



The Parish of St Mary's, Higher Brixham

In the Mission Community of Brixham, Churston Ferrers, Galmpton and Kingswear

Annual Report and Financial Statements

of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December 2024

Team Rector: Revd. Dr Philippa Bellows (appointed November 24)

Team Vicar: Vacancy

Bankers: Santander plc, Bootle, Merseyside

Independent Examiner

Mr I A Webb ACMA, CIMA, MCIM

Grosvenor House, 1 New Road,

Brixham, Devon TQ5 8LZ

St Mary's Church is a registered charity with the Charity Commission No: 1208262

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Church, Higher Brixham

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2024

Aim and Purpose

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has, since August 2023, the responsibility of promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, during this period of interregnum. As well as the Church itself, which is a Grade I Listed Building, the PCC is also responsible for maintaining the Church Hall.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church, and to become part of our parish family. When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefits, and particularly the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish family, through:

- Worship and prayer: learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish; and
- Mission and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is vital that we maintain the fabric of both the Church and the Hall.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services, not only on Sundays, but also during the week, that our community will find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For example, Wednesday morning services of Holy Communion or Morning Worship provide a traditional form of service, Morning Prayer on Monday mornings provides a time of reflection, whilst the main Sunday Service is livelier.

We have been successful in welcoming new members to our Church, and every second Sunday of the month we have a Family Worship Service.

At present the new electoral roll is being re-done and the number of parishioners on the Electoral Roll is not known.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. There were 2 weddings and 28 funerals during the year. Those who are no longer able to come to Church are not forgotten. There is a team of trained pastoral visitors to take communion to these congregants. We also have several licensed lay readers. Some of our LLM's and congregation members have trained, as Anna Chaplains and Anna Friends to offer spiritual support in later life to our more elderly parishioners.

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC sit on the Torbay Deanery Synod, Mrs. Susan Francis and Mrs. Lesley Roberts. This provides the PCC with a link with the churches around us and with the Diocese as a whole. It also receives reports from General Synod which usually meets 3-4 times per year.

Church Fabric

The fabric of the building still needs considerable repairs, but plans have been drawn up for major alterations and we are currently still going through the process of fund-raising and obtaining permission for these alterations to take place. Our Church is a Grade 1 listed building so any repairs or alterations must be carefully considered.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. The Mission Action Plan includes opportunities for fund-raising efforts, and we regularly consider ways of supporting charities, both local and overseas. This year for our Lent appeal we raised over £600 for Shelterbox.

We are now the main collection point for the *Operation Christmas Child* Shoebox Appeal each year, and this year we have received, checked and packaged **725** shoeboxes. This is over 100 more boxes than 2023. Parishioners, schools & local colleges donated a considerable amount of money and filled boxes as well as items to fill empty boxes such as warm clothing, personal care items and toys. Many people volunteered to help fill, check and pack boxes which will go to war-torn or third world countries. Our thanks go especially to Lindsay Williams and Hilary Hyde for all their dedication and hard work in organising this very special event.

Pastoral Care

Our Messy Church organisers work hard each month running the group for over 30 children, arranging activities, and giving them and their parents a meal prior to going home. Thanks go to Lindsay Williams and Lesley Roberts, the organisers, as well as all the other helpers for continuing this work for our after-school children. All are CRB checked

There is also a weekly meeting for the *Mummy and Me* group, mothers with young babies, and we have a Youth Group which meets monthly.

The church looks after our adult members with a weekly social meeting in the Church Hall on Saturday morning where drinks and usually cake are available plus lots of chat.

Financial Review

The net results for the year were an overall excess of receipts over payments of £11,620.

There was a loss of (£8,737) in our General fund and the Church Hall Fund made a loss of (£2,119). The Churchyard Fund, Mission & Charity, Restoration Designated and Restricted funds plus the Sundry Fund accounts all had an excess of receipts totaling £22,477.

We were pleased to hear mid-year we were to be one of the main recipients of a legacy from Bob Bell, part of which has been received and invested by the Diocese. Bob Bell was a former Churchwarden and treasurer who sadly passed away two years ago.

The contribution to the Diocesan Parish Share was increased again and fixed at £34,035. This payment helps towards the cost of stipends and housing costs for the clergy. This year we have been able to maintain again the full payment, despite the heavy drain on our finances.

Reserves Policy

It is our policy to invest any surplus funds with CCLA, through the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund, their Investment Fund units, and their Property Fund units. The Financial Statements which follow have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations. Our grateful thanks go to Ian Webb Accountants for their work on our accounts.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to comply with the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Volunteers

The members of the PCC would like to thank all our volunteers who work so hard to make our Church a lively and vibrant community. Thanks go especially to our two Churchwardens, Mr Roger Holtom and Mrs Susan Francis, for all their exceptional hard work during this year.

The PCC also wishes to express grateful thanks to the retired clergy who have stepped into the breach during the interregnum, including Revd Canon Chris Malkinson, Revd Pam Wheeler, Revd Steve Betson, Revd Ian Blyde and Revd Joyce Williams. Thanks also go to our Associate Priest, Revd Angela Sumner, and Licensed Lay Ministers, who have done much to help keep the Church moving forward.

Structure, Governance and Management

We were extremely delighted to welcome Revd. Dr Philippa Bellows as our new Team Rector in November 2024, following a lengthy interregnum.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, a representative of the Licensed Lay Ministers, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting by those on the Electoral Roll. Members of the congregation are always encouraged to join the Electoral Roll, and to consider standing for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met most months during the year, and they have a number of sub committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These include Worship, Mission and Outreach, Buildings and Finance, and Youth Work. Each report to the full PCC with the minutes of their meetings.

Administrative Information

The Church is situated in Drew Street, Higher Brixham and is part of the Brixham Mission Community within the Diocese of Exeter. The correspondence address is via Mr David Roberts of 13 Smardon Avenue, Brixham TQ5 8JN who is the PCC Secretary. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2006) and a Charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. The following PCC Members were elected on the 21 April 2024. All previous members stood again for the PCC, and three new members were elected.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2022) and a Charity registered with the Charity Commission under No: 1208262.

Team Rector	Revd Dr Philippa Bellows (instituted on 18 November 2024)
Team Vicar	Vacancy
Self-Supporting	Revd Angela Sumner
Churchwardens	Mr Roger Holtom - Vice-chair of PCC Mrs Susan Francis
Treasurer	Mrs Alison Lodge
Secretary	Mr David Roberts
Deanery Synod Reps	Mrs Susan Francis Mrs Lesley Roberts
Elected Members	Mr Stephen Aldridge Mr Richard Brown Mr Colin Francis Mrs Hilary Hyde LLM Mrs Margaret Jaycock Mrs Helen Kelly (resigned 23 July 2024) Mrs Elaine Vestey LLM Mrs Lindsay Williams Mr Benjamin Lavers (resigned 10 Sept 2024) Mrs Rachel Fox Ms Penelope Inett Mr Roger Holtom

Approved by the PCC on 12th March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:


Rev Dr Philippa Bellows (Chair)

 (P.C.C. SECRETARY)



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Church, Higher
Brixham

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2024

Charity no
(if any)

An Excepted
Charity

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above
charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2024**.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the
accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011
("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out
under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I
have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission
under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to
undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of
applicable listed body]]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130
of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements
concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities
(Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement
that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter
considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

25/02/2025

Name:

Ian Webb ACMA CGMA MCIM

Relevant professional

Accountant

St Mary the Virgin, Brixham
Annual Accounts
Year ending 31st December 2024

1. GENERAL FUND (Unrestricted)

RECEIPTS

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Voluntary Giving</u>				
Clergy & Staff income	4,932		3,708	
Collections at Services	3,863		3,342	
Donations	2,493		2,137	
Envelopes - Gift Aid	4,123		3,773	
Gift Aid Tax recovered	6,986		6,137	
Grant: Friends of St Mary's (boiler repairs)	-		3,180	
Grant: Exeter Diocese Fuel	1,168		-	
Grant: Listed Places of Worship Grant	1,000		424	
Legacy received from Chris Carroll Decd estate	-		5,000	
Magazine and book sales	190		87	
Online donations	1,472		496	
Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)	15,647		16,680	
Sundry Income	86		1,853	
		41,960		46,817
<u>Trust income and investments</u>				
Grant: feofees	1,900		2,000	
Rest' Deposit Account CBF Interest & Dividends	3,332		2,695	
Henrietta Lane Charity CFB 5925	3,159		3,110	
Bob Bell	338			
		8,729		7,806
<u>Church Activities</u>				
PCC Wedding & Funeral fees	5,498		7,089	
Messy Church Income (restricted)	-		99	
		5,498		7,188
Total Receipts		56,187		61,811
PAYMENTS:				
<u>Costs of generating funds</u>				
Online giving costs	172		90	
Fundraising costs			203	
		172		293
<u>Church Activities</u>				
Messy Church costs	259		230	
Parish Share	37,260		34,035	
Organist	2,328		2,115	
Clergy and Staff expenses	4,853		3,708	
		44,699		40,088
<u>Church Expenses</u>				
Church Running expenses	1,830		883	
Church Utilities	4,843		6,321	
Church Insurance	5,564		6,137	
BMC Fund Payments	110		604	
Annual Inspections - Fire Alarms	-		324	
Church Repairs	4,372		4,183	
Sundry outgoings	720		1,739	
		17,438		20,191
Total Payments		62,309		60,572
Excess of receipts over payments	-	6,122		1,239
Transfer to Sundry (50% of CB3025458 dividends & int')	- 1,666	- 991		
Transfer to Sundry 50% feofees	- 950	- 1,000		
		2,616		1,991
Opening Balance: 1st January 2024		23,499		24,251
Closing Balance: 31st December 2024		<u>14,761</u>		<u>23,499</u>

St Mary the Virgin, Brixham
Annual Accounts
Year ending 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
2. CHURCH HALL (Unrestricted) add to General		
RECEIPTS		
<u>Church Activities / Income from Investments</u>		
Church Hall Ground Rent & Insurance	3,667	6,362
Church Hall Lettings	1,560	870
Total Receipts	5,227	7,232
PAYMENTS		
<u>Church Activities</u>		
Church Hall Cleaning	1,054	960
Church Hall Insurance	4,309	4,165
Church Hall Annual Inspections: Fire alarms	264	324
Church Hall Utilities	1,720	1,598
Church Hall Repairs: Electrical		390
Total Payments	7,346	7,437
Excess of receipts over payments	- 2,119	- 205
Opening Balance: 1st January 2024	7,701	7,906
Closing Balance: 31st December 2024	<u>5,582</u>	<u>7,701</u>

3. CHURCHYARD FUND (Restricted)

	2024	2023
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
<u>Churchyard Activities</u>		
Monument Fees PCC	666	462
Churchyard Trust CB3006959 Income	665	655
Churchyard Dividends retained CB3025456	4,581	5,232
Interest paid on CB3025456 retained	5,313	2,544
Non Conformist share waste collection	519	449
Total Receipts	11,744	9,341
PAYMENTS		
<u>Churchyard Expenses</u>		
Churchyard Maintenance		297
Refuse collection	1,556	1,346
Total Payments	1,556	1,643
Excess of receipts over payments	10,188	7,697
Opening Balance: 1st January 2024	35,300	27,603
Closing Balance: 31st December 2024	<u>45,488</u>	<u>35,300</u>

St Mary the Virgin, Brixham
Annual Accounts
Year ending 31st December 2024

4. DEFIBRILATOR FUND (Restricted)

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Donations			10	
Total Receipts		-		10
Payments				
Total Payments		-		-
Excess of receipts over payments		-		-
Opening Balance: 1st January 2024		665		655
Closing Balance: 31st December 2024		665		665

5. MISSION & CHARITY FUND (Restricted)

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
<u>Voluntary Giving</u>				
Charitable receipts	1,748		424	
Outreach	1,212		862	
Rowcroft Lent Appeal			1,615	
Total Receipts		2,960		2,901
Payments				
<u>Church Activities</u>				
Outreach	-		4,311	
Rowcroft Lent Appeal	-		1,615	
YES at the Edge	125		-	
Bishop of Exeter	373		-	
Shelterbox appeal	669		-	
Ukraine badges sent to Appeal at Exeter Diocese	-		30	
Total Payments		1,167		5,956
Excess of receipts over payments		1,793	-	3,055
Opening Balance: 1st January 2024		3,947		7,002
Closing Balance: 31st December 2024		5,740		3,947

6. RESTORATION FUND (Designated)

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Restoration deposit interest	3,656		2,194	
Total Receipts		3,656		2,194
Payments				
Restoration costs, architects etc	3,401		9,560	
Total Payments		3,401		9,560
Excess of receipts over payments		255	-	7,366
Opening Balance: 1st January 2024		94,033		101,399
Closing Balance: 31st December 2024		94,288		94,033

St Mary the Virgin, Brixham
Annual Accounts
Year ending 31st December 2024

7. RESTORATION FUND (Restricted)

	2024		2023	
Receipts	£	£	£	£
<u>Voluntary Giving</u>				
Donations	5,399		4,552	
Tax refunds on donations	309		220	
Grants	<u>1,333</u>		<u>-</u>	
		7,040		4,772
<u>Income from Investments</u>				
Interest from CB3025457	<u>914</u>		<u>549</u>	
		914		549
Total Receipts		7,954		5,321
Payments				
Total Payments		-		-
Excess of receipts over payments		7,954		5,321
Opening Balance: 1st January 2024		29,846		24,525
Closing Balance: 31st December 2024		<u><u>37,801</u></u>		<u><u>29,846</u></u>

8. SUNDRY FUND (Restricted)

	2024		2023	
Receipts	£	£	£	£
<u>Voluntary Giving</u>				
Feofees (50%)	950		1,000	
Grant: Soroptomists Youth Club	<u></u>		<u>370</u>	
		950		1,370
<u>Income from Investments</u>				
50% of CB3025458 divi's & Interest)	1,666		991	
Pike Flower Fund CB3007324	43		42	
Smith Clock Fund CB3025460	<u>71</u>		<u>70</u>	
		1,780		1,103
Total Receipts		2,730		2,473
Payments				
<u>Church Expenses</u>				
Clock maintenance	100		312	
Organ maintenance & repair	<u>343</u>		<u>342</u>	
Total Payments		443		654
Excess of receipts over payments		2,287		1,819
Opening Balance: 1st January 2024		17,772		15,953
Closing Balance: 31st December 2024		<u><u>20,059</u></u>		<u><u>17,772</u></u>

St Mary the Virgin, Brixham
Annual Accounts
Year ending 31st December 2024

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND
LIABILITIES AT 31st DECEMBER**

	2024 Total		2023 Total	
			£	
Churchyard	45,489	Designated	35,300	
Defibrillator account	665	Restricted	665	
General Fund	14,761	Unrestricted	23,499	
Church Hall	5,582	Unrestricted	7,701	
Mission and Charity	5,740	Restricted	3,947	
Restoration Fund	94,288	Designated	94,033	
Restoration Fund	37,801	Restricted	29,846	
Sundry Fund	20,058	Restricted	17,772	
	224,383		212,764	
Cash Funds				
Churchyard Deposit (CB3025455)	95,143		85,249	
Restoration Deposit (CB3025457)	120,046		112,143	
Santander Current Account	9,195		15,372	
	224,383		212,764	
	- 0		- 0	

	Value per share	2024 Designated Funds	2023 Designated Funds
Investment Assets (Designated)			
Churchyard Inv' Fund CB3025456 (8466.79 shares)	23.1227	195,775	191,394
Restoration Inv' Fund CB3025458 (2882.43 shares)	23.1227	66,650	65,158
		262,425	256,552

Other Parish Investments: (Restricted)

		Funds Value at 31/12/24	Funds Value at 31/12/23
Restoration Investment No2	Income paid to All Saints	57,899	56,604
Churchyard Trusts (Held by Diocese)	Income paid to Churchyard Fund	24,499	23,951
Henrietta Lane Charity (Held by Diocese)	Income paid to General Fund	116,389	113,784
Joan Pike - Flower Fund (Held by Diocese)	Income paid to Sundries Fund	1,572	1,537
M.Smith Clock Fund CB3025460 (Held by SM PCC)	Income paid to Sundries Fund	2,699	2,539
Bob Bell Ecclesiastical (Held By the Diocese)	Income paid to General Fund	24,787	
		227,845	198,415

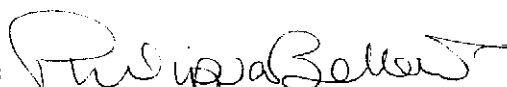
Restoration donations include £985 raised by Lindsay Williams
£310 raised on pancake day, £1,006 raised at Margaret Innett's
birthday party, £811 raised at Harvest collection, £141 raised
at the Eclipse Choir concert, and £576 raised at the Home
Grown Talent Contest.

Every 4th dividend should have been re-invested back into the Smith
Clock Fund each year from 2000, as this is under £10pa a sum of
£100 is being re-invested annually in 2024, 2025 & 2026

Approved by the PCC on the

12th March 2025

and signed on its behalf by:


Dr. R. B. B.



Return of Parish Finance
January to December 2024

Parish Name: St Mary the Virgin, Brixham

If the form is NOT completed for the entire parish,
please list below the churches included:

Parish Code (6150259
digits):

Deanery: Torbay

Diocese: Exeter

30 Are your accounts Receipts and Payments [X]

RECEIPTS/INCOME		UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)	RESTRICTED (nearest £)	PAYMENTS/EXPENDITURE		UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)	RESTRICTED (nearest £)
Voluntary giving				Costs of generating funds			
1	Regular giving	£ 22,263		17	Costs of fundraising activities	£ 172	
3	Collections at services	£ 3,863		Church activities			
4	All other giving and voluntary receipts, including special appeals (recurring and one-off)	£ 1,472	£ 8,359	18	Mission giving and donations		
6	Gift Aid recovered (regular giving and one-off donations)	£ 6,986	£ 309	19	Diocesan parish share contribution	£ 37,260	
7	Legacies received (capital value)	£ 4,068	£ 2,283	20	Salaries, wages and honoraria	£ 2,328	
8	Grants (include recurring and one-off)	£ 38,652	£ 35,738	21	Clergy and staff expenses	£ 4,853	
Total voluntary giving				Church expenses			
Activities for generating funds				22	Mission and evangelism costs		£ 1,167
9	Fundraising activities (gross proceeds)			23	Church running expenses (including governance)	£ 13,021	£ 1,999
Income from investments				24	Church utility bills	£ 6,563	
10	Dividends, interest, income from property etc.	£ 14,152	£ 13,253	25	Costs of trading		
Church activities				Major capital expenditure			
11	Fees retained by PCC (weddings, funerals etc.)	£ 5,498	£ 666	27	Major repairs to the church building	£ 4,372	
12	Trading activities (gross proceeds), NOT fundraising	£ 1,750		28	Major repairs to church hall/other PCC property including redecoration		
Other incoming resources				29	New building work to the church, church hall, clergy housing or other PCC property.	£ 3,401	
13	Other receipts/income not already listed			Other expenditure			
PLEASE NOTE BRIEF DETAILS IN BOX E		£ 5,018	£ 519	99	Other payments/expenditure not already listed	£ 830	£ 259
Totals (from Financial Statements)		Unrestricted	Restricted	PLEASE NOTE BRIEF DETAILS IN BOX E			
A	RECEIPTS/INCOME	£ 65,070	£ 50,176	Totals (from Financial Statements)		Unrestricted	Restricted
B	COMBINED TOTAL			C	PAYMENTS/EXPENDITURE	£ 72,800	£ 3,425
PLANNED GIVERS AND LEGACIES				D	COMBINED TOTAL	£ 76,225	
14	Number of regular givers 39			CASH AND INVESTMENT BALANCES		UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED
16	Number of new legacies received in year one			31	Cash and deposit balances (Receipts and Payments) OR Net Current Assets (Accruals) as at 31/12/24	£ 9,195	£ 215,189
				32	Investment assets as at 31/12/24	£ 422,545	£ 292,109

Please refer to the accompanying notes to help clarify what is included in each section. The item numbers refer to RPF notes, consistent with the guidance provided in PCC Accountability, 5th edn.

Name
Position
Email or telephone

Alison Lodge
Treasurer
alisonlwo@yahoo.co.uk and 07733 555542

Date
17/03/25

Looking back across 2024, was there any exceptional financial activity affecting movement on cash and investment balances? Please provide details in this box

Income: External Clergy & Staff payments, Non Coms waste share and Sundry Income. Payments: Messy, BMC payments and Sundry payments