

# **The Parish of St Mary's Limington with the Tithing of Draycott**



**Annual Report  
and  
Financial Statements  
of the Parochial Church Council  
for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

Rector:

Revd. Bruce Faulkner

Bankers:

Nat West, Yeovil

Independent Examiner:

Christine Sullivan

Rugg Farm, Church Street Limington BA22 8EQ

The Parochial Church Council is an Excepted Charity

# The Parochial Church Council of Limington with the Tithing of Draycott

## Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

### 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 2024 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.

### **2025 – Our Celebrations and Challenges**

John Langdon, church Warden writes:

This year we have some good news to report. We now have the Full Faculty from the Diocesan Advisory Committee to go ahead with the minor reordering and construction of a servery. The final plans went out to tender. The work was offered to four firms but only two submitted quotes. The two figures were unacceptable as they were at least twice what we had expected. After meeting the architects, we managed to reduce the specifications and therefore the costs. Originally we had hoped to include the redecoration of the entire church. As this required scaffold to be erected the cost was very high. Also we planned to replace the pews that were due to be removed with high end stacking chairs. After removing these items and agreeing to clear the site ourselves we have managed to negotiate a more realistic price for the work. St Mary's is a grade 1 listed building and as such we have to ensure that any works undertaken do not detract from its architectural significance. For example, we have to properly restore the encaustic floor tiles and the woodwork has to be constructed in solid oak. All of this is costly. Currently we have applied for a number of grants and we should learn the outcome later this summer.

Unfortunately, our new benefice is as yet not legally established by the Church Commissioners. Despite this Bruce has been working hard to integrate our six parishes. We now have an agreed service pattern that ensures that all the active churches are covered with regular services. Sadly, St Mary's now has only three services each four-week month with just two being clergy led and just one Communion service each month. However, the new

pattern of services across the benefice seems to be working well. The Leadership group representing all the parishes meet regularly at the Rectory and we are certainly getting to know one another and help each other when necessary.

Our services remain well attended for a small parish and we have been pleased to welcome some new faces as occasional congregants. Like other churches we have found that the attendance at Festival services has increased which is very gratifying.

As ever I wish to record my gratitude to all those who give up their time helping to maintain and run this beautiful church: - the cleaners, the flower arrangers and the readers at our services together with the volunteers who maintain the churchyard. Most of all we thank Bruce for his unflagging enthusiasm and support throughout the year.

## **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 2025

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.

‘Basic Awareness’ and ‘Foundation’ level safeguarding training remain in place to ensure we are a safe environment for folks to come and worship in. The Parish Safeguarding Officer and the Rector also need the ‘Leadership’ level training. New training for raising awareness of Domestic Abuse is available for PCC members. 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.

Thank you once again to Sarah Coleman who offers her time as Safeguarding Officer for all of the parishes in the benefice.

## **Deanery Synod Report**

Have you ever wondered what a Deanery is all about, and why the details of its meetings feature here in the Parish annual report.

Deaneries are small geographical divisions of the Diocese, within which parishes are grouped under the care of an Area Dean; Ivelchester Deanery is known to have been in existence since 1242!

Each deanery is governed by a Deanery Synod. The deanery synod is a statutory body, yes as it sounds they are set up and enabled by Parliament (The CofE is Parliament’s church for the nation) and operate through the Synodical Government Measure 1969. Deanery Synods have a significant role in the synodical system. They are located between PCCs at parish level, and the higher the synodical levels of Diocesan Synod and The General Synod. The task of the deanery synod, as set out in the Measure is as follows:

- to consider matters concerning the Church of England, to make provision for such matters locally, and to consider and express their opinion on any other matters of religious or public interest;

- to bring together the views of parishes on common problems, to discuss and formulate common policies on those problems, to foster a sense of community and interdependence among those parishes, and generally to promote in the deanery the whole mission of the Church;
- to make known and so far as appropriate put into effect any provision made by the Diocesan Synod;
- to consider the business of the Diocesan Synod, and particularly any matters referred to that synod by the General Synod;
- to raise matters, as the deanery synod consider appropriate, with the Diocesan Synod.

Each parish is able, every 3 years to elect a number of representatives to sit on Deanery Synod and can find themselves to consider and vote on matters of national importance. Yeovilton with Podimore is able to return 1 representative.

Ivelchester Deanery Synod met 3 times in the 2025; February, July and October.

### **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2025,**

We began the year looking at Shared Local Ministry through a presentation by the Area Dean looking at, and learning from creative approaches being applied across the Church of England, and the wider Anglican church and other denominations across the world on this form of 'being church' in our local community.

Members worked in groups to looking at the statistical reality of the parishes we live in and how it might be we look at being church differently in different locations; whilst we are all the Anglican church how we engage in our worship and service of the community will differ by dint of the people we live amongst.

Discussion followed around this on creative ways we might engage with families, singles, working and retired peoples. The challenge is always to 'know the land', but seek to view it with God's eyes, being intentional in our love of neighbour but without assuming anything.

A practical guide, "*Learning from other's creative thinking and planning for rural multi-parish ministry and mission*" was left with synod members to take on for use in their benefices/parishes as they might wish.

### **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2025, 7.30pm**

*Yesterday, today and tomorrow – Lament, Anxiety and Hope in our worshipping communities.* This was led by Susan Laycock (Lay Dean). This was a very good time of discussion about, post Covid, thinking on the things we *lament* in our changed churches and communities, on what is making our churches *anxious*, and what we are also *hope filled* about the future.

There were several sheets of flip chart paper filled with reflection from folks on:

- What has caused lament or anxiety in the past in your church?
- What is causing your church to rejoice?
- What gives you hope for the future?

All of the reflections were gathered up and compiled, fed back and assisted Synod at the first meeting of 2026 in looking further to matters of prayer for one another and our communities through 2026. It also enabled the revision work of the Deanery Plan by the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group, with the aim of having a plan developed locally that together we can engage with and support one another in our local service of the gospel.

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2025, 7.30pm

**'Listening to the silent member of your worshipping community'** – and evening with Mark Lidster, the Diocesan Church Buildings Advisor.

Mark gave a very interesting and informative talk which raised a number of questions. Here are some of the salient points ...

- Our church building is the silent member of our community. It is there for people when they need it but it needs to serve its purpose. How many people in the broader community actually use it?
- The mathematical proportions make each church unique. The design of each church is based around the 'golden proportions'. Everything is based around circles, possibly 3,5 or 7. There is a big spiritual impact of decorations in our churches. Everything has a meaning, created by medieval workmen. Research around the history of our church buildings can encourage members of the community back into our churches. Mark can help you find out more about your own church.
- It is widely thought that we would spend more time in church if it was warmer. Where did this thinking come from? Early civilisations used open hearths but it was the Romans who expedited heating in public places by blowing warm air through. Most 'modern' heating systems are from the twentieth century although often referred to as Victorian and it was during this period that many of our churches were initially heated. However, heating systems have caused much destruction to the fabric of our churches. We have gone away from dressing warmly to go to church (domestic expectation). When central heating appeared, clothing changed and moved away from the warmth that wool offered. *Perhaps we should be asking 'are we expecting too much of this building to heat it?'*
- The cost of heating our, often large, churches infrequently causes problems. Warm air will process more moisture than cold air. Dry air will give the impression of warmth but the building needs to be well ventilated to avoid water remaining in the air and condensation forming. *The building should be ventilated (ie doors left open) for 3 or 4 times the length of time the heating was on.* Trying to retain heat is virtually impossible. *It is ok to have conversations about why we need to be warm.*
- Church repairs should be done with lime mortar. We need to allow a 'managed decline' of stonework where possible. Even if previous repairs were wrong (eg the use of concrete) they should be left alone if they aren't causing a problem.
- There is a challenge to dwelling in our church buildings.  
We should ask 'how can we be enabled to be what our purpose is?'  
How did the building used to be used?  
Is it about making a community space to help community thrive?  
What has been the impact of church and faith in our communities?

## 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.

## 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 an amount of produce to the local food bank, 'The Lord's Larder' in Yeovil. Also the Christmas shoe box appeal saw folks contribute to the amazing 168 shoe boxes collected, with contributions from Ilchester Community Primary School, and dispatched to Eastern Europe, to Ukraine, in time to bring some cheer for Christmas.

## 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. 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. At St Mary'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 5 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, 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 May 2025 until the date this report:

### Ex Officio members:

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

Wardens: John Langdon

**Elected members:** Mike Coleman (treasurer), Rebecca Drury, Sarah Coleman, Sarah Marsden.

**Safeguarding Officer:** Sarah Coleman

## St Mary Limington PCC

### Financial review and Statements for the year ended 31st December 2025

#### **Review of 2025**

Total receipts were £13,414 (a decrease on 2024 of £4,658, however 2024's income included a legacy of £5,046). Collections at services were broadly the same as for 2024, with a small increase of £37. Our 'planned giving' also saw a small increase of £121 – thank you folks!

Insurance thankfully remained static at £1197 and heating and lighting decreased significantly on 2024 being £500 less at £919. Statutory Fees for weddings and funerals was £0, with weddings or funerals held at church in 2025.

Parish share for 2025 was £200 more than 2024 at £8312, all being paid to the DBF (Diocesan Board of Finance) as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

#### **Reserves policy**

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves (net current assets). This is equivalent to £3000. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. Even with the impact of Covid on finances the PCC met that goal.

Restricted fund balances at the yearend are:

Tony Coles Fund (churchyard)	£11,049	(a small reduction on 2024)
Germaine Wadley Trust Fund (churchyard)	£512	(2024 the same)
Servery and Meeting space Fund	£1,230	(£1,196 less than 2024 due to professional fees)

It is our policy to invest the fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund or the CCLA Church of England Investment Fund, whichever is appropriate at any time.

*A massive thank you to Mike Coleman, our treasurer for all the watching of pennies and chasing of pounds. Mike is just great! Also to our 'Independent Examiner' Christine Sullivan!*

Independent Examiners report on the accounts

# Independent Examiner's Certificate for the PCC Accounts

Report to the trustees of:  **Parochial Church Council**  
On accounts for the year ended:  Charity Number (if applicable):

Set out on pages  (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:  Date:

Name:

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:

# St Mary's Limington: Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

St Mary's Church Limington  
 Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2025  
 Receipts & Payments Accounts  
 Page 1 of 3

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

Code	Note	U	D	R	R	R	R	R	2025	2024
		General Fund	Fabric Fund	Tony Coles Churchyard Fund	The Germaine Wadley Trust	The Servery and Vestry fund	The Toilet & Community Store Fund	The Marian Brake Church & comnity Fd		
<b>Receipts</b>										
1	Tax efficient planned giving	5236	360						5596	5475
2	Other planned giving	1560							1560	580
3	Collections at services	1994							1994	1927
4	Other recurring donations	450							450	250
5	Non recurring donations	190							190	438
7	Tax recovered gift aid	1877							1877	1961
8	Legacies	0							0	5046
10	Non-recurring grants	0							0	120
11	Fund raising	1052							1052	719
12	Investment income	258	63	154					476	627
14	Parochial fees income	0								929
17	Other church income					220			220	
22	Other income	0								
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>£12,617</b>	<b>£423</b>	<b>£154</b>		<b>£220</b>			<b>£13,414</b>	<b>£18,072</b>

St Mary's Church Limington  
 Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2025  
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Code	Note	U	D	R	R	R	R	R	2025	2024	
		General Fund	Fabric Fund	Tony Coles Churchyard Fund	The Germaine Wadley Trust	The Servery and Vestry fund	The Toilet & Community Store Fund	The Marian Brake Church & comnity Fd			The Tony Coles Cash Fund
<b>Payments</b>											
30	Fund raising costs										
31	Donations, mission giving	-252							-252	-237	
32	Parish share	-8312							-8312	-8171	
34	Clergy Benefice fees	-1000							-1000	-1000	
35	Other expenses	0								-14	
39	Insurance	-1197							-1197	-1136	
40	Cleaning	0							0	-20	
41	Minor maintenance & repair	-86							-86	-283	
43	Other church expenses	-54							-54	-100	
44	Churchyard maintenance	0							-46	-23	
45	Flowers	-23							-23	-30	
46	Music Costs									-40	
47	Heating and lighting	-919							-919	-1505	
48	Water rate	-133							-133	-129	
55	Ivelchester deanery costs										
56	Sundry Expenses										
57	Major repairs to church					-1455			-1455	-7062	
59	Alteration to church										
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>-£11,976.00</b>	<b>£423.00</b>		<b>£512.00</b>	<b>-£1,455.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£5,130.00</b>	<b>-£46.00</b>	<b>-£13,477.00</b>	<b>-£19,750.00</b>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>		<b>641</b>		<b>154</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1235</b>		<b>86</b>	<b>-46</b>	<b>-63</b>	<b>-£1,678</b>
<b>Transfers between Funds</b>		<b>-555</b>	<b>180</b>			<b>39</b>		<b>86</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>Balances b/f at 1st January 2025</b>		<b>6112</b>	<b>5333</b>	<b>3393</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>2426</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5130</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>23133</b>	<b>24811</b>
<b>Balance c/f at 31st December 2025</b>		<b>£6,198</b>	<b>£5,936</b>	<b>£3,547</b>	<b>£512</b>	<b>£1,230</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£5,216</b>	<b>£431</b>	<b>£23,070</b>	<b>£23,133</b>

**Statement of Assets & Liabilities  
 at 31st December 2025**

**Monetary Assets**

	U General Fund	D Fabric Fund	R Tony Coles Churchyard Fund	R The Germaine Wadley Trust	R The Servery and Vestry fund	R The Toilet & Community Store Fund	R The Marian Brake Church & comnity Fd	R The Tony Coles Cash Fund	2025	2024
Cash	1.00								1.00	1.00
Business Current Account	6918.00			512.00	1230.00	0.00	5216.00	431.00	14307.00	14407.00
Liquidity Manager Account		5936.00							5936.00	5333.00
CBF Deposit Fund			3547.00						3547.00	3393.00
CBF Accumulation Fund			7502.00						7502.00	7590.00
	£6,919.00	£5,936.00	£11,049.00	£512.00	£1,230.00	£0.00	£5,216.00	£431.00	£31,293.00	£30,724.00

**Debtors**

Gift Aid Claim due January

									1530.00	1474.00
									£1,530.00	£2,113.00

**Liabilities**

Electrics

8	-1500.00								-1500.00	0.00
									-£1,500.00	£0.00

**Notes:**

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

1. These are £250 from Seb Bamsey and 2 x £100 from Yeovilton PC for use of the building
2. The biggest is from Will Tizzard £107 and include wall safe
3. Includes GiftAid claimed in January and GASDS in the new Tax Year.
4. The Sausage and Cider Sizzle
5. This is cash sales of the 3 pews.
6. This is the collection for the RBL plus last year's GASGS and a £10 donation, together with the SO's.
7. Petrol
8. An estimated amount and we have a grant waiting from the FoSM.