

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:

Licensed Clergy:	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
Licensed Reader	Mr Rob MacCurrach
Churchwardens:	Miss Ann Edwards

	Mr Rodney Bowdler (Vice Chair) until his death in December 2024
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Mrs Eileen Thomas (sacristan) Mr Stephen Lacey Mrs Penny Halcrow
PCC Secretary	Mrs Christine Robinson
Elected members:	
2022	Debbie Horne, (resigned November 2023,) Stephen Lacey
2023	Mrs Margaret Pengelly, Deborah Sell, Ms Julia Read coopted from November 2023 Nick Cooke, Margaret Cooke, Malcom Price re-elected
2024	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 5th 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 uncoded 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

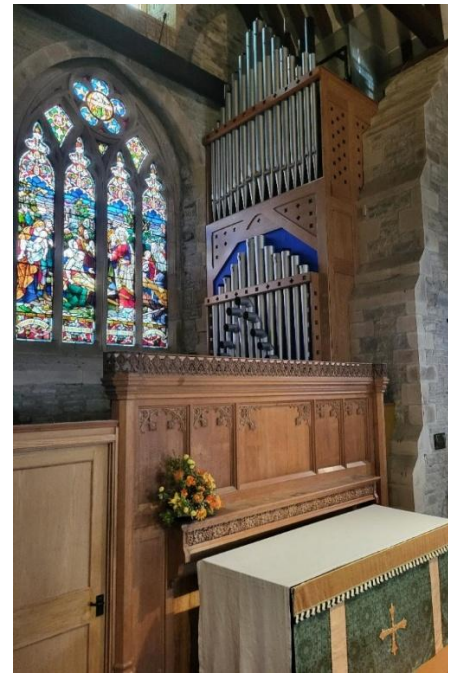


The beautiful new rear case, showing some of the 16ft trombone pipes and access ladder.
The new rear case, showing the new exterior access ladder and top entrance



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:

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

Attendance:

2024	Children	Adults	Helpers	Total
Average	13	9	10	31

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.

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

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

2024	Children	Adults	Helpers	Total
Average	12	6	4	22

(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 19th 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 20th 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

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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 25th. 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 1st, 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 Huntingdon, Old Radnor with Kinnerton and Titley)

Financial Review for the year ending 31st 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)

17th 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
CASH FUNDS						
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
Cash funds accessible at short notice			-110,544		25149	135,693
PLUS: Other assets						
Prepayments					0	0
LESS: Liabilities						
Loans (Interest free)					25149	135,693
Total current assets					0	0
Adjusted cash funds available					25149	135,693
ADD: INVESTMENTS						
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
					131991	130,038
Freehold property					0	0
NET ASSET VALUE OF FUNDS					157140	265,731

Represented by:					
GENERAL FUND - opening					
General Fund Movements	100,917	67,918	-32,999	2024	2,023
Unrealised Gain/Loss on Investments				156784	160,341
Unrealised Gain/Loss on Shares				-32999	-14,330
Movement on Prepayments / Loans				2091	3,295
Transfers to Restricted / Designated Funds				-137	5,978
Balance C/F				0	1,500
				21314	
				147052	156,784
DESIGNATED FUNDS					
Parish House				0	-2,876
Messy Church / Lego (was Kington Kangaroo Club)	763	944	181	0	-1,698
Bells				0	166
Music		1,481	1,481	1821	340
Family Service				1406	1,406
Sound System	30,097	35,000	4,903	4903	
Transfers to / from General Funds					
Balance C/F					-2,661
				8130	
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Flower Fund	350	150	-200	92	292
Mission Support				0	2,209
Reordering				0	2,122
Roof				0	-4,922
Organ fund	143,825	58,772	-85,053	0	45,945
Heating System		1,250	1,250	1250	
Special Collections	3,686	3,576	-111	615	3,594
Ukraine Appeal		3	3	0	-280
Transfers to / from General Funds					
Balance C/F					
				1958	48,960
ENDOWMENT FUNDS					
Gregory Trust (CBF Investment Fund) 1289S (K11)				0	58,344
Gregory Trust (Diocesan CBF Fund) ...1452D (K11)				0	4,304
Transfers to / from General Funds					
				0	
					62,648
Total current assets	279,638	169,094	-110,544	157140	265,731

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	
		General	Designated			
Notes						
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary Receipts						
Planned Giving	1	23,846			23,846	24,525
Collections at Services	2	3,082		3,576	6,658	12,096
All other giving/voluntary receipts	3	1,878	2,425	4,504	8,807	28,258
Gift Aid Recovered	6	6,419			6,419	9,436
Legacies	5	1,500	35,000		36,500	5,000
Grants	4			55,671	55,671	11,320
Total voluntary receipts		36,724	37,425	63,751	137,900	90,634
Activities for Generating Funds	7	4,805			4,805	5,557
Investment Income	8	7,779			7,779	4,334
Church Activities	9	13,915			13,915	14,741
Rent/Hire of Church Property	10	3,358			3,358	3,020
Sale of Church Property	11	90			90	
Sundry Income	12	1,247			1,247	50,363
Total receipts		67,918	37,425	63,751	169,094	168,649
		2024				2023
		Unrestricted		Restricted	Total	Total
		General	Designated			
Notes						
PAYMENTS						
Church Activities						
Parish Offer	13	48,000			48,000	40,000
Prepayment of Parish Offer						
Clergy & Staffing Costs	14	251			251	173
Church Running Expenses	15	17,467			17,467	23,220
Cost of Services	16	6,658		350	7,008	4,716
Mission Giving & Charitable Donations	17	254	763	3,686	4,703	10,324
Parish House	18	13,784			13,784	4,267
Administration	19	10,447			10,447	8,766
Weddings and Funerals	20	2,259			2,259	2,277
Major Works	21		30,097	143,825	173,922	3,557
Costs of Generating Funds	22	1,722			1,722	3,731
Costs associated with other church proper	23					
Various	24	75			75	52,022
Total Payments		100,917	30,860	147,861	279,638	153,052
Shortfall		-32,999	6,565	-84,110	-110,544	15,596

Notes on the accounts

For the year ending 31st December 2024

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

RECEIPTS (Continued)		2024				2023
		Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowments	Total
		General	Designated			
5 Legacies and Bequests						
Geoff Marshall	500				500	5,000
Dorothy Pritchard			35,000		35,000	
David Hill	1,000				1,000	
Total	1,500	35,000			36,500	5,000
6 Gift Aid recovered						
PGS Gift Aid Tax Refund	4,198				4,198	4,898
Other Gift Aid & GASDS	2,221				2,221	4,537
Total	6,419				6,419	9,436
7 Activities for Generating Funds						
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
Total	4,805				4,805	5,557
8 Investment income						
CBF Deposit Fund Interest (CB3026937)	4,044				4,044	649
Investment Income	3,735				3,735	3,684
Total	7,779				7,779	4,334
9 Church Activities						
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
Total	13,915				13,915	14,741
10 Rent/Hire of church property						
Hire of Church	50				50	100
Hire of Parish Hall	3,308				3,308	2,920
Total	3,358				3,358	3,020
11 Sale of church Property						
Sale of Church Property	90				90	
Total	90				90	
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.						
12 Sundry income						
Charges for Visits						
Church Lunch						
Benefice expenses reclaimed	1,072				1,072	363
Insurance claims and other income	175				175	
Loans						50,000
Other						
Total	1,247				1,247	50,363
TOTAL OF ALL RECEIPTS	67,918	37,425	63,751		169,094	168,649

PAYMENTS For the year ending 31st December 2024		2024				2023	
		Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowments	Total	Total
		General	Designated				
13	Parish Offer	48,000				48,000	40,000
	Total	48,000				48,000	40,000
14	Clergy Expenses & Staffing Costs						
	Kington Share: Vicar	146				146	173
	Vicarage Garden wages						
	Other Parishes: Vicar (To be reimbursed)	105				105	
	Kington's Share: Curate						
	Total	251				251	173
15	Church Running Expenses						
	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						
	Total	17,467				17,467	23,220
16	Cost of Services						
	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
	Total	6,658		350		7,008	4,716
17	Mission giving and Charitable donations						
	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						
	Total	254	763	3,686		4,703	10,324
18	Parish House						
	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	
	Total	13,784				13,784	4,261

2023
Total
40,000
40,000
173
173
2,184
1,397
4,256
1,311
9,685
3,084
283
1,020
23,220
549
593
3,247
214
113
4,716
1,531
7,646
561
586
10,324
518
112
690
230
1,100
1,382
234
4,267

Payments (Continued)			2024				2023						
19	Administration		Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowments	Total	Total					
			General	Designated									
		Wages: Office	1,671				1,671	1,889					
		Admin (not wages)	2,211				2,211	1,901					
		Expenses to be reclaimed	1,784				1,784						
		Parish News Printing	4,780				4,780	4,975					
		Total	10,447				10,447	8,766					
20	Weddings and Funerals												
			Statutory Fees	1,244				1,244	837				
			Organist/Bells/Choir/Verger	1,015				1,015	1,440				
		Total	2,259				2,259	2,277					
21	Major Works			30,097	143,825		30,097 143,825						
								Sound system					
								Organ				77	
								Reordering				3,480	
								Fabric					
								Project 2					
		Project 3											
		Total		30,097	143,825		173,922	3,557					
22	Costs of Generating Funds						1,290 260 97 75						
								Bonus Ball				1,290	1,360
								Beetle Drive					
								Community Shop				260	395
								Peerie Boxes					
								Fete				97	
								QR					
								Contactless					
								Christmas Tree Festival					
								Parish House Fundraising					
								Organ Fund					
								Cost of grant applications					1,860
		Other				75	116						
		Total	1,722				1,722	3,731					
24	Various												
								Visits					1,760
								Misc	75				262
								Loans					50,000
		Total	75				75	52,022					
TOTAL OF ALL PAYMENTS			100,917	30,860	147,861		279,638	153,052					
Surplus / Deficit for Year			-32,999	6,565	-84,110		-110,544						

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st December 2024

2024					2023
Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
General	Designated				
Cash on Hand Accounts					
Co-operative Account (08-92-99 67225860)				12,237	69,773
CBF Deposit (618026001D) – Capital Reserve				12,856	63,811
Cash and cheques in hand				57	2,109
Loan Accounts					
Prepayments					
Subtotal Cash /Cash equivalents				25,149	139,997
Investment Accounts / Shares					
1,650 Glaxo Smith Kline shares (E Bowen bequest)				22,209	23,928
1,650 Haleon shares (Share issue from GSK)				6,227	5,307
Bill Price Bequest (485 Utd Utilities shares) (K16)				5,796	5,134
M Edwards' Bequest (CBF Invest. Fund) CB3026938-001				24,311	23,767
Price Bequest (CBF Investment Fund) CB3008085-001 (K15)				9,465	9,253
Gregory Trust (Diocesan CBF Fund) ...1452D (K11)				4,304	4,304
Gregory Trust (CBF Investment Fund) CB3008040-001 (K11)				59,680	58,344
Subtotal Investment accounts/shares				131,991	125,734
Total				157,140	265,731

Balance Statement

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

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
17th 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**