



# 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>	
<b>Represented by:</b>				
<b>GENERAL FUND - opening</b>	197,973.81		200,113.89	
<b>Add:</b> 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



RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT			2020		2019	
<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	4,288.39	4.3
				39,431.91		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	4,387.78	4.4
				8,585.28		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	1,416.02	1.4
				18,639.09		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	800.00	0.8
				1,211.35		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	173.68	0.2
				5,349.47		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	3,262.32	3.3
				3,542.31		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	1,878.35	1.9
				8,329.28		7,190.49
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			100	85,088.69		100,068.87

# St. Mary's Church, Kingston

Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2020

Registered charity no. 1185453

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT				2020		2019	
PAYMENTS				%		%	
Contribution paid to Diocese of Hereford				41,000.00	40.5	41,000.00	39,840.00 40.7 39,840.00
Charities/donations							
	Wedding, funeral and special services			1,208.72	1.2		2,695.92 2.8
	By Burton Communion Group			0.00	0.0		227.35
	From St. Mary's general fund			1,021.00	1.0	2,229.72	3,420.60 3.5 6,343.87
Church running expenses							
	Upkeep (Including cleaning)			985.49	1.0		1,780.25 1.8
	Insurance			4,431.76	4.4		4,270.78 4.4
	Minor repairs/maintenance			1,604.41	1.6		4,492.27 4.6
	Gas			4,066.40	4.0		4,603.61 4.7
	Electricity			1,683.73	1.7		1,822.04 1.9
	Water			408.53	0.4		168.15 0.2
	Upkeep of churchyard			15.27	0.0		53.49 0.1
	Major Works	Roof		3,096.14	3.1		594.00 0.6
		Organ		0.00	0.0		0.00
		Lighting		0.00	0.0		0.00
		Reordering		0.00	0.0	16,291.73	0.00 17,784.59
Clergy expenses							
Vicar	Kington's share			3,025.64	3.0		1,694.89 1.7
	Vicar's garden			186.98	0.2		288.00
	Invoiced to other PCCs in the benefice			2,076.42	2.1	5,289.04	453.18 0.5 2,436.07
Curate	Kington's share			319.63	0.3		175.56
	Invoiced to other PCCs in the benefice			439.24	0.4	758.87	126.39 301.95
Cost of services (Including Music)							
	Sundries (Candles, altar breads etc.)			494.47	0.5		669.06 0.7
	Live streaming			921.06	0.9		
	Music and choir costs (Including payments to Organist)			2,327.00	2.3	3,742.53	3,113.02 3.2 3,782.08
Administration							
	Kington's share			4,144.89	4.1		5,667.66 5.8
	To be reimbursed by other PCCs in the benefice			2,927.03	2.9	7,071.92	3,578.60 3.7 9,246.26
Fees (weddings and funerals)							
	Statutory Fees Paid to Diocese			3,579.00	3.5		2,045.00 2.1
	Verger, Organist, choir, bells			155.00	0.2	3,734.00	1,129.00 1.2 3,174.00
Parish House running expenses							
	Upkeep (Including cleaning)			1,017.28	1.0		1,291.50 1.3
	Insurance			305.45	0.3		232.35 0.2
	Minor repairs, maintenance & rent			556.38	0.5		1,548.76 1.6
	Major repairs/improvements including decoration			7,741.10	7.6		0.00
	Gas			305.48	0.3		517.24 0.5
	Electricity			504.38	0.5		620.85 0.6
	Water			83.55	0.1		230.03 0.2
	Other (Legal fees for setting up lease)			640.00	0.6		
	Fund Raising			0.00	0.0	11,153.62	150.00 4,590.73
Bradnor Cottage							
	Insurance			208.47	0.2		350.17 0.4
	Sale			918.00	0.9		
	Council Tax			1,467.46	1.4		
	Repairs and Maintenance			0.00	0.0	2,593.93	0.00 0.0 350.17
Mission							
	Kington Kangaroo Club			67.14	0.1		257.26 0.3
	Family Service			0.00	0.0		0.00 0.0
	Study Groups			109.30	0.1		
	Mission Support			40.00	0.0	216.44	49.49 306.75
Various Payments							
	Parish News			2,913.50	2.9		4,130.60 4.2
	Fundraising			2,614.92	2.6		1,642.09 1.7
	Christmas Tree Festival Costs			0.00	0.0		650.00
	Visits and Church lunch			1,052.25	1.0		1,101.60 1.1
	Miscellaneous (Including Burton Communion coffee payments)			579.98	0.6	7,160.65	2,261.28 2.3 9,785.57
TOTAL PAYMENTS				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	
	2020 Totals	3,280.00	2,709.74	41,818.50

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		
	2020 Totals	7,680.69	0.00	17,505.08

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

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

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

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	
	2020 Totals	63.61	0.00	63.61

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



## 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	
RECEIPTS				
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
PAYMENTS				
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
Excess (Deficit) of Receipts over Payments		(10,049.62)		(1,395.59)

## 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



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

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**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  
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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.



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