

**St Mary-the-Virgin, Shipton-under-Wychwood
Annual Vestry Meeting and
Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**12.15pm Sunday, 22nd May, 2022
in the Church**



You are warmly invited to attend these meetings. At the Vestry Meeting we elect the Churchwardens and in the Church Meeting we elect members of the Parochial Church Council, reflect on the work of the Church over the last year, and think about the way ahead.

Annual Report for 2021

Vicar's Report

The purpose of the annual report is to set out what your parish church has been doing during the previous year, much of that work did not involve me so I cannot claim any of the glory. That glory belongs to all of our office holders in the parish: Anne Hartley, Clare Harper, James the churchwarden, Hilary the Treasurer, PCC members and of course all those who just sit prayerfully and faithfully in the pews.

I would like to state my gratitude to the work of the Administration team – Clare Harper and Rachel Cable. Much of what is mentioned in this report was made possible by their help and with the support of Anne Hartley. Between them Anne, Clare and Rachel have given much insight and of course attention to detail and ensured that the work of the church in the benefice been carried forward effectively and efficiently.

Services

During 2021 we continued holding services in church as well as online on the Benefice Facebook page. The Zoom services were gradually phased out and by the summer had been drawn to a close. The services in church have slowly built up their momentum and by the end of 2021 were almost back to previous attendance.

School Ministry

The school went through various highs and lows during 2021 with the various restrictions due to Covid. Generally the school did not gather all the children in the school hall for Collective Worship. The pattern was that the children came together according to year groupings. During 2021 there were times when it was not possible to go into school so my presence in school was a patchwork of being allowed in or having to send in pre-recorded videos for Collective Worship and Open the Book.

Open the Book was a mix of both going into the school and filming the stories. The team has fluctuated but by the end of 2021 counted on the addition of one new member. However, we are always on the lookout for new members to the team.

Collective Worship in school was much the same as Open the Book with both filmed assemblies and me going into school when restrictions were relaxed as mentioned above.

Messy Church

We finally went back to holding Messy Church in the school hall in October 2021. I am extremely grateful to all the hard work put in by the team: Angela, Anne, Liz, Jane, Claire, Iain, Sara, Jess, Hannah and others who joined in for some one-off activities.

Care Home Ministry

Sadly since 2020 this has not been possible, it is hoped that in 2022 this ministry will be able to restart and return to the same level of pastoral care and restart offering services for the residents and friends.

Home Groups

These continued to function during 2021 and offered much appreciated fellowship. The vicar's group was entirely held on Zoom and included some members of the Milton congregation who now no longer live in the area.

Finally a big thank you to all those who help with refreshments after each Sunday service and who never forget to bring me a most welcome cup of tea, the sides-people, Bernard and the choir for their musical expertise, the flower arrangers, the cleaners, the sacristy helpers, and anyone not already mentioned ...

Geoffrey Clement, Vicar

Churchwardens' Report

Statistics

During the year there were three christenings, three marriages and eight funerals.

Services

Covid restrictions applied to nearly the whole of the year and probably caused diminished attendance with a slow start to the first quarter. Some nine Morning Prayer services were lay led reflecting the demands on qualified clergy. Bishop Colin officiated at the Patronal Festival in September, as his final appearance at St Mary's, and there was a good attendance. Other well attended services were Harvest Festival, Christingle, and Christmas Day holy communion. Attendance at services was generally lower than previously but not by too much.

Nave roof repairs

The Nave roof repairs were concluded in May and remedial outside work including new reinforcement plates was also finalised. In addition, the lighting improvements were carried out for the Nave and the West End. The PCC recognised that Lang, the contractor, had been very good to work with throughout. It was agreed to leave the new timbers in their current natural state for the present so that people could see the work that had been undertaken. The inside of the church had been festooned with scaffolding for many months and it was a relief to all to see it removed and the church looking normal.

South aisle repairs and reordering

Unfortunately, the South aisle roof was also deemed to need expensive repairs. There were difficulties in getting a detailed design from Solid Structures. A major obstacle seemed to be that our original contact at that company who had supported us with the Nave roof had moved to another company. The PCC were unhappy that the output from Solid Structures was not up to the standard they had provided for the Nave roof that had enabled tenders to be sought. The work to date did not allow for a proper tendering process as there were too many factors that were open ended.

For reordering the PCC has considered items such as storage in the West End, an extra toilet, a new servery, relocating the font, replacing the thermoplastic floor tiles and a new heating system. Ground source heating is very expensive and gas is now frowned upon whilst it was suggested that air source could be an option. Trying to find an optimum solution to solving the heating problem is

proving very challenging. One reordering suggestion which has been implemented was to consider angling the pews in the main part of the Nave. This has proved very popular.

PCC

Some earlier meetings were held on Zoom which is not entirely satisfactory but allowed meetings to happen. The PCC is short of numbers and new joiners are still needed.

James Walmsley, Churchwarden

Honorary Treasurer's Report

As in previous years, the accounts of the PCC have been prepared in the required format and independently examined. The independent examiner, David van der Poll very kindly provides this service without charge. A one page summary has again been prepared including details of the expenditure by the Benefice. I can supply copies of the detailed accounts on request and a copy will be placed on the noticeboard.

There was a deficit of income over expenditure of £109,154 compared to a surplus of £18,169 in 2020. The deficit was made up of £87,846 on the roof fund and £21,309 on general funds. This is compared to a deficit on the "general fund" in 2020 of £5,978. The main reasons for this are that we have spent £9,000 on professional fees towards the planned reordering.

Fundraising for the roof and reordering projects during 2021 included a car boot sale, "tea and bells" in Jane Graham's garden, a second online auction and a Christmas tree festival in addition to the setting up of our monthly draw, organised by Mary Drainer. We have a fund raising committee consisting of members of PCC plus Kay Shortland who we would like to thank for all her help. Jacky Wilson is kindly giving us advice on applying for grants.

At the end of 2021 we had total funds of approximately £104,000. We now need to repair the South Aisle roof and to proceed with the reordering project, which I believe will be described in other reports. Six months regular expenditure is circa £25k which means that we have only approximately £71k that we can put towards these projects. This year and next we will need to fundraise and apply for grants in order to be able to proceed.

Hilary Matthews, Treasurer

Stewardship and Gift Aid

In 2021 the total Gift Aid donations (together with the yellow envelopes provided for visitors), amounted to £23,358 (2020: £22,466). Our tax rebate from HMRC on these donations will add an extra £5,629.

Loose change collections amounted to £2,414 (2020: £1,598). This reflects recovery after the closure of the church for large parts 2020.

The Parish also received £1,450 through the Charities Aid Foundation and Charitable Giving, routes for donations used by some parishioners. (2020: £1 850).

We now have 37 registered Gift Aid donors, a number which continues to decline year on year as our longest and most faithful donors inevitably pass away or move from the village.

I have been the Hon. Stewardship Secretary since 2013 and I think it is now time for me to resign and handover to someone who feels they can bring fresh impetus and ideas to this role in order to bring in new donors

Jonathon Willson, Hon. Stewardship Sec.

Sacristan's Report

The vessels and linen used for communion services are in good condition.

The green altar frontal and the dark blue one in the Reade Chapel are in need of repair, they have been eaten by mice during the winter. All other altar frontals are in a fair condition.

My thanks to Alan Waugh who prepares the communion table and also helps as altar server when needed.

During the past year it has been a pleasure to assist the clergy in preparing for services.

Joy Brooks

Bellringing

The first ringing in 2021, after "lock down" was eased, was that of a single bell, half muffled to mark the death and funeral of Prince Phillip. Regular ringing practice on Wednesday nights resumed mid-July. Most of our regular ringers returned and we were delighted to welcome a new ringer as well as ringers from other towers in the local area where ringing had not yet restarted because of limited space and poor ventilation in their towers. Sunday service ringing commenced in July. The bells were rung for three weddings: one in June with four bells only (social distancing), one in August and one in September, both with six bells.

The bells were also rung for three special

occasions: "Tea and Bells" fund raising event for the Church on the afternoon of Saturday 14th August, to mark a significant birthday of two of our ringers on September 24th, and to mark the beginning of the COP26 Conference in Glasgow.

On October 12th we hosted a band of ringers, "Gloucester Golden Oldies" who rang a quarter peal of "Norfolk Punch Bob Major".

Towards the end of the year the bells were rung before the Advent Carol Service, the Nine Lessons and Carols Service and the traditional "Carols Around the Tree" on Christmas Eve.

Many thanks to our bell ringing team for their continued dedication in the difficult circumstances of 2021.

Mike Brooks, Tower Captain

Church and Brass Cleaning

After the easing of "lock down", the cleaning of the church floor and carpet was continued by John Holtom on the 1st and 3rd weekends of each month. This has been supplemented by several cleaning mornings organised by Jane Graham and the efforts of individuals on an occasional basis.

Brass

Our brass cleaners, Sandra Darnell and Jenny Meredith, have, when personal circumstances allowed, kept the brass sparkling.

Many thanks to all those who have contributed to keeping the church clean and tidy.

Mike Brooks

Service Duty Rota

Thank you to all our sidespersons, readers and intercessors on behalf of the congregation and ministry team for their contribution to our services in St Mary's.

The rota covers a period of two months at a time, and I try to issue it a month in advance to give people time to plan their Sundays or to arrange to swap duties if they are unavailable on a particular Sunday.

As always, more sidespersons, readers and intercessors are always welcome.

Sidespersons are elected officers of the church, and as such must be members of the Church Electoral Roll and are elected at the APCM.

If you feel that you could offer your services for one of these duties, please speak to Rev. Geoffrey, or one of our Churchwardens.

Mike Brooks

Church Flower Report

It has been our pleasure to be able, once again, to arrange flowers in the Church, free from scaffolding.

We have been fortunate to welcome Hilary Biles to the Flower Team this year. She has made some imaginative and beautiful contributions to both the Christmas tree festival and floral arrangements and is an enthusiastic addition to the team.

The annual cost of the past year since the end of lockdowns is approaching £400. As an extra source of income we are very willing to accept donations towards special arrangements to be dedicated to the memory of a loved one or to mark a special anniversary which is then noted in the Church News and/or read out in the notices.

This has been successful in the past but it would be helpful if the congregation could be reminded from time to time.

It is always helpful for our planning if we are informed of the dates of weddings, funerals and baptisms and whether the flowers, in the case of weddings in particular, are to be left in the Church afterwards.

We look forward, as ever, to hearing from anyone who would like to join the team!

***Anne Hilling 01993 830656
Wimpy Scott 01993 830144***

Refreshments and Special Occasions

Initially as the Covid restrictions were lifted, people gradually returned to church and just as gradually began to feel brave enough to stay for a coffee and a chat after the service. It felt such an important part of our recovery. We have lost a few helpers from the rota for one reason or another but somehow new people always appear to make it work. I would like to say a big thank you to all who have served on the rota and to all who continue to be such a support. Thank you for being so flexible in changing duties at short notice and for providing food for various social events – it's greatly appreciated.

If anyone else would like to join us on the rota you would be very welcome. Please call me on 07973 157693.

Claire Bell

Music Report

In last year's music report, we were in our third lockdown and I was hoping that this year's report "may revert to talking about the choir

having sung regularly to their usual high standard". At the time of writing, I am delighted to say that that is the case once again. However, it has been a long, slow journey:

At the start of May 2021, the choir was joyously allowed to start singing again, albeit distanced and masked, only for rules to be tightened again towards the end of May when we were restricted to a maximum of six singers. Unlike the majority of churches, we have far more singers than six, so those choir members who felt able to participate kindly took it in turns to sing, letting everyone who wanted to have a chance to sing occasionally. The choir's term got extended for one more week than usual so that we could take advantage of the relaxation of rules to sing together in larger numbers at the end of July – and later the congregation could also sing.

September onwards saw rather more usual conditions, although with extra ventilation and spacing, but with masks now optional rather than compulsory. Because of the difficulty of having adequate space and ventilation at the back of the church, robing and processing did not resume until quite some time later, but the choir were at least able to meet, rehearse and sing for services regularly. In February Choral Evensong was added back to the service rota every other month, after a two-year hiatus.

Also resuming after the two-year hiatus were the choir's visits to sing services in cathedrals. A handful of singers were hoping to sing at Llandaff Cathedral in February, but sadly only two were able to attend in the end, thanks to Covid. Rather more were able to spend the weekend at Worcester Cathedral in April 2022, combining forces once again with Holy Trinity, Hereford. A further trip is planned for late May 2022 to Southwell Minster and then hopefully further visits will continue from 2023 onwards.

We have been incredibly fortunate to retain so many of our talented singers in the choir after all of the disruption. I am very grateful indeed to them for their patience and willingness to sing in rather difficult conditions. Unfortunately a couple of choir members are currently having to take leave of absence because of other circumstances, but we hope to welcome them both back as soon as events permit. It has been a real joy to welcome three new members of the choir during the last year, including two new trebles. As always, we would like to recruit a few more – two years of intermittent singing has not been helpful to recruitment – but we are incredibly fortunate to have 24 members in the choir at present.

Bernard West, Director of Music

Deanery Synod – abridged from a report by Catherine Hitchens (Lay Chair)

The Synod met in March, June and November with the first being a virtual meeting and the other two in person at Churchill Church. At each meeting there was much discussion about the Parish Share and the concerns of so many of us – the figures were unchanged since 2019 but with churches closed (no collections) and most of our usual fund-raising events impossible to hold, many parishes drew on reserves to make payments. There was a rising concern that Diocesan Church House is out of touch and simply does not understand the rural parishes where the problems range over transport, communications, housing for the first-time buyer, healthcare and work. This seemed to be confirmed when we found ourselves struggling with General Synod paper: GS2222 – still of great concern – and the latter part of the year saw correspondence nationwide about the proposals by the Church of England to close many parish churches and create “hubs” in larger parishes and towns. These fears remain of such concern that in November it was agreed to ask Maggie Metaliaj (Secretary to the Dorchester Area Mission & Pastoral Committee) and Rev’d Canon David Tyler (Associate Archdeacon for the Dorchester Area) to come to the first Deanery Synod in 2022 to clarify matters.

During 2020 we said goodbye to Bishop Colin by “socially distant” methods, and early into 2021 we learned about appointing a new priest by Zoom when William Burke was appointed to the Tews and Heythrop. After various false starts consecrating of our new Bishop of Dorchester, the Right Reverend Gavin Collins, took place at a private ceremony at Lambeth Palace on 14th April - the Lay Chairs of the eleven Deaneries in the Dorchester Area, met Bishop Gavin on Zoom in March but some of us did not finally meet him in person until much later.

A Confirmation Service with Bishop Gavin took place in Churchill on 18th September.

During the year we heard about great work at Charlbury and at Chipping Norton but away from the limelight there was some wonderful work in the smaller parishes. I heard of countless examples of good neighbourliness, of visits, and of help in a hundred small and unobtrusive ways. I know of a vicar who, in the absence of Messy Church, personally made-up packs of activities for children, delivered them to every household and then organised online sessions for those children to join using the pens, pencils, papers, and everything else he had provided.

In the summer we had the Diocesan Synod elections – Roy Scott and I were elected. I was elected to the Oxford Diocese Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing – where I hope to be some use, having lost hearing in one ear overnight some dozen years ago, due to an infection. We said a very sad goodbye to Michael Waring (only for meetings, we still hope to see much of him) who has been a great source of advice, help and support to the Deanery and to me.

I have endeavoured to keep in touch with Synod Representatives, Churchwardens, PCC Secretaries and PCC Treasurers by writing a Lay Chair’s Newsletter and hope it has been helpful. With the return to more normal life do remember that I love to join in your celebrations and special services, but all too often only hear about them afterwards. Please let me know in good time and if I am free, I will attend.

In 2022 there will be three Deanery Synods, 9th March, 29th June and 22nd November (please note the last which is a change of date) and we are looking forward to Bishop Steven’s visit on 19th May, and there will be a Confirmation Service at Churchill on 12th June.

I finish my report with some verses from Isaiah:

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

The full report is available from Catherine Hitchens

Shipton-u-Wychwood PCC
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted funds	Roof fund	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	34,580	24,451	-	59,031	105,874
Income from charitable activities	2,146	-	-	2,146	1,355
Other trading activities	20	6,114	-	6,134	7,061
Investments	304	-	-	304	336
Other income	-	-	-	-	3,774
Total income	37,050	30,566	-	67,616	118,401
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	137	1,216	-	1,353	564
Expenditure on charitable activities	58,222	117,196	-	175,417	99,667
Total expenditure	58,359	118,412	-	176,770	100,232
Net income / (expenditure) resources	(21,309)	(87,846)	-	(109,154)	18,169
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	-	-	-	-	-
Gross transfers between funds - out	-	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains / losses	-	-	-	-	-
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets,	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(21,309)	(87,846)	-	(109,154)	18,169
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	195,602	17,890	-	213,491	195,322
Total funds carried forward	174,293	(69,956)	-	104,338	213,491

Shipton-u-Wychwood PCC
Balance sheet (Church of England)
As at: 31 December 2021

	As at 31/12/2021	As at 31/12/2020
	£	£
Current assets		
Debtors	2500	5,300
Investments	—	—
Cash at bank and in hand	101,838	208,191
	<u>104,338</u>	<u>213,491</u>
Net current assets less current liabilities	<u>104,338</u>	<u>213,491</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>104,338</u>	<u>213,491</u>
Total net assets less liabilities	<u>104,338</u>	<u>213,491</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	114,069	135,876
Designated		
Designated - Bells	1,038	1,038
Designated - Building	16,455	16,455
Designated - Marjorie Murray Memorial	40,000	40,000
Designated - Organ Restoration	2,732	2,231
Restricted		
Restricted - Roof Repairs	(69,956)	17,889
Funds of the church	<u>104,338</u>	<u>213,491</u>

APPROVED BY THE PCC ON 14 February 2022 AND SIGNED ON THEIR BEHALF BY THE
 REVD. GEOFFREY CLEMENT AND MRS HILARY MATTHEWS, PCC TREASURER.



Geoffrey Clement



Hilary Matthews

Shipton-u-Wychwood PCC
For the period from 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 the 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 statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Date March 2022

Address Threeways, Bruern Rd, Milton-u-Wychwood, OX7 6LL

Accounting Policies

These accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

Shipton-u-Wychwood PCC

Analysis of income and expenditure Selected period: 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

	General	Choir - designated	Roof Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies					
Gift Aid - Bank	24,823	-	-	24,823	24,108
Gift Aid - Envelopes	-	-	-	-	250
Loose plate collections	1,448	-	1,544	2,992	1,814
Giving through church boxes	192	-	-	192	356
One-off Gift Aid gifts	-	500	5,000	5,500	51,800
Donations appeals etc	811	-	11,050	11,861	2,797
Monthly Draw	-	-	4,896	4,896	1,404
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	6,744	-	1,541	8,286	20,001
Legacies	-	-	-	-	2,000
Recurring grants	45	-	-	45	-
Other funds generated	17	-	420	437	1,345
Donations and legacies Totals	34,080	500	24,451	59,031	105,874
Income from charitable activities					
Fees for weddings and funerals	2,146	-	-	2,146	1,355
Income from charitable activities Totals	2,146	-	-	2,146	1,355
Other trading activities					
Rummage sales etc	20	-	6,114	6,134	6,653
Bookstall sales - fund raising	-	-	-	-	89
Parish magazine sales	-	-	-	-	319
Other trading activities Totals	20	-	6,114	6,134	7,061
Investments					
Bank and building society interest	4	-	-	4	36
Rent from lands or buildings	300	-	-	300	300
Investments Totals	304	-	-	304	336
Other income					
Surplus - sales of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	3,774
Other income Totals	-	-	-	-	3,774
Income and endowments Grand totals	36,550	500	30,566	67,616	118,401

Shipton-u-Wychwood PCC

Analysis of income and expenditure Selected period: 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

	General	Designated	Roof Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds					
Fees paid to fund raisers	-	-	100	-	100
Costs of fetes & other events	41	-	1,116	-	1,157
Bank charges	96	-	-	-	96
Raising funds Totals	137	-	1,216	-	1,353
Expenditure on charitable activities					
Giving to missionary societies	130	-	-	-	130
Secular charities	770	-	-	-	770
Ministry parish share etc	29,942	-	-	-	29,942
Benefice costs	7,745	-	-	-	7,745
Church running - insurance	4,071	-	-	-	4,071
Organ / choir costs	3,111	-	-	-	3,111
Church maintenance	189	-	-	-	189
Cleaning	370	-	-	-	370
Upkeep of services	94	-	-	-	94
Administration	228	-	-	-	228
Church running - electric	1,530	-	-	-	1,530
Church running - gas	602	-	-	-	602
Bookstall costs	-	-	-	-	-
Church major repairs - roof	-	-	117,196	-	117,196
Church major repairs - other	9,440	-	0	-	9,440
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	58,222	-	117,196	-	175,417
Expenditure Grand totals	58,359	-	118,412	-	176,770

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Date March 2022

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