

# ST MARY'S LIMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL



2021 Report and Accounts



St Mary's is your parish church and has been at the heart of Christian worship and community life in Limington 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 we might live as a village community formed about the principle of 'love of neighbour as of oneself'.

The community of St Mary's 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 each parish having to fund their way themselves and at the same time contributing to a 'common fund' for the 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's church council

St Mary'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, Limington

The PCC has continued throughout 2021 to develop a sense of vocation within the parish. This vocation is encapsulated in the statement, 'Open to the possibilities of God and welcoming to every member of the community' and has shaped the work of the PCC, especially in relation to openness and welcome and is a focus for its activities in line with the broader aims and purposes outlined above.

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 Limington' to be 'open to the possibilities of 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 the 'possibilities of God'.

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

## 2021 – A snapshot of all the comings and goings

In 2021 there were 29 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll eligible 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 no baptisms, 3 weddings and 6 funerals 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. 'St Mary's Festival' weekend was back with its Sausage and Cider Sizzle. We marked Remembrance with a re-dedication of the War memorial following the village's work to restore it. Christmas saw a lessons and carols service and Communion was celebrated on Christmas Eve.

As the year came to a close we were pleased to receive a Bronze Eco Church award. This is thanks to all who have worked to ensure heating and lighting in the church is environmentally sourced, that where possible Fairtrade supplies are used and that we look to maintain the churchyard with the bats, snow drops, blue bells and primroses in mind. Moving forward we will be installing a 'bug hotel', planting pollinator flowers and even having a hedgehog house.

Lastly, but not least, a big thank you to all who keep the church clean, bedecked with such amazing flower displays and who keep the churchyard looking – well picture like – Thank you all!

*Bruce*

## Churchwarden's Report

This year has been one of consolidation rather than innovation. At last we are able to hold weekly services and to sing our hymns. Throughout the year we have been able to ease the Covid-19 restrictions and are now able to worship without wearing face masks. The only remaining restriction has been that we are not able to share the chalice at Holy Communion. One of our greatest joys was to hold a traditional carol service once again.

The year has been marked by having to say goodbye to so many friends and loved ones who in their various ways served the community so well. These have included John Tuckey, Betty Fieldhouse, Paul Vintner, Doreen Rushton and Tom Sutcliffe all of whom died during 2021. We miss them all and Limington has lost many stalwart friends and supporters.

In terms of new projects and developments we have made some progress with our plans for a servery to be sited at the rear of the Nave just behind the Font and we are discussing the possibility of a new flag pole to obviate the need to climb onto the treacherous tower roof in order to erect the existing pole and fly a flag. We hope that these projects will come to fruition during the next year. We are also due to have our Quinquennial Inspection in April 2022 which will undoubtedly highlight other defects needing to be addressed.

As ever I wish to record our gratitude to all those who help to maintain and run this beautiful church: - the cleaners, the flower arrangers and the readers at our services. Most of all we thank Bruce for his unflagging enthusiasm and support throughout the year.

*John Langdon*

Churchwarden

## 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 sessions 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 3years 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 to 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.

## **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 John Langdon who has worked so tirelessly on our behalf. Thank you also to Mike Coleman the PCC's Treasurer for an admirable job of budget forecasting and watching the pennies through the year. Also, the many people who have helped keep the churchyard in fantastic order. With them thanks are due to the flower team and the cleaners – thank you to all!

## **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 2011. At St Mary's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Rector), churchwarden 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 3 times during the year with an average level of attendance of 95%.

## **Administrative information**

St Mary's Church is situated in Church Street, Limington. 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 from the annual meeting in April 2021 until the date this report:

### **Ex Officio members:**

Incumbent: The Reverend Bruce Faulkner (Chair and PCC Secretary)

Wardens: John Langdon

### **Elected members:**

Steve Ravenscroft, Mike Coleman (treasurer), Doreen Rushton (resigned November 2021), Rebecca Drury, Sarah Coleman, Sarah Marsden (co-opted January 2022)

### **Safeguarding Officer:**

Sarah Coleman



St Mary's Church Limington  
 Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2021  
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Code	Note	U	D	R	R	R	R	R	2021	2020
		General Fund	Fabric Fund	Tony Coles Churchyard Fund	Germaine Wadley Trust	The Chapel Repair Fund	Servery and Vestry Fund	Toilet and Community Store Fund		
<b>Payments</b>										
30	Fund raising costs	122							122	
31	Donations, mission giving	823							823	131
32	Parish share	6996							6996	7579
34	Clergy Benefice fees	500							500	500
35	Other expenses									
39	Insurance	843							843	832
41	Minor maintenance & repair									1016
43	Other church expenses	481							481	
44	Churchyard maintenance	8							8	346
47	Heating and lighting	555							555	528
48	Water rate	82							82	81
51	Parochial fees paid to DBF	14							14	
54	Parochial Fees to other PCC									13
55	Ivelchester deanery costs									
56	Sundry Expenses									
57	Major repairs to church									7978
59	Alteration to church									808
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>£10,424</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£10,424</b>	<b>£19,812</b>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>		<b>7189</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>1064</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1637</b>			<b>10250</b>	<b>-1532</b>
<b>Transfers between Funds</b>		<b>-3462</b>	<b>2090</b>			<b>-1637</b>	<b>3009</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Balances b/f at 1st January 2021*</b>		<b>1903</b>	<b>1484</b>	<b>9081</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>12980</b>	<b>14641</b>
<b>Balance c/f at 31st December 2021</b>		<b>£5,630</b>	<b>£3,934</b>	<b>£10,145</b>	<b>£512</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£3,009</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£23,230</b>	<b>£13,109</b>

\*The actual balance in the GF was £2,032 but unrepresented cheque of £129 meant real opening balance was £1,903

Statement of Assets & Liabilities at 31st December 2021	U	D	R	R	R	R	R	2021	2020
	General Fund	Fabric Fund	Tony Coles Churchyard Fund	Germaine Wadley Trust	The Chapel Repair Fund	Servery and Vestry Fund	Toilet and Community Store Fund		
<b>Monetary Assets</b>									
Cash	1.00							1.00	1.00
Business Current Account	5630.00			512.00	0.00	3009.00	0.00	9151.00	2544.00
Liquidity Manager Account		3934.00						3934.00	1484.00
CBF Deposit Fund			3082.00					3082.00	3080.00
CBF Accumulation Fund			7063.00					7063.00	6001.00
	<b>£5,631.00</b>	<b>£3,934.00</b>	<b>£10,145.00</b>	<b>£512.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£3,009.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£23,231.00</b>	<b>£13,110.00</b>
<b>Debtors</b>									
Gift Aid Claim due January	1649.00							1649.00	
SSE Credit	50.00							50.00	
	<b>£1,699.00</b>							<b>£1,699.00</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>									

**Notes:**

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis

- Regular donations from congregational members
- These include various different donations towards church events, wall safe, from bell ringers and in memory of the late Doreen St John Rushton.
- These include GASDS receipts recovered at the end of the 2021/2021 tax year
- Final HLF grant £1,637 for chapel GF reimbursed. Unspecified grant from SSDC £1,459 transferred to Servery and Vestry Fund.
- £1,435 Raised from the Sausage & Cider Sizzle.
- This includes The Bath & Wells Ringers, Somerset Churches Trust, National Churches Trust, war memorial, charities in memory of the late Betty Fieldhouse and £145 to The Royal British Legion

# Independent Examiner's Certificate for the PCC Accounts

Report to the trustees Limington St Mary's **Parochial Church Council**

On accounts for the year ended: 31 December 2021 Charity Number (if applicable):  

**Set out on pages** Single page - (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

**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 matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me reasonable 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.

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

Signed: Christine Sullivan Date: 07.02.2022

Name: CHRISTINE SULLIVAN

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): N/A.

Address: Rugg Farm, Church Street  
Limington, BA22 8EQ.