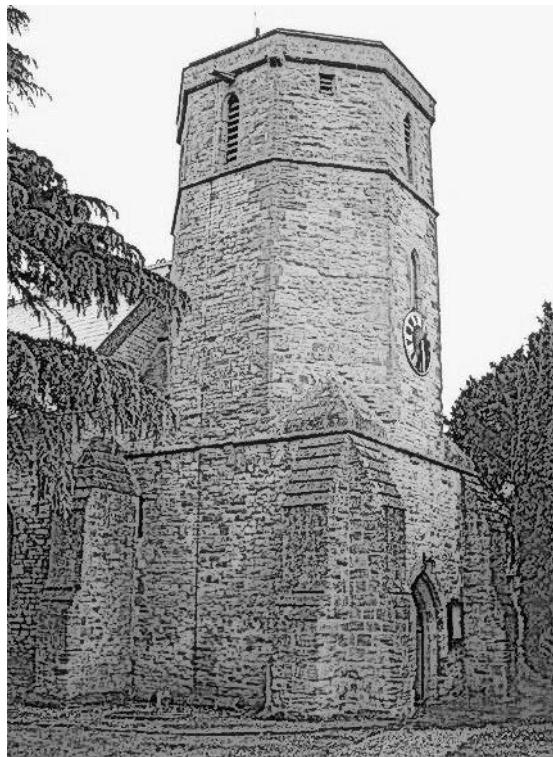


THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF  
ST MARY MAJOR CHURCH, ILCHESTER WITH NORTHOVER



2021 Report and Accounts

St Mary Major is your parish church and has been at the heart of Christian worship and community life for over 800 years. Amidst all the comings and goings of people, of politicians, hopes and fears it has stood as testimony to the human condition as spiritual beings called to worship God in Christ Jesus and to work out how as humans we might live in communities formed about the principle of ‘love of neighbour as of oneself’.

The community of St Mary Major looks to welcome all who would join in this exploration of faith in Christ, in worshipping God and serving neighbour in this day and age. This annual report looks to give a snapshot of some of the activities we get up to, and to which you would be welcome to join at any time.

The parish system within the Church of England gives rise to an interesting structure developed over centuries. Many people understandably think of the Church of England like a big corporation with a boss and workers, and with many individual branches throughout the land. This is not really the case. A better image might be that of a large business made up of franchises. Each parish has an amount of autonomy yet is governed by a set of rules for conduct which all of the parishes who are ‘in communion’ with each other agree to. One thing that arises from this is the nature of each parish having to fund their way themselves and at the same time contributing to a ‘common fund’ for common provision of things like clergy and support staff. It is also the case that each parish church council (PCC) is, in its duty of care for the building and grounds, a charity and subject to the regulations of the latest Charities Act.

This act requires that we publish the accounts for all to see and give details of its constitution and function; do read on.

Blessings

*Bruce*

## **The aims of St Mary Major’s church council**

St Mary Major’s Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Bruce Faulkner, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church building of St Mary Major, Ilchester and the church hall buildings (also known as the Old school rooms) located next to the church.

The PCC has continued to focus its activities and those of the church community throughout 2019 on its sense of vocation, ‘Open to God; to grow in faith and to serve God’s vision for our community with all our talents’, within the parish of Ilchester with Northover.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission’s guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ‘every member of the parish of Ilchester with Northover’ to be ‘open to God’ 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.
- Ensuring that the church building is both an accessible and welcoming environment and fit for purpose in people’s explorations of ‘their gifts in service of others and their worship of God in Christ Jesus’.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St Mary Major.

## **2021 – A snapshot of all our happenings**

In 2021 there were 21 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll eligible because of this to vote for PCC members.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. We held 2 baptisms, 3 weddings and 8 funerals (in church or at the crematorium) in 2021.

The *harvest festival service* was held and collections of produce were taken up and delivered to the local food bank – The Lord's Larder in Yeovil. We marked Remembrance with increased attendance on 2020, even though all was conducted outdoors. At Christmas we held a lessons and carols service in church with reduced numbers from 2020, led the Community Carols on the Green for the first time, held the Christmas Tree Festival once again, and Communion was celebrated on Christmas Eve and Morning; both services being well attended.

*Bruce*

### **Church Warden's report**

Due to continued ill health there is no report forthcoming from the Mrs Morley for 2021. The PCC would wish to thank Pat in this annual report for all of her dedication as both Warden and Treasurer over the past 15 years.

### **Safeguarding**

*"Safeguarding is a Christian imperative and a responsibility that we all must undertake with thoughtfulness, commitment and care. The gospel affirms that every person is made in the image of God and that everybody is therefore valued and loved by God"*

No concerns of safeguarding were reported in 2021

The Parish is registered on the Diocesan Dashboard (for easy record keeping). The PCC has adopted the Diocesan Safeguarding policy, appointed a Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and implemented the national Safer Recruitment Policy. Safeguarding is a standard agenda item at each PCC meeting.

As of January 2022 'Basic Awareness' and 'Foundation' safeguarding training became a mandatory requirement for all PCC members; before this it was a 'best practice' matter. The PSO and Rector also need the 'Leadership' level training, and it remains advisory for all Church Wardens to conduct this level of training too. Many PCC members have completed their online training; all will be expected to do so before the year end. New training for raising awareness of Domestic Abuse will also be required for PCC members and is available online. All Wardens, the PSO, Pastoral Visitors and the Rector also have to be DBS cleared. All Safeguarding training and DBS are valid for 3 years. All information is displayed in the churches and about how to contact the PSO.

*Sarah Coleman*

Parish Safeguarding Officer

## **Deanery Synod Report**

As with all Synods we began the **February 2021 meeting** (held on Zoom) with ‘Good News’ from our parishes. We heard how Ham Hill Benefice had welcomed its new incumbent, Rev Nick Clark. Also reported were the continuing works of so many parishes and community volunteers in assisting villages and towns through Covid. One piece of great news was the “Twin my Vaccine” Just Giving initiative set up by Rev Scott Patterson at Curry Rivel and his wife Rowan to support UNICEF in providing vaccines to the poorest countries unable to finance their people’s anti-Covid inoculation. This had begun with the aim of raising £1,000 but had reached £205,000 (plus gift aid).

The main focus of the meeting was the first of 3 session held over the year helping folks to reflect on Covid, church and how we might begin to ‘emerge’ in to the new reality of life the year would see us journey towards. At this meeting the Area Dean reflected on how the Church had been existing in the equivalent of Lent for nearly a year and, rather than adding further Lenten abstinence, all should take this time to be kind to themselves. We looked to Nehemiah as a source for wisdom on how God leads his people out of such times as these; exile times. We noted:

1. The people who survived the exile came and told of their situation and there was prayer;
2. An assessment of the state of Jerusalem was undertaken;
3. A proposal was put forward based on Principle rather than Preference;
4. Once more the people had a vision of who they were and of a purpose;
5. Together – the possibility of fulfilling the sense of purpose was realised – resources, skills and talents were focused for this, some things had to stop and some did new things, those looking to preferences brought opposition

With this all in mind we began to ask how our parishes might gain a fresh, or refreshed sense of vision/purpose as we come out of Covid times and following to ask what resources would assist in realising the new sense of purpose.

**July 2021 meeting heard more ‘Good News’ with** spire works completed and the project to introduce a toilet to the church almost finished at Chiselborough. Work on west side of church tower almost complete, Long Sutton. St Martin’s Kingsbury lead theft roof works were complete. Schools at Ash and Martock are so pleased to be back in Church. Odcombe, influx of families coming forward for baptisms and a Charity Walk for Uganda raising more than £800. After 3 years in Vacancy Martock, Ash and Kingsbury Episcopi had welcomed their new Vicar, Paul Fillery. Curry Rivel. Food bank to have new home in the church. Huish Episcopi cum Langport. ‘Langport Cares’ involves many church people. we have a foodbank which has been running in the Rectory but this will move to the Angel. Light lunches provided each week. Also collecting prescriptions and shopping.

We heard of a new forum for all Lay Leaders in Ivelchester Deanery to converse, offer support and work together for the flourishing of all our parish's mission visions. If you are a Church Warden, A Reader, PCC member, Treasurer, Lay Worship Leader, Pastoral Assistant, School Chaplain, Messy Church team member, Open the Book person, Lay Pioneer - this is your group! *Search Facebook - Ivelchester Deanery Leadership Forum and ask to join.*

*Ashore after the storm!* Was the title for our second session looking at how PCCs and parishes might move forward from Covid.

John 6.16-21 formed our bible reflection and we noted how the assumption is that the disciples reached exactly where they had been headed for before the storm on the lake. But have we, the parishes of Ivelchester, as we exit the storm of Covid-19 through which we have been rowing ‘all night’, landed in exactly the place we would expect to be if the journey had not been storm filled? Whilst it is the shore of the lake, might it be there are some differences? And what is the same, or to be expected? And how has the journey, the hours of rowing, the wind, the rain, the prayer, and panic, how has this changed us?

Synod went into virtual breakout rooms to discuss the following questions. What has not changed? What is different? How are folks after the journey?

Deanery finances – The accounts for 2020 were approved and given the healthy state of Deanery finances it was agreed that no subscriptions would be collected in 2021.

Elections to Diocesan Synod 2021-2024: Two lay representatives had been elected leaving vacancy. Mr. Chris Jackson was prepared to stand and fill the vacancy, with no opposition he was therefore elected unopposed.

**October 2021 Synod** heard ‘Good News’ of a new Messy Church, restarting of Mothers and Toddlers groups, installation of new heating systems, opening of new school in Somerton, King Ina Academy, seeing the Infants and Juniors now located in one building.

*Where next after Covid?* This brought our series of reflections on church and Covid to a conclusion.

As PCCs to gain a new ‘vision’ we would keenly ask questions like: Who are we in Christ today? What purpose is God calling us to as Christ’s church? What actions need to be taken to fulfil this ‘calling’? What might need to be stopped? What might we need to do differently?

Who might prefer nothing happens? Ultimately we are asking ‘What does it mean to ‘BE’ church in our parish today?’ The next step is to always ask about the skill/talents/gifts/experiences required to move into this way of ‘being church’. What recourses would be needed to be ‘focused’ to see things happen?

We reflected on 1 Samuel 16; a reminder we are not about ‘who’ but what type of person/what skills or gifting; after all this is how God does things ... Samuel consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is before him.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

Who/what needs to be ‘focused’ to see things happen? What roles/gifts/ministry is required – what things would make the calling ‘possible’? We reflected on how in Jesus Christ

‘the Word made flesh’ - the ministry comes before the minister ‘God so loved the world he sent his Son’ - the Role Required comes before the Post Holder. How might we ask what Ministry/Role/Calling is required to make our calling possible? Only then might we be able to identify the person who will ‘embody’ the calling and make it a ministry!

This approach to equipping churches for their local mission is at the heart of ‘focal ministry’ (note Ministries and not Minister as the starting point). In this approach to resourcing ministry, now being adopted across the CofE (with various titles) we see an approach that is broad and not just ordained in form but looks to someone whose ministry has been locally encouraged and through discernment, training, safeguarding, and authorization is enabled and supported to undertake the role they are called into. Very much *Ly* this is, however NOT Vicar Gap Filling! At its heart we ask ‘what ministry’ is required before asking who might provide this as their ‘ministry’.

## Pastoral care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Reverend Bruce Faulkner has visited all who have requested it. The ‘Lay Pastoral assistants’ extend the possibilities of the church’s pastoral care, thank you to each of you for all that you do in this area. The benefice baptism preparation team continues to provide a quiet and gentle ministry to young families in the benefice, thank you to Pat Morley, Ann Lambert and Jackie Stevens for this.

## **Mission and evangelism**

The church is called to mission, to take the good news and the love of God in Christ to the entire world.

This year, the Harvest Festival once more saw the church donate a large amount of produce to the local food bank, 'The Lord's Larder' in Yeovil.

## **Benefice relationships**

The church of St Mary acknowledges its interdependent relationship with the other churches in the benefice, St Peter's - Yeovilton with Podimore and St Mary Major - Ilchester with Northover. Together we meet to worship and pray and contribute to the needs of our sister parishes when they arise.

## **Financial review**

Total receipts were £16,275 (*a modest increase after the first Pandemic year of 2020*).

The Pandemic has seen an overall decrease in free reserves of £10,929, which is not sustainable! In 2020 the PCC dug deeply into reserves to meet its obligations, and in 2021 it has also had to use funds. A 'giving review' was carried out in October 2021 but sadly with little response in general giving to funds. To meet general running costs (minus repairs and such like) would require each adult church member to contribute £14 per week. Fundraising can impact this and the PCC will seek to increase fundraising in 2022.

Parish share for 2021 was £14,201 an increase on 2020 of £2,007 and all had been paid to the DBF as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

In its undertaking to honour the expectations of the Faculty Jurisdiction System the PCC ensured that repairs noted in the most recent architect's inspection of the church were completed with £90 spent. A new inspection will follow in 2022, delayed from 2021 and further works will be required after.

Insurance costs remain steady at £807 for the church, with £746 for the Church Rooms. Heat and lighting costs increased with opening the church for use once more following lock down and amounted to £323 which was still half that of Pre-Pandemic life in 2019.

Statutory Fees for Weddings and funerals in the year generated £1,418

## **Reserves policy**

The balance of the free reserves at the yearend was £19,268 a decrease of £3,246. Restricted fund balance at the yearend are:

Hill Bailey Bequest (for fabric repairs) £4,428

Flower Fund £990.67

It is our policy to invest the short-term investment fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund.

*Thank you to Pat for her work over many years as our treasurer. Thank also to Jim, our new Treasurer, who has stepped into the role and worked tirelessly to provide the annual accounts for the PCC for 2021!*

## **Volunteers**

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the community it is. In particular, we want to mention our churchwarden, Pat Morley who has worked so tirelessly on our behalf. Also Pat, for all her work as treasurer, and for Sally Mottram for her work as PCC Secretary. Those who clean and decorate the church with such amazing flower displays week in and week out, Maggie and the team on Tea and Coffee all deserve a hearty thank you for all the dedication that goes to make St Mary Major such a welcoming community and building.

## **Structure, governance and management**

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary Major's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC met 2 times during the year with an average level of attendance of 95%.

*Thank you to all the PCC members, for meeting, prayers and practical assistance in the Lord's name.*

## **Administrative information**

St Mary's Church is situated in Church Street, Ilchester. It is part of the Diocese of Bath and Wells within the Church of England. The correspondence address is 3 The Paddocks, West Street, Ilchester BA22 8PS.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2021 until the date this report was approved are:

### **Ex Officio members:**

Incumbent: The Reverend Bruce Faulkner (Chairman)

Wardens: Pat Morley (Treasurer until February 2022))

### **Elected members:**

Sally Mottram (Secretary), Betty James, Ann Lambert, Barbara Taylor, Jayne Bartin

### **Treasurer:**

Jim Band (from February 2022)

### **Safeguarding Officer:**

Sarah Coleman

**St Mary Major Church Ilchester**

**Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2021**

**St Mary Major Church Ilchester with Northover**

**Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2021**

**Receipts & Payments Accounts**

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**Fund Type: U = Unrestricted D = Designated R = Restricted**

	Note	U	D	D	R	D	R		
		General Fund	Fabric Fund	Church Rooms	Hill Bailey	Heating Boiler	Flower	2021	2020
<b>Receipts</b>									
Tax efficient planned giving		7855						7855	7309
Other planned giving		24						24	24
Collections at services		380						380	326
Collections away		0						0	0
Other donations		65						65	130
Wall box donations		5						5	130
Tax recovered gift aid		2202						2202	2446
Hill Bailey Legacy					1228			1228	0
Other non recurring legacy		100						100	0
LPOW		0						0	0
Fund raising		381						381	0
Investment income		17						17	103
Parochial fees income		1418						1418	256
Church Rooms letting				2200				2200	0
Other Income		100						100	50
Parish Council donation	1		300					300	0
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>£12,547</b>	<b>£300</b>	<b>£2,200</b>	<b>£1,228</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£16,275</b>	<b>£10,774</b>

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	Note	U	D	D	R	D	R		
		General Fund	Fabric Fund	Church Rooms	Hill Bailey	Heating Boiler	Flower	2021	2020
<b>Payments</b>									
Diocesan Common Fund		14201						14201	12194
Group expenses		812						812	1625
Collection away		0						0	0
Heat and light		324						324	401
Churcyard		0						0	170
Music	2	120						120	2196
Donations									
Repairs		664						664	220
Event costs	3	52		1098				1150	57
Insurance		808						808	787
Independent examiner		60						60	60
New Locks		90						90	0
Sundries		65						65	58
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>£17,195</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£1,098</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£18,294</b>	<b>£17,767</b>
<b>Excess (deficit) of receipts over payments</b>		<b>-£4,648</b>	<b>£300</b>	<b>£1,102</b>	<b>£1,228</b>			<b>-£2,109</b>	<b>-£6,993</b>
<b>Balances b/f at 1st January 2020</b>		<b>£13,635</b>	<b>£785</b>	<b>£8,097</b>	<b>£3,201</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£991</b>	<b>£26,709</b>	
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>-£1,000</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£1,000</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	
<b>Balance c/f at 31st December 2021</b>		<b>£8,987</b>	<b>£1,085</b>	<b>£8,199</b>	<b>£4,429</b>	<b>£1,000</b>	<b>£991</b>	<b>£24,691</b>	

	U	D	D	R	D	R	
<b>Statement of Assets &amp; Liabilities at 31st December 2021</b>	General	Fabric	Church	Hill Bailey	Heating	Flower	
	Fund	Fund	Rooms		Boiler		2021
<b>Monetary Assets</b>							
Nat West Bank	5869.2						5869.2
CBF Deposit Fund	3117.63	1084.78	8198.97	4428.88	1000	990.67	18820.93
	£8,987	£1,085	£8,199	£4,429	£1,000	£991	£24,690
<b>Notes:</b>							
The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis							
1. donation stipulated for fabric works from 2021; general fund donation in previous years.							
2. CCL music license. In 2020 also new digital hymnal							
3. Church rooms ougoings include insurance of £790 plus minor repairs							