

THE PARISH OF THREE SAINTS

England & Wales · Charity number 1188593

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2020-03-17

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Church Office
Church Road
East Brent
Highbridge
TA9 4HZ

Phone 01278769082

Email office.tpots@gmail.com

Website <http://www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk/>

Activities

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

Activities: Our activities are primarily focussed on the advancement of Religion, providing Religious focus at our primary schools and providing pastoral support to all our parishioners.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£76,895	£113,786	-	-
2023-12-31	£85,798	£111,657	-	-
2022-12-31	£137,700	£133,750	-	-
2021-12-31	£104,630	£137,734	-	-
2020-12-31	£155,375	£149,330	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Carole Carter		2019-04-28
Dr Michael George Ransome		2026-05-12
Elizabeth Jane Watkins		2025-05-11
FRANCES MARY JAMES		2019-04-28
JAMES HENRY COUNSELL		2020-10-25
Janis Bance		2025-05-11
Michael Smith		2023-04-30
Pauline Talbot Chadwick		2020-10-25
Rev Neil Biddiscombe		2022-04-22
Rev Robyn Caroline Golden-Hann		2026-03-30
Timothy Hannah		2023-04-30
Victoria Mary Daintree		2019-04-30

THE PARISH OF THREE SAINTS

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Accounts

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT for 2024

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This report has been printed in monochrome to save valuable parish funds. A colour copy will be on our website.

Once again, from all of us at The Parish of Three Saints, we wish to say a very huge, warm ‘thank you’ to you all for giving of your time and talents.

These include:

Churchwardens

PCC Members

Worship Leaders

Stewards/Welcomers

Readers

Musicians

Chalice Assistants

Scripture Readers

Intercessors

Refreshment Providers

Finance Team

Fundraisers

Bell Ringers

Group Helpers

Flower Arrangers

Church openers/closers

Cleaners

Brass Cleaners

Clock Winders

Churchyard Grounds supporters

Coffee Morning helpers



We are very fortunate to have so many wonderful people that we cannot name you all, but together you combine to keep our three churches, office and grounds ship-shape and make our sacred spaces welcoming, friendly and inspiring.

If you feel that you can give some of your time or talents, however small, and you wish to be a part of the Church Family, please contact any of the Church Wardens or Church Office. 01278 769082



As a Parish we are very blessed and grateful for the care and time our Associate Priest, Neil, has given us and keeps on giving during the vacancy here.

As a Self Supporting Minister, this is above and beyond his normal duty.

We wish to thank the Reverend Eric Petrie for officiating at services and also funerals, weddings & baptisms in our parish.

We are fortunate to also have support from other visiting ministers who help out. We also have a Lay Worship Assistant, Kate Wilford, who takes a Worship of The Word Service when we do not have an ordained minister available.



Associate Priest's Report for 2024

It is a privilege to be licensed in the parish of Three Saints. In January 2024 I was 'signed off' from my curacy, though I remained licensed as curate throughout the year. Being signed-off is a big thing for curates, particularly stipendiary ones who are then able to apply for their next roles.

For me it meant that the Diocese was satisfied with the progress I had made as a curate and were happy for me to move on from that stage of ministry development.



The failure to appoint a new Rector was a disappointment as without this full-time person we are missing opportunities for mission. I believe that our worship provision remains strong, meeting the congregation's spiritual needs, and I would like to particularly thank Kate Wilford and Revd Eric Petrie for their support in leading worship services, and to Eric for being the first port of call for funerals.

My thanks go to all those who help with our worship services – putting rotas together, reading, intercessions and administering the chalice, this is a wonderful way of involving the congregation in the services.

My thanks also go to those who do the refreshments after the services, helping us to share time together, and to those who prepare flowers, clean the church and so on.

I would also like to thank Carole Carter for her energy and commitment in the church office and Ginnie Soffe for coordinating safeguarding, a very important role.



I am aware that, having changed my paid job in April 2024, I found that the time available for pastoral care reduced to almost zero, so I would like to thank the pastoral care team for their work.

Regarding our vacancy, I believe that the right person for the parish, the person that God wants to place with us, God has not yet made aware of us, or made ready to move to us. It could be that God is also saying to us that there is more that we need to do without a vicar - a chance for our congregation to increase their closeness to God through service to the parish in various ways that a vicar might have undertaken. And if we look at the vacancy as a longer-term proposition, what does the parish want to do that an incumbent might not want to do? It is an opportunity for us now to move forward in a way that the parish wants to, not the way that an incoming incumbent might. This is the continuation of the opportunity for the parish to truly develop its identity ourselves, to become more self-sustaining, with individuals developing to become more involved in roles and leadership as there will be things that need doing that a Rector would have done. The parish isn't going to fall apart. It would be nice to have another church warden though.

I am really pleased that the book groups and singing group that we started in 2024 are still going. They seem to have met a need for developing our faith and having a bit of a social get together. I have noticed that the singing in church is getting better too, which is great.

I was delighted that the PCC agreed for us to sign up to Inclusive Church, a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate, showing that we believe that God loves everyone and that we are willing to reflect this in our church life. Our initial practical changes around this included better microphones and larger print orders of service.

The future of the parish almost certainly involves the creation of a Benefice with the parishes of Berrow and Brean. Little seems to have happened in this regard in 2024, but should we have a new Rector appointed in 2025 no doubt this will move forward.

My licence as a curate continued into 2025 and would be followed by licensing as an associate priest. Unless God calls me elsewhere, I plan to remain in Three Saints leading worship and supporting the parish throughout the next year and hopefully at least until the new Rector is appointed.

It remains a privilege to serve in the Parish and I thank you for your prayers, support and encouragement.

Reverend Neil Biddiscombe

Associate Priest

The Parish Of Three Saints





As we move onwards into a new way of being, albeit a slow process, coming together as one church community with Berrow & Brean, as the Benefice of Berrow, Brean and The Parish of Three Saints, we can only pray that we will listen to one another and be thoughtful, caring and prayerful.

Easter
always a special time in
the Christian calendar





Candlemas — St Christopher's

Harvest Service in the Barn at the Cider Farm in Brent Knoll



St Michael's Annual Church Warden's Report

As we look back on 2024, we are grateful to our Associate Priest, Rev Neil Biddiscombe and to the worship team and to Rev Eric Petrie who have continued to lead our worship as we continue in our vacancy since Rev Kevin Wright retired in 2023.

We are also thankful to the local ministers who have taken Funerals and Weddings when we haven't had a minister to do so.

The church has continued to be well looked after thanks to all those who work tirelessly behind the scenes including the cleaners and brass cleaners, also to the Bell Ringers and to our flower arrangers who have brightened up the church throughout the year. Unfortunately, the flower arranging group has dwindled and sadly with the loss of Marion Vining we are desperately short of people to help with this.

Thanks also to those who quietly tend the churchyard.

Sunday services wouldn't be the same without the team of people who welcome us and serve refreshments thank you.

We met with the congregations of Berrow and Brea in an informal get together in Brent Knoll in the summer and some of our congregation continue to join in their Wednesday morning prayers.

During the earlier part of the year we held prayers in St. Michael's for the vacancy with some of Berrow and Brea joining us. Also we were able to join in their harvest celebrations and some of their members joined us for our Harvest service at the cider farm in Brent Knoll.

In May we held the Christian Aid service at St. Michael's.

The school has joined us on several occasions through the year, for Candlemas, Easter, Leavers and Harvest services and the Nativity and Christingle Services.

In November we held the Annual Service of Remembrance led by the Royal British Legion.



During the year several projects have taken place, In February we held a Churchyard clear up and cleaned gulleys. We also oiled some of the pews.

We had a meeting with the Diocesan Advisory Committee about the ongoing North Aisle pew removal project.

The Sue Boss Memorial Path was constructed and a new sound system installed thanks to legacies and a grant.

In October the friends of St. Michael's held a model railway exhibition with models, paintings and photos on display. Thanks to all those involved.

The Fun in Fundraising Group have been busy. In May we held a successful May Fayre at Woodlands, many thanks to Paul and Sarah McClean for the use of their house and garden.

Again, we had a presence at the village fete with a plant and cake stall together with the bbq.

In September we held a fun lunch launching the new village cookbook we had produced.

In December a craft fayre was organised but due to bad weather it had to be cancelled. Fortunately, we were able to host some of the stalls at the Christmas Tree Festival in St. Michael's the following week.

Thank you to all the helpers and to all those who attend our events.



I would like to thank Neil and also Carole in the office for keeping us informed and looking after the churchwardens, to Victoria and the finance team who keep us in order and to Frances for her devotion of unlocking the church daily and to the countless other people who do jobs for us like putting the bins out and keeping an eye out on the building.

Mike Smith - Churchwarden





Support Groups for our Parish

**Jesus said “A new commandment I give to you:
love one another.**

Just as I have loved you, you must love one another.”

This is the aim of the Pastoral Care Team at TPOTS – to meet people where they are, to show love, care and support unconditionally and without judgement.

Going through a tough time ? Need someone to talk to ?

Sometimes people need practical help such as lifts to hospital or church, meals prepared for the freezer while they recover from their operation, help with shopping and library books or someone to collect their prescription. Sometimes it's company they need, someone to have a cup of coffee and a chat with or a friendly telephone call. Sometimes it's an encouraging card put through their letterbox. Sometimes it can just be a friendly wave or a smile or a willingness to listen.

The current team comprises Carla, Jane, Tim, Dot, Margaret, Sarah McClean and Ginnie and we regularly place an article in the village magazines. All the team have appropriate accreditation.

We must give thanks for the Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs) and our Lay Worship Assistant (LWA) and pray that all our visiting and caring for people will be done in God's strength not our own.

The team meets on a regular basis for prayer, reflection and discernment, training and sharing ideas and experiences. We trust God to show us the way forward and feel very privileged to be His hands and feet, His ears and eyes, as we reach out to those in our parish.

If you would like to know more about the team, feel God is calling you to this ministry or are in need and would like us to visit, please contact us by e-mail or telephone:

office.tpots@gmail.com 01278 769082.

The Village Agent scheme. This was created in response to the fact that many people living in rural communities have difficulty in accessing key services and support agencies that help maintain well being and quality of life. All advice is free and completely confidential.

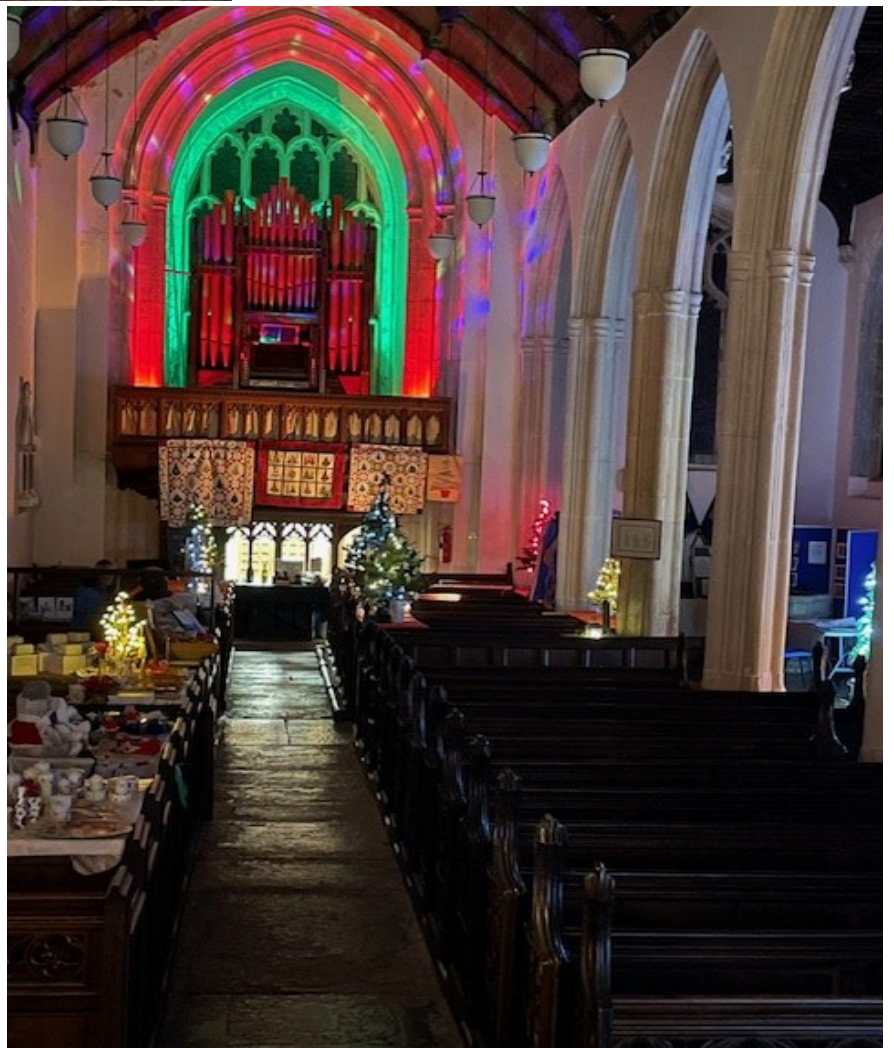
The village agent, **Kim Wilcox**, provides very useful and helpful information about the support available for parishioners and carers in the area.

Kim can be contacted on 07943 555519 or by email – kim@somersetccc.org.uk or through the Pastoral Care Team.





Christmastime in St Michael's



St Christopher's Annual Church Warden's Report

Despite the exciting plans for the reordering of St Christopher's having been approved by the Diocese, progress has been disappointingly slow.

This is partly due to the extensive work required to access necessary grants to support the project. Robin Leveridge has recruited a team of village residents to assist him with the work. There was a pleasing response from a village survey to ascertain local opinions.

Fundraising for the Heritage Fund at St Christopher's was very successful during 2024, including the fete held in the Manor Gardens, and the Open Gardens, where receipts from the plant sale and refreshments went to St Christopher's. Rosemary and Andy Carr have coordinated the fete for many years and have decided that they would like to step down from this role. We are very grateful for all the hard work and dedication that they have given over the years. We also wish to thank James and Lisa Counsell for generously sharing their gardens with us.

St Christopher's Church has looked beautiful this year, due to the hard work of the cleaners and flower arrangers. Many thanks to those people who have volunteered to help. We have continued to make the flower arrangements more sustainable, without the use of oasis. The churchyard rewilding project has seen an increase in wildflowers since its inception. Thank you to Robin Hoare for maintaining the grass and hedges.

St Christopher's Church remains open for meditation and private prayer during daylight hours. We now have a team of 4 church openers and our thanks go to them.

On Christmas Eve we saw more than 190 people attending the live Nativity service. Thankfully, this year we had a local baby to play the role of Jesus. The children were amazing and the support from their parents was greatly appreciated.

It is a privilege to serve God in our journey together in this beautiful village.

Victoria Daintree Church Warden



St Mary's Annual Report

St Mary's has undergone considerable repairs over the last couple of years, including ensuring that the roof is watertight. Our grateful thanks must go to Tim Hannah who has invested a considerable amount of time supporting this project, liaising with the Diocese, Architect & many of the Contractors.

Whilst Dot Coles is no longer officially our Churchwarden, she has still carried out many duties for St Mary's including assisting at services with the help of Jane Watkins and many others.

During the year with the coordinated help of Geoff Adams, a team of people tidied the beds/flowers & our contractor Jason Mayo keeps the churchyard grass cut regularly throughout the season.

St Mary's is still regularly used by East Brent Church of England First School (70 children) also used from time to time for Christingle, Easter, Harvest, End of Term leavers etc.

St Mary's is still in need of valuable support from the parishioners of East Brent & Rooksbridge and Eastertown to ensure that this valuable village asset is here for use in the future.

If you think you can support St Mary's in anyway please contact Carole in the Church Office.



Financial Review of 2024

The Parish finances are managed through two different funds, Church Life and Heritage. The Church Life fund contributes to God's mission and ministry across the Parish and the Heritage fund supports our three buildings.

Throughout the year donors have been encouraged to make their donations via the Parish Giving Scheme. This simplifies the way donations are recorded, and gift aid is automatically transferred to the relevant bank accounts. The campaign to encourage more people to donate in this manner will continue in 2025.

The Church Life fund is supported by regular church goers and members of the wider community. As predicted last year, this account will fall into deficit by the end of 2025 if we continue current levels of expenditure, without attracting significantly more regular donations. It is highly likely that we will be unable to pay the Parish Share in full during 2025.

The current end-of-year balance is £8142. We still need to pay DBS fees of £666.00 .

The Heritage funds for St Christopher's and St Michael's remain in a healthy state due to generous monthly contributors and some very successful fund raising events. It would be fantastic if we could rely entirely on regular donations but sadly this is not the case. The Heritage fund for St Mary's is reaching a critical level. Whilst we should be able to meet commitments for 2025 it is essential that fundraising events are held during the coming year. It is fortunate that building works are now completed at St Mary's which should stand it in good stead for the years to come.

All three churches were fortunate enough to benefit from grants from the Nuttall Trust.

St Christopher's was £2500 which will be used for the reordering project and £250 for gazebos for the fete. St Michael's received £2000 for audio visual equipment and St Mary's received £2000 which was used for porch repairs.

The closing balances for each church are as follows

St Mary's: £9030.07

St Christopher's: £25.455.94

St Michael's: £31377.78

I would like to thank Robin Leveridge for his help and support with the banking and gift aid and Carole Carter for her support and encouragement with this job!

Victoria Daintree



TPOTS's Receipts & Payments Account



###					Year	
	Church Life Fund	Heritage Fund	2024	2023		
Receipts	£	£	£	£		
Donations and Legacies:						
Planned giving	18,110	6,430	24,540	32,681		
Collections, donations & other giving	2,142	18,664	20,806	15,305		
Income tax recovered	-	7,000	7,000	7,608		
Legacies	-	5,000	5,000	6,500		
Other Trading activities						
Magazine/Books stall sales/Hall Lettings etc	84	-	84			
Income from other Properties	-	-	-	-		
Annual Fete/events	610	10,208	10,818	10,037		
Receipts from Investments:						
Interest & dividends	39	3,646	3,685	3,214		
Receipts from Charitable activities:						
Parochial fees	3,233	-	3,233	13,816		
Other Receipts						
Insurance claims	-	-	-	-		
Sale proceeds from fixed assets	-	-	-	-		
Loans received	-	-	-	-		
Other	1,729	-	1,729	189		
Total Receipts	25,947	50,948	76,895	137,700		
Payments						
Charitable activities:						
Donations/Grants to charities	(30)	-	(30)	(30)		
Mission & Evangelism	(190)	-	(190)			
Parish Share	(29,334)	-	(29,334)	(25,508)		
Clergy expenses	(676)	-	(676)	(2,126)		
Church running expenses	(1,743)	(12,057)	(13,800)	(22,473)		
Churchyard maintenance	-	(15,036)	(15,036)	(4,874)		
Cost of raising funds	-	(1,345)	(1,345)	(535)		
Support costs	(1,096)	-	(1,096)	(960)		
Administration costs (inc. staff costs)	13,200	-	13,200	(11,138)		
Governance Costs	(60)	-	(60)	(55)		
Other	(178)	(7,610)	(7,788)	(11,758)		
Major expenditure						
Repairs to church buildings	-	(31,231)	(31,231)	(32,200)		
Repairs to other property	-	-	-	-		
Capital purchases/additions	-	-	-	-		
Loan repayments	-	-	-	-		
Total payments	(46,507)	(67,279)	(113,786)	(111,657)		
Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over payments	(20,560)	(16,331)	(36,891)	(22,307)		
Transfers between funds						
	(20,560)	(16,331)	33,891	(22,307)		
<i>Cash at bank and in hand at 1 Jan (Actual Balance)</i>	28,700	202,194	230,894	253,201		
<i>Cash at bank and in hand at 31 Dec (Actual Balance)</i>	8,142	185,863	194,003	230,894		

*produced using the Diocesan Cashbook v5

Statement of Assets 2024



Account	Account Name	Opening Balance	Transactions IN	Transactions OUT	Actual Balance
	Combined Accounts	£230,894.04	£90,534.59	-£127,436.04	193992.59
A	The Parish of Three Saints (Ca	£28,699.87	£35,895.19	-£56,453.43	8141.63
B	St Mary's Church (Cash)	£13,972.99	£8,499.99	-£13,442.91	9030.07
C	St Christopher's Church (Cash)	£42,382.50	£17,517.05	-£34,443.61	25455.94
D	St Michael's Church (Cash)	£25,838.68	£28,622.36	-£23,096.09	31377.78
E	St C Teachers (Cash)	£75,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	75000
F	St C CAF (Cash)	£45,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	45000

Fund Raising

Event	Church Life	St. Marys	St. Christophers	St. Michaels
Easy Fundraising	£159.05	-	-	£78.00
Teas	-	-	-	£355.90
Summer Fete	£513.25	-	£6,458.33	£1,638.80
Railway Supper				£310.00
Miscellaneous Sales (Ged)	-	-	-	£50.00
Christmas Tree festival				
TOTALS	£672.30	£0.00	£6,458.33	£2,432.70

St Michael's Church also has a Trust Fund run separately from the PCC by three Trustees.

Trust Fund Balance as at 31 December 2024 is £27,619.71

We need your help.....

To maintain three Church buildings, and Church Office we have to provide these costs through The Parish of Three Saints, and, if people want to have children baptised here, get married here or have a funeral here, then annual running and maintenance costs must be realistically met by the parishioners.

Use and support your church, or lose it.

More importantly, to grow the church family, focus on Jesus, support each other in attending regular public worship, sharing in the Eucharist, and being diligent in your private prayer. Show your friends, family, and neighbours that your faith is important to you.

Thank you

St Christopher's Buildings & Grounds Committee

Following approval of the faculty for the re-ordering of St Christopher's, which will enhance the building to make it a more useable space for worship and other community activities, the project will be starting to take shape in 2025. Major fundraising will be needed, including applications for grants, etc.

This has taken several years to get to this stage with hours of research, meetings and contractors doing various surveys required for alterations to a listed building. This is being done with the help of The Diocese and our architects, Chedburn Codd. We now have a group of PCC members & parishioners making up the team.

Whilst this project is starting to progress, all the small minor maintenance still needs to be carried out to maintain this and all our buildings for future generations. This has included repairs on the pinnacles. We are fortunate to have a small band of willing volunteers to help monitor and maintain the general appearance of the church.

Robin Leveridge,

Leader of St. Christopher's Church Buildings & Grounds Committee





Bellringers

The ringing of church bells is one of those quintessential British sounds that we often take for granted. The unique English style of ringing evolved over 400 years ago and is part of our heritage.

All three church towers in The Parish of Three Saints have six bells, though their tone and characteristics are very different.

St Michael's bells at Brent Knoll are heavy and majestic (tenor 21cwt) and ringers come from all over the country to ring them.

St Mary's at East Brent are lighter (tenor 16cwt) and can be rung more quickly which makes them sound bright.

St Christopher's at Lympham are lighter still (tenor 11cwt) and produce a higher pitched, merry sound.

You are welcome to visit us during our normal Tuesday practice between 7.30 and 9 p.m.

For more information please contact:

Tower Captain

Mr Melvyn Freeman

01278 641214



The Singing Group

Started recently, this group has been a source of fun to us all. A regular attendance of 8 or 9 meets at St Mary's, East Brent in summer and my house in Brent Knoll when it gets cold, on Monday afternoons once a fortnight.

We are not a choir, just a group of people who like singing and socialising. Our main aim is to sing through the hymns for the Sunday Services and to help the singing in the church to be a little more confident.

We also learn new hymns/songs so that Neil is able to expand the repertoire of the congregation.

We would be happy to welcome anybody who would like to join us, lifts can be arranged for people who do not drive. Just contact me.

Pauline Chadwick
Organist
01278 760224



St Christopher's Church, Lympsham

Fundraising Report 2024



We had another very successful year here in Lympsham with our fundraising events and thank you to all who gave their time to help organise and all who came to the events.

In June, we held our annual garden fete and vintage car show in the grounds of the Manor. As the photos show, the fete was incredibly popular as ever, attracting a large number of locals, together with those who come from further afield every year. Amongst the star attractions were the ever-popular tombola, the tea and cake stall and the barbecue. We comfortably exceeded our target of £5,000 and also last year's total. Minute by minute the fete took £38!

Huge thanks to the organising committee and all the stallholders but particularly to Rosemary and Andy Carr, who lead the team every year, and to Graeme Hale for his fantastic work in the garden.

Rosemary and Andy have said that they wish to hand over the baton of leading the organising of the fete to others after 17 years. They are happy to continue helping and we have put together a group of volunteers to share the work.

If you would like to join the team or help out on the day with one of our stalls or activities or just find out what is involved, do let us know.

We would be delighted to welcome volunteers either from Lympsham, East Brent, Brent Knoll or any of the neighbouring villages.



Some of the classic cars on display at the fete.

A quiet corner in one of our Open Gardens



A week before the fete was the Open Gardens event, held in aid of the National Garden Scheme with a contribution to St Christopher's. Three gardens in the village opened over the course of a weekend. Attendance at this event is hugely weather-dependent and this year, we were lucky enough to be blessed with good weather on both days and 422 visitors came, far exceeding previous years and nearly 4 times as many in a rainy 2022. We managed to raise £1,222 for the church (and over £1,600 for the NGS).

Dates to pencil into your diary in 2025:

the fete will be on **21 June** ;

there will not be an Open Gardens this year as the garden owners are taking a much-needed break for a year but we will be back in 2026.

Instead, we are holding, for the fourth time, the 'Night on the Tiles' Ball at Batch Country House on **17 October**. Previous versions have been great fun and really popular, so do look out for notices about how you can get either individual tickets or a table. Besides the dinner, there is an auction and a raffle and the Lipinski Band will perform for us. This is an event definitely not to be missed. In previous years, we have raised five-figure sums and, this year, the money will go to the planned re-ordering of St Christopher's.

Finally, on a more personal note, we were deeply saddened recently to lose Gwen Hatton, who passed away after a long illness which she bore with huge courage and fortitude. Gwen was a stalwart of the church, not only as churchwarden and PCC member, for many years, but also as an enthusiastic fund-raiser and a good friend to us all in the Benefice.

We will remember, in particular, her and Ron's coffee mornings every December, where they welcomed us all to their home and raised much needed funds.

We send our love and very best wishes to Ron and all the Hatton family.

Victoria Daintree & James Counsell



**St Michael's
Christmas Tree Festival**



Our Local Schools



Brent Knoll Primary School

East Brent C of E Academy

Lymsham C of E Academy

The pupils at all three local schools continue to attend Services over the year, with the schools devising and leading some of their own services, which allowed the children to really participate.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding in the Church community (i.e. making our churches a safe haven for children, young people and vulnerable adults) is everyone's responsibility. Safeguarding is all about protection from abuse, neglect, harm or being exploited.

The policy for our three churches and the Office is in accordance with the Church of England House of Bishops' Document & Diocesan Guidelines.

The PCC also reviews our policy regularly as it is included on our meeting Agenda. Regular training is given to PCC members.

As always it is important for us all to remain alert and, if anyone is concerned about anything, they need to let the Safeguarding Officer or a representative of the PCC know.

Our main aim, because we are all God's children, is to provide a safe environment not only in each of our churches, but also in our communities. Our Pastoral Care Teams have all completed training for this and the register is regularly updated when changes are necessary: this means that each church and all our activities are well covered.

A Safeguarding display board is available in each building with explanatory pages.

Our Safeguarding Officer is Ginnie Soffe. Email safeguarding.tpots@gmail.com

If you have any concerns, contact Ginnie on email above or through the Church Office



“The Bath and Wells Diocese are now using a Christian organisation called ‘Thirtyone:eight’, which specialises in the safeguarding needs of churches and charities, to process all DBS checks, organise training and provide advice, guidance and support”.

This is taken from their website;

“Safeguarding literally means ‘to protect from harm’, a principle frequently seen in the Bible.

Our name - ‘Thirtyone:eight’ - is taken from Proverbs 31:8

“Speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of vulnerable people.”

Beyond this verse, caring for vulnerable people is at the heart of the Scriptures. As Christians we’re encouraged to remember the orphans, widows, strangers, and children. In fact, there are over 2,000 references to matters of justice and injustice; of which the principles of safeguarding are included.”

Administration and Structure

Geographically the Parish of Three Saints:

- is constituted of the following villages and hamlets: Brent Knoll, East Brent, Eastertown, Edingworth, Lymsham and Rooksbridge in Somerset
- has three parish church buildings: St Michael's Church in Brent Knoll, St Mary the Blessed Virgin Church in East Brent and St Christopher's Church in Lymsham plus a Church Office in East Brent
- is in the Diocese of Bath & Wells, a member of the Church of England

Correspondence address

The Church Office,
Church Road,
East Brent,
Somerset
TA9 4HZ

office.tpots@gmail.com 01278 769082
Website www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk

Parish Staff

Incumbent (Rector)

In Vacancy since September 2023

Associate Priest

Reverend Neil Biddiscombe

Churchwardens

St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll

Mike Smith
Frances James (Warden Emeritus)

St Mary the Blessed Virgin Church, East Brent

Vacant from April 2024

St Christopher's Church, Lymsham

Victoria Daintree

Parish Administrator

Carole Carter

PCC Treasurer

Victoria Daintree

PCC Secretary

Carole Carter

Safeguarding Officer

Ginnie Soffe

Electoral Roll Officer

Carole Carter

External Support

Inspecting Architect:

George Chedburn, Chedburn Codd Ltd

Independent Examiner

John Leddy

Charity Commission

The Parish Of Three Saints is a Registered Charity with the Charity Commission.

Registration Number 1188593

Financial Organisations specific to the Parish:

The Parish of Three Saints Bank

CAF Bank Ltd

25 Kings Hill Avenue,
Kings Hill, West Malling,
Kent, ME19 4JQ

The Parish of Three Saints
St Christopher's Church
St Mary's Church
St Michael's Church

Friends of St Michael's
Trust

CCLA, Senator House, 85 Queen
Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4ET

PCC Membership as at December 2024

<i>Ex-officio</i>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Term/Expiry</u>
Rector		Retired October 2023
Curate / Associate Priest	Reverend Neil Biddiscombe	In Jan 25 Neil became our Associate Priest
Churchwardens		
Brent Knoll	Mike Smith	Annual
	Frances James	Warden Emeritus
East Brent	Dot Coles	Resigned April 2024
Lympsham	Victoria Daintree	Annual
Deanery Synod Representatives Elected	Sarah McClean	3 year term /2026
	Dot Coles	
Lay Members		
	Pauline Chadwick	3 year term / 2026
	Sarah Cole	3 year term / 2025
	James Counsell	Vice-Chair 3 year term / 2026
	Tony Gilbert	3 year term / 2027
	Tim Hannah	3 year term / 2026
	Sarah McClean	3 year term / 2026
	Peter Spalton	3 year term / 2026
.....
Co-opted	Victoria Daintree	Treasurer Annual
	Carole Carter	Parish Administrator & PCC Secretary Annual
	Carole Carter	Electoral Roll Officer Annual
	Robin Leveridge	Donations & Gift Aid Coordinator Annual

Structure, Governance and Management

- The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.
- Each elected PCC member is encouraged to be a member of one of the PCC Teams. Ex-officio members (excluding Deanery Synod Representatives) may sit on any Team.
- Non-PCC members invited to join PCC Teams are co-opted members. They are invited to join because of the gifts and expertise they have. Their term on a Team might be short-term (for example, the duration of a particular project) or long-term.

Objectives and Activities

- The Parish of Three Saints 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 (as expressed in the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 No.3 4 and 5 Eliz 2*).
- It also has maintenance responsibilities for the three church buildings, St Christopher's, Lympsham, St Mary the Blessed Virgin, East Brent, St Michael's, Brent Knoll and also for the Church Office in East Brent.

Changes to the Parish Electoral Roll in 2024;

The Electoral Roll at the end of the 2023	105
Total at the end of 2024	106



A new electoral roll will be compiled and published in 2025

	Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals Parish Total for 2024
Baptisms	4
Weddings	3
Funerals	34

Who's Who during 2024

The Parish has been in Vacancy throughout 2024

Associate Priest— Reverend Neil Biddiscombe

associatepriest.tpots@outlook.com

01278 769082

Worship, Mission and Evangelism

Associate Priest Reverend Neil Biddiscombe,

Lay Worship Assistant Kate Wilford

Deanery Synod:

Dot Coles & Sarah McClean

Pastoral Care Team

Ginnie Soffe, Dot Coles, Tim Hannah, Jane Hannah, Margaret Smith, Carla Searle, Sarah McClean.

Lay Pastoral Assistants

Ginnie Soffe, Dot Coles, Tim Hannah, Jane Hannah, Margaret Smith, Carla Searle, Sarah McClean.

Buildings and Grounds Teams

Each building has it's own team, support by members of the PCC and parishioners

Finance Team:

Victoria Daintree, Robin Leveridge, Mike Smith and Carole Carter

Fundraising Chair of Teams

St Christopher's:	James Counsell/Victoria Daintree
St Mary's:	Dot Coles/ Carole Carter
St Michael's:	Mike Smith

Friends of St Michael's

Ged Keele

Organist:

Pauline Chadwick



Website: www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk

E-Mail: office.tpots@gmail.com

Church Office, Church Road, East Brent, Somerset, TA9 4HZ 01278 769082

Account Balances and Bank Reconciliation screen

Bank Reconciliation

Account	Account Name/Description	Opening ACTUAL Balance
		£230,894.04
A	The Parish of Three Saints (Cash)	£28,699.87
B	St Mary's Church (Cash)	£13,972.99
C	St Christopher's Church (Cash)	£42,382.50
D	St Michael's Church (Cash)	£25,838.68
E	St C Teachers (Cash)	£75,000.00
F	St C CAF (Cash)	£45,000.00

Reconciliation of Transactions (please note: Reconciliations of Standing Orders/Direct Debits happens automatically. Transf

Date	Account	Details	Amount
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Unreconciled Transactions = £0.00
 Unreconciled Transfers = £0.00

Transactions In	Transactions Out	ACTUAL Balance
£90,547.42	(£127,436.04)	£194,005.42
£35,895.19	(£56,453.43)	£8,141.63
£8,499.99	(£13,442.91)	£9,030.07
£17,517.05	(£34,443.61)	£25,455.94
£28,635.19	(£23,096.09)	£31,377.78
-	-	£75,000.00
-	-	£45,000.00
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-

Opening STATEMENT Balance	Money In	Money Out
£230,894.04	£90,547.42	(£127,436.04)
£28,699.87	£35,895.19	(£56,453.43)
£13,972.99	£8,499.99	(£13,442.91)
£42,382.50	£17,517.05	(£34,443.61)
£25,838.68	£28,635.19	(£23,096.09)
£75,000.00	-	-
£45,000.00	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-

ers need to be reconciled on the Transfers page)

Before Clicking the "Reconcile" button, please make s above are correct. **Note: Transfers need to be rec**

Paying-in slip /Cheq number	Rec	B/St Number

STATEMENT Balance	<i>Date last Reconciled</i>
£194,005.42	
£8,141.63	11/01/2025
£9,030.07	10/01/2025
£25,455.94	10/01/2025
£31,377.78	14/03/2025
£75,000.00	17/02/2024
£45,000.00	17/02/2024
-	
-	
-	
-	

YEAR-END Balances Split

Closing Unrestricted	Closing Designated
£8,141.63	-
£8,141.63	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

Ensure that the Statement Balances
reconciled on the Transfers tab

Closing Restricted

£185,863.79

-	Cash
£9,030.07	Cash
£25,455.94	Cash
£31,377.78	Cash
£75,000.00	Cash
£45,000.00	Cash
-	
-	
-	
-	
-	



Independent Examination of The Parish of Three Saints 2024 Annual Accounts

Prepared by John Leddy

18th March 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE PARISH OF THREE SAINTS 2024 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE PARISH OF THREE SAINTS 2024 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE PARISH OF THREE SAINTS 2024 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Introduction

1. This report has been prepared by John Leddy on behalf of the Trustees of The Parish of Three Saints who are the sponsor, and to whom any queries should be addressed.

Background

2. In the medieval period there were three separate parishes for the villages of South Brent, Brentmarshe and Lymplesham, and each had a significant church. By the end of the nineteenth century the villages became known as Brent Knoll, East Brent and Lympham respectively. During the 1970's the Parishes were brought together to operate as a Benefice served by a single priest. In 2011 a decision was made to form a single Parish and The Parish of Three Saints came into being in 2012.

3. The Parish includes the churches of St Mary's East Brent, St Michael's, Brent Knoll and St Christopher's in Lympham. The new Parish has a population of 3,400, which is concentrated in the villages of Brent Knoll, East Brent, Lympham and Rooksbridge. Since the days of the Benefice Sunday services have been held in rotation at the three Parish churches. This practice continues in The Parish of Three Saints.

4. Brent Knoll, formerly known as South Brent, is a village and civil parish in the Sedgemoor district of the county of Somerset, in the south west of England. It is an attractive village which clings round the western slopes of the Knoll, a hill that dominates the low surrounding landscape of the Somerset levels.

5. East Brent is a village and civil parish, on the eastern edge of Brent Knoll, close to the M5 motorway, 5 miles (8 km) west of Axbridge, in the Sedgemoor district of the county of Somerset, in the south-west of England. The parish includes the hamlets of Rooksbridge, where the A38 road crosses the Mark Yeo and Edingworth.

6. Lympham is a village and civil parish six miles west of Axbridge and six miles south-east of Weston-super-Mare, close to the River Axe in Somerset, England. The parish includes the hamlet of Wick.

7. The Parish of Three Saints presently has a church membership of 106 and is rated category C for the purposes of Parish Share of the Common Fund. The Parish comes under the Axbridge Deanery and the Diocese of Bath and Wells. As its combined income is above £100,000 the Parish is registered as a Charity¹ with the Charity Commission.

Aim

8. John Leddy is to conduct the Independent Examination (IE) of The Parish of Three Saints accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024.

Approach

9. Eligibility to examine the accounts and conduct an IE was confirmed.

10. The Parish of Three Saints Annual Accounts for the period 1st January to 31st December 2024 were examined in accordance with Charity Commission (CC) guidance, details are at Annex A. Additional investigations were conducted where necessary and supporting documentation for the operation of the funds requested if required.

¹ Charity Registration Number: 1188593

11. As part of the examination discussions were held with the Parish Treasurer to ascertain answers to the CC Directions.

Findings

12. Examination of the annual report confirmed that the gross income of The Parish of Three Saints did not exceed £1 million² and the aggregate value of assets (before deduction of liabilities) did not exceed £3.26 million. In addition to the upper threshold, the Gross Income was above the £25,000³ lower threshold set for an IE rather, than Audit, to be carried out. Fund Balances are:

Table 1 – The Parish of Three Saints Account Balances

Serial	Fund	Gross Income (£)	Gross Assets (£)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1	The Parish of Three Saints	76,895	194,005

13. The Gross Income of the Charity is below £250,000 which means that the accounts could be prepared on a Receipts and Payment basis. On inspection of the Charity accounts the Trustees have elected to prepare their Accounts using this method. The Bath & Wells DBF R&P Cashbook is utilised.

14. **Points from Last Year's Review.** Last year's IE Report was reviewed. On inspection of that Report no observations were outstanding.

Additional Observations. The Independent Examiners report is a statement to confirm that the Charity is operating within the accounting and governance tolerances set by the CC. In conducting the IE I have the following observations to report.

- a. The Parish does not produce a Trustees Annual Report in line with CC Direction 12. However, a Treasurer's Financial Review has been completed and evidenced.

Recommendations

15. It is recommended that;

- a. The Parish investigates producing a Trustees Annual Report incorporating the Annual Accounts. An example Trustees Annual Report can be found on the Charity Commission website.

Conclusion

16. The Parish of Three Saints has received an unqualified report which can be found at Enclosure 1.

Annex:

- A. The Charity Commission's Directions on the IE of Charity Accounts.

Enclosure:

1. IE Report for 1 Jan to 31 Dec 24 – The Parish of Three Saints.

² Charities Act 2011 Chapter 3 Section 144(1).

³ Charities Act 2011 Chapter 3 Section 145(1).

THE CHARITY COMMISSIONS DIRECTIONS ON INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF CHARITY ACCOUNTS

1. The CC produce an examiners' guide to IE of Charity Accounts. It is specifically written for independent examiners and explains their role and duties in examining the accounts of a charity. In accordance with Section E of the guidance the 13 specific directions and how they were addressed are as follows:

- a. **Examination and accounting thresholds.** The annual report for the period 1 Jan – 31 Dec 24 was examined to confirm IE thresholds⁴ had not been breached.
- b. **Conflicts of Interest.** The examiner was not influenced or perceived to be influenced in any way as he did not have any close personal relationships with the Trustees, was not a major donor to the Trust, did not have any control of funds and was not involved in the day to day running of the Trust.
- c. **Documentation.** Working papers were examined and evident. All procedures carried out and any matters arising to support conclusions reached or statements provided in the report have been documented.
- d. **Understanding the charity.** Detailed briefs and free access to all charity documentation ensured a full understanding of the charity's constitution, organisation, accounting systems, activities and nature of its assets, liabilities, incoming resources and application of resources.
- e. **Accounting records.** The charity accounting records have been subject to a review and appear complete and consistent with statutory requirements.
- f. **Comparison with accounting records.** A comparison of the charity's accounts with the accounting records in sufficient detail was carried out which provides a reasonable basis to decide that the accounts are consistent.
- g. **Accruals Basis Checks.** As the Accounts of The Parish of Three Saints are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis this section is not relevant.
- h. **Accounting policies, estimates and judgements.** Reviewed the accounting policies adopted and consider their consistency with the SORP and their appropriateness to the activities of the charity.
- i. **Financial circumstances and Going Concern.** The examiner checked whether the Trustees have considered the financial circumstances of the Charity at the end of the reporting period and have made an assessment of the Charities position as a going concern when approving the Accounts.
- j. **Form and Content of the Accounts.** The examiner carried out procedures as considered necessary to provide a reasonable basis on which to conclude whether or not the accounts have been properly prepared. The examiner checked that they can lawfully prepare Receipts and Payments Accounts, that all accounting statements are present, and the funds of the Charity can be correctly identified.

⁴ Gross income greater than £0.025 and not to exceed £0.25M for receipts and payments, gross income not to exceed £1.0M and the aggregate value of assets should not exceed £3.26M otherwise a full audit is required.

- k. **Analytical Review.** The examiner carried out an analytical review of the current accounts to identify if any entries required further explanation or evidence. The 2024 Accounts were compared with the 2023 Accounts to see if any material changes could be identified.

- l. **Compare the Trustees Annual Report with the Accounts.** The Trustees have not prepared a Trustees Annual Report, which incorporates their Accounts. The Treasurer has prepared a Financial Report for the APCM.

- m. **Examiner's report.** The IE report can be found at Enclosures 1.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PARISH OF THREE SAINTS

I report on the accounts of The Parish of Three Saints for the 12 months ended 31st December 2024, which are set on pages 1 to 2.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of The Parish of Three Saints are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an IE is needed. The Charity is preparing Receipts and Payments Accounts, and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA).

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for IE, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Charities Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the CC under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Charities Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the CC. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's unqualified statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- a. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Parish as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- b. The accounts do not accord with those records.

2. I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John Leddy FCMA CGMA CPFA
5 Cedarn Court

Manor Gardens
Kewstoke
Weston super Mare
BS22 9XU

John Leddy

John Leddy
18th March 2025

THE PARISH OF THREE SAINTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1188593

Accounts

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT for 2023

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This report has been printed in monochrome to save valuable parish funds. A colour copy will be on our website.

Once again, from all of us at The Parish of Three Saints, we wish to say a very huge, warm 'thank you' to you all for giving of your time and talents.

These include;-

Churchwardens

PCC Members

Worship Leaders

Stewards/Welcomers

Readers

Musicians

Chalice Assistants

Scripture Readers

Intercessors

Refreshment Providers

Finance Team

Fundraisers

Bell Ringers

Group Helpers

Flower Arrangers

Church openers/closers

Cleaners

Brass Cleaners

Clock Winders

Churchyard Grounds supporters

Coffee Morning helpers



We are very fortunate to have so many wonderful people that we cannot name you all, but together you combine to keep our three churches, office and grounds ship-shape and make our sacred spaces welcoming, friendly and inspiring.

If you feel that you can give some of your time, however small, or talents and you wish to be a part of the Church Family, please contact any of the Church Wardens or Church Office.

Curate's Report for 2023

2023 was a big year in the life of the Parish. With Revd Kevin Wright retiring at the end of September there was the opportunity for me to preach and preside more at our worship services.

The flipside of this is that with more time being spent in service preparation, the time available for pastoral care in the parish decreased. Unfortunately our 4 p.m. informal worship had to stop; hopefully when we have our new Rector in place they will be able to restart this in some form. We have managed to continue with the 8 a.m. Book of Common Prayer service on the 3rd Sunday of the month.



I would like to thank Kate Wilford and Revd Eric Petrie for their support in leading worship services. We have been able to add to the people on the various rotas for helping during services – reading, intercessions and administering the chalice, this is a wonderful way of involving the congregation in the services. My thanks also go to those who do the refreshments after the services, helping us to share time together.

Kevin was an excellent Incumbent during my training, allowing me to develop my ministry and abilities and fully understanding the constraints of being a Self Supporting Minister working full time. As a curate in a vacancy I do not have any leadership role – I do not have to get involved in activities or take on responsibilities of incumbency. This can be a challenge at times, and without Carole Carter's energy and commitment in the church office, life would have been far more difficult for me. We continued to run Wednesday Night Prayer on Zoom, and it was a delight that a few people stepped forward to share in the leading of this.

As a Self Supporting Minister I have a limited time in the Parish each week. Though I am a full-time priest, I am a part-time curate. I remain conscious that it is difficult for me to spend as much time on pastoral visits as I would like and I have taken the difficult decision not to get involved in funerals as it just isn't possible to do this whilst working. Some of you know that I work in the Social Housing sector. My ministry in this sector in this post-Covid world has been primarily incarnational – as a visible representative of our Lord. To that end I always wear my clerical collar for meetings whether in person or on the computer and this has prompted conversations about faith that would not have otherwise happened. However these are not happening to the extent that I would like, and so I am considering where my ministry outside of my parish role may lie in the future.

The future of the parish almost certainly involves the creation of a Benefice with the parishes of Berrow and Brea. It is expected that the appointment of a new Rector will happen during 2024. My licence as a curate continues into 2025, so I am able to remain in Three Saints leading worship and supporting the parish throughout the next year and hopefully at least until the new Rector is appointed.

It remains a privilege to serve in the Parish and I thank you for your prayers, support and encouragement.

Reverend Neil Biddiscombe - Curate



Easter—always a special time in the Christian calendar





As the Church Family know, Kevin & Chris Wright retired from this parish in October 2023. We thank them wholeheartedly for their ministry and we wish them well in their retirement.

We are currently in a period of Interregnum (vacancy) with our Curate, who is a Self Supporting Minister (SSM) not stipendiary, Reverend Neil Biddiscombe leading our worship most Sundays. Neil also is officiating at weddings & baptisms.

This is being managed with much assistance from local Ordained Clergy, including Reverend Eric Petrie, conducting funerals & some services.

Finally, we live in challenging times. There are going to be fewer stipendiary clergy.

It is looking like the deanery deployment of clergy and the implications for this parish will be that we join as a Benefice with Berrow & Brean, becoming The Benefice of Berrow, Brean & The Three Saints, with one Incumbent supporting five churches & all our local schools.

We still need to continue managing our buildings in the parish. The cost of running three church buildings & church office will continue to rise. Rather than focussing on what we have lost, what it used to be like, or worrying about tomorrow, think, what have we got here now that is good? What resources have we got and how best can we use them – think Feeding of the 5000. Give thanks and offer these resources to God in prayer, asking God to show us the way to new life and abundance in Christ together.

To maintain three buildings, please spread the word that the national Church of England is asset rich, not cash rich, and, if people want to have children baptised here, get married here or have a funeral here, then annual running and maintenance costs must be realistically met in each village by the villagers.

Use your church, or lose it.

More importantly, to grow the church family, focus on Jesus, support each other in attending regular public worship, sharing in the Eucharist, and being diligent in your private prayer. Show your friends, family, and neighbours that your faith is more important than anything else.



**The Joyful Spirit Gospel Choir
performing at St Mary's Church in
May
for a fundraising evening**



**One of our Parishioners, Jane Watkins,
at her Confirmation Ceremony
held at Wells Cathedral in November**



**The Ceremony was attended by Reverend Kevin & Chris Wright & several
members of the church family & friends**





**The Ceremony
was followed by
luncheon &
plenty of chat!**





Pastoral Care Team

**Jesus said “A new commandment I give to you:
love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you must love one another.”**

This is the aim of the Pastoral Care Team at TPOTS – to meet people where they are, to show love, care and support unconditionally and without judgement.

Sometimes people need practical help such as lifts to hospital or church, meals prepared for the freezer while they recover from their operation, help with shopping and library books or someone to collect their prescription. Sometimes it's company they need, someone to have a cup of coffee and a chat with or a friendly telephone call. Sometimes it's an encouraging card put through their letterbox. Sometimes it can just be a friendly wave or a smile or a willingness to listen.

The current team comprises Carla, Jane, Tim, Dot, Margaret, Sarah M and Ginnie and we regularly place an article in the village magazines.

Kevin regularly gave thanks for the Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs) and Lay Worship Assistants (LWAs) and praying that all our visiting and caring for people would be done in God's strength not our own.

The team meets on a regular basis for prayer, reflection and discernment, training and sharing ideas and experiences. We trust God to show us the way forward and feel very privileged to be His hands and feet, His ears and eyes, as we reach out to those in our parish.

If you would like to know more about the team, feel God is calling you to this ministry or are in need and would like us to visit, please contact us by e-mail or telephone:

office.tpots@gmail.com 01278 769082.





Going Through a Tough Time? Need to Talk to Someone?

In the Parish of Three Saints we have a caring team of trained and experienced Lay Pastoral Assistants, all with appropriate safeguarding accreditation, who would consider it a privilege to be there for you.

We work closely with our local vicar to help anyone who is feeling lonely or isolated, anyone suffering bereavement or family difficulties and anyone just needing a friendly person to talk to. We can't promise to solve every problem, but we can promise to always listen.

Please contact us through the Church Office :

Tel - 01278 769082

Email - office.tpots@gmail.com

We would love to hear from you - The Pastoral Care Team (TPOTS)

Prayer

Loving God,

We pray for all those who are suffering because of the coronavirus, may they know your healing power.

When we are afraid for ourselves and our loved ones, give us your strength and courage.

When we feel alone and isolated, reassure us with a sense of your presence.

Give wisdom to those in authority and may our community work together for the good of all.

We give thanks for those who care for others and ask you to bless them in all they do.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, healer and physician.

Amen

St Christopher's Annual Church Warden's Report

I am pleased to report that we have now received a faculty for the reordering of St Christopher's church. Preliminary ground surveys have already been completed and we should be able to tender for some of the works soon. We hope to be able to install an indoor toilet and a kitchen area at the back of the church, which will improve the suitability of the church for a range of village activities. Funds in excess of £350,000 will be required if we are going to achieve all of our objectives. We are very grateful to Robin Leveridge for his tireless work with the project.

Fundraising for the Heritage Fund at St Christopher's was very successful during 2023 including the Fete held in the Manor gardens. I would like to thank the fundraising team and especially James and Lisa Counsell for offering their garden to host the event. We were blessed with beautiful autumnal weather for the opening of my garden in September. People enjoyed the opportunity to sit and chat with fellow visitors as well as enjoy the garden.

I am delighted to report that we now have an enthusiastic team of cleaners and flower arrangers at St Christopher's. Many thanks to those people who have volunteered to help. As we hope to make the flower arrangements more sustainable without the use of oasis, Tracey Twining and I will be attending a course on the subject at Mark church soon.

St Christopher's church remains open for meditation and private prayer during daylight hours. For many years Ron Hatton has opened and closed the church twice a week but has now decided to retire from this position. Thank you, Ron, for all the time you have given. I am pleased to say that Kim King and Rosemary Carr have agreed to step in and help with this job. Thank you also to Simon Merries for opening and closing the church on other days.

On Christmas Eve we saw more than 170 people attending the live Nativity service. Thankfully a 'baby Jesus' was found at the last minute after a frantic plea! It would have been the first time in at least 30 years that we wouldn't have had a live baby. Faith and hope triumphed again! The children were amazing and the support from their parents was greatly appreciated.

It is a privilege to serve God in our journey together in this beautiful village.

Victoria Daintree
Church Warden



St Michael's Annual Church Warden's Report

As we look back on 2023 we are grateful to our Curate Reverend Neil Biddiscombe and to the worship team and to Reverend Kevin Wright, who has now retired to Dorset with his wife, Chris: we wish them well in their retirement.

We are also thankful to the local ministers, notably Reverend Eric Petrie, who has taken funerals and weddings when we haven't had a minister to do so, and Eric also now takes services for us when Neil is not available.

The church has continued to be well looked after thanks to all those who work tirelessly behind the scenes including the cleaners and brass cleaners; thanks to the Bell Ringers and to our flower arrangers who have brightened up the church throughout the year. Thanks also to those who quietly tend the churchyard.

Sunday services wouldn't be the same without the team of people who welcome us and serve refreshments: thank you.

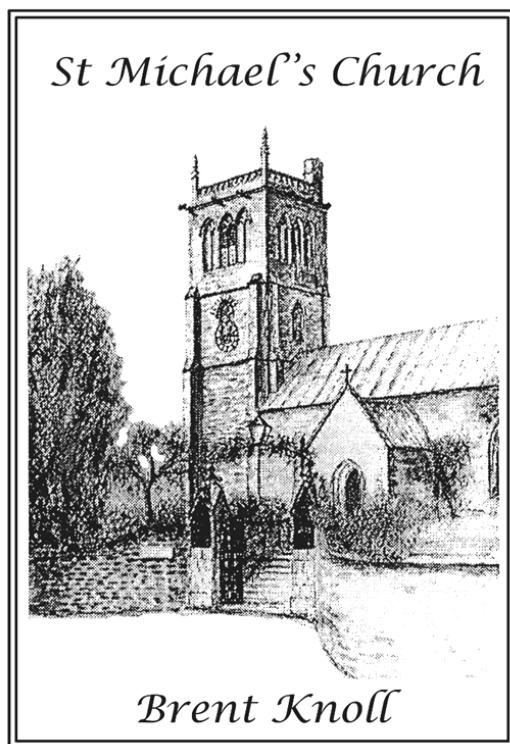
During the course of the year some necessary repairs have been carried out in the church, particularly in February when a heating pipe started to leak. We also had the annual 'Fun in February' when the churchyard has a tidy-up. Some minor roof repairs to the tower were achieved in April.

The school has joined us several times during the year and we love to see the church filled with the noise and song of the children; they also performed their school play in the church as the weather stopped them doing it at school.

We have been able to host several exhibitions during the year in the North Aisle, although we are still in talks with the Diocese about the permanent removal of the pews currently in storage.

Again we had a presence at the village fete with a plant and cake stall.

In September we had another visit of the Ninebarrow folk group organised by Kevin and Chris. This was just before Kevin's final service with us.



In the Autumn we hosted more services whilst St Mary's, East Brent was closed for redecoration.

The Deanery Synod in October was held in St Michael's and our newly installed screen and projector were used.

We would like to thank Ged and Rosemary Keele for all their time and effort in organising fundraising events from which they have now stepped down.

In September we started a new 'Fun in Fundraising' Group,



Brent Knoll Scarecrow Competition

In November we had the annual Service of Remembrance: again a memorable service thanks to the local branch of the Legion for organising this and for raising funds for the Royal British Legion.

We also fitted in an Autumn churchyard clean up and carried out some preventive maintenance -cleaning drain gulleys and guttering and pruning trees and bushes, December saw two fundraising events: the first a well attended Craft Fayre in the Parish Hall, in conjunction with the Community Shop, with singing by the All Sorts Choir.

Brent Knoll's first ever Christmas Tree Festival saw 46 'trees' made by villagers' groups, Holywell, the school and shop from all sorts of materials. The event finished with Community Carols led by the village school choir to a packed church

I would like to thank Neil, Carole in the office for keeping us informed and looking after the Churchwardens, Frances (Warden Emeritus) for her devotion of unlocking the church daily and to the countless other people who do jobs for us like putting the bins out and keeping an eye out on the building.

Mike Smith - Churchwarden



St Mary's Annual Church Warden's Report

Following the roof repairs in 2022, we were hoping to have the plaster and redecoration work done during May or June last year. However, the work did not begin until September and finished in the middle of December. Unfortunately this meant that the church had to be closed whilst the work went on, so the closure was for almost three months. Added to this, the decorators found that there was damp in some parts of the porch walls and in a corner of the North Aisle. The damp has to dry out before the final coat of paint can be applied, so we are waiting for the stonemasons to do the remedial work on the porch roof first. Hopefully this will happen soon, then all the work will be completed!

In September Reverend Kevin and Chris Wright retired. Kevin's last service in our Parish was held on September 24th in St Mary's Church. Afterwards we all shared a buffet lunch in church, with the giving of gifts and speeches. Grateful thanks to Kevin and Chris for their work in The Parish of Three Saints and our best wishes for their very happy retirement in Shaftesbury.

As a Parish we are very blessed and grateful for the care and time our Curate, Neil, has given us and keeps on giving during the vacancy here. As a Self Supporting Minister, this is above and beyond his normal duty. We also thank the Reverend Eric Petrie for officiating at services and also funerals in the parish.

The Village Hall Committee once again held a Christmas Craft Fair last year in aid of St Mary's church. It was a really happy occasion, highlighting some of the many wonderful craftspeople in our local area. Thanks to the support of the Village Hall & many volunteers who again made this a success and St Mary's church received well over £1,000.

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass was a welcome reopening of St Mary's church. It was a beautiful time of worship to welcome in the celebration for Jesus' birth.

I would like to give my thanks to everyone who has helped me during my time as warden here. Thanks go especially to Carole, Mike, Tim, Victoria, Neil and Kate for your help, patience and guidance.

As we move onwards into a new way of being, joining Berrow and Brean as the Benefices of Berrow and Brean with the Parish of Three Saints, I pray that we will listen to one another and be thoughtful, caring and prayerful.

Dot Coles - Church Warden





Bellringers

The ringing of church bells is one of those quintessential British sounds that we often take for granted. The unique English style of ringing evolved over 400 years ago and is part of our heritage.

All three church towers in The Parish of Three Saints have six bells, though their tone and characteristics are very different.

St Michael's bells at Brent Knoll are heavy and majestic (tenor 21cwt) and ringers come from all over the country to ring them.

St Mary's at East Brent are lighter (tenor 16cwt) and can be rung more quickly which makes them sound bright.

St Christopher's at Lympham are lighter still (tenor 11cwt) and produce a higher pitched, merry sound.

You are welcome to visit us during our normal Tuesday practice between 7.30 and 9 p.m.

For more information please contact:

Tower Captain

Mr Melvyn Freeman

01278 641214



Support Groups for Our Parish

Pastoral Care Team will normally meet monthly. This group aims to support Parishioners who have a need for help, advice, friendship or comfort.

The Village Agent scheme. This was created in response to the fact that many people living in rural communities have difficulty in accessing key services and support agencies that help maintain well being and quality of life. All advice is free and completely confidential. The village agent, **Kim Wilcox**, provides very useful and helpful information about the support available for parishioners and carers in the area. Kim can be contacted on 07943 555519 or by email – kim@somersetccc.org.uk or through the Pastoral Care Team.

Information Leaflets

There are leaflets which give information about the different pastoral care groups, activities and of the work the teams are involved in to support those in need.

These can be obtained in any church building or on our website & also at the church office in East Brent.

01278 769082 **www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk**

Follow us on :- **Facebook: TPOTS** or **Twitter: @TPOTS6**



Financial Review of 2023

The Parish finances are managed through two different funds, Church Life and Heritage. The Church Life fund contributes to God's mission and ministry across the Parish and the Heritage fund supports our three buildings.

Church Life fund is well supported by regular church goers and members of the wider community. However, moving forward, we need to be conscious that we have an aging population, which will inevitably lead to a reduction of funds in the future. It is essential that we engage with younger members of the parish to ensure continued financial stability.

The current end-of-year balance for Church Life is £28,699.87. We still need to pay DBS fees of £3,762.00 which leaves us with £ 7,248.29 less than the final balance last year. Whilst I am confident that we will be able to pay our Parish Share in 2024, we must be mindful of the fact that our reserves are quickly diminishing.

Our three Heritage funds remain in a healthy state due to generous monthly contributors and some very successful fund raisings events. It would be fantastic if we could rely entirely on regular donations but sadly this is not the case. Building work has now been completed and paid for at St Mary's, although a small section of decoration needs to be completed once the weather is drier. At St Michael's, the faculty process is underway to create a new path in the churchyard. Whilst this work will be funded by generous benefactors, some expenditure will fall to the heritage fund for St Michael's. At St Christopher's a faculty has now been granted for reordering works to be carried out. Thanks go to Robin Leveridge for his continued work and patience with the process. We have a legacy to aid us with this work, but substantial fundraising will be required.

All three churches were fortunate enough to benefit from grants from the Nuttall Trust. St Christopher's was £5,000 which will be used for the reordering project, St Michael's received £1,500 for repairs to heating system and external shed renovation and St Mary's received £4,000 which will be used for redecoration.

The closing balances for each church are as follows: (Full details overleaf)

St Mary's: £13,972.99

St Christopher's: £42,382.50

St Michael's: £25,838.68

I would like to thank Robin Leveridge for his help and support with the banking and gift aid and Carole Carter for her support and encouragement with this job!

Victoria Daintree - Treasurer



	Church Life Fund	Heritage Fund	Year	
			2023	2022
Receipts	£	£	£	£
Donations and Legacies:				
Planned giving	22,983	9,698	32,681	38,733
Collections, donations & other giving	1,028	14,277	15,305	32,874
Income tax recovered	-	7,608	7,608	7,802
Legacies	-	6,500	6,500	20,002
Annual Fete/events	719	9,319	10,038	28,212
Receipts from Investments:				
Interest & dividends	65	3,149	3,214	2,195
Receipts from Charitable activities:				
Parochial fees	10,263	-	10,263	7,727
Other		189	189	150
Total Receipts	35,058	50,740	85,798	137,700
Payments				
Donations/Grants to charities	(30)	-	(30)	(30)
Mission & Evangelism		-	-	(463)
Parish Share	(25,508)	-	(25,508)	(27,376)
Clergy expenses	(2,126)	-	(2,126)	(2,746)
Church running expenses	(1,793)	(20,680)	(22,473)	(17,488)
Churchyard maintenance		(4,874)	(4,874)	(5,742)
Cost of raising funds		(535)	(535)	(9,211)
Support costs	(960)	-	(960)	-
Administration costs (inc. staff costs)	(11,138)		(11,138)	(10,899)
Governance Costs	(55)	-	(55)	(55)
Other	(485)	(11,273)	(11,758)	(8,038)
Major expenditure				
Repairs to church buildings	-	(32,200)	(32,200)	(51,702)
Total payments	(42,095)	(69,562)	(111,657)	(133,750)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(7,037)	(18,822)	(25,859)	3,950
Receipts over payments				
	(7,037)	(18,822)	(25,859)	3,950
<i>Cash at bank and in hand at 1 Jan (Actual Balance)</i>	32,186	208,917	241,103	282,354
<i>Cash at bank and in hand at 31 Dec (Actual Balance)</i>	25,149	190,095	215,244	286,304

Statement Of Assets

<u>Account</u>	<u>Account Name/Description</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Balances 31 Dec 2023</u>
A	The Parish of Three Saints	cash	£28,699.87
B	St Mary's Church	cash	£13,972.99
C	St Christopher's Church	cash	£42,382.50
D	St Michael's Church	cash	£25,838.68
E	St Christopher's (Teachers)	cash (Legacy)	£75,000.00
F	St Christopher's (CAF Bank)	cash (Legacy)	£45,000.00

St Michael's Church also has a Trust Fund run separately from the PCC by three Trustees.

Trust Fund Balance as at 31 December 2023 is £ 26,891.00

Parochial Fees Note

The PCC received parochial fees as detailed below during the year. Part is made up of statutory fees due to the PCC or the DBF, as prepared by the Archbishops' Council under the Ecclesiastical Fees Measure 1986. The balance relates to charges as fixed by the PCC, for extras such as bells, flowers and special heating, or paid to visiting ministers, Readers or Non-Stipendiary Ministers as set out in the DBF's Parochial Fees policy

Of these fees only the amount due to the PCC (statutory & non-statutory) is shown above as legally the amount due to the DBF and other ministers (as set out in the DBF policy) should not be treated as PCC income.

During the year, the PCC received parochial fees totalling	£14,598.00	
Statutory Fees due to the PCC totalled	£7,627.00	
Statutory Fees due to the DBF totalled	£4,131.00	
Statutory Fees received on behalf of a third party	£2,740.00	
Non-Statutory Extras due to the PCC totalled	£0.00	
Non-Statutory Extras due to a third party totalled	£0.00	
The PCC also received Deposits for the following year totalling	£100.00	
		<i>Balance owed at year-end (inc. in Creditors)</i>
In total the PCC repaid the following Fees during the year		
Payment to DBF of Statutory Fees	£4,131.00	£0.00
Payment to visiting ministers/Readers/NSMs	£0.00	
Payment to visiting ministers/Readers/NSMs	£2,740.00	
Payment to visiting ministers/Readers/NSMs	£0.00	£0.00

(This excludes fees for Sunday Services)



St Christopher's Church, Lympsham

Fundraising Report 2023

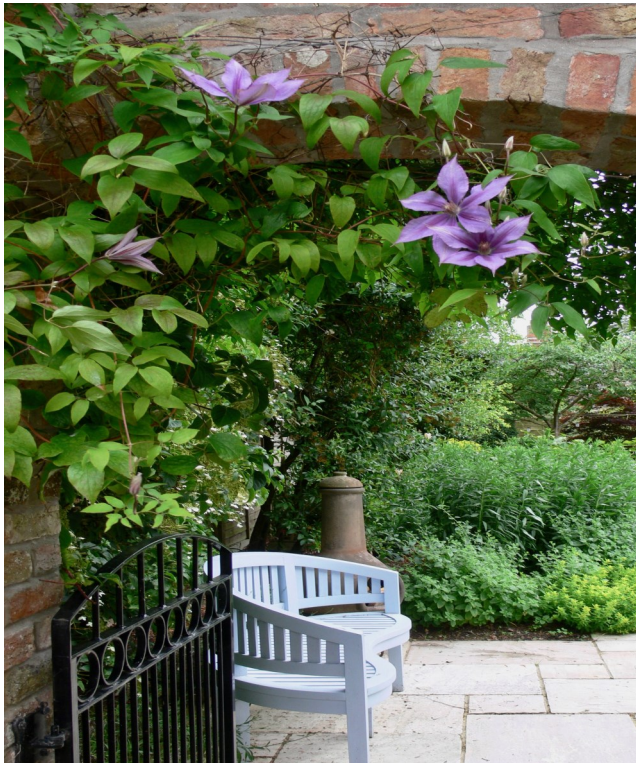


How things have changed !

Only a year or two ago, we were railing against the restrictions of the dreaded Covid but now that seems a distant memory and our church is vibrant again, well demonstrated by the enthusiasm shown by all those who come to our fundraising events in the parish overall and here in Lympsham – just look at how many came to our main event.

2023 was another really successful year in terms of fundraising.

In June we held the annual garden fete and vintage car show and, once again, it was wonderful to see so many people coming to enjoy a traditional village fete and being able to mix together on a lovely summer's day. For two years we have broken the £5,000 ceiling and, this year, we came very close only falling short because of the exorbitant cost of the hire of toilets caused by Glastonbury Festival massively inflating hire costs. That said £4,850 is an incredible total in just two and a half hours (that is over £32 per minute!).



Huge thanks to the organising committee and all the stallholders, but particularly to Rosemary and Andy Carr, who lead the team every year, and to Graeme Hale for his fantastic work in the garden.

For events such as these, the money is obviously important, of course, but it by no means tells the whole story. These events are hugely instrumental in bringing us all together and so much a part of our church community.

Finally, on a more personal note, for many years now, Gwen and Ron Hatton have held their coffee morning in December, welcoming us all to their home and raising much needed funds. Sadly, Gwen's illness has now curtailed this event. We owe them both a huge debt of gratitude for all they have done over the years. Our church community could not have managed without them and we send our love and thoughts to Gwen, Ron and Marcus and to all of the Hatton family.

Dates to pencil into your diary in 2024:

- The Summer Fete will be on **6 July** and
- The Open Gardens in aid of the Church and the NGS a week earlier on **29 and 30 June**.

**Victoria Daintree
James Counsell
February 2024**

St Christopher's Buildings & Grounds Committee

It's a joy to look in our Visitors' Book and read the positive comments from people near and far who continue to appreciate the beauty of our church, although, if you look closely, there are signs that various facets need updating due to wear and tear over many years.

Many thanks to the small band of volunteers who do their best to 'make good' the odd issue.

Hopefully these items will be addressed in our 'Re-ordering Project': after four years of submitting, revising and resubmitting plans, the Diocesan Advisory Committee recommended the proposals for approval in March and at last, in October, we received the 'Faculty' to proceed.

So our Architects were able to programme various surveys (Land, Mechanical, Electrical, etc.) in order to finalise the schemes of work that will inform the Tender information to enable contractors to bid in 2024: an exciting time to enhance St. Christopher's Church for current parishioners and future generations.

Robin Leveridge,

Leader of St. Christopher's Church Buildings & Grounds Committee



St Michael's Buildings & Grounds Committee

The work of the St Michael's Building and Grounds Team has been largely concentrated on ensuring that our £25k Legacy funds are spent wisely. There were three main repair issues that were dealt with during the year.

Pipe work leak

A leak on the main heating pipe near the connection to the boiler feed was dealt with in February by Plumbing Solutions Plus, a local firm, for £715 rather than the Taunton firm who quoted over £2k.

Tower roof repair

Mike White Ltd did this repair in March at a cost of £772 + VAT

Shed repair

Paul Dixon, a local craftsman fitted new doors to our shed in July.

Legacy Projects

For project management purposes we have allocated the legacies as follows:

Installation of Audio Visual equipment (Legacy - £10k)

This work was completed in July and the system became operational immediately

New churchyard path to Remembrance Garden (Legacy - £5k)

Complicated negotiations have taken place over the requirements, with the result Chedburn Codd Architects have done the specification work and a planning application has been dealt with and quotations obtained.

N.B. March 2024 update: the DAC has granted permission subject to the usual notifications and a contractor has been selected.

Completing the North Aisle project (Legacy- £10k)

This project has been subject to delay due to objections being raised by the DAC over pew removal. Chedburn Codd Architects are working with us on a solution to this problem. N.B. March 2024 update: a meeting with the DAC has been arranged for May 2nd 2024)

Ged Keele - Secretary of B & G committee





St Mary's Churchyard Team

We are a group who meet regularly when the weather allows and the spirit is keen. Some of us wander up for the odd hour in the week as well.

Our activities cover the following:

laurel lopping,

hedge and bramble control,

weeding, digging and planting,

rockery maintenance,

path clearing and edging,

and when needed, if the wind is in a northerly direction, we make bonfires!

Yes, it's good exercise with plenty of space for social distancing,
so why not come along and join the fun?

Please contact Carole in the Church Office if you can help in any way.

01278 769082



St Michael's Church

Fundraising Report 2023

The fundraising year began with Easter Teas when we opened the church and the churchyard in the afternoon. The weather was changeable, but we put the tables outside and the rain held off: we raised £174.

Coronation Weekend – Drawing on our experience with the Arts and Crafts Festival in 2022 we set up a major exhibition in the church which we called 'A Celebration of Nature' to fit in with our new King's interests in nature and the environment. Quilts, a photographic exhibition built around some excellent photos of nature and other handicrafts were exhibited to illustrate the theme. There was a competition to produce the best May Tray Coronation Garden, which was sponsored by Sanders Garden Centre. The All Sorts Choir and on Monday and David Filmer was on hand to distribute copies of the 2019 SOS Ceiling Appeal book. The event raised £506.

Brent Knoll Fete cake and plant stall - We held our usual cake and plant stalls at the fete in June. Both raised nearly £300. The icing on the cake, as far as our fundraising was concerned was that we ran a barbecue that ran up a profit of £600. August Teas were held on two Sundays, and we were lucky with the weather on each occasion, raising £300 overall.

Following the August Teas we handed over responsibility for fundraising to Mike and Margaret Smith. They organised two very successful events in the run up to Christmas.

Ged & Rosemary Keele

In September a new 'Fun in Fundraising' group was formed, as Ged has stepped down to a lesser key role, to continue to organise fundraising events for much needed funds, both for St Michael's and also for The Parish of Three Saints.

Our first event was a well attended Christmas Craft Fayre in the Parish Hall in partnership with the Community Shop.

The following weekend we held a successful Christmas Tree Festival in St Michael's: this saw a wonderful display of 46 trees of all sorts and sizes.

Both events raised around £600 each.

Future events in 2024 will include a May Fayre, the usual plant and cake stalls at the village fete as well as the BBQ, a lunchtime event in September and repeats of the Christmas Craft Fayre and Christmas Tree Festivals. We are also producing a new cookbook.

Mike Smith & Team





**St Michael's
Christmas Tree
Festival**



Our Local Schools



Brent Knoll Primary School

East Brent C of E Academy

Lymsham C of E Academy

The pupils at all three local schools continue to attend Services over the year, with the schools devising and leading some of their own services, which allowed the children to really participate.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding in the Church community (i.e. making our churches a safe haven for children, young people and vulnerable adults) is everyone's responsibility. Safeguarding is all about protection from abuse, neglect, harm or being exploited.

The policy for our three churches and the Office is in accordance with the Church of England House of Bishops' Document & Diocesan Guidelines.

The PCC also reviews our policy regularly as it is included on our meeting Agenda. Regular training is given to PCC members.

As always it is important for us all to remain alert and, if anyone is concerned about anything, they need to let the Safeguarding Officer or a representative of the PCC know.

Our main aim, because we are all God's children, is to provide a safe environment not only in each of our churches, but also in our communities. Our Pastoral Care Teams have all completed training for this and the register is regularly updated when changes are necessary: this means that each church and all our activities are well covered.

A Safeguarding display is available in each building with explanatory pages.

Our Safeguarding Officer is Ginnie Soffe.

If you have any concerns, contact Ginnie through the Church Office



‘The Church of England is called to share the good news of God’s salvation through Jesus Christ.

The life of our communities and institutions is integral to how we address this task. The good news speaks of welcome for all, with a particular regard for those who are most vulnerable, into a community where the value and dignity of every human being is affirmed and those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy.

Being faithful to our call to share the gospel therefore compels us to take with the utmost seriousness the challenge of preventing abuse from happening and responding well where it has.’

From ‘Promoting a Safer Church’,

The Church of England’s Safeguarding Policy Statement

Administration and Structure

Geographically the Parish of Three Saints:

- is constituted of the following villages and hamlets: Brent Knoll, East Brent, Eastertown, Edingworth, Lymsham and Rooksbridge in Somerset
- has three parish church buildings: St Michael's Church in Brent Knoll, St Mary the Blessed Virgin Church in East Brent and St Christopher's Church in Lymsham plus a Church Office in East Brent
- is in the Diocese of Bath & Wells, a member of the Church of England

Correspondence address

The Church Office,
Church Road,
East Brent,
Somerset
TA9 4HZ

office.tpots@gmail.com 01278 769082

Parish Staff

Incumbent (Rector)
Curate

Reverend Kevin Wright (Retired October 2023)
Reverend Neil Biddiscombe

Churchwardens

St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll

Mike Smith
Frances James (Warden Emeritus)

St Mary the Blessed Virgin Church, East Brent

Dot Coles

St Christopher's Church, Lymsham

Victoria Daintree

Parish Administrator

Carole Carter

PCC Treasurer

Victoria Daintree

PCC Secretary

Carole Carter

Safeguarding Officer

Ginnie Soffe

External Organisations

Inspecting Architect:

George Chedburn
Chedburn Codd
Bradford-on-Avon
Wiltshire BA14 6RL

Charity Commission

The PCC, The Parish Of Three Saints is now a Registered Charity with the Charity Commission.

Registration Number 1188593

Financial Organisations specific to the Parish:

CHURCH LIFE

CAF Bank Ltd

25 Kings Hill Avenue,
Kings Hill, West Malling,
Kent, ME19 4JQ

HERITAGE

St Christopher's Church
St Mary's Church
St Michael's Church

CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Ave,
Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent.

Friends of St Michael's
Trust

CCLA, Senator House, 85 Queen
Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4ET

PCC Membership as at December 2023

<i>Ex-officio</i>		<u>Position</u>	<u>Term/Expiry</u>
Rector	Reverend Kevin Wright	Chairperson	Retired October 2023
Curate	Reverend Neil Biddiscombe		
Churchwardens			
	Brent Knoll	Mike Smith	Annual
		Frances James	Warden Emeritus
	East Brent	Dot Coles	Annual
	Lympsham	Victoria Daintree	Annual
Deanery Synod Representatives	Sarah McClean		3 year term /2026
	Dot Coles		
Elected Members			
	Pauline Chadwick		3 year term / 2026
	Sarah Cole		3 year term / 2026
	Dot Coles		3 year term / 2026
	James Counsell	Vice-Chair	3 year term / 2026
	Maggie Gardiner		3 year term / 2026
	Tim Hannah		3 year term / 2026
	Gwen Hatton		3 year term / 2024
	Sarah McClean		3 year term / 2026
	Peter Spalton		3 year term / 2026
.....
Co-opted	Victoria Daintree	Treasurer	Annual
	Carole Carter	Parish Administrator & PCC Secretary	Employed Annual
	Carole Carter	Electoral Roll Officer	Annual
	Robin Leveridge	Donations & Gift Aid Coordinator	Annual

Structure, Governance and Management

- The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.
- Each elected PCC member is encouraged to be a member of one of the PCC Teams. Ex-officio members (excluding Deanery Synod Representatives) may sit on any Team.
- Non-PCC members invited to join PCC Teams are co-opted members. They are invited to join because of the gifts and expertise they have. Their term on a Team might be short-term (for example, the duration of a particular project) or long-term.

Objectives and Activities

- The Parish of Three Saints 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 (as expressed in the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 No.3 4 and 5 Eliz 2*).
- It also has maintenance responsibilities for the three church buildings, St Christopher's, Lympsham, St Mary the Blessed Virgin, East Brent, St Michael's, Brent Knoll and also for the Church Office in East Brent.

Changes to the Parish Electoral Roll in 2023;

The Electoral Roll at the end of the 2022	103
Total at the end of 2023	105



Number of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals for the Parish

	Parish Total for 2023
Baptisms	6
Weddings	3
Funerals	33

Who's Who as at December 2023

Rector- Reverend Kevin Wright - Retired October 2023

The Rectory, East Brent, Highbridge, Somerset TA9 4DQ

Curate- Reverend Neil Biddiscombe curate.tpots@gmail.com

01278 769082

Worship, Mission and Evangelism

Rector, Reverend Kevin Wright and Curate, Reverend Neil Biddiscombe,

Lay Worship Assistants: Chris Wright , Kate Wilford,

Deanery Synod:

Dot Coles & Sarah McClean

Diocesan Synod:

Chris Wright

Pastoral Care Team

Ginnie Soffe, Dot Coles, Tim Hannah, Jane Hannah, Margaret Smith, Carla Searle, Sarah McClean.

Lay Pastoral Assistants

Ginnie Soffe, Dot Coles, Tim Hannah, Jane Hannah, Margaret Smith, Carla Searle , Sarah McClean.

Buildings and Grounds Teams

Robin Leveridge, Victoria Daintree, Robin Hoare, Dot Coles, Carole Carter,

(Project help, Tim Hannah) Ged Keele, Mike Smith, Tony Gilbert, and Reverend Kevin Wright

Finance Team:

Victoria Daintree Robin Leveridge, Ged Keele, Carole Carter and Reverend Kevin Wright

Fundraising Chair of Teams

St Christopher's: James Counsell/Victoria Daintree

St Mary's: Dot Coles/ Carole Carter

St Michael's: Ged Keele/ Mike Smith

Friends of St Michael's

Ged Keele

Organist:

Pauline Chadwick



Website: www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk

E-Mail: office.tpots@gmail.com

Church Office, Church Road, East Brent, Somerset, TA9 4HZ 01278 769082



Independent Examination of The Parish of Three Saints 2023 Annual Accounts

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE PARISH OF THREE SAINTS 2023 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Document Title:	Independent Examination of The Parish of Three Saints 2023 Annual Accounts
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Document Authoriser:	John Leddy	
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Document Author:	John Leddy	Independent Examiner
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Introduction

1. This report has been prepared by John Leddy on behalf of the Trustees of The Parish of Three Saints who are the sponsor, and to whom any queries should be addressed.

Background

2. In the medieval period there were three separate parishes for the villages of South Brent, Brentmarshe and Lymplesham, and each had a significant church. By the end of the nineteenth century the villages became known as Brent Knoll, East Brent and Lympham respectively. During the 1970's the Parishes were brought together to operate as a Benefice served by a single priest. In 2011 a decision was made to form a single Parish and The Parish of Three Saints came into being in 2012.

3. The Parish includes the churches of St Mary's East Brent, St Michael's, Brent Knoll and St Christopher's in Lympham. The new Parish has a population of 3,400, which is concentrated in the villages of Brent Knoll, East Brent, Lympham and Rooksbridge. Since the days of the Benefice Sunday services have been held in rotation at the three Parish churches. This practice continues in The Parish of Three Saints.

4. Brent Knoll, formerly known as South Brent, is a village and civil parish in the Sedgemoor district of the county of Somerset, in the south west of England. It is an attractive village which clings round the western slopes of the Knoll, a hill that dominates the low surrounding landscape of the Somerset levels.

5. East Brent is a village and civil parish, on the eastern edge of Brent Knoll, close to the M5 motorway, 5 miles (8 km) west of Axbridge, in the Sedgemoor district of the county of Somerset, in the south-west of England. The parish includes the hamlets of Rooksbridge, where the A38 road crosses the Mark Yeo and Edingworth.

6. Lympham is a village and civil parish six miles west of Axbridge and six miles south-east of Weston-super-Mare, close to the River Axe in Somerset, England. The parish includes the hamlet of Wick.

7. The Parish of Three Saints presently has a church membership of 103 and is rated category C for the purposes of Parish Share of the Common Fund. The Parish comes under the Axbridge Deanery and the Diocese of Bath and Wells. As its combined income is above £100,000 the Parish is registered as a Charity¹ with the Charity Commission.

Aim

8. John Leddy is to conduct the Independent Examination (IE) of The Parish of Three Saints accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023.

Approach

9. Eligibility to examine the accounts and conduct an IE was confirmed.

10. The Parish of Three Saints Annual Accounts for the period 1st January to 31st December 2023 were examined in accordance with Charity Commission (CC) guidance, details are at Annex A. Additional investigations were conducted where necessary and supporting documentation for the operation of the funds requested if required.

¹ Charity Registration Number: 1188593

11. As part of the examination discussions were held with the Parish Treasurer to ascertain answers to the CC Directions.

Findings

12. Examination of the annual report confirmed that the gross income of The Parish of Three Saints did not exceed £1 million² and the aggregate value of assets (before deduction of liabilities) did not exceed £3.26 million. In addition to the upper threshold, the Gross Income was above the £25,000³ lower threshold set for an IE rather, than Audit, to be carried out. Fund Balances are:

Table 1 – The Parish of Three Saints Account Balances

Serial	Fund	Gross Income (£)	Gross Assets (£)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1	The Parish of Three Saints	89,350	230,894

13. The Gross Income of the Charity is below £250,000 which means that the accounts could be prepared on a Receipts and Payment basis. On inspection of the Charity accounts the Trustees have elected to prepare their Accounts using this method. The Bath & Wells DBF R&P Cashbook is utilised.

14. **Points from Last Year's Review.** Last year's IE Report was reviewed. On inspection of that Report no observations were outstanding.

Additional Observations. The Independent Examiners report is a statement to confirm that the Charity is operating within the accounting and governance tolerances set by the CC. In conducting the IE I have the following observations to report.

- a. The Parish does not produce a Trustees Annual Report in line with CC Direction 12. However, a Treasurer's Financial Review has been completed and evidenced.

Recommendations

15. It is recommended that;

- a. The Parish investigate producing a Trustees Annual Report incorporating the Annual Accounts. An example Trustees Annual Report can be found on the Charity Commission website.

Conclusion

16. The Parish of Three Saints has received an unqualified report which can be found at Enclosure 1.

Annex:

- A. The Charity Commission's Directions on the IE of Charity Accounts.

Enclosure:

1. IE Report for 1 Jan to 31 Dec 23 – The Parish of Three Saints.

² Charities Act 2011 Chapter 3 Section 144(1).

³ Charities Act 2011 Chapter 3 Section 145(1).

THE CHARITY COMMISSIONS DIRECTIONS ON INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF CHARITY ACCOUNTS

1. The CC produce an examiners' guide to IE of Charity Accounts. It is specifically written for independent examiners and explains their role and duties in examining the accounts of a charity. In accordance with Section E of the guidance the 13 specific directions and how they were addressed are as follows:

- a. **Examination and accounting thresholds.** The annual report for the period 1 Jan – 31 Dec 23 was examined to confirm IE thresholds⁴ had not been breached.
- b. **Conflicts of Interest.** The examiner was not influenced or perceived to be influenced in any way as he did not have any close personal relationships with the Trustees, was not a major donor to the Trust, did not have any control of funds and was not involved in the day to day running of the Trust.
- c. **Documentation.** Working papers were examined and evident. All procedures carried out and any matters arising to support conclusions reached or statements provided in the report have been documented.
- d. **Understanding the charity.** Detailed briefs and free access to all charity documentation ensured a full understanding of the charity's constitution, organisation, accounting systems, activities and nature of its assets, liabilities, incoming resources and application of resources.
- e. **Accounting records.** The charity accounting records have been subject to a review and appear complete and consistent with statutory requirements.
- f. **Comparison with accounting records.** A comparison of the charity's accounts with the accounting records in sufficient detail was carried out which provides a reasonable basis to decide that the accounts are consistent.
- g. **Accruals Basis Checks.** As the Accounts of The Parish of Three Saints are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis this section is not relevant.
- h. **Accounting policies, estimates and judgements.** Reviewed the accounting policies adopted and consider their consistency with the SORP and their appropriateness to the activities of the charity.
- i. **Financial circumstances and Going Concern.** The examiner checked whether the Trustees have considered the financial circumstances of the Charity at the end of the reporting period and have made an assessment of the Charities position as a going concern when approving the Accounts.
- j. **Form and Content of the Accounts.** The examiner carried out procedures as considered necessary to provide a reasonable basis on which to conclude whether or not the accounts have been properly prepared. The examiner checked that they can lawfully prepare Receipts and Payments Accounts, that all accounting statements are present, and the funds of the Charity can be correctly identified.

⁴ Gross income greater than £0.025 and not to exceed £0.25M for receipts and payments, gross income not to exceed £1.0M and the aggregate value of assets should not exceed £3.26M otherwise a full audit is required.

- k. **Analytical Review.** The examiner carried out an analytical review of the current accounts to identify if any entries required further explanation or evidence. The 2023 Accounts were compared with the 2022 Accounts to see if any material changes could be identified.

- l. **Compare the Trustees Annual Report with the Accounts.** The Trustees have not prepared a Trustees Annual Report, which incorporates their Accounts. The Treasurer has prepared a Financial Report for the APCM.

- m. **Examiner's report.** The IE report can be found at Enclosures 1.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PARISH OF THREE SAINTS

I report on the accounts of The Parish of Three Saints for the 12 months ended 31st December 2023, which are set on pages 1 to 2.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of The Parish of Three Saints are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an IE is needed. The Charity is preparing Receipts and Payments Accounts, and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA).

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for IE, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Charities Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the CC under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Charities Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the CC. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's unqualified statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- a. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Parish as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- b. The accounts do not accord with those records.

2. I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John Leddy FCMA CGMA CPFA
5 Cedarn Court

Manor Gardens
Kewstoke
Weston super Mare
BS22 9XU

John Leddy

John Leddy
24th February 2024



Independent Examination of The Parish of Three Saints 2023 Annual Accounts

Prepared by John Leddy

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John Leddy

John Leddy
24th February 2024

THE PARISH OF THREE SAINTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1188593

Accounts

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT for 2022

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This report has been printed in monochrome to save valuable parish funds. A colour copy will be on our website.

Once again, from all of us at The Parish of Three Saints, we wish to say a very huge, warm 'thank you' to you all for giving of your time and talents.

These include;-

Churchwardens

PCC Members

Worship Leaders

Stewards/Welcomers

Readers

Musicians

Chalice Assistants

Scripture Readers

Intercessors

Refreshment Providers

Finance Team

Fundraisers

Bell Ringers

Group Helpers

Flower Arrangers

Church openers/closers

Cleaners

Brass Cleaners

Clock Winders

Churchyard Grounds supporters

Coffee Morning helpers



We are very fortunate to have so many wonderful people that we cannot name you all, but together you combine to keep our three churches, office and grounds ship-shape and make our sacred spaces welcoming, friendly and inspiring.

If you feel that you can give some of your time, however small, or talents and you wish to be a part of the Church Family, please contact any of the Church Wardens or Church Office.



Rector's Annual Report on 2022

One of the great strengths of The Parish of Three Saints is the church family, faithfully worshipping week by week, supporting each other by simply being there to share in praise of God and fellowship, irrespective of the type of service or which building we are in that week. This is vital. Without this praying worshipping community focussing on Jesus, there is no church, for that is what the church started out as two thousand years ago. The church buildings provide a focus for that worship, and they are a testimony to the devotion and sacrifices made by previous generations for their faith. That level of devotion may not be as evident today. The critical number needed for each building to continue to be sustainable is only possible, because of that generosity of heart of the travelling pilgrims from across the villages. Thank you.

There are many others too who support the ministry of the parish, not necessarily by being in church, but by contributing to the needs of the parish, mainly financially and practically, for example with fundraising, maintenance, or administrative work. With the responsibility that we have here of three buildings and their associated environs, it is essential that anyone in the villages who expects their church building to be open in 5 or 10 years' time accepts that these extraordinary and beautiful assets do not run themselves and committed reliable help is always needed. To those who help in this way, thank you.

The aftermath of Covid has left a depleted church family and band of helpers. We are all that bit older, more tired, perhaps more frail, and some folks are no longer able to attend or help so often. Coffers are also dwindling to the critical level, as the cost of everything rises and incomes are squeezed. There is no reason to lose heart though, God is faithful and so hope abides in all things. There are many joys to be celebrated and I hope this report will err on the side of optimism and celebration.

Corporate prayer, praise and worship of Our Lord are the foundations of a church. Gathering to share round his table in Communion is what Jesus told us to do in scripture. Our regular liturgical worship on a Sunday has regained some of its former joyful energy and we can now praise God together freely. Having started to distribute the bread at Communion earlier in the year, it was September before we offered the shared chalice and, interestingly, this period has given people "permission" to be themselves. For example, it has encouraged people to make their own decisions about whether they feel able to receive the wine or not. It has reduced stress at the slightly awkward time during The Peace, when to shake hands with or to hug everybody was causing some anxiety.

As seemed popular in a questionnaire I sent out, which solicited a good range of responses, we have also experimented with more outdoor worship in the better weather – most notably the Harvest in a barn at Wick Farm, which I hope will become a regular event.

As the nights drew in, the 4 p.m. tea-time outdoor worship re-entered the church buildings and became a quiet reflective time. Attendances have been disappointingly modest, after a significant number of people had said they valued this kind of contemplative worship in the survey.

Again, following the encouragement from the survey, it is hoped during 2023 to relaunch Café Church for all-ages once a month on Sunday afternoon, as we had early in 2020. It is an accessible, informal, but structured service for people who would not necessarily find a Eucharist comprehensible. I would urge anyone who longs for a growing church to support this venture as much as possible and to invite neighbours and friends along. A significant number responded to say they would attend regularly – I hope to see that number there. It is more fun and more welcoming with more people!

Prayer Book Evening Prayer was not reintroduced, with little numerical support in the survey, and little likelihood of growth. The 8 a.m. BCP Communion was reduced to once a month and attendances have generally held up so far.

We celebrated the Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II with a Eucharist, and then sadly, a short time later, marked the day after her death with a special evening tribute service.

Christmas was celebrated with special joy. Many of the usual activities, Carols in The Red Cow, an accessible relaxed Carol Service, Midnight Mass, and a celebratory Christmas morning All-Age Eucharist, all took place. The revitalised Nativity with Carols in Lympsham proved popular and shows what a potential field for mission is around us – people who know about the baby Jesus, but do not necessarily know his love in their hearts. The potential here is notable.

May I say how indebted I am to Kate Wilford and Chris Wright. As Lay Worship Assistants they play a crucial role in the non-Eucharistic Worship we can provide, offering contemplative reflections and activities, and curating and leading worship. The part played by laity in worship is going to increase, as there will be fewer ordained clergy across the Diocese. To maintain the integrity of the church, it is important that people who lead worship are trained and accredited. I hope more people will get involved.

A special mention must go the Pauline Chadwick for her determination to keep playing the organ or keyboard while suffering considerable pain and discomfort. We are looking forward to her return to full health.

Regarding liturgy and the church seasons, the two-sided service sheets I began producing in 2019, but were only in draft form, are being edited, corrected, and printed on card for use and reuse now things have settled down. I hope they provided structure, ease of use and flexibility to anyone leading or taking part in services.

One highlight of the year was the ordination as Priest of our training Curate, Neil Biddiscombe. This means that Neil is able to administer the sacraments of Baptism and Communion. Immediately after the ordination Neil was 'in at the deep end' because I contracted Covid. We must remember Neil is also a Self-Supporting Minister, meaning that he has a day-job and is not paid by the church. His contribution especially to the worship has been really appreciated and the ZOOM Night Prayer he started has a regular, excellent following, quietly grounding ourselves and praying together every Wednesday evening. This arose from the survey in which mid-week corporate prayer was popular.

Our liaison with the three schools has continued to thrive and they all use the church buildings for regular and seasonal services, as well as welcoming Chris and me into school to take collective worship. It would be good if this area could be developed, perhaps with church family members visiting to help in appropriate ways (after proper checks have been carried out).

The Pastoral Care Team have continued their support of those in need in our community and, as mentioned in a previous report, Ginnie Soffe and Sarah McLean have established a regular coffee morning with some baptism families, where they not only play and chat, but also have a Bible story time and prayer. Ginnie, as Parish Safeguarding Officer, has also this year ensured that all the training and checks are in place for people who work on behalf of the church for the mutual well-being and protection of the vulnerable and all of us who work for the church. This is an essential, legally required and important role.

During Lent 2022 we hosted a deanery-wide ZOOM Lent course using the Living in Love and Faith materials, exploring sexuality, faith, and human relationships. The course was well attended, and the participants agreed very worthwhile. The Church of England has made an historic decision at the time of writing (February 2023) to bless same-sex marriages. I expressed my views on this clearly in sermons and, although I will of course abide by the C of E policies, I will continue to value any loving relationship, between people of any gender or sexuality, as, scripture tells us, all love is a gift from God.

Returning to the subject of buildings, we have had only two Wardens since the last APCM, Dot Coles and Victoria Daintree. They have been exemplary in their hard work and dedication to the whole parish, but notably to St Mary's, East Brent, and St Christopher's, Lympsham, respectively. I could not function as incumbent without them and am deeply indebted to them – they are my eyes and ears in the villages and manage all issues relating to the fabric. Victoria is also the TPOTS Treasurer. With significant administrative help and support from our loyal Parish Administrator and PCC Secretary, Carole Carter, Victoria has continued to manage the responsibility of the complex parish accounts and present them for audit: I admire and appreciate people who take on these essential tasks in the background – thank you.

The reordering project of St Christopher's, with a huge input from Robin Leveridge, after many obstacles caused by a lack of vision from bodies we must consult (such as The Victorian Society and The Society for the Protection of Ancient Building), has slowly moved forward to the point of almost crossing the starting line. This has been a source of frustration for me, Robin and others. Generations of people have modified, rebuilt, and re-ordered the church buildings to be fit for purpose – that prime purpose is mission and worship. Mission means using the buildings, being inclusive and making them accessible for all, not keeping monuments to the past. We should be welcoming all types of activity for the community and schools. Whatever their historical value, pews are about as exclusive as you can get – they prevent access for people with mobility issues and babies' buggies, they make an inflexible space (originally the churches had no pews at all), and they are extremely uncomfortable.

St Mary's now has a water-tight roof and is awaiting redecoration. At this point I will acknowledge one key person, who is self-effacing, but who has played a vital role across the parish in securing funding for various projects, dealing with complex paperwork. It is Tim Hannah, to whom we all owe great gratitude.

It is also good that members of the local community have joined with the remnants of the fundraising team to help find funds for the upkeep of the church.

Although there are several projects in hand at St Michael's Church, it has not had a Warden during 2022. I am indebted to Mike Smith for continuing with many of the administrative tasks of the roll and pushing to get essential Audio-Visual equipment installed; to Frances James, as Warden Emeritus, for her knowledge of the village, and her commitment and love of the church; to Ged Keele for his passion and concern, together with Rosemary he has seen through the PEACH project which secured funding and has opened up many possibilities of St Michael's as a cultural heritage attraction and wildlife special habitat, and Tony Gilbert for advice on the Buildings and Grounds Group. Other people have also quietly carried out maintenance and repairs – your help is really appreciated.

The ringers, who during 2022 rang at a number of special events, including the Queen's Jubilee and also her death, have been a faithful reliable band. It is quintessentially an English tradition and one we are lucky to hear so well executed in these towers.

I note that many others kindly assist with some of the associated tasks of being Warden and this is greatly appreciated, but to have legally responsible people in post is essential to run the parish, and to secure the future of these buildings keeping them open for generations to come.

I also am aware of all the many other people, cleaners, flower arrangers, folk who tend areas of the churchyard, people who welcome people or take part in worship, leading prayers and reading the Bible, and more. You are part of a lineage of love for these buildings, the environs, and the praise of God. Thank you.

Finally, we live in challenging times. There are going to be fewer stipendiary clergy. I am retiring from paid ministry later in 2023. We don't know at the time of writing what the deanery deployment of clergy will look like and the implications for this parish. The cost of running three buildings will continue to rise. Rather than focussing on what we have lost, what it used to be like, or worrying about tomorrow, think, what have we got here now that is good? What resources have we got and how best can we use them – think Feeding of the 5000? Give thanks and offer these resources to God in prayer, asking God to show us the way to new life and abundance in Christ together.

To maintain three buildings, please spread the word that the national C of E is asset rich, not cash rich, and, if people want to have children baptised here, get married here or have a funeral here, then annual running and maintenance costs must be realistically met in each village by the villagers.

Use your church, or lose it.

More importantly, to grow the church family, focus on Jesus, support each other in attending regular public worship, sharing in the Eucharist, and being diligent in your private prayer. Show your friends, family, and neighbours that your faith is more important than anything else.

The Revd Kevin Wright

(Rector)

March 2023





A message from our Curate

2022 was another big year for me in my life of ministry.

Having been ordained as a deacon in September 2021 I was ordained as a priest at Bath Abbey on the 25th of June. Whereas the deacon role as explained in the Ordinal concentrates on service, the priest has responsibility for leadership too. This leadership includes, as you will have noticed, presiding at the Eucharist and declaring in Christ's name the absolution and forgiveness of sins as well as God's blessing. As a priest I can now conduct weddings and baptisms, and have done so during the year. Along with funerals these 'pastoral services' are a great privilege in which to be involved and each is an opportunity to reflect Christ to the world.



Often after ordination as a priest the curate has a gentle introduction to presiding at the Eucharist. For our church tradition in the Three Saints the Eucharist is usually the focal point of our Sunday worship. My introduction to presiding was more intense than expected as Kevin got Covid the week after my Ordination. For me this was a blessing (though it wasn't for Kevin!) as I was able to lead the next few weeks' worship which helped me to start to develop my own way of presiding.

Introducing the Wednesday Night Prayer was something I was keen to do. It is ideal to use Zoom for this type of short and contemplative service, something that we probably wouldn't have felt comfortable doing pre-Covid. For those who want a more frequent Night Prayer there is a smartphone app that includes the spoken words.

As a Self Supporting Minister I have a limited time in the Parish each week. Though I am a full-time priest, I am a part-time curate. I remain conscious that it is difficult for me to spend as much time on pastoral visits and funeral ministry as I would like. Some of you know that I work in the Social Housing sector. My ministry in this sector in this almost post-Covid world has been primarily incarnational – as a visible representative of our Lord. To that end I always wear my clerical collar for meetings whether in person or on the computer and this has prompted conversations about faith that would not have otherwise happened.

It remains a privilege to serve in the Parish. I would like again to thank you (and especially Kevin) for the warm welcome that Jayne and I have received, for understanding that I am not a full-time curate, and for all the encouragement that you have shown.

Peace and blessings,
Neil

Reverend Neil Biddiscombe

Curate





**The Reverend Neil
Biddiscombe takes his
first Baptism**

St Michael's Church

The Burden-Hughes
wedding August 2022





**The Parish of Three Saints
team of Lay Pastoral
Assistants and Lay Worship
Assistants**

Left to Right

Carla Searle, Jane Hannah,
Tim Hannah, Margaret Smith,
Sarah McClean, Ginnie Soffe,
Dot Coles, Kate Wilford,
Chris Wright and
Reverend Kevin Wright

Ninebarrow in concert at St Michael's Church



Support Groups for Our Parish

Pastoral Care Team will normally meet monthly. This group aims to support Parishioners who have a need for help, advice, friendship or comfort.

The Village Agent scheme. This was created in response to the fact that many people living in rural communities have difficulty in accessing key services and support agencies that help maintain well being and quality of life. All advice is free and completely confidential. The village agent, **Kim Wilcox**, provides very useful and helpful information about the support available for parishioners and carers in the area. Kim can be contacted on 07943 555519 or by email – kim@somersetccc.org.uk or through the Pastoral Care Team.

Information Leaflets

There are leaflets which give information about the different pastoral care groups, activities and of the work the teams are involved in to support those in need.

These can be obtained in any church building or on our website & also at the church office in East Brent.

01278 769082 **www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk**

Follow us on :- Facebook: TPOTS or Twitter: @TPOTS6

After a two year break the crosses are erected on The Knoll





Pastoral Care Team

**Jesus said “A new commandment I give to you:
love one another.**

Just as I have loved you, you must love one another.”

This is the aim of the Pastoral Care Team at TPOTS – to meet people where they are, to show love, care and support unconditionally and without judgement.

Sometimes people need practical help such as lifts to hospital or church, meals for the freezer while they recover from their operation, help with shopping and library books or someone to collect their prescription. Sometimes it's company they need, someone to have a cup of coffee and a chat with or a friendly telephone call. Sometimes it's an encouraging card put through their letterbox. Sometimes it can just be a friendly wave or a smile or a willingness to listen.

The current team comprises Carla, Jane, Tim, Dot, Margaret, Sarah M and Ginnie and we have recently put the article on page 13 in the village magazines.

Last July some of us attended the Celebration of Lay Ministries Day at Wells Cathedral. It was a lovely day, with stalls and stands beforehand followed by a celebratory service in the cathedral. There was dance, a wonderful youth band, great hymns, a creative activity and a chance to chat and get to know people in the Diocese and what was on offer. We all really enjoyed it.

In December we were all re-accredited as LPAs, having completed all the relevant Safeguarding training and submitting our reflections. Kevin celebrated by giving thanks for the LPAs and LWAs and praying that all our visiting and caring for people would be done in God's strength not our own.

The Baptism Families Coffee and Chat group is now eighteen months old and over this time we have got to know 5 mums and their children very well. It has been such a blessing to see the children grow up and the mums grow in friendship and fellowship with each other.

We recently had our photos taken with a view to displaying them in the three church buildings so people know who to approach if help is needed.

The team meets every 8 weeks for prayer, reflection and discernment, training and sharing ideas and experiences. We trust God to show us the way forward and feel very privileged to be His hands and feet, His ears and eyes as we reach out to those in our parish.

If you would like to know more about the team, feel God is calling you to this ministry, or are in need and would like us to visit, please contact us by e-mail or telephone: office.tpots@gmail.com 01278 769082.



Going Through a Tough Time? Need to Talk to Someone?

In the Parish of Three Saints we have a caring team of trained and experienced Lay Pastoral Assistants, all with appropriate safeguarding accreditation, who would consider it a privilege to be there for you.

We work closely with Revd Kevin Wright to help anyone who is feeling lonely or isolated, anyone suffering bereavement or family difficulties and anyone just needing a friendly person to talk to. We can't promise to solve every problem, but we can promise to always listen.

Please contact us through the Church Office :

Tel - 01278 769082 Email - office.tpots@gmail.com

We would love to hear from you - The Pastoral Care Team (TPOTS)

Prayer

Loving God,

We pray for all those who are suffering because of the coronavirus, may they know your healing power.

When we are afraid for ourselves and our loved ones, give us your strength and courage.

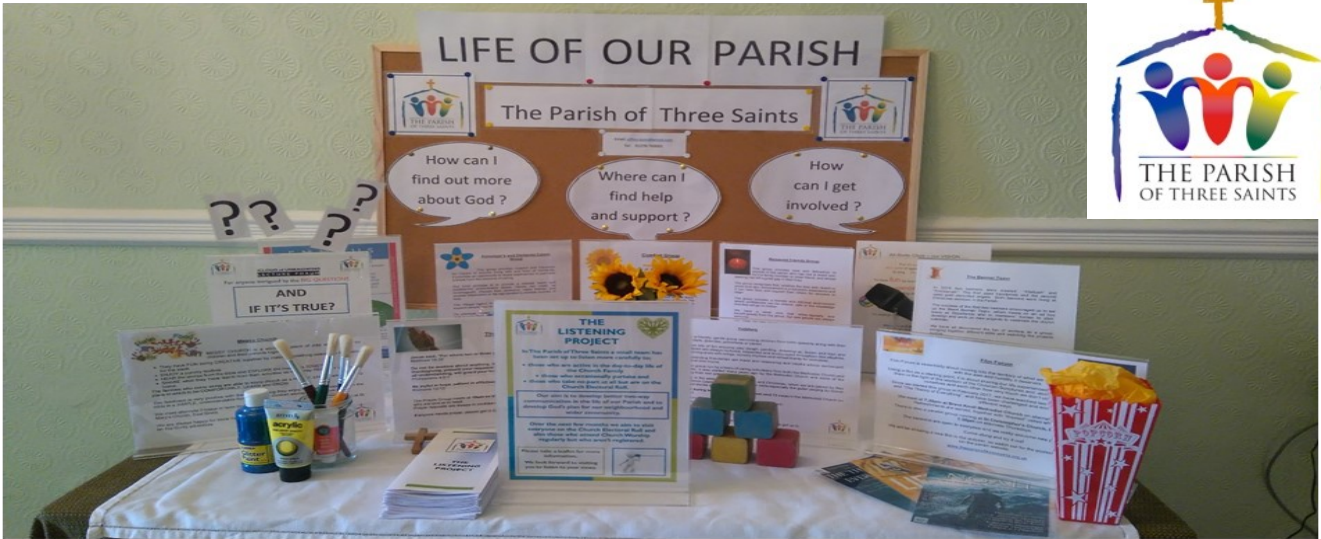
When we feel alone and isolated, reassure us with a sense of your presence.

Give wisdom to those in authority and may our community work together for the good of all.

We give thanks for those who care for others and ask you to bless them in all they do.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, healer and physician.

Amen



The Baptism Group

The Baptism Mums' group has been meeting for over a year.

We continue to meet once a month in Sarah's home. The group was set up to encourage young Mums (and Dads although none come) to get to know one another, form friendships and support each other in a Christian environment.

We have coffee and biscuits, juice and the healthy option of fruit for the children, play time, a short Bible story and, as the children are getting older, we set up a very simple craft activity.

We know God is at work in the lives of those who come each time. Many of them have become friends with each other which is lovely, with invitations to birthday parties and offers of help, etc.

Ginnie and I feel very blessed to be able to host this group.

Sarah McClean

Children at the monthly coffee and play morning for baptism families

**Held at Woodlands House,
Brent Knoll**



St Christopher's Annual Church Warden's Report

Finally, at the end of 2022, the long-awaited Quinquennial Inspection report arrived. We must express our thanks to Robin Leveridge for his patience and perseverance in pursuing this. Thankfully, St Christopher's Church appears to be in good order and there are no immediate actions required. However, progress towards the reordering of the church is still on-going although we remain hopeful that in 2023 we may see some action! We understand that the faculty process is very nearly complete. We anticipate that much of the suggested works in the Q I report will be covered in the reordering. We are lucky to have investments, as shown in the accounts, from a past legacy to fund the first phase of this project.

Fundraising for the Heritage Fund at St Christopher's was very successful during 2022. Events included the Fete held in the Manor gardens, the Open Gardens weekend and the Autumn Ball at Batch. We are extremely grateful for the support of the villagers and local businesses with these events.

Support with the day-to-day management of the church is proving difficult. At present we only have one Church Warden and I am grateful for the support of the church family, who are always willing to help me, however we currently have no regular cleaners.

Flowers in the church have been beautiful this year, especially at Christmas. I am very grateful to Rita Joliffe, Tracy Twining and Sue Twining for their help with this. Thanks go to Pauline for playing the organ so beautifully, to Robin Hoare for looking after the grounds, to those who open and close the church daily and to the bell ringers. Management of the clock and flag have now been taken over by Richard Daintree as the tower steps were becoming too much of a challenge for Robin. Finally thank you to Carole for all her hard work in the office.

2022 concluded at St Christopher's with the return of the hugely popular live crib service on Christmas Eve where we saw in excess of 170 people attending. The children were amazing and the support from their parents was greatly appreciated.

It is a privilege to serve God in our journey together in this beautiful village.

Victoria Daintree
Church Warden



St Mary's Annual Church Warden's Report

Last year we were able to finish the roof work at St Mary's thanks to generous local donations and funding from grants. I must thank Tim Hannah for his sterling work applying for grant funding and all the local benefactors that have helped to ensure the South and Porch roofs are watertight.

After the ingress of water, due to the past leaky roofs, the plasterwork and wall paint in quite a few areas of the church have been damaged. Now the roofs are sealed, and hopefully the internal walls have dried out, we are hoping that redecoration of the church will begin in either late May or June 2023. What a joy it will be to have this work done so that St Mary's will be even more inviting to worshippers and visitors alike!

Last Christmas the Village Hall Committee held a Craft Fair in the Village Hall to raise funds for St Mary's Church. It was a wonderful occasion and a showcase for craft work in the local area: St Mary's received the fantastic amount of just over £1,000.

The Easter Service was celebrated here this year: a lovely and joyous worship shared with a large congregation. Cafe Church has restarted now and is enjoyed by all who join in with that time of fun and worship.

Finally I would like to express my gratitude to our Rector Kevin and Neil, our Curate, for leading us in worship and caring for our Parish, and to Chris and Kate, our Lay Worship Assistants.

As Church Warden I am blessed to be helped by so many people working in the church and churchyard in different ways: thank you for what you do and for giving your time and skills in many ways.

Dot Coles
Church Warden



Financial Review of 2022

The Parish finances are managed through two different funds, Church Life and Heritage. The Church Life fund contributes to God's mission and ministry across the Parish and the Heritage fund supports our three buildings.

Currently the Church Life fund is well supported by regular church goers and members of the wider community. The current end of year balance shows £32,136.16 which is about £8,000.00 less than the final balance last year. Whilst I am confident that we will be able to pay our Parish Share in 2023, we must be mindful of the fact that our reserves are diminishing. We have a small number of very generous givers, to whom we are very grateful.

Our three Heritage funds have recovered this year, due to generous monthly contributors and some very successful fund raisings events. It would be fantastic if we could rely entirely on regular donations but sadly this is not the case. Significant building work has taken place at St Mary's this year. I am very grateful for the work that Tim Hannah has done in achieving several grants that have made this work possible. All three churches were fortunate enough to benefit from grants from the Nuttall Trust again in 2022. St Christopher's was £1,150, St Michael's received £2,000 and St Mary's received £5,000.

The closing balances for each church are as follows:

St Mary's:	£32,017.42
St Christopher's:	£37,675.09
St Michael's:	£31,322.58

I would like to thank Robin Leveridge for his help and support with the banking and gift aid and Carole Carter for her support and encouragement with this job!

It is important that we continue to recruit regular donors to the Heritage funds in order to maintain our beautiful churches.

Victoria Daintree (Treasurer)

January 2023



TPOTS's Receipts & Payments Account



for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Church		Heritage		Year	
	Life	Fund	Fund	Fund	2022	2021
Receipts	£		£		£	£
Donations and Legacies:						
Planned giving	26,133		12,600		38,733	41,270
Collections, donations & other giving	753		32,121		32,874	31,398
Income tax recovered	-		7,802		7,802	11,552
Legacies	-		20,002		20,002	-
Other Trading activities						
Magazine/Bookstall sales/Hall Lettings etc	-		5		5	-
Income from other Properties	-		-		-	-
Annual Fete/events	737		27,475		28,212	9,995
Receipts from Investments:						
Interest & dividends	33		2,162		2,195	1,891
Receipts from Charitable activities:						
Parochial fees	7,727		-		7,727	8,324
Other Receipts						
Insurance claims	-		-		-	-
Sale proceeds from fixed assets	-		-		-	-
Loans received	-		-		-	-
Other	70		80		150	200
Total Receipts	35,453		102,247		137,700	104,630
			0			
Payments						
Charitable activities:						
Donations/Grants to charities	(30)		-		(30)	
Mission & Evangelism	(463)		-		(463)	(317)
Parish Share	(27,376)		-		(27,376)	(25,008)
Clergy expenses	(2,746)		-		(2,746)	(1,891)
Church running expenses	(587)		(16,901)		(17,488)	(19,048)
Churchyard maintenance			(5,742)		(5,742)	(2,692)
Cost of raising funds			(9,211)		(9,211)	(300)
Support costs			-		-	(180)
Administration costs (inc. staff costs)	(10,006)		(893)		(10,899)	(9,040)
Governance Costs	(55)		-		(55)	(80)
Other	(2,143)		(5,895)		(8,038)	(7,079)
Major expenditure						
Repairs to church buildings	-		(51,702)		(51,702)	(72,098)
Repairs to other property	-		-		-	-
Capital purchases/additions	-		-		-	-
Loan repayments	-		-		-	-
Total payments	(43,406)		(90,344)		(133,750)	(137,733)
Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over payments	(7,953)		11,903		3,950	(33,103)
<i>Transfers between funds</i>	(196)		196		-	-
	(8,149)		12,099		3,950	(33,103)
<i>Cash at bank and in hand at 1 Jan (Actual Balance)</i>	40,334		208,917		249,251	282,354
<i>Cash at bank and in hand at 31 Dec (Actual Balance)</i>	32,185		221,016		253,201	249,251

Parochial Fees Note

The PCC received parochial fees as detailed below during the year. Part is made up of statutory fees due to the PCC or the DBF, as prepared by the Archbishops' Council under the Ecclesiastical Fees Measure 1986. The balance relates to charges as fixed by the PCC, for extras such as bells, flowers and special heating, or paid to visiting ministers, Readers or Non-Stipendiary Ministers as set out in the DBF's Parochial Fees policy

Of these fees only the amount due to the PCC (statutory & non-statutory) is shown above as legally the amount due to the DBF and other ministers (as set out in the DBF policy) should not be treated as PCC income.

During the year, the PCC received parochial fees totalling	£14,598.00
Statutory Fees due to the PCC totalled	£7,627.00
Statutory Fees due to the DBF totalled	£4,131.00
Statutory Fees received on behalf of a third party	£2,740.00
Non-Statutory Extras due to the PCC totalled	£0.00
Non-Statutory Extras due to a third party totalled	£0.00
The PCC also received Deposits for the following year totalling	£100.00

In total the PCC repaid the following Fees during the year

Payment to DBF of Statutory Fees	£4,131.00
Payment to visiting ministers/Readers/NSMs	£0.00
Payment to visiting ministers/Readers/NSMs	£2,740.00
Payment to visiting ministers/Readers/NSMs	£0.00

(This excludes fees for Sunday Services)



Statement Of Assets

<u>Account</u>	<u>Account Name/Description</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Balance 31 Dec 2022</u>
<u>A</u>	<u>The Parish of Three Saints</u>	<u>cash</u>	<u>£32,186.16</u>
<u>B</u>	<u>St Mary's Church</u>	<u>cash</u>	<u>£32,017.42</u>
<u>C</u>	<u>St Christopher's Church</u>	<u>cash</u>	<u>£37,675.09</u>
<u>D</u>	<u>St Michael's Church</u>	<u>cash</u>	<u>£31,322.58</u>
<u>E</u>	<u>St Christopher's (Teachers)</u>	<u>cash (Legacy)</u>	<u>£75,000.00</u>
<u>F</u>	<u>St Christopher's (CAF Bank)</u>	<u>cash (Legacy)</u>	<u>£45,000.00</u>



Outdoor Worship



St Christopher's Church, Lympsham

Fundraising Report 2022



It was great to be back holding events without the fear of short notice cancellation or all the other restrictions which went with the dark days of Covid : 2022 was a really successful year in terms of fundraising – our best yet.

In June we held the annual garden fete and vintage car show and, once again, it was wonderful to see so many people coming to enjoy a traditional village event and being able to mix together on a lovely summer's day.

Last year we broke the £5,000 ceiling for the very first time and, this year, we did just as well, only falling £9 short of last year's total, raising £5,407 in just two and a half hours!

Many thanks to the organising committee and all the stall-holders but particularly to Rosemary and Andy Carr who led the team and to Graeme Hale for his fantastic work in the garden.

Also in June, four gardens in the village opened their gates to the public for two days over a weekend, raising over £580 for the Church, together with over £1,250 for the National Garden Scheme charity, with 216 visitors enjoying the weekend. Once again, we definitely benefitted from having four gardens open at the same time and grateful thanks go to Rosemary and Andy, Victoria and Robin and Claire and Martin Sleight for allowing their gardens to feature in addition to the Manor – they all looked fantastic. A huge amount of work goes into the task of getting the gardens ready for the opening and we're really grateful to them for allowing this to happen.



The highlight of the year, though, was the much delayed 'Night on the Tiles Ball' at Batch Country House Hotel in October. What an evening it was with a three-course dinner, live music from the Lipinski Band, an auction and raffle with a bar open until late.

Thanks to the generosity of all, the hard work of the committee and some pretty lively bidding on the auction, we managed to raise an incredible £11,447 for our church!

A special thank you goes to those who generously donated prizes for the auction: although it is invidious to pick out one, the generosity of Rachael and Nigel Holland in donating a week in their villa in Mallorca for the third time is amazing.

This year the fete is to take place on **Saturday 1 July**, so don't miss it.



**Victoria Daintree
James Counsell
February 2023**



Bellringers

The ringing of church bells is one of those quintessential British sounds that we often take for granted. The unique English style of ringing evolved over 400 years ago and is part of our heritage.

All three church towers in The Parish of Three Saints have six bells, though their tone and characteristics are very different.

St Michael's bells at Brent Knoll are heavy and majestic (tenor 21cwt) and ringers come from all over the country to ring them.

St Mary's at East Brent are lighter (tenor 16cwt) and can be rung more quickly which makes them sound bright.

St Christopher's at Lymsham are lighter still (tenor 11cwt) and produce a higher pitched merry sound.

You are welcome to visit us during our normal Tuesday practice between 7.30 and 9 pm.

For more information please contact our

Tower Captain

Mr Melvyn Freeman

01278 641214



St Christopher's Buildings & Grounds Committee

Much of the year has been spent working with our Architects to modify proposals for the Re-ordering of our St. Christopher's to gain the approval of the Diocese and various historical associations that have to be consulted.

However, whilst basically the building remains in good order, ready for some timely redecoration and refurbishment during the above project, a few items had to be tackled during the year.

The dying wych elm at the front of the Church was felled and wild flower seed, sourced by the Parish Council, was sown in various parts of the churchyard.

During the year an eagle-eyed resident spotted one of the tower pinnacles leaning at a dangerous angle: this precipitated an examination of the tower by a specialist company, abseiling the tower walls and checking all the remaining pinnacles on the roofs.

Then, in August, one of the inner ceiling panels disintegrated with a small pile of plaster and old wood being found on the carpet near the door. The building had to be closed for several days whilst a temporary panel was put in place. Luckily the surrounding panels were found to be solid, but we look forward to the planned redecoration as part of the Re-ordering process to tie in with the installation of a cloakroom and refreshment area, which also will include some flooring renewal and updating of the heating.

Thank you to our Rector and Church Wardens and families for their encouragement and support. It should be noted that despite Barbara Foti and Jim Hanmer having 'escaped' to other counties / countries, they still take an interest in our progress.

Robin Leveridge,
Team Leader



Abseiling the tower





Repairs to a ceiling panel

Felling of the wych elm in the Churchyard



Spring in the churchyard



St Mary's Churchyard Team

We are a ten-strong group who meet regularly when the weather allows and the spirit is keen. Some of us wander up for the odd hour in the week as well.

Our activities cover the following:

laurel lopping,
hedge and bramble control,
weeding, digging and planting,
rockery maintenance,
path clearing and edging,

and when needed, when the wind is in a northerly direction, we make bonfires !

Yes, it's good exercise with plenty of space for social distancing,
so why not come along and join the fun?

Please contact Carole in the Church Office if you can help in any way.

01278 769082



St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll

Report on St Michael's Church project work during 2022

This report covers project work undertaken for the National Lottery Heritage Fund at St Michael's Church, fundraising and building work in the church and churchyard.

Promoting Education About Church Heritage (PEACH) Project

PEACH followed the re-leading work undertaken on the North Aisle roof in August 2019. Owing to Covid restrictions the project got off to a slow start with lockdown preventing significant gatherings at St Michael's until the beginning of 2022. Most of 2020 and 2021 was spent setting up our website and doing survey work in the churchyard (lichens, moths and spiders). We also developed a number of nature trails..



The major work in 2022 was preparing for, and staging, our Arts and Crafts Festival in May. This involved many craft groups and people around the area. Rosemary Keele played a big part in PEACH by working with Guides who looked at the church and churchyard. They enjoyed their sessions learning about St Michael's heritage.



Rosemary's role as a School Governor prepared the way for another significant highlight when Paula Baker, a teacher at the school, set up a History Project linked to St Michael's Church in September. The children started by exploring the church via a Treasure Trail and built on their discoveries to develop their skills as history detectives looking into the facts about the St Michael's heritage.



We have both enjoyed setting up our website to promote our church's heritage. During 2022 John Page revised and updated his Millennium History, and this has now been incorporated into the website. We are hoping that our QR codes to access sections of the website directly will be discreetly displayed around the church and churchyard in 2023.

Judith Champion's sketchbook of our church timeline – a lovely gift at £5 is available in the church.

Fundraising

Whilst we were virtually free of Covid restrictions in 2022, the Platinum Jubilee celebrations meant that there would be no Brent Knoll fete. To compensate for the loss of the fete plant sale we switched to selling daffodils in February and plants in the spring through the Village Community Shop. The Arts and Crafts Festival and the Platinum Jubilee fully made up for the lack of fundraising opportunities at the fete. At the former we raised £1,272 through sale of craft objects, donations and selling squares for our Community Quilt. At the Platinum Jubilee we raised a further £124 for the Community Quilt, but the highlight was £610 raised on the barbecue in the evening. August Teas raised a respectable £250. Finally the year ended on a positive note when the Christmas Fair raised £600.

Thanks to all who have participated in and contributed to these events over 2022.

Legacies



We are very fortunate to have received three legacies over the summer and autumn totaling £25k from Chris Callow, Sue Boss and Reginald Austin. Sue Boss lived locally and was very enthusiastic about managing the churchyard as a natural feature. Chris Callow and Reginald Austin both had childhood memories of St Michael's.

Building work at St Michael's in 2022 and development projects for the future

Symes Tomb Project completed September 2022

St Michael's Friends have supported this project, which was completed at the end of September. Parts of the inscriptions on the tomb had become unreadable and there was movement of the tomb, making it unsafe. The project involved removing the top of the tomb by winch and taking it apart before it was rebuilt on a sound base. The work was undertaken by Glynwoods and Plint, a Glastonbury firm that specialises in masonry repairs. After reconstructing the tomb, new panels were inserted on the north side with fresh inscriptions that matched the originals. Their skill and craftsmanship was an essential part of the final success of the project.

We must thank George Brown for his valuable project support.



Repairs to lychgate and repainting completed in October

Repairs to the woodwork were completed during the summer by Paul Dixon, a local craftsman. The whole structure was repainted in October.

The work was supported by a grant from the Nuttall Trust.

Future development projects for St Michael's

The St Michael's Building and Grounds Team are in the advanced stages of setting up a permanent projector/screen in the Chancel, which will allow direct projection of audio visual material without prior set up. We are also at the tender stage of constructing a path from the west door to the Remembrance Garden by the oak tree. This is essential to allow funeral parties access to burials and interment of ashes. Unfortunately we have a leak in the tower roof: our architect has advised us that a 'hot lead repair' needs to be done to part of the roof, which we hope will cure the problem.

There will be other work that will require funding, including completion of the space left by removal of the pews for the North Aisle. We have a year to decide what we can do: one option would be to construct a floor over the North Aisle to create a larger level space. The Diocesan Advisory Committee, that oversees church building work, will be visiting to provide advice. Finally, the year ended with the discovery of a leaking pipe in the back of the church. The 'penalty' for this will be an expensive repair.

All this work will require significant resources and there will continue to be a need for regular financial support by way of fundraising.

Ged Keele,

Coordinator Friends of St Michael's Church,

Fundraising Team and Secretary to Building and Grounds Team



Our Local Schools



Brent Knoll Primary School

The children at Brent Knoll continued to attend St. Michael's over the year, with the school devising and leading its own services, which allowed the children to really participate in the services. This happened at harvest and Christmas, to much success.

The other great success this year was the school's involvement with the PEACH project, that was organised and led by Rosemary and Jed Keele. This enabled the school to visit the church on several occasions, undertaking art work (with local artist Judith Champion) and a great history project using lots of the resources found in the church. This project really helped the children to develop their history skills.

During the Autumn, members of Pegasus Class, as part of their local history studies, have been undertaking trips to St. Michael's church. Tours of the church included the discovery of some interesting graffiti on the woodwork up in the organ loft, including a well-drawn picture of a WW2 fighter plane.

Chris Burman,

Head teacher

East Brent C of E Academy

The children at East Brent continue to use St Mary's and have regular visits from Reverend Kevin Wright and Chris Wright for collective worship.



As part of Interfaith week we took part in an Indian dance workshop. We were able to dress up in traditional clothes and dance to the beat of the drum.

Fiona Robertson
Executive Headteacher

Safeguarding

Safeguarding in the Church community, i.e. making our churches a safe haven for children, young people and vulnerable adults, is everyone's responsibility. Safeguarding is all about protection from abuse, neglect, harm or being exploited.

The policy for our three churches and the Office is in accordance with the Church of England House of Bishop's Document & Diocesan Guidelines.

The PCC also reviews our policy regularly as it is included on our meeting Agenda. Regular training is given to PCC members.

As always it is important for us all to remain alert and, if anyone is concerned about anything, they need to let the Safeguarding Officer or a representative of the PCC know.

Our main aim, because we are all God's children, is to provide a safe environment not only in each of our churches, but also in our communities. Our Pastoral Care Teams have all completed training for this and the register is regularly updated when changes are necessary: this means that each church and all our activities are well covered.

A Safeguarding display is available in each building with explanatory pages.

Our Safeguarding Officer is Ginnie Soffe.

If you have any concerns, contact Ginnie or Reverend Kevin Wright.



‘The Church of England is called to share the good news of God’s salvation through Jesus Christ.

The life of our communities and institutions is integral to how we address this task. The good news speaks of welcome for all, with a particular regard for those who are most vulnerable, into a community where the value and dignity of every human being is affirmed and those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy.

Being faithful to our call to share the gospel therefore compels us to take with the utmost seriousness the challenge of preventing abuse from happening and responding well where it has.’

From ‘Promoting a Safer Church’,

The Church of England’s Safeguarding Policy Statement

Administration and Structure

Geographically the Parish of Three Saints:

- is constituted of the following villages and hamlets: Brent Knoll, East Brent, Eastertown, Edingworth, Lymsham and Rooksbridge in Somerset
- has three parish church buildings: St Michael's Church in Brent Knoll, St Mary the Blessed Virgin Church in East Brent and St Christopher's Church in Lymsham plus a Church Office in East Brent
- is in the Diocese of Bath & Wells, a member of the Church of England

Correspondence address

The Church Office,
Church Road,
East Brent,
Somerset
TA9 4HZ

office.tpots@gmail.com 01278 769082

Parish Staff

Incumbent (Rector)
Curate

Reverend Kevin Wright
Reverend Neil Biddiscombe

Churchwardens

St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll

VACANT Post
Frances James (Warden Emeritus)

St Mary the Blessed Virgin Church, East Brent

Dot Coles

St Christopher's Church, Lymsham

Victoria Daintree

Parish Administrator

Carole Carter

PCC Treasurer

Victoria Daintree

PCC Secretary

Carole Carter

Safeguarding Officer

Ginnie Soffe

External Organisations

Inspecting Architect:

George Chedburn
Chedburn Codd
Bradford-on-Avon
Wiltshire BA14 6RL

Charity Commission

The PCC, The Parish Of Three Saints is now a Registered Charity with the Charity Commission.

Registration Number 1188593

Financial Organisations specific to the Parish:

CHURCH LIFE

CAF Bank Ltd

25 Kings Hill Avenue,
Kings Hill, West Malling,
Kent, ME19 4JQ

HERITAGE

St Christopher's Church
St Mary's Church
St Michael's Church

CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Ave,
Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent.

Friends of St Michael's
Trust

CCLA, Senator House, 85 Queen
Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4ET

PCC Membership as at December 2022

<i>Ex-officio</i>		<u>Position</u>	<u>Term/Expiry</u>
Rector	Reverend Kevin Wright	Chairperson	
Curate	Reverend Neil Biddiscombe		
Churchwardens			
	Brent Knoll	Vacant Post	Annual
		Frances James	Warden Emeritus
	East Brent	Dot Coles	Annual
	Lympsham	Victoria Daintree	Annual
Deanery Synod Representatives	Dot Coles		3 year term /2023
Elected Members			
	Pauline Chadwick		3 year term / 2023
	Sarah Cole		3 year term / 2023
	Dot Coles		3 year term / 2023
	James Counsell	Vice-Chair	3 year term / 2023
	Gwen Hatton		3 year term / 2024
	Ged Keele		3 year term / 2023
	Sarah McClean		3 year term / 2023
	Ginnie Soffe		3 year term / 2023
.....			
Co-opted	Victoria Daintree	Treasurer	Annual
	Carole Carter	Parish Administrator	Employed
		PCC Secretary	Annual
	Christine Hussey	Electoral Roll Officer	Annual
	Robin Leveridge	Donations Coordinator	Annual

Structure, Governance and Management

- The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.
- Each elected PCC member is encouraged to be a member of one of the PCC Teams. Ex-officio members (excluding Deanery Synod Representatives) may sit on any Team.
- Non-PCC members invited to join PCC Teams are co-opted members. They are invited to join because of the gifts and expertise they have. Their term on a Team might be short-term (for example, the duration of a particular project) or long-term.

Objectives and Activities

- The Parish of Three Saints 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 (as expressed in the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 No.3 4 and 5 Eliz 2*).
- It also has maintenance responsibilities for the three church buildings, St Christopher's, Lympsham, St Mary the Blessed Virgin, East Brent, St Michael's, Brent Knoll and also for the Church Office in East Brent.

Changes to the Parish Electoral Roll in 2022;

The Electoral Roll at the end of the 2021	105
Total at the end of 2022	103



Number of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals for the Parish

	Parish Total for 2022
Baptisms	11
Weddings	8
Funerals	26

Who's Who as at December 2022

Rector- Reverend Kevin Wright

The Rectory, 3 Ash Trees, East Brent, Highbridge, Somerset TA9 4DQ

01278 760844 07764 170463 priest.tpots@gmail.com

Curate- Reverend Neil Biddiscombe curate.tpots@gmail.com

Worship, Mission and Evangelism

Rector, Reverend Kevin Wright and Curate, Reverend Neil Biddiscombe,

Lay Worship Assistants: Chris Wright , Kate Wilford,

Deanery Synod:

Dot Coles

Diocesan Synod:

Chris Wright

Pastoral Care Team

Ginnie Soffe, Dot Coles, Tim Hannah, Jane Hannah, Margaret Smith, Carla Searle, Sarah McClean.

Lay Pastoral Assistants

Ginnie Soffe, Dot Coles, Tim Hannah, Jane Hannah, Margaret Smith, Carla Searle , Sarah McClean.

Buildings and Grounds Teams

Robin Leveridge, Victoria Daintree, Robin Hoare, Dot Coles, Carole Carter,

(Project help, Tim Hannah) Ged Keele, Mike Smith, Tony Gilbert, and Reverend Kevin Wright

Finance Team:

Victoria Daintree Robin Leveridge, Ged Keele, Carole Carter and Reverend Kevin Wright

Fundraising Chair of Teams

St Christopher's:	James Counsell
St Mary's:	Dot Coles/ Carole Carter
St Michael's:	Ged Keele

Friends of St Michael's Ged Keele

Organist: Pauline Chadwick

Website: www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk E-Mail: office.tpots@gmail.com

Church Office, Church Road, East Brent, Somerset, TA9 4HZ 01278 769082

Facebook: TPOTS Twitter: @TPOTS6

TPOTS's Receipts & Payments Account



for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Church Life Fund	Heritage Fund	Year	
			2022	2021
Receipts	£	£	£	£
Donations and Legacies:				
Planned giving	26,133	12,600	38,733	41,270
Collections, donations & other giving	753	32,121	32,874	31,398
Income tax recovered	-	7,802	7,802	11,552
Legacies	-	20,002	20,002	-
Other Trading activities				
Magazine/Bookstall sales/Hall Lettings etc	-	5	5	-
Income from other Properties	-	-	-	-
Annual Fete/events	737	27,475	28,212	9,995
Receipts from Investments:				
Interest & dividends	33	2,162	2,195	1,891
Receipts from Charitable activities:				
Parochial fees	7,727	-	7,727	8,324

Other Receipts				
Insurance claims	-	-	-	-
Sale proceeds from fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Loans received	-	-	-	-
Other	70	80	150	200
Total Receipts	35,453	102,247	137,700	104,630
		0		
Payments				
Charitable activities:				
Donations/Grants to charities	(30)	-	(30)	
Mission & Evangelism	(463)	-	(463)	(317)
Parish Share	(27,376)	-	(27,376)	(25,008)
Clergy expenses	(2,746)	-	(2,746)	(1,891)
Church running expenses	(587)	(16,901)	(17,488)	(19,048)
Churchyard maintenance		(5,742)	(5,742)	(2,692)
Cost of raising funds		(9,211)	(9,211)	(300)
Support costs		-	-	(180)
Administration costs (inc. staff costs)	(10,006)	(893)	(10,899)	(9,040)
Governance Costs	(55)	-	(55)	(80)
Other	(2,143)	(5,895)	(8,038)	(7,079)
Major expenditure				
Repairs to church buildings	-	(51,702)	(51,702)	(72,098)
Repairs to other property	-	-	-	-
Capital purchases/additions	-	-	-	-

Loan repayments	-	-	-	-
Total payments	(43,406)	(90,344)	(133,750)	(137,733)
Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over pay	(7,953)	11,903	3,950	(33,103)
<i>Transfers between funds</i>	(196)	196	-	-
	(8,149)	12,099	3,950	(33,103)
<i>Cash at bank and in hand at 1 Jan (Actual Balance)</i>	40,334	208,917	249,251	282,354
<i>Cash at bank and in hand at 31 Dec (Actual Balance)</i>	32,185	221,016	253,201	249,251

**produced using the Diocesan Cashbook v5*

Parochial Fees Note

The PCC received parochial fees as detailed below during the year. Part is made up of statutory fees due to the PCC or the DBF, as prepared by the Archbishops' Council under the Ecclesiastical Fees Measure 1986. The balance relates to charges as fixed by the PCC, for extras such as bells, flowers and special heating, or paid to visiting ministers, Readers or Non-Stipendiary Ministers as set out in the DBF's Parochial Fees policy

Of these fees only the amount due to the PCC (statutory & non-statutory) is shown above as legally the amount due to the DBF and other ministers (as set out in the DBF policy) should not be treated as PCC income.

During the year, the PCC received parochial fees totalling	£14,598.00
Statutory Fees due to the PCC totalled	£7,627.00
Statutory Fees due to the DBF totalled	£4,131.00

Statutory Fees received on behalf of a third party	£2,740.00	
Non-Statutory Extras due to the PCC totalled	£0.00	
Non-Statutory Extras due to a third party totalled	£0.00	
The PCC also received Deposits for the following year totalling	£100.00	
		<i>Balance owed at year-end (inc. in Creditors)</i>
In total the PCC repaid the following Fees during the year		
Payment to DBF of Statutory Fees	£4,131.00	£0.00
Payment to visiting ministers/Readers/NSMs	£0.00	
Payment to visiting ministers/Readers/NSMs	£2,740.00	
Payment to visiting ministers/Readers/NSMs	£0.00	£0.00
(This excludes fees for Sunday Services)		



Independent Examination of The Parish of Three Saints 2022 Annual Accounts

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE PARISH OF THREE SAINTS 2022 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE PARISH OF THREE SAINTS 2022 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE PARISH OF THREE SAINTS 2022 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Introduction

1. This report has been prepared by John Leddy on behalf of the Trustees of The Parish of Three Saints who are the sponsor, and to whom any queries should be addressed.

Background

2. In the medieval period there were three separate parishes for the villages of South Brent, Brentmarshe and Lymplesham, and each had a significant church. By the end of the nineteenth century the villages became known as Brent Knoll, East Brent and Lympham respectively. During the 1970's the Parishes were brought together to operate as a Benefice served by a single priest. In 2011 a decision was made to form a single Parish and The Parish of Three Saints came into being in 2012.

3. The Parish includes the churches of St Mary's East Brent, St Michael's, Brent Knoll and St Christopher's in Lympham. The new Parish has a population of 3,400, which is concentrated in the villages of Brent Knoll, East Brent, Lympham and Rooksbridge. Since the days of the Benefice Sunday services have been held in rotation at the three Parish churches. This practice continues in The Parish of Three Saints.

4. Brent Knoll, formerly known as South Brent, is a village and civil parish in the Sedgemoor district of the county of Somerset, in the south west of England. It is an attractive village which clings round the western slopes of the Knoll, a hill that dominates the low surrounding landscape of the Somerset levels.

5. East Brent is a village and civil parish, on the eastern edge of Brent Knoll, close to the M5 motorway, 5 miles (8 km) west of Axbridge, in the Sedgemoor district of the county of Somerset, in the south-west of England. The parish includes the hamlets of Rooksbridge, where the A38 road crosses the Mark Yeo and Edingworth.

6. Lympham is a village and civil parish six miles west of Axbridge and six miles south-east of Weston-super-Mare, close to the River Axe in Somerset, England. The parish includes the hamlet of Wick.

7. The Parish of Three Saints presently has a church membership of 107 and is rated category C for the purposes of Parish Share of the Common Fund. The Parish comes under the Axbridge Deanery and the Diocese of Bath and Wells. As its combined income is above £100,000 the Parish is registered as a Charity¹ with the Charity Commission.

Aim

8. John Leddy is to conduct the Independent Examination (IE) of The Parish of Three Saints accounts for the year ending 31 December 2022.

Approach

9. Eligibility to examine the accounts and conduct an IE was confirmed.

10. The Parish of Three Saints Annual Accounts for the period 1st January to 31st December 2022 were examined in accordance with Charity Commission (CC) guidance, details are at Annex A. Additional investigations were conducted where necessary and supporting documentation for the operation of the funds requested if required.

¹ Charity Registration Number: 1188593

11. As part of the examination discussions were held with the Parish Treasurer to ascertain answers to the CC Directions.

Findings

12. Examination of the annual report confirmed that the gross income of The Parish of Three Saints did not exceed £1 million² and the aggregate value of assets (before deduction of liabilities) did not exceed £3.26 million. In addition to the upper threshold, the Gross Income was above the £25,000³ lower threshold set for an IE rather, than Audit, to be carried out. Fund Balances are:

Table 1 – The Parish of Three Saints Account Balances

Serial	Fund	Gross Income (£)	Gross Assets (£)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1	The Parish of Three Saints	137,700	253,201

13. The Gross Income of the Charity is below £250,000 which means that the accounts could be prepared on a Receipts and Payment basis. On inspection of the Charity accounts the Trustees have elected to prepare their Accounts using this method. The Bath & Wells DBF R&P Cashbook is utilised.

14. **Points from Last Year's Review.** Last year's IE Report was reviewed. On inspection of that Report no observations were outstanding.

Additional Observations. The Independent Examiners report is a statement to confirm that the Charity is operating within the accounting and governance tolerances set by the CC. In conducting the IE I have the following observations to report.

- a. The Parish does not produce a Trustees Annual Report in line with CC Direction 12. However, a Treasurer's Financial Review has been completed and evidenced.

Recommendations

15. It is recommended that;

- a. The Parish investigate producing a Trustees Annual Report incorporating the Annual Accounts. An example Trustees Annual Report can be found on the Charity Commission website.

Conclusion

16. The Parish of Three Saints has received an unqualified report which can be found at Enclosure 1.

Annex:

- A. The Charity Commission's Directions on the IE of Charity Accounts.

Enclosure:

1. IE Report for 1 Jan to 31 Dec 22 – The Parish of Three Saints.

² Charities Act 2011 Chapter 3 Section 144(1).

³ Charities Act 2011 Chapter 3 Section 145(1).

THE CHARITY COMMISSIONS DIRECTIONS ON INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF CHARITY ACCOUNTS

1. The CC produce an examiners' guide to IE of Charity Accounts. It is specifically written for independent examiners and explains their role and duties in examining the accounts of a charity. In accordance with Section E of the guidance the 13 specific directions and how they were addressed are as follows:

- a. **Examination and accounting thresholds.** The annual report for the period 1 Jan – 31 Dec 22 was examined to confirm IE thresholds⁴ had not been breached.
- b. **Conflicts of Interest.** The examiner was not influenced or perceived to be influenced in any way as he did not have any close personal relationships with the Trustees, was not a major donor to the Trust, did not have any control of funds and was not involved in the day to day running of the Trust.
- c. **Documentation.** Working papers were examined and evident. All procedures carried out and any matters arising to support conclusions reached or statements provided in the report have been documented.
- d. **Understanding the charity.** Detailed briefs and free access to all charity documentation ensured a full understanding of the charity's constitution, organisation, accounting systems, activities and nature of its assets, liabilities, incoming resources and application of resources.
- e. **Accounting records.** The charity accounting records have been subject to a review and appear complete and consistent with statutory requirements.
- f. **Comparison with accounting records.** A comparison of the charity's accounts with the accounting records in sufficient detail was carried out which provides a reasonable basis to decide that the accounts are consistent.
- g. **Accruals Basis Checks.** As the Accounts of The Parish of Three Saints are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis this section is not relevant.
- h. **Accounting policies, estimates and judgements.** Reviewed the accounting policies adopted and consider their consistency with the SORP and their appropriateness to the activities of the charity.
- i. **Financial circumstances and Going Concern.** The examiner checked whether the Trustees have considered the financial circumstances of the Charity at the end of the reporting period and have made an assessment of the Charities position as a going concern when approving the Accounts.
- j. **Form and Content of the Accounts.** The examiner carried out procedures as considered necessary to provide a reasonable basis on which to conclude whether or not the accounts have been properly prepared. The examiner checked that they can lawfully prepare Receipts and Payments Accounts, that all accounting statements are present, and the funds of the Charity can be correctly identified.

⁴ Gross income greater than £0.025 and not to exceed £0.25M for receipts and payments, gross income not to exceed £1.0M and the aggregate value of assets should not exceed £3.26M otherwise a full audit is required.

k. **Analytical Review.** The examiner carried out an analytical review of the current accounts to identify if any entries required further explanation or evidence. The 2021 Accounts were compared with the 2020 Accounts to see if any material changes could be identified.

l. **Compare the Trustees Annual Report with the Accounts.** The Trustees have not prepared a Trustees Annual Report, which incorporates their Accounts. The Treasurer has prepared a Financial Report for the APCM.

m. **Examiner's report.** The IE report can be found at Enclosures 1.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S UNQUALIFIED REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE
PARISH OF THREE SAINTS**

I report on the accounts of The Parish of Three Saints for the 12 months ended 31st December 2022, which are set on pages 1 to 2.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of The Parish of Three Saints are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an IE is needed. The Charity is preparing Receipts and Payments Accounts, and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA).

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for IE, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Charities Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the CC under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Charities Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the CC. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's unqualified statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below) in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- a. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Parish as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- b. The accounts do not accord with those records.

2. I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John Leddy FCMA CGMA CPFA
5 Cedarn Court

Manor Gardens
Kewstoke
Weston super Mare
BS22 9XU

John Leddy
John Leddy
24 February 2023

THE PARISH OF THREE SAINTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1188593

Accounts

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT for 2020

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This report has been printed in monochrome to save valuable parish funds. A colour copy will be on our website.

Once again, from all of us at The Parish of Three Saints, we wish to say a very huge, warm 'thank you' to you all for giving of your time and talents, especially during this difficult year.

These include;-

Churchwardens

PCC Members

Worship Leaders

Stewards/Welcomers

Readers

Musicians

Chalice Assistants

Scripture Readers

Intercessors

Refreshment Providers

Finance Team

Fundraisers

Bell Ringers

Group Helpers

Flower Arrangers

Church openers/closers

Cleaners

Brass Cleaners

Clock Winders

Churchyard Grounds supporters

Coffee Morning helpers



We are very fortunate to have so many wonderful people that we cannot name you all, but together you combine to keep our three churches, office and grounds ship-shape and make our sacred spaces welcoming, friendly and inspiring.

If you feel that you can give some of your time, however small, or talents and you wish to be a part of the Church Family, please contact any of the Church Wardens or Church Office.



One Parish One Benefice

The Parish of Three Saints



Reopening the Churches after Lockdown 1

Rector's reflections on 2020

There is no denying the fact that 2020 will go down in history as a unique year. Little did we know in January that we would be unable to worship in the churches for many weeks and our face-to-face fellowship and events would be curtailed so abruptly.

On a positive note, early in the year the suspension of the parish was lifted, so in all respects we are finally one parish, one benefice and I was licensed as Rector in the Archdeacon's study (as opposed to the Priest-in-Charge). This gives a slightly more secure future for this parish to remain as it is for ministry as the diocese inevitably reorganises stipendiary posts.

That said, there is a strong Church Family here, which has been able to withstand the ravages of the virus in more ways than one. While not perhaps enjoying the journey, the fellowship has continued to be strong and learnt how to be "church" in different ways. When not in the buildings we have had weekly recorded services online, mainly Eucharistic, with laity involved in reading, interceding and sometimes other activities such as choosing hymns or being interviewed. Nikki Burns, our Reader, contributed sermons. We have also had less formal worship, other reflections and continued Café Church in recorded form using ZOOM and a small group sharing informally over tea and cake led by our LWAs, Chris Wright and Kate Wilford. In all during 2020 alone we made approaching 40 recordings. It was a challenge and a joy to learn new technical skills, not only for me, but for many who readily adapted to using ZOOM for meetings and to record readings and prayers for services. There was some investment by me personally in equipment, which I am happy to bear, but, if we wish to maintain a long-term online presence, the church may have to consider what is needed for the parish and a team of volunteers will have to learn the skills necessary to commit to this.

Early on for Easter Sunday 2020 many people stood out in their gardens or on their drives and sang along with the national church – it was a very emotional time. We also collected photos and made a video of people's Easter Gardens. We had begun a very popular Lent Group at The Rectory based on the film 'Chocolat', but it was unable to continue after lockdown. However, the Advent Course, 'Living in Hope', was successful using ZOOM – a timely topic.

After the first period of lockdown, we celebrated a return to the buildings with a parish pilgrimage. Chris and I walked from home calling at the three village churches symbolically unlocking the doors and saying prayers. We were joined by dozens of people for different parts of the route. Again, we did not know it would all happen again and in November we were not allowed in again. In the interim we did manage a harvest celebration; with no singing allowed, recorded folk songs were used instead bringing a fresh approach. There was also an outdoor Evening Prayer in St Mary's Churchyard. Even while we were able to use the church buildings for a main Eucharist or Morning Prayer, we continued recorded reflections and prayers online for those who felt unable to attend.

Christmas was unplannable much in advance, as it was clear that further restrictions were inevitable. But we were able at the end of the year to have a Carol Service live on ZOOM (with technical help from my daughter, Joanna) and a Eucharist (Midnight, Christmas morning and Sunday after Christmas) in person in each of the churches. We even managed to sing a few carols in the open air and made a video of photos of domestic crib sets.

It's all been very creative and, in some ways, an exciting learning experience. However, I took very little leave during the year, it was busy for me, and have become increasingly tired during this New Year. I will be ensuring my full compliment of days off and leave during 2021 and I thank you for your support in this.

I am indebted to the worship leadership team, Reader Nikki Burns and LWAs, Kate Wilford and Chris Wright, for their commitment, and especially to the Wardens and Assistants, for facilitating the necessary safe practices in the churches and supporting me as decisions were made about services, often at short notice. I must also mention Pauline Chadwick, who has continued to play the organs, even when we are not there and often in cold churches, to keep them in a good state. There are also the teams who have kept an eye on often-empty churches, cleaning, winding clocks and simply "doing" as necessary.

I have emphasised all the time the irony that by socially distancing, minimising our social interactions, and sanitising we show our love for each other. A lesson perhaps to think about for the future. Thank God no one seems to have contracted the virus through church at the time of writing, although members of the church community have had it. We praise God for their recovery and pray about the continuing long-term effects for some.

The pastoral care team were actively supporting people at home during the lockdown and while people felt unable to attend church. Leaflets were distributed offering help, and a number of the team were involved in delivering papers, groceries, prescriptions and checking people were well. A phone network was set up to make sure that particularly people on their own would receive a phone call at intervals. This was greatly appreciated. My thanks especially go to them, as I found making many personal telephone calls was enjoyable, but very time consuming. (See separate Pastoral Team report). Other members of the church family also provided help in different ways.

Of course, the finances are a critical part of maintaining our ministry here. Firstly, Jim Hanmer has been a tremendous support and excellent Treasurer for many years and, as he hands over to Victoria Daintree the essential tasks, we all, and The Finance Team for the most part, must consider how to cover the various other roles he has developed and fulfilled. A matter for your prayers and perhaps for your skills. Our sincere heartfelt thanks go to Jim for all he has done.

One of Jim's targets while Treasurer was for the regular giving to fulfil our obligation to the diocese for the Common Fund. This has been achieved and, despite the unprecedented dire situation for many churches across the country which have relied on collections and/or fundraising to pay their parish share, our Church Life Fund has remained solvent. We are blessed in this respect with a very generous committed congregation for which I am deeply thankful, and so as long as regular committed giving keeps pace with increasing costs, the ministry here is secure for the foreseeable future.

However, the same cannot be said of the Heritage Funds. Even before this crisis, these funds were running at a loss. It is essential in my view, that a good level of regular giving to pay the bills is called for from people who may not attend church often, but would like the church buildings to remain open. It seems that many villagers are still of the impression that the central church or some government fund pays for the buildings. We need to address this misconception during 2021 as, although very grateful for all that people give in time, talents and money, we must not rely on fundraising that is unpredictable. It is a responsibility of all of us to talk about this with friends and neighbours – they can only help if they know the facts.

In addition, there are the maintenance and repair costs for three buildings, which are considerable, and the possibilities of developing the buildings for wider uses, which makes them more viable. I am again grateful to Ged Keele, particularly, and the local Brent Knoll team for all they have done to ensure the repair work on St Michael's is being completed, while redecorating and some minor works are in hand. St Christopher's is being imaginatively reordered, thanks again to a local team led by Robin Leveridge. At the end of 2020 the major essential repair work at St Mary's is looking more imminent, thanks to Tim Hannah investigating grants and working closely with Carole Carter and a small team to get applications in. A project team is forming for this major work, but a local buildings team for St Mary's also needs to be convened to oversee what needs doing day-to-day. (See separate reports).

Of course, the relationship with the schools has been harder to maintain, but Chris Wright and I have produced some recorded Collective Worship sessions, which have been well-received, and I have been in regular touch with the school Heads to offer our prayers and support. It has been great that, through seeing us on video, they have still recognised us in the street and said hello.

Mission, in the sense of drawing people into the faith of the church, has been of a more practical nature, supporting people as mentioned above. But there has also been an initiative of delivering welcome booklets to all newcomers to the villages. This is the responsibility of us all, as we see 'SOLD' signs going up. The booklets are available from Carole in the Church Office.

Ride and Stride was a highlight as a couple of groups of intrepid cyclists set off around the area visiting churches and soliciting sponsorship money. 50% of the proceeds go to The Somerset Churches Trust and 50% to us – in total £624 was raised. At the beginning of September 2021, let's see more folk out and about walking and riding.

At the time of writing, 2021 remains a year with some uncertainty, which prevents even mid-term plans being in place. This means we must learn from our experience this last year and live by faith. Living by faith is not irresponsible - sensible pragmatic decisions need to be taken regarding funding and maintenance - but often we can wait a while on the Lord and solutions do appear. It is part of faith to recognise that and exercise patience with watchfulness. I like to imagine sitting in the boat with Jesus after he calmed the storm (Matthew 4:35-41). We do have a Curate coming, who will be in-training and develop his skills, but in time he will be able to contribute to the ministry of the parish. We pray that others, maybe from our existing numbers, maybe someone moving here (into new housing?), will be able to offer their gifts to the mission of the churches here.

Please join this prayer and seek God's guidance for yourself and the parish.

Bless you all and thank you for your love and support for Chris and me.

The Revd. Kevin Wright (Rector)



The Revd. Stanley Price

During my first year here, I was delighted to get to know Stanley and Eva.

Stanley's very essence spoke of a deep love of Our Lord and his life reflected Jesus' love. I have heard many stories about his gentle ministry, out of retirement, both pastoral and liturgical. He clearly loved and was greatly loved by many.

Just as the pandemic started, it was a privilege to be able to go to the hospital and bless him and anoint him with holy oil only moments before he died and say final prayers with him, Eva and his wonderful faithful family.

His grave near St Christopher's Church door is, as he was, very modest. I have no doubt that this humble man was quite simply a gift to us for a while and that Stanley now resides in peace, joy and love with the God he served.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory, Amen.

Kevin

Celebrating the year:

A summary of what the church has achieved as a whole throughout the year

Support Groups for Our Parish

All groups have had to adapt during 2020 & we are hoping that they will resume during the coming months of 2021

Pastoral Care Support Groups will normally meet monthly.

The Bereavement Group meet in an informal environment with lovely homemade cakes and a welcome cup of tea. This gives people the opportunity to chat and share their experiences in a safe non-threatening way, in as much or as little as they feel comfortable.

The Alzheimers and Dementia Carers Group meet at the home of one of the leaders. The village agent, Kim Wilcox, attends when she can. Her welcome input provides very useful and helpful information about the support available for carers in the area.

The group is usually very well attended and provides carers with much needed emotional and practical support.

The COM-For-Tea is available for those with a long term and /or life- threatening illness. The members of the group provide commitment and dedication in trusting God to provide for people to meet in a supportive way. This continues to be the group's focus.

The Prayer Group continues to meet. As a Healthy Church we aim for prayer to be central to our Christian life. In confidence, the group pray for those who are sick and in need.

The Toddler Group is a joint venture between The Parish of Three Saints and the Brent Knoll Methodist Church. The group has been running for over 20 years and is well supported.

Unfortunately as the Methodist Church has not yet reopened this is not able to resume. See separate report on page 12.



Information Leaflets

There are leaflets which give information about the different pastoral care groups, activities and of the work the teams are involved in to support those in need.

These can be obtained in any church building or on our website & also at the church office in East Brent.

They will be updated with the latest information in due course.

01278 769082

www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk

Follow us on :-

Facebook: TPOTS

or

Twitter: @TPOTS6



Pastoral Care Team

What a year! This time last year the team was planning to reach out to people locally by delivering a Pastoral Care leaflet to every home in the parish. The leaflets had been printed and willing volunteers were standing by to deliver them, together with an Easter Card. But, sadly, all this had to be shelved as the whole country went into lockdown at the end of March 2020.

Pastoral care is, by its nature, often “up close and personal”; social contact, visiting people, meeting up, hugs, inviting people into our homes for a coffee. All this was suddenly not possible due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

So we have kept in contact by phone, email, WhatsApp and over garden fences. We have offered to shop, pick up prescriptions, deliver newspapers and run errands. We have delivered cards to those we know who are ill, have suffered bereavement or are recovering from operations. Lately we have dropped off daffodils on doorsteps, to bring people a little taste of Spring and let our neighbours know we have not forgotten about them.

At the start of the first lockdown we identified a number of people on the Church Electoral Roll, who lived on their own. There was a lot of fear and uncertainty around then, especially in the media and we felt people might value a little regular contact by phone if they were on their own, confined to their house and unable to go out. Each member of the PCT was responsible for 2 or 3 people who they rang or emailed once a week, or more or less often by mutual agreement. A couple of people said they were “fine thank you” and didn’t need contacting again, but many others have said how they really appreciated the calls.

All members of the Pastoral Care team started looking out for people in their neighbourhoods. Jane kept in contact with all the Toddler mums and Margaret had a long list of people she looked out for. Gwen continued to forward prayer requests, Dot rang her Comfort Group people and Carla kept in touch with all the members of the Alzheimer’s and Dementia Carers Group and has more recently been hosting Zoom meetings once a month.

We set up the East Brent, Rooksbridge and Edingworth TPOTS Support Group, similar to Brent Knoll and Lympsham’s Helping Hands groups, so people had somewhere to turn to locally if they needed help and hopefully no one would fall through the cracks. Thanks to some very kind volunteers, every house received a Coronavirus Prayer card, downloaded from the Diocese website, with the added offer of shopping and prescription collection to those who were self isolating. Kim Wilcox was very good at referring people needing help.

As things slowly start to open up over the coming months we hope to be able to meet up again in person and resume our support groups. But for the time being we continue to stay in touch with people by phone and email, seeking to be Jesus' hands and feet, His ears and eyes as we reach out to those in our parish.

If you would like to know more about the team, feel God is calling you to this ministry, or are in need and would like us to visit, please contact us by e-mail or telephone:

lpacare@tpots.gmail.com **07701 081077**

office.tpots@gmail.com **01278 769082**

We continue to praise God for the blessings He bestows on us as a Parish and are so thankful to all the Pastoral Care Team who contribute their time and energy so readily and with such enthusiasm.

A big 'thank you' to Carole who helps us administratively and to all those who support the team in prayer.

Anthony Barkle	Pastoral Care Team Co-ordinator.		
Ginnie Soffe	Pastoral Care Team Co-ordinator and Baptism Co-ordinator		
Tim and Jane Hannah	LPA (Lay Pastoral Assistants)		
Gwen Hatton	LPA		
Carla Searle	LPA		
Dot Cole	LPA	Kevin Wright	Rector
Margaret Smith	LPA		
Sarah McClean	LPA		
Sarah Cole	LPA		

Prayer

Loving God,

We pray for all those who are suffering because of the coronavirus, may they know your healing power.

When we are afraid for ourselves and our loved ones, give us your strength and courage.

When we feel alone and isolated, reassure us with a sense of your presence.

Give wisdom to those in authority and may our community work together for the good of all.

We give thanks for those who care for others and ask you to bless them in all they do.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, healer and physician.

Amen

Toddlers

This report has been kindly submitted by the Teddies on behalf of Toddlers:

2020 started off quite normally in January with us welcoming some new members to the group including a baby who was only a few days old. In February we talked about Pancake Day and the start of Lent. The children coloured pancake themed pictures, we all thought about the different fillings we liked and lots of the teddies chose honey.

March is always full of fun things to do at Toddlers with World Book Day, Mothering Sunday and the start of spring. For World Book Day the children were all given special Book Day vouchers and had the opportunity to dress up as one of their favourite book characters including William from Just William, Snow White, the Gruffalo, a Flower Fairy, Captain America and even a reindeer from the poem The Night before Christmas. For Mothering Sunday we all made pretty cards which we filled with colourful kisses. We also talked about God's Creation that can be seen in the signs of spring. Our wall display showed daffodils, bees and butterflies as well as a teddy rowing his boat on the river.

We started to think about Easter and were looking forward to seeing our vicar Kevin and the Methodist Minister Steve, on their Easter visit. However, that was not to be as Coronavirus dictated otherwise and the decision was made to suspend Toddler gatherings with our last meeting taking place on 10th March 2020.

But we have found all sorts of ways to keep in touch with the families from Toddlers. Phone calls have been made to every family; birthday cards are sent to all the children (and helpers); cards were also sent to those due to leave last summer as well as to those starting school in the September and of course Christmas cards went to all the children.

We, the Teddies (with a little adult help), write an article every month for The Brent Knoll News. We talk about ways to keep fit, we tell the toddlers about our daily walks and suggest things to look out for in the beautiful countryside around us. In December we reminded our readers about the Christmas Story and that we were practising 'Away in a Manger' to greet the baby Jesus on Christmas Day. We keep them informed about the wellbeing of the toys and how important it is to show care for each other. We always put in birthdays of the month and let the members of the group know how much we are missing them.

Back in March we had twenty-one families on the register with twenty-nine children coming from the surrounding villages of Brent Knoll and East Brent as well as from Burnham-on-Sea, Highbridge, West Huntspill and Weston-super-Mare. We would usually meet every Tuesday during term time but since March 2020 our meeting place, the Methodist Church, has remained closed.

We would like to thank everyone who helps and supports Toddlers and one day, when it is safe to do so, we will be together again; there will be painting and playdough, songs and story time, fun and friendship.

We know that the toddlers and their families are in our thoughts and prayed for.

The Teddies.





Bellringers

The ringing of church bells is one of those quintessential British sounds that we often take for granted. The unique English style of ringing evolved over 400 years ago and has been part of our heritage.

All three towers in The Parish of Three Saints have six bells, though their tone and characteristics are very different.

St Michael's bells at Brent Knoll are heavy and majestic (tenor 21cwt) and ringers come from all over the country to ring them.

St Mary's at East Brent are lighter (tenor 16cwt) and can be rung more quickly which makes them sound bright.

St Christopher's at Lympham are lighter still (tenor 11cwt) and produce a higher pitched merry sound.

You are welcome to visit us during our normal Tuesday practice between 7.30 and 9pm. When this is able to resume.

For more information please contact our

Tower Captain

Mr Melvyn Freeman 01278 641214



Carols in the churchyard



***Fireside
Carol
Service***



4pm Sunday 20th December
open from 3.45pm

LIVE on ZOOM only
(sing to your heart's content in your own home)

go to www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk
for a link – all welcome

**Congregational carol singing in church buildings
is not permitted at the current time**

For more details please contact: Revd Kevin Wright
☎01278 760844 or ✉revdkjwright@btinternet.com

Easter Gardens 2020



Axbridge Deanery Synod Review 2020

Our first meeting of 2020 was on Saturday 25th January at Blackford Village Hall where Revd Kevin led the opening worship session. The Area Dean, Lay Dean and members of the DMPG (Deanery Mission & Pastoral Group) presented suggestions for updating each section of the Deanery Mission Plan. This was duly updated and circulated to all. Further meetings were planned for May - the Churchwardens' Supper, June - on Tourism, to be held at Warren Farm, Brean & October - on Education.

Sadly, Deanery Synod gatherings were then hit by the Covid pandemic.

On 7th October our meeting was held via Zoom. Key topics at this meeting were on Ministry in Schools – some thoughts from the Deanery 'Schools Champion' Revd Kevin. There followed a series of small breakout groups on Thanksgiving, Lament & Growth.

We reflected in small groups on what we have learned about our church and local communities over the past months. What were the Red Letter Days - what stood out during the last months that had been good and for which we would give thanks. Blue Days – what in our context did we lament. Finally, the Green Shoots – where had we noticed God at work in our context bringing some green shoots of growth.

The first meeting of 2021 was planned for 9th February, again via Zoom to hear from our MP and ask questions and focus on the great challenge of tackling climate change.

Deanery Synod meetings are open to all so please come along, or “zoom in” to future gatherings. The Parish of Three Saints Deanery Synod representatives are currently Maxine Bashford & Dot Coles. Revd Kevin is an elected member of the DMPG & Chris Wright is the elected lay representative for our Deanery at the Diocesan Synod.

Maxine Bashford
Deanery Synod Representative

St Christopher's Annual Church Wardens' Report

2020 was a very challenging year for us all due to the outbreak of Coronavirus (Covid 19). As a result St. Christopher's Church was closed during the National Lockdown. There followed a gradual easing and we were able to open the church for private prayer for an hour a week. Thanks must go to the volunteers who opened the church on those occasions. Although there was a good response from passing pedestrians, very few visited the church. During this time services were broadcast online, with many members of the congregation contributing from their own homes. Kevin, our rector, did an amazing job of coordinating this and produced some excellent YouTube videos for us to join in and enjoy.

In the summer the situation improved and we were able to open the church again for socially distanced services. Thanks go to everyone who made this possible. However, as winter approached the virus took its hold again and once more the church building had to be closed and worship reverted to online again.

Despite everything, 2020 saw the start of a very exciting time for St Christopher's. After much discussion, work began to start the reordering process. Thanks go to Robin Leveridge who is taking a lead. The plans are to create a more informal worship space, fit a kitchen and a toilet with access for the disabled.

Work on the leaking roof was completed and we are pleased to report that the church is now water-tight.

St Christopher's Heritage fund suffered this year due to fundraising events having to be cancelled. However, the village rallied round to support a Christmas Hamper Raffle which raised just over a thousand pounds. Many thanks to everyone who made this happen.

Thanks go to Pauline for playing the organ so beautifully (when she was permitted!), to Robin Hoare for looking after the grounds, clock and flag, and to the bell ringers.

Finally thank you to Carole for all her hard work in the office.

It is a privilege to serve God in our journey together.

Gwen Hatton & Victoria Daintree
Church Wardens



St Mary's Annual Church Wardens' Report

As Church Wardens we are responsible for the buildings and grounds within our Parish. Thankfully, as wardens, we do not have to do all the work required ourselves. We have the responsibility of overseeing St Mary's as God's servants and we try to do our best for Him. Without your ongoing support this would not be possible: 'Thank you'.

This year saw the resignation of Church Warden, Kathy Quinnell, in April after many years' service to St Mary's and the Parish for which we are very thankful. Kathy still leads the grounds team looking after the Churchyard with a team of volunteers. Also she is a regular supporter with our fundraising efforts for the building.

Anthony Barkle also resigned as a Church Warden in October this year and is still a member of the PCC and is on the Pastoral Care Team. He also supports fundraising for St Mary's.

St Mary's is currently in desperate need of repairs which have been identified through the Quinquennial Inspection. At the beginning of 2020 we launched a 'roof appeal' which unfortunately came to a halt in March due to the coronavirus pandemic. This was restarted later in the year as much as was possible with the regulations that had been put in place. However, with the support of Tim Hannah obtaining grants for St Mary's and also some local people joining our small team we are planning to start the roof refurbishment in May 2021. We were also fortunate to have enlisted the help of Emma Brown, Church Buildings Adviser, from The Diocese.

Also during 2021 it is hoped to launch a 'Supporter's Group' for St Mary's which will help with funding for day to day running etc.

We would like to thank all our supporters: floral arrangers, cleaners, bell ringers, church openers, and closers and the churchyard team. Our Church family is so helpful with reading, praying and chalice assisting. We honour our faith together.

This has been a difficult year for us all & we are looking forward to a brighter future in 2021.



**Pilgrimage
reopening the
churches in July
2020**

St Michael's Annual Church Wardens' Report

As we look back on 2020 we are especially grateful to Kevin, Chris and the worship team for adapting to services during the covid pandemic. We have been able to continue to worship together either under covid safe condition in church or during home recorded services.

- January - Joined in celebrations for 'One Parish Benefice'.
Kate and Chris commended as lay worship assistants.
- February - School able to hold one service.
Valentines meal at Woodlands
Service for those we have loved and see no more.
- March - First café church at St. Michael's.
Churchyard clean-up day
Covid closure of churches but had home recorded services
- June - Church open for private prayer.
- July - Reopening of churches with service at St. Michael's
every 3 weeks plus online services
- October - North roof was renewed and work finished this month.
- November - British Legion Remembrance service in churchyard
Zoom Advent course 'Living in hope'.
- December - Christmas Day service at St. Michael's.

Thanks go to all who help both towards services and with the maintenance and fundraising.

We look forward to a time when we can worship in person together with no covid restrictions.

I am extremely grateful to Miss Frances James for all she does for St. Michael's. She is now a Churchwarden Emeritus as recognition of all the work she has done.

Mike Smith, Churchwarden

&

Frances James, Warden Emeritus

Café Church Online



St Michael's Church



Brent Knoll

Origami Palm Crosses Online

Online Services



Financial Review of 2020

Firstly, may I thank the Finance Team for their support during this year. In particular, may I thank Robin Leveridge for his advice, guidance and support as Donation and banking Coordinator. Also, my appreciation to Carole Carter, our Administrator, for keeping me on track, as usual.

You will be aware we manage our finances through two funds. Our Church Life fund, which contributes to God's mission and ministry across our Parish, and our Heritage Fund, which manages our three church buildings, as Heritage Assets, for the whole neighbourhood.

Thanks, largely, to a positive response to the Stewardship Appeal our Church Life Fund finished 2020 with a healthy £10,413 surplus and a bank balance of £30,588. Our income was affected by lower fees from weddings etc. but was boosted by strong planned giving and gift aid. Due to the current strength in our Church Life balances the PCC took the decision that, in 2020, for all fundraising receipts, generated by our three fundraising teams, would benefit our Heritage accounts.

Income to the Heritage Fund is generously supported through fund raising activities across the Parish. Each church building has a small fundraising team who work extremely hard to ensure the buildings can be retained at the heart of our communities. Regrettably, due the COVID-19 virus very little activity was possible during 2020. All three fundraising teams did carry out one activity in December and the results are shown on the attached figures, although some of the receipts were not banked until January 2021.



Café Church—before Lockdown

Financial Review of 2020 (Continued)

The excellent local appeal in Brent Knoll, together with successful grant applications, meant the urgent roof repairs were completed.

In East Brent we have a similar urgent need to repair the roof. We have received some generous, one-off, donations to start an appeal fund and much more work will need to be done on this in 2021.

In Lympsham work continues to identify how we can use the remaining legacy funds to improve the basic facilities within the building.

As can be seen from the attached figures, with all the appeal income and repair expenditure, the Heritage account had an overall deficit of £4,368.

It is vital the PCC maintains a tight budgetary control on the normal Heritage expenditure, required to maintain the running of the buildings, until normal fundraising activities can begin again.

The overall surplus across all accounts is £6,045 with overall closing balances of £282,354. As can be seen from the Balance Sheet, £278,746 is reserved for overheads, repairs and improvements to our buildings. This includes the Unit Trust investments held by St Michael's Trust.

We enter 2021 in a strong financial position and we pray that our Church Family will review their support to God's mission and ministry and our three fundraising teams will continue to have your support as they struggle to meet the financial demands of our three beautiful church buildings.

We registered as a stand-alone Charity in 2020 and the PCC will need to pay close attention to the Governance requirements this brings to them, as Trustees of the new Charity.

Jim Hanmer
Treasurer



The Parish of Three Saints

Combined figures

Receipts and payments - 2020

	Church Life	Heritage	Total	2019
Receipts	£		2020	2019
Planned Giving	29279	5314	34593	30627.96
Collections	3888	0	3888	4815.46
Other giving & Donations	1325	1652	2977	9834.21
Legacies	0	0	0	0
Gift Aid	9276	2969	12245	7832.42
Grants	0	12731	12731	12705
Fund Raising	1120	1530	2650	12464
Parochial Fees	4624	0	4624	5378
Refund of Ministers Fees	0	0	0	839.1
Other	0	0	0	2459
PEACH	0	5100	5100	0
Insurance Claim	0	0	0	15750
Appeal Funding	0	75084	75084	87631
Interest	0	1483	1483	3262
Total	49512	105863	155375	193598.2
Payments				
Parish Share	25744	0	25744	34647
Administration	11699	0	11699	11294
Church Running Expenses	888	9373	10261	24988
RPOI	0	0	0	20705
Mission	540	0	540	217.2
Repairs & Maintenance	0	55	55	714
Sundries	228	165	393	3435
Visiting Minister Costs	0	0	0	837.75
Cost of Fundraising	0	200	200	468
Churchyard Mtce	0	3390	3390	15737
Quinquennial Report	0	0	0	0
Donations	0	0	0	0
PEACH	0	409	409	0
QI Work	0	255	255	68389
Major Repairs	0	96384	96384	13138
Total	39099	110231	149330	194570
Excess of Income over Expenditure	10413	-4368	6045	-971.8
Opening Bank Balance	20175	136135	156310	127282
Opening Investment Balance	0	149043	149043	150000
Total Opening Balance	20175	285178	305353	277282
Closing Bank Balance	30588	131766	162354	156310
Closing Investments Balance	0	146980	146980	149043
Total Closing Balance	30588	278746	309334	305353

The Parish of Three Saints
Church Life Receipts and Payments
Year Ending 31st December 2020

	2020	2019
Income	Total	Total
Planned Giving	29279	25298
Collections	3888	4815
Other giving & Donations	1325	8652
Legacies	0	0
Gift Aid	9276	7630
Grants	0	0
Fund Raising	1120	3688
Parochial Fees	4624	5378
Refund of Ministers Fees	0	839
Other	0	2397
Total	49512	58698
Expenditure		
Parish Share	25744	34647
Salaries	7196	7696
Clergy & Reader Expenses	1985	1381
Administration	2203	2216
Church Running Expenses	888	2026
Mission	540	217
Music	315	196
Sundries	228	628
Visiting Minister Costs	0	838
Total	39098	49846
Excess of Income over Expenditure	10413	8852
Opening Bank Balance	20175	11323
Closing Bank Balance	30588	20175

The Parish of Three Saints

Heritage Receipts & Payments

Year ending 31st December 2020

					2020		2019
RECEIPTS	St Christopher's	St Mary's	St Michael's		Total		Total
	£	£	£				£
Collections & Other Giving	1518	1150	2646		5314		5330
Gift Aid	150	2135	684		2969		203
Friends	250	0	1402		1652		1182
Grants & Donations	11526	1205	0		12731		12705
Legacies	0	0	0		0		0
Interest	537	0	946		1483		3262
Fundraising Events	1004	526	0		1530		11628
Other	0	0	0		0		60
PEACH	0	0	5100		5100		
Insurance Claim	0	0	0		0		15750
Appeal Funding	500	12609	61974		75084		87631
Total	15485	17626	72753		105863		137751
PAYMENTS							
Heat & Light	1423	1253	-1634		1041		14876
Church Running Expenses	2977	2017	3338		8332		7890
Cost of Fundraising	200	0	0		200		468
CL share of Fundraising	0	0	0		0		2850
Minor Repairs	55	0	0		55		714
Sundries/Grant expenditure	55	55	55		165		2807
Churchyard Mtce	1950	1260	180		3390		15737
Quinquennial Report	0	0	0		0		0
Donations	0	0	0		0		0
R POT	0	0	0		0		20705
QI Work	255	0	0		255		68389
PEACH	0	0	409		409		0
Major Repairs	1588	0	0		1588		13138
Appeal Funding Work	7708	8761	78328		94797		0
Total	16210	13346	80676		110232		147575
Excess of Receipts over payments	-725	4280	-7923		-4369		-9824
Opening Bank Balance	28391	78718	29026		136135		115959
Opening Investment Balance	120000	0	29043		149043		150000
Total Opening Balance	148391	78718	58069		285178		265959
Closing Bank Balance	27666	82997	21102		131765		136135
Investments Closing Balance	120000	0	26980		146980		149043
Total Closing Balance	147666	82997	48082		278745		285178

The Parish of Three Saints

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2020

Assets									
								Legacy/	
	Bank	Investments	Total	Unreserved	Appeal Funding	Reserved	Investment	Total	
Church Life	30588	0	30588	30588	0	0	0	30588	
St Christopher's	27666	120000	147666	0	500	27166	120000	147666	
St Mary's	82997	0	82997	0	68854	14143	0	82997	
St Michael's	21102	26980	48082	0	15463	5639	26980	48082	
Total	162353	146980.42	309333.4	30588	84817	46948	146980	309333	

The Parish of Three Saints

Fundraising for 2020

Heritage										Church Life	
Event	St Christopher		St Mary		St Michael		Total		Nett	Gross	
	Income	Costs	Income	Costs	Income	Costs	Gross	Costs			
Quiz	0	0	501.4	0	0	0	501.4	0	501.4	0	
Coffee Mornings	0	0	170	0	0	0	170	0	170	20	
Christmas Fayre	0	0	0	0	280.7	0	280.7	0	280.7	336	
Ride & Stride	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	330	
Easyfundraising	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	640.2	
Masks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	130	
Raffle	1004	0	0	0	0	0	1004	0	1004	0	
Totals	1004	0	671.4	0	280.7	0	1956.1	0	1956.1	1456.2	
NB	St Michael's Christmas Fayre money banked in 2021										
	£145 of St Mary's coffee morning banked in 2021										

St. Christopher's Church, Lympsham.

Fundraising Report 2020

The year's fundraising has been severely curtailed, of course – no fete, no open gardens and very little that we have been able to do. Despite that, Victoria raised just over £1,000 out of the Christmas raffle, a fantastic achievement – thanks to all who helped to sell tickets, especially Mikhael at the shop.

We very much hope that will be back to a full programme of events from this summer and have pencilled in the following dates:

- Sat/Sun 19/20 June: Open Gardens at the Manor (in aid of the National Gardens Scheme and the Church) – we have an extra garden opening this year;
- Saturday 26 June: Church Fete and Vintage Car show in the Manor Gardens; and
- December date TBA; Gwen's Coffee Morning

We still hope to hold the much postponed 'Night on the Tiles Ball' and have a provisional date at Batch Country House Hotel for that. We will reveal details when we can.

In the meantime, here is what to look forward to when we are past this pandemic.

James Counsell

February 2021



St Mary's Church Monthly Pub Quizzes at Brent Knoll Inn, East Brent

Unfortunately due to the pandemic these have not taken place this year. It is hoped that when permitted quizzes will return.

To keep you updated we started the quiz in 2011 and, since then, we have raised £14,746. So we intend to carry on as long as we can!



St Mary's Churchyard Team

We are a ten strong group who meet on a Saturday morning when the weather allows and the spirit is keen. Some of us wander up for the odd hour in the week as well !

Our activities stretch as follows....

Laurel lopping

Hedge and bramble control

Weeding, digging and planting

Rockery maintenance

Path clearing and edging

Oh and when needed and the wind is in a northerly direction we make bonfires.....

Yes. It's good exercise with plenty of space for social distancing.....

So why not come along and join the fun?...?

Kathy Quinnell

Note from The Rector.....

Several people have expressed an interest in 'Greening our Churchyards'. This is an initiative we will explore and develop parish wide.

St Mary's Church, East Brent, Fundraising 2020 Review

The St. Mary's fundraising team aims to support the ongoing running costs incurred each year.

The team are very thankful to people who have resigned after many years of valuable commitment, but have agreed to continue helping at events.

We started the year, excited to be introducing some new fundraising events for 2020.

These included ;

Get to know your church, with cheese and wine evening.

Spring coffee morning events.

3 day summer wedding dress exhibition.

Christmas tree exhibition, by local charities, community organisations and businesses.

As you will appreciate, we have not been able to hold these events owing to the Coronavirus pandemic.

We have held an online coffee morning, and received donations that people would have given had they been able to attend events. Also we considered an online auction, raffle and murder mystery evening. As our team membership is small, with other personal and Parish commitments, we have not been able to plan and hold these alternative ideas yet, but we will consider them for the future.

St Mary's fundraising team need people to help in order to secure funds for the running of St Mary's. Please help by praying for new members to join, consider if you may be that person, and consider if you can become a regular donor. If so please contact the Church Office.

Without the support of the local community, we will not be able to meet the ongoing yearly costs to keep St. Mary's church open. Please contact Carole in the Church Office if you feel you are able to support the team.

During a challenging year many churches Nationally have been adversely affected.

We remember how patient and loving God is towards us and that He will provide so that His will be done.

Anthony Barkle



St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll

Save Our Special Ceiling Building Project

Releading of the north aisle roof was our major project at St Michael's Church in 2020. The final planning stage fell under the shadow of the first Covid lockdown and was completed when restrictions were eased during the late summer and early autumn.

During the latter part of 2019 our appeal to Save Our Special Ceiling was successfully completed. Somerset Churches Trust had agreed to support the project and the Nuttall Trust gave us a generous grant in January. Our application for National Lottery Heritage Fund was submitted in March and in May we heard that we were successful in our bid. Garfield Weston and Wolfson ChurchCare completed the match funding so we were all set to go.

Preparing for the roof work on June 29th 2020

Our architect had advised that a day should be set aside for West Country Tiling, our contractors, to do some exploratory work on the roof to establish the condition of the underlying timber work. Lifting roof boards at selected sites on the roof revealed the surprising finding that steel girders were present. Work had been done on the roof in 1978 when death watch beetle was discovered, and it was thought that the roof structure was strengthened then. The general conclusion was that the timber work was sound and that the work could progress without significant changes in plans. *But it was noted that the lead guttering was resting on concrete...*

Start of the roof work and a change of plan...

When roof work began on 20th July the foreman of building work reported a potential issue with lead replacement covering the guttering draining the roof. In essence the original plan to re-lead the roof could potentially cause problems years ahead because the lengths of lead required to replace the established guttering were too long. Overlong lengths of lead can split as a result of expansion and contraction with temperature variations. Due to the concrete base to the gutter it could not be lowered, so, instead, it would have to be raised, which would then create problems with the inclination of the main roof. The proposed solution was to introduce a step into the roof which would avoid the need to overlap rolls of lead. *The downside of this solution was that it would mean a considerable amount of preparatory timberwork before the lead was to be laid.*

The Parish accepted this solution and work began in earnest later that week...



St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll

Save Our Special Ceiling Building Project

The actual building work.....

It was fascinating to watch the whole process of releading the roof. Following erection of scaffolding the stripping out of the timber began. This was a slightly painful process to watch because we had hoped that it would not be necessary! WCT use their own recycled lead which is produced on site at their works in Frome, and in their normal production process lead from the roof would have been stripped, recast and returned to the roof as work progressed. Because our roof lead had been stolen this was not possible for our project, and WCT had to buy in their lead. Lead is heavy but much of the work getting it up to the roof has to be done by hand. Once it is at the base of the scaffold it is hauled up by a winch, and then manhandled: really heavy work.

Guttering was the first part of the roof to be installed. Water must flow and there have to be collecting points for the water to run out clear of the building. These were constructed off site and winched up. Under the revised roofing plan the gutter had to be raised and stepped to ensure proper drainage. The **general covering of the roof** is achieved by installing bays in sections. The lead is first painted with a chalk emulsion to protect the undersurface after it has been laid. It is then fashioned into a 'bay box' on the roof and is laid in position. This box is hammered into shape with an overlap to the roll that covers a wooden stick (the mopstick). This method of laying lead is known as 'closed roll'. It is important that the roof space below the lead is ventilated and the final step was to introduce ventilators that were cut through the lead that had been laid.

Repair work was completed by **repointing parts of the parapet and turret**. For repairs to Grade 1 listed buildings it is essential to use lime mortar, which, unlike modern mortars, does not contain cement. This mortar takes weeks to set and months to finally 'cure'.

This is a summary account of the building work that took place. Under our NLHF Project, Promoting Education About Church Heritage (PEACH), we have set up a website to describe our work. A full illustrated account of the building work can be found on a downloadable pdf file that can be accessed at the foot of the webpage -

[St Michaels Church Brent Knoll | SOS Ceiling](#)

**Ged Keele, Coordinator,
Friends of St Michael's Church**



Buildings and Grounds Teams

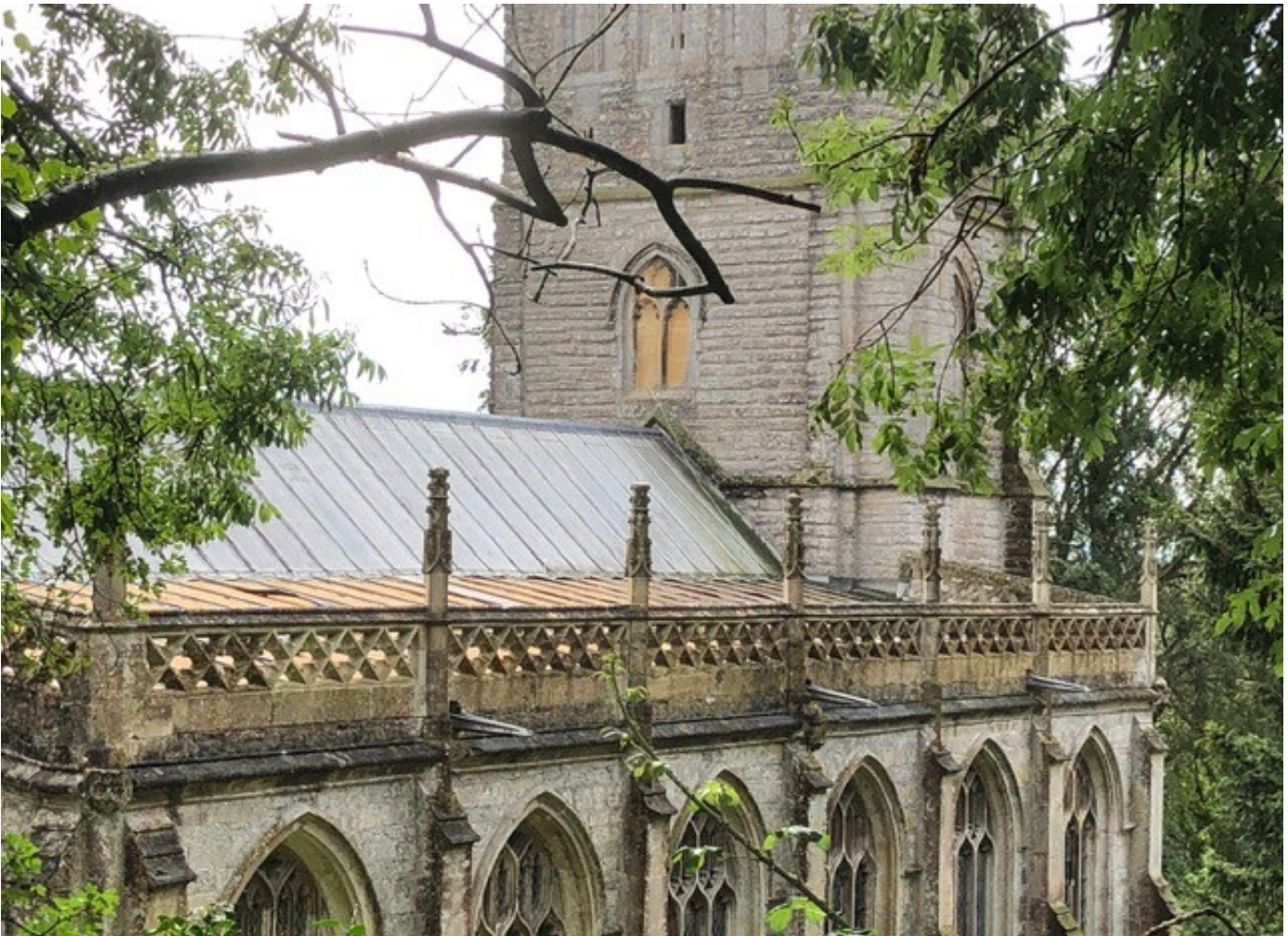
This year the Buildings and Grounds, Quinquennial Works & Re-Pitching our Tent (RPOT) group has been reviewed by the PCC and reformed as Individual Building and Grounds Teams, IBG's. These teams report into the Standing Committee, which reports to the PCC.

The main function of these teams is to identify and maintain our Church buildings. Every five years an inspection report is required by the Diocese, (Quinquennial Inspection) QI.

Quinquennial work is work that is identified as needing to be completed in this report.

These Building and Grounds Teams now consist of a minimum of one church warden, representing a church building, the Incumbent, and a representative/s from each village.

Church wardens have the responsibility of the upkeep of the buildings and grounds, but are not required to complete the work themselves. The team is accountable to the PCC. Each church building is encouraged to have a working group which can use the skills of people to help with specific events, works and projects for the Parish church building as is required.



Safeguarding Report 2020

Safeguarding in the Church community, that is, making our churches a safe haven for children, young people and vulnerable adults is everyone's responsibility. Safeguarding is all about protection from abuse, neglect, harm or being exploited.

Our policy for our three churches and the office is in accordance with the Church of England House of Bishop's Document & Diocesan Guidelines. The PCC also review our policy regularly as it is included on our meeting Agenda.

As always it just remains for us all to remain aware and, if anyone is concerned about anything, they need to let me or a representative of the PCC know.

Our main aim, because we are all God's children, is to provide a safe environment especially in each of our churches, but also in our communities. Our Pastoral Care Teams have all completed training for this and the register is regularly updated when changes are necessary: this means that each church and all our activities are well covered.

A Safeguarding display is available in each building and explanatory pages are included.

Our Safeguarding Officer for 2020 was Victoria Daintree and for 2021 will be Ginnie Soffe. In the meantime, if you have any concerns contact the Church Office or Reverend Kevin Wright.



Socially Distanced Services in 2020



2020 Ride and Stride Event

Administration, Structure and Data

Administrative information

Geographically the Parish of Three Saints:

- is constituted of the following villages and hamlets: Brent Knoll, East Brent, Eastertown, Edingworth, Lympsham and Rooksbridge in Somerset;
- has three parish church buildings: St Michael's Church in Brent Knoll, St Mary the Blessed Virgin Church, East Brent and St Christopher's Church Lympsham and a Church Office at East Brent.
- is in the Diocese of Bath & Wells, a member of The Church of England.

Correspondence address

The Church Office,
Church Road,
East Brent,
Somerset
TA9 4HZ

office.tpots@gmail.com 01278 769082

Parish Staff

Incumbent (Rector)

The Reverend Kevin Wright

Churchwardens

St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll Frances James (Warden Emeritus)
Mike Smith

St Mary the Blessed Virgin Church, East Brent Post now vacant

St Christopher's Church, Lympsham Gwen Hatton

Victoria Daintree

Reader

Nikki Burns (Now left our Parish March 2021)

Parish Administrator

Carole Carter

PCC Treasurer

Jim Hanmer (Resigned December 2020)

PCC Secretary

Carole Carter

Organist

Pauline Chadwick

Safeguarding Officer

Victoria Daintree Resigned Dec 2020

External Organisations

Inspecting Architect:

George Chedburn
Chedburn Codd Design & Conservation,
Bath Brewery, Toll Bridge Road,
Bath, BA1 7DE

Financial Organisations specific to the Parish:

CHURCH LIFE

CAF Bank Ltd

25 Kings Hill Avenue,
Kings Hill, West Malling,
Kent, ME19 4JQ

HERITAGE

St Christopher's Church

St Mary's Church

St Michael's Church

Friends of St Michael's
Trust

CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Ave,
Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent.

CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Ave,
Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent.

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Ave,
Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent.

CCLA, Senator House, 85 Queen
Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4ET

Charity Commission

The PCC , The Parish Of Three Saints is now a Registered Charity with the Charity Commission.

Registration Number 1188593

PCC Membership as at December 2020

<i>Ex-officio</i>		<u>Position</u>	<u>Term/Expiry</u>
<i>Incumbent</i>	Reverend Kevin Wright	Chairperson	
<i>Churchwardens</i>			
<i>Brent Knoll</i>	Frances James		Warden Emeritus
	Mike Smith		Annual
<i>East Brent</i>	Anthony Barkle		Resigned
			October 2020
<i>Lympsham</i>	Gwen Hatton		Annual
	Victoria Daintree		
<i>Reader</i>	Nikki Burns		Until March 2021
<i>Deanery Synod</i>	Maxine Bashford		
<i>Representatives</i>	Dot Coles		3 year term /2023
	Sarah McClean		
<i>Elected</i>	Anthony Barkle		3 year term / 2023
	Nick Bashford		3 year term / 2022
	Pauline Chadwick		3 year term / 2023
	Sarah Cole		3 year term / 2021
	Dot Coles		3 year term / 2023
	James Counsell		3 year term / 2023
	Tim Hannah		3 year term / 2022
	Chris Hussey		3 year term / 2022
	Ged Keele		3 year term / 2023
	Sarah McClean		3 year term / 2023
	Ginnie Soffe		3 year term / 2023
	Sally Wingate		3 year term / 2023
<i>Co-opted</i>	Jim Hanmer	Treasurer	Resigned Dec 2020
	Carole Carter	Parish Administrator & PCC Secretary	Annual
	Christine Hussey	Electoral Roll Officer	Annual
	Robin Leveridge	Donations Coordinator	Annual

Structure, Governance and Management

- The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.
- Each elected PCC member is encouraged to be a member of one of the PCC Teams. Ex-officio members (excluding Deanery Synod Representatives) may sit on any Team.
- Non-PCC members invited to join PCC Teams are co-opted members. They are invited to join because of the gifts and expertise they have. Their term on a Team might be short-term (for example, the duration of a particular project) or long-term.

Objectives and Activities

- The Parish of Three Saints 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 (as expressed in the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 No.3 4 and 5 Eliz 2*).
- It also has maintenance responsibilities for the three church buildings, St Christopher's, Lympsham, St Mary the Blessed Virgin, East Brent, St Michael's, Brent Knoll and also for the Church Office in East Brent.

Changes to the Parish Electoral Roll in 2020:

The Electoral Roll at the end of the 2019	=	107
Total at the end of 2020	=	107

Number of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals for the Parish

	Parish Total for 2020
Baptisms	2
Weddings	2
Funerals	15

Who's Who as at December 2020

Rector Reverend Kevin Wright

The Rectory, 3 Ash Trees, East Brent, Highbridge, Somerset TA9 4DQ

01278 760844 07764 170463 priest.tpots@gmail.com

Reader Nikki Burns

PCC Teams

Worship, Mission and Evangelism

Reverend Kevin Wright and Reader, Nikki Burns

Lay Worship Assistants: Chris Wright and Kate Wilford

Prayer Group

Gwen Hatton, Eva Price, Viv Freeman, Ginnie Soffe,

Sarah McLean, Anthony Barkle, Pauline Chadwick

Deanery Synod:

Maxine Bashford, Dot Coles, Sarah McClean

Pastoral Care Team

Anthony Barkle, Ginnie Soffe, Dot Coles, Tim and Jane Hannah, Margaret Smith, Gwen Hatton, Carla Searle, Sarah McLean. Sarah Cole.

Lay Pastoral Assistants

Anthony Barkle, Ginnie Soffe, Dot Coles, Tim and Jane Hannah, Margaret Smith,

Gwen Hatton, Carla Searle, Sarah McClean, Sarah Cole,

Buildings and Grounds / Quinquennial Works & Re-Pitching our Tent project (QPOT)

Anthony Barkle, Gwen Hatton, Victoria Daintree, Mike Smith,

Robin Leveridge, Ged Keele, Barbara Foti & Reverend Kevin Wright

Finance Team:

Jim Hanmer, Robin Leveridge, Ged Keele, Carole Carter & Reverend Kevin Wright

Fundraising Chair of Teams as at end of 2020

St Christopher's:	James Counsell
St Mary's:	Carole Carter / Anthony Barkle
St Michael's:	Ged Keele

Friends of St Michael's

Ged Keele

Organist:

Pauline Chadwick

Website: www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk E-Mail: office.tpots@gmail.com

Church Office, Church Road, East Brent, Somerset, TA9 4HZ 01278 769082

Facebook: TPOTS Twitter: @TPOTS6

The Parish of Three Saints					
Combined figures					
Receipts and payments - 2020					
	Church Life		Heritage		Total
Receipts					2020
	£				2019
Planned Giving	29279		5314		34593
Collections	3888		0		3888
Other giving & Donations	1325		1652		2977
Legacies	0		0		0
Gift Aid	9276		2969		12245
Grants	0		12731		12731
Fund Raising	1120		1530		2650
Parochial Fees	4624		0		4624
Refund of Ministers Fees	0		0		0
Other	0		0		0
PEACH	0		5100		5100
Insurance Claim	0		0		0
Appeal Funding	0		75084		75084
Interest	0		1483		1483
Total	49512		105863		155375
Payments					
Parish Share	25744		0		25744
Administration	11699		0		11699
Church Running Expenses	888		9373		10261
RPOT	0		0		0
Mission	540		0		540
Repairs & Maintenance	0		55		55
Sundries	228		165		393
Visiting Minister Costs	0		0		0
Cost of Fundraising	0		200		200
Churchyard Mtce	0		3390		3390
Quinquennial Report	0		0		0
Donations	0		0		0
PEACH	0		409		409
QI Work	0		255		255
Major Repairs	0		96384		96384
Total	39099		110231		149330
Excess of Income over Expenditure	10413		-4368		6045
Opening Bank Balance	20175		136135		156310
Opening Investment Balance	0		149043		149043
Total Opening Balance	20175		285178		305353
Closing Bank Balance	30588		131766		162354
Closing Investments Balance	0		146980		146980
Total Closing Balance	30588		278746		309334

The Parish of Three Saints				
Church Life Receipts and Payments				
Year Ending 31st December 2020				
		2020		2019
Income		Total		Total
Planned Giving		29279		25298
Collections		3888		4815
Other giving & Donations		1325		8652
Legacies		0		0
Gift Aid		9276		7630
Grants		0		0
Fund Raising		1120		3688
Parochial Fees		4624		5378
Refund of Ministers Fees		0		839
Other		0		2397
Total		49512		58698
Expenditure				
Parish Share		25744		34647
Salaries		7196		7696
Clergy & Reader Expenses		1985		1381
Administration		2203		2216
Church Running Expenses		888		2026
Mission		540		217
Music		315		196
Sundries		228		628
Visiting Minister Costs		0		838
Total		39098		49846
Excess of Income over Expenditure		10413		8852
Opening Bank Balance		20175		11323
Closing Bank Balance		30588		20175

The Parish of Three Saints						
Heritage Receipts & Payments						
Year ending 31st December 2020						
					2020	2019
RECEIPTS	St Christopher's	St Mary's	St Michael's		Total	Total
	£	£	£			£
Collections & Other Giving	1518	1150	2646		5314	5330
Gift Aid	150	2135	684		2969	203
Friends	250	0	1402		1652	1182
Grants & Donations	11526	1205	0		12731	12705
Legacies	0	0	0		0	0
Interest	537	0	946		1483	3262
Fundraising Events	1004	526	0		1530	11628
Other	0	0	0		0	60
PEACH	0	0	5100		5100	
Insurance Claim	0	0	0		0	15750
Appeal Funding	500	12609	61974		75084	87631
Total	15485	17626	72753		105863	137751
PAYMENTS						
Heat & Light	1423	1253	-1634		1041	14876
Church Running Expenses	2977	2017	3338		8332	7890
Cost of Fundraising	200	0	0		200	468
CL share of Fundraising	0	0	0		0	2850
Minor Repairs	55	0	0		55	714
Sundries/Grant expenditure	55	55	55		165	2807
Churchyard Mtce	1950	1260	180		3390	15737
Quinquennial Report	0	0	0		0	0
Donations	0	0	0		0	0
RPOT	0	0	0		0	20705
QI Work	255	0	0		255	68389
PEACH	0	0	409		409	0
Major Repairs	1588	0	0		1588	13138
Appeal Funding Work	7708	8761	78328		94797	0
Total	16210	13346	80676		110232	147575
Excess of Receipts over payments	-725	4280	-7923		-4369	-9824
Opening Bank Balance	28391	78718	29026		136135	115959
Opening Investment Balance	120000	0	29043		149043	150000
Total Opening Balance	148391	78718	58069		285178	265959
Closing Bank Balance	27666	82997	21102		131765	136135
Investments Closing Balance	120000	0	26980		146980	149043
Total Closing Balance	147666	82997	48082		278745	285178

The Parish of Three Saints									
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2020									
Assets									
	Bank	Investments	Total	Unreserved	Appeal Funding	Reserved	Legacy/ Investment	Total	
Church Life	30588	0	30588	30588	0	0	0	30588	
St Christopher's	27666	120000	147666	0	500	27166	120000	147666	
St Mary's	82997	0	82997	0	68854	14143	0	82997	
St Michael's	21102	26980	48082	0	15463	5639	26980	48082	
Total	162353	146980.42	309333.4	30588	84817	46948	146980	309333	

The Parish of Three Saints												
Fundraising for 2020												
Heritage											Church Life	
Event	St Christopher		St Mary		St Michael		Total		Gross	Costs	Nett	Gross
	Income	Costs	Income	Costs	Income	Costs	Gross	Costs				
Quiz	0	0	501.4	0	0	0	501.4	0	501.4	0	501.4	0
Coffee Mornings	0	0	170	0	0	0	170	0	170	0	170	20
Christmas Fayre	0	0	0	0	280.7	0	280.7	0	280.7	0	280.7	336
Ride & Stride	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	330
Easyfundraising	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	640.2
Masks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	130
Raffle	1004	0	0	0	0	0	1004	0	1004	0	1004	0
Totals	1004	0	671.4	0	280.7	0	1956.1	0	1956.1	0	1956.1	1456.2
NB	St Michael's Christmas Fayre money banked in 2021											
	£145 of St Mary's coffee morning banked in 2021											



Independent Examination of The Parish of Three Saints 2020 Annual Accounts

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE PARISH OF THREE SAINTS 2020 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE PARISH OF THREE SAINTS 2020 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE PARISH OF THREE SAINTS 2020 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Introduction

1. This report has been prepared by John Leddy on behalf of the Trustees of The Parish of Three Saints who are the sponsor, and to whom any queries should be addressed.

Background

2. In the medieval period there were three separate parishes for the villages of South Brent, Brentmarshe and Lymplesham, and each had a significant church. By the end of the nineteenth century the villages became known as Brent Knoll, East Brent and Lympham respectively. During the 1970's the Parishes were brought together to operate as a Benefice served by a single priest. In 2011 a decision was made to form a single Parish and The Parish of Three Saints came into being in 2012.

3. The Parish includes the churches of St Mary's East Brent, St Michael's, Brent Knoll and St Christopher's in Lympham. The new Parish has a population of 3,400, which is concentrated in the villages of Brent Knoll, East Brent, Lympham and Rooksbridge. Since the days of the Benefice Sunday services have been held in rotation at the three Parish churches. This practice continues in The Parish of Three Saints.

4. Brent Knoll, formerly known as South Brent, is a village and civil parish in the Sedgemoor district of the county of Somerset, in the south west of England. It is an attractive village which clings round the western slopes of the Knoll, a hill that dominates the low surrounding landscape of the Somerset levels.

5. East Brent is a village and civil parish, on the eastern edge of Brent Knoll, close to the M5 motorway, 5 miles (8 km) west of Axbridge, in the Sedgemoor district of the county of Somerset, in the south-west of England. The parish includes the hamlets of Rooksbridge, where the A38 road crosses the Mark Yeo and Edingworth.

6. Lympham is a village and civil parish six miles west of Axbridge and six miles south-east of Weston-super-Mare, close to the River Axe in Somerset, England. The parish includes the hamlet of Wick.

7. The Parish of Three Saints presently has a church membership of 47 and the parish in 2020 was rated category D for the purposes of Parish Share of the Common Fund. For 2021 this will change to Category C. The Parish comes under the Axbridge Deanery and the Diocese of Bath and Wells. As its combined income is above £100,000 the Parish has registered as a Charity¹ with the Charity Commission.

Aim

8. John Leddy is to conduct the Independent Examination (IE) of The Parish of Three Saints accounts for the year ending 31 December 2020.

Approach

9. Eligibility to examine the accounts and conduct an IE was confirmed.

10. The Parish of Three Saints Annual Accounts for the period 1st January to 31st December 2020 were examined in accordance with Charity Commission (CC) guidance, details are at Annex

¹ Charity Registration Number: 1188593

A. Additional investigations were conducted where necessary and supporting documentation for the operation of the funds requested if required.

11. As part of the examination discussions were held with the Parish Treasurer to ascertain answers to the CC Directions.

Findings

12. Examination of the annual report confirmed that the gross income of The Parish of Three Saints did not exceed £1 million² and the aggregate value of assets (before deduction of liabilities) did not exceed £3.26 million. In addition to the upper threshold, the Gross Income was above the £25,000³ lower threshold set for an IE rather, than Audit, to be carried out. Fund Balances are:

Table 1 – The Parish of Three Saints Account Balances

Serial	Fund	Gross Income (£)	Gross Assets (£)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1	The Parish of Three Saints	155,431	282,354

13. The Gross Income of the Charity is below £250,000 which means that the accounts could be prepared on a Receipts and Payment basis. On inspection of the Charity accounts the Trustees have elected to prepare their Accounts using this method. The Bath & Wells DBF R&P Cashbook is utilised.

14. **Points from Last Year's Review.** Last year's IE Report was reviewed. On inspection of that Report no observations were outstanding.

Additional Observations. The Independent Examiners report is a statement to confirm that the Charity is operating within the accounting and governance tolerances set by the CC. In conducting the IE I have the following observations to report.

- a. The Parish does not produce a Trustees Annual Report in line with CC Direction 12.

Recommendations

15. It is recommended that;

- a. The Parish investigate producing a Trustees Annual Report incorporating the Annual Accounts. An example Trustees Annual Report can be found on the CC website.

Conclusion

16. The Parish of Three Saints has received an unqualified report which can be found at Enclosure 1.

Annex:

A. The Charity Commission's Directions on the IE of Charity Accounts.

Enclosure:

1. IE Report for 1 Jan to 31 Dec 20 – The Parish of Three Saints.

² Charities Act 2011 Chapter 3 Section 144(1).

³ Charities Act 2011 Chapter 3 Section 145(1).

THE CHARITY COMMISSIONS DIRECTIONS ON INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF CHARITY ACCOUNTS

1. The CC produce an examiners' guide to IE of Charity Accounts. It is specifically written for independent examiners and explains their role and duties in examining the accounts of a charity. In accordance with Section E of the guidance the 13 specific directions and how they were addressed are as follows:

- a. **Examination and accounting thresholds.** The annual report for the period 1 Jan – 31 Dec 20 was examined to confirm IE thresholds⁴ had not been breached.
- b. **Conflicts of Interest.** The examiner was not influenced or perceived to be influenced in any way as he did not have any close personal relationships with the Trustees, was not a major donor to the Trust, did not have any control of funds and was not involved in the day to day running of the Trust.
- c. **Documentation.** Working papers were examined and evident. All procedures carried out and any matters arising to support conclusions reached or statements provided in the report have been documented.
- d. **Understanding the charity.** Detailed briefs and free access to all charity documentation ensured a full understanding of the charity's constitution, organisation, accounting systems, activities and nature of its assets, liabilities, incoming resources and application of resources.
- e. **Accounting records.** The charity accounting records have been subject to a review and appear complete and consistent with statutory requirements.
- f. **Comparison with accounting records.** A comparison of the charity's accounts with the accounting records in sufficient detail was carried out which provides a reasonable basis to decide that the accounts are consistent.
- g. **Accruals Basis Checks.** As the Accounts of The Parish of Three Saints are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis this section is not relevant.
- h. **Accounting policies, estimates and judgements.** Reviewed the accounting policies adopted and consider their consistency with the SORP and their appropriateness to the activities of the charity.
- i. **Financial circumstances and Going Concern.** The examiner checked whether the Trustees have considered the financial circumstances of the Charity at the end of the reporting period and have made an assessment of the Charities position as a going concern when approving the Accounts.
- j. **Form and Content of the Accounts.** The examiner carried out procedures as considered necessary to provide a reasonable basis on which to conclude whether or not the accounts have been properly prepared. The examiner checked that they can lawfully prepare Receipts and Payments Accounts, that all accounting statements are present, and the funds of the Charity can be correctly identified.

⁴ Gross income greater than £0.025 and not to exceed £0.25M for receipts and payments, gross income not to exceed £1.0M and the aggregate value of assets should not exceed £3.26M otherwise a full audit is required.

k. **Analytical Review.** The examiner carried out an analytical review of the current accounts to identify if any entries required further explanation or evidence. The 2020 Accounts were compared with the 2019 Accounts to see if any material changes could be identified.

l. **Compare the Trustees Annual Report with the Accounts.** The Trustees have not prepared a Trustees Annual Report, which incorporates their Accounts. The Treasurer has prepared a Financial Report for the APCM.

m. **Examiner's report.** The IE report can be found at Enclosures 1.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S UNQUALIFIED REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE
PARISH OF THREE SAINTS**

I report on the accounts of The Parish of Three Saints for the 12 months ended 31st December 2020, which are set on pages 1 to 2.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of The Parish of Three Saints are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an IE is needed. The Charity is preparing Receipts and Payments Accounts, and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA).

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for IE, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Charities Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the CC under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Charities Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the CC. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's unqualified statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below) in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- a. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Parish as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- b. The accounts do not accord with those records.

2. I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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BS22 9XU

John Leddy
John Leddy
19 February 2021