appreciated being able to receive the "Parish News" or "Not the Parish News" each month, whether through the post, by collecting it or through modern technology. We extend a huge thank you to all who contributed to this in whatever way and we all enjoyed the interesting reflective items sent for inclusion.

We were spared a really hard winter for which we were grateful as we await repairs to the roof to begin. Regular Meetings such as Churches Together in Kington, Friends of St. Mary's, and Deanery Meetings have either been put on hold or taken place as Zoom meetings.

### The Bungalow, Barton Lane, Kington

Following the advice of our Agents, Messrs. Cobb Amos, the Vicar and Churchwardens decided to market the property under the following three options:- 1) The Bungalow and Coppice 2) The Bungalow and Garden 3) The Coppice only.

We received a total of eight offers in all three categories and accepted an offer of £175,000 for the Bungalow, Garden and Coppice from Mr & Mrs Roberts.

The PCC received objections from several members of "The Coppicers" (two of whom were members of the PCC) who felt that in view of the fact that they had been managing the Coppice for some five years (rent free), they earned the right to purchase the coppice outright.

We instructed our agents to approach Mr & Mrs Roberts to explain the situation and asked if they would be prepared to purchase just the Bungalow and Garden. They reluctantly agreed and made an offer of £160,000.

The Coppice was then offered to the "Coppicers" and an offer of £8,000 was made. Both revised offers were accepted.

Our solicitors were instructed to proceed with the contract to Mr & Mrs Roberts, for the Bungalow and Garden, at a revised price of £160,000. They were also instructed to proceed with a contract for the Coppice only, at a purchase price of £8,000 and the title holders being "Maggie's Patch Community Coppice Trust."

It is envisaged that signed contracts will be forthcoming in April 2021.

#### Roof repairs

The contract for the extensive roof repairs, at a cost of £82,000 (including VAT) is to be started on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2021 by Pritchard's of Hereford.

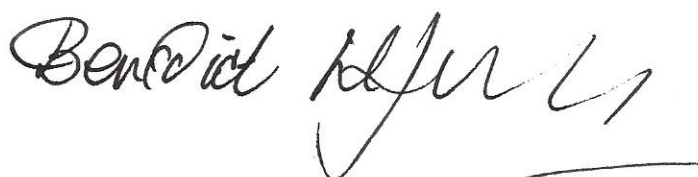
Hannah Vernon, our Grants Advisor, has approached several of the Grant Funding Trusts in an attempt to raise monies towards the cost of repairs. She is still awaiting several replies - the delay is due to Covid 19 restrictions.

We feel that it is true to say that through the generous time given by, first and foremost, the Revd Ben, to planning and providing for worship to continue in as meaningful a way as he could, we are ready to look upward and onward as soon as restrictions allow.

We could mention many names of others who have contributed so much to our well being, but because of the danger of omitting a name we say, with great sincerity, how much we appreciate all the support that has been given to St. Mary's and to us during this difficult year. However we must mention "Mrs Vicar" who has, throughout these months, been willing to join with us all to help wherever a helping hand was needed. Thank you, Jean.

Ann Edwards and Rodney Bowdler, Churchwardens.

Approved by the PCC on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and signed on their behalf by the Revd Benedict Griffith



(PCC chairman)

# **St Mary's Kington Financial Report**

This can be found in the Trustees' Annual Report.

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's, Kington, Herefordshire**

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on the three pages [*entitled Receipts And Payments Account {Deficit for the year £16,153.76}, and Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 {Net Asset Value of Funds £329,258.19}*], is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ("the Act").

### **Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner**

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

### **Basis of this report**

My 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.

### **Independent Examiner's statement**

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

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

- to keep proper accounting records; and
- to prepare proper accounts from those records and to comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations

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.

*Chris H.E. Smith*

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