

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:

Licensed Clergy:	Revd Benedict Griffith (until 28/02/2023)
Assistant Curates:	Revd Paul Buckingham
Licensed Reader	Mr Rob MacCurrach
Churchwardens:	Miss Ann Edwards Mr Rodney Bowdler (Vice Chair)
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Mrs Eileen Thomas (sacristan) Mrs Bev Fensom (deputy sacristan and deputy churchwarden) Mrs Penny Halcrow
Elected members:	
2020	Mrs Janet Price, Mr Malcolm Price, Mrs Margaret Cooke, Mr Nick Cooke
2021	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 3rd 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 Barring 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 9th 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
Notes		General	Designated			
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary Receipts						
Planned Giving	1	27197			27197	28110
Collect ions at Services	2	4923			4923	2864
All other giving/voluntary receipts	3	4000	383	10922	15305	8539
Grants	4			16933	16933	26549
Gif tAid Recovered	6	6210			6210	7970
Total voluntary receipts		42330	383	27856	70568	74032
Act vities for Generat ing Funds	7	5614	10		5624	5177
Investment Income	8	5175			5175	3350
Church Act vities	9	16492			16492	11738
Rent/Hire of Church Property	10	1991			1991	692
Sale of Church Property	11	5733			5733	152532
Sundry Income	12	1922			1922	5066
Total receipts		79256	393	27856	107504	252587
		2022				2021
		Unrestricted		Restricted	Total	Total
Notes		General	Designated			
PAYMENTS						
Church Act vities						
Parish Of ficer	13	44000			44000	43000
Prepayment of the 2023 Parish Of ficer	13	8000			8000	
Clergy & Staf fing 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	4042
Parish House	18		4629		4629	2238
Administrat ion	19	9094			9094	8407
Weddings and Funerals	20	3500			3500	2411
Major Works	21			12098	12098	77622
Costs of Generat ing Funds	22	2340			2340	1970
Costs associated with other church property	23					2166
Various	24	1294			1294	5072
Total Payments		92941	10110	14149	117200	170941
Short fall		-13685	-9718	13707	-9696	81646

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
	Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowments	Total	Change	Total
	General	Designate d					
Cash funds							
Co-operative Account (08-92-99 67225860)	5913	-803					
CBF Deposit (618026001D) – Capital Reserve	114162	-28903	143065				
Cash and cheques in hand	21	10	11				
Maggie Edwards bequest (awaiting reinvestment)		20000	-20000				
Total cash funds	91843	2818	25435		120096	-9696	129792

Investment assets (Status to be confirmed)							
1,650 Glaxo Smith Kline shares (E Bowen bequest)	22579				22579	-3930	26509
1,650 Haleon shares (Share issue from GSK)	5406				5406	5406	
Total investment assets	27985				27985	1476	26509
Total current assets	119828	2818	25435		148081	-8220	156301

Other Assets							
Prepayment of 2023 Of 6r	8000				8000	8000	
Total other assets	8000				8000	8000	

Liabilities

Loan (Interest Free)	1500				1500		1500
Total liabilities	1500				1500		1500

Endowments

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

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

Freehold property

Bradnor Coppice (Sold in 2022)						-8000	8000
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NET ASSET VALUE OF FUNDS	148051	2818	38901	57591	247361	-17805	265167
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Balance Statement

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

Notes on the accounts

For the year ending 31st December 2022

RECEIPTS

Voluntary Receipts

Note

		2022			2021
		Unrestricted		Restricted	Total
		General	Designated		
1	Planned Giving				
	Standing Orders Gift Aided	3271			4976
	Envelopes and other donations	1445			
	Non gift aided planned giving	675			1162
	PGS Donation	21805			21972
	Total	27197			28110
2	Collect donations at Services				
	Collect donations at Services: St Mary's	4923			2864
	Total	4923			2864
3	All other voluntary Giving/Donations				
	Sundry Donations	2817			1615
	Contactless	482			224
	QR (give.net)				
	Amazon Europe Core	6			6
	Easy Fundraising	56			34
	Donation Box in Church	639			
	Messy Church (was KKC)		57		37
	Mission Support		160		700
	Donations to Designated Funds				
	Bells				1208
	Handbells		166		
	Flower Fund			832	
	Donations to Restricted Funds				
	Restricted Special collections			4805	3317
	Ukraine Appeal			1993	
	Organ Fund			3292	1150
	Roof				255
	Total	4000	383	10922	15305
4	Grants				
	Roof fund			16933	11000
	Reordering				13000
	Parish House				2549
	Total			16933	26549

RECEIPTS (Cont nued)

		2022				2021
		Unrestricted		Restricted	Total	Total
		General	Designated			
6	Gif tAid recovered					
	PGS Gif tAid Tax Refund	4521			4521	5226
	Other Gif tAid & GASDS	1689			1689	2743
	Total	6210			6210	7970
7	Act vities for Generat ng Funds					
	Bonus Ball	1872			1872	
	Beetle Drive					
	Com. Shop	1364			1364	3323
	Peerie Boxes	22			22	
	Fete	2048			2048	
	Other Fund Raising	27			27	
	Parish House Fund Raising	280			280	
	Music (not organ fund)		10		10	1854
	Total	5614	10		5624	5177
8	Investment income					
	CBF Deposit Fund Interest	396			396	38
	Investment Income	4779			4779	3312
	Total	5175			5175	3350
9	Church Act vities					
	Fees	10127			10127	4362
	Parish News Adverts	4440			4440	7376
	Parish News Sales	1925			1925	
	Total	16492			16492	11738
10	Rent/Hire of church property					
	Hire of Church	845			845	575
	Hire of Parish House	1146			1146	117
	Bungalow Rent					
	Total	1991			1991	692
11	Sale of church Property					
	Bradnor Green Coppice	5733			5733	
	Bradnor Green Bungalow Sale					152532
	Total	5733			5733	152532
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.						
12	Sundry income					
	Charges for Visits	290			290	
	Net of expenses charged to other parishes	1329			1329	132
	Other	303			303	199
1	Total	1922			1922	331
TOTAL OF ALL RECEIPTS		79256	393	27856	107504	247852

PAYMENTS

For the year ending 31st December 2022

Note

		2022				2021
		Unrestricted		Restricted	Total	Total
		General	Designated			
13	Parish Of ffr	44000			44000	43000
	Prepayment of 2023 Parish Of ffr	8000			8000	
	Total	52000			52000	43000
14	Clergy Expenses & Staffing Costs					
	Kington Share: Vicar	968			968	3020
	Vicarage Garden wages	102			102	697
	Kington's Share: Curate	661			661	450
	Total	1731			1731	4167
15	Church Running Expenses					
	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					
	Total	15269			15269	15921
16	Cost of Services					
	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	
	Total	5297	458		5754	3924
17	Mission giving and Charitable donations					
	DEC Ukraine	1987		1987	3973	
	Other special collections		4197		4197	2752
	From St Mary's General Fund	429			429	795
	Burton Communion Donations			64	64	
	Messy Church & Lego Club		811		811	330
	Study Groups					165
	Mission Support		16		16	
	Total	2416	5024	2050	9490	4042
18	Parish House					
	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
	Total	4629			4629	2238

Payments (Cont hued)

		2022				2021
		Unrestricted		Restricted	Total	Total
		General	Designated			
19	Administrat on					
	Wages: Of fe	1983			1983	
	Admin (not wages)	2525			2525	3874
	Parish News Print ng	4586			4586	4533
	Total	9094			9094	8407
20	Weddings and Funerals					
	Statutory Fees	2092			2092	1801
	Organist/Bells/Choir/Verger	1408			1408	610
	Total	3500			3500	2411
21	Major Works					
	Roof			2580	2580	77622
	Organ					
	Reordering			9518	9518	
	Total			12098	12098	77622
22	Costs of Generat ng Funds					
	Bonus Ball	1510			1510	
	Community Shop	260			260	
	Peerie Boxes					1510
	Fete	570			570	
	QR					
	Cost of grant applicat ons					460
	Total	2340			2340	1970
23	Costs associated with other church property.					
	Bradnor Cot age Council Tax					2166
	Total					2166
24	Various					
	Invoiced to other parishes (Now net ed)					4735
	Visits	440			440	
	Church Lunch					
	Other	854			854	338
	Total	1294			1294	5072

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.

TOTAL OF ALL PAYMENTS	97570	5481	14149	117200	170941
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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, 9th 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
15th 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