**CHURCH of SAINT MARY the VIRGIN**



**ANNUAL REPORT for 2023**

Saint Mary’s Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating
with the Incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church,
pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

**MISSION STATEMENT 2003**We believe we are called by God to live the Gospel values of Jesus Christ as a Community,
reaching out to the people of Kintbury and a wider world.

**LOCATION of SAINT MARY’S CHURCH**

Church Street, Kintbury

**Address for correspondence:** c/o Jenny Veasey (Secretary)
 18 High Street, Kintbury, Hungerford
 RG17 9TW jennyveasey@hotmail.co.uk

This report is produced to meet the requirements of the Charities Act 1993, designed to give transparency to the affairs of the parish and accountability to the public. Mandatory reports relate to the calendar year 2023 to coincide with the accounts. The exceptions are the Clergy & Ministry Team, Deanery Synod and Electoral Roll reports, which bring us up to date. Other reports are included out of interest and to give a fuller picture of our church and parish life.

Please note that this report will primarily be circulated electronically to all who are on the Kintbury Circulation List held by the Benefice Office. A very small number will be printed for those members of the parish whom we know not to have access to email and to be placed in the church.

**CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT 2023 - 24**
4 names (deceased) have been removed. 2 people have moved away.
The number on the Electoral Roll is: 69; 68 resident, 1 non-resident.
 *pp* ***Electoral Roll Officer (position vacant)*****Occasional Offices during 2022:**  6 baptisms; 1 wedding; 12 funerals.
NB: this does not include Thanksgiving or Memorial services, Cremations or Interment
of Ashes.

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules, or can be co-opted. During 2023 the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:
CLERGY:
Rector:Rev’d Annette Shannon
House for Duty Priest: Vacant
Licensed lay Minister: Mrs Jenny Veasey **(Secretary**)
CHURCH WARDENS: Mrs Gill Guy
DEANERY SYNOD:

HON TREASURER: Mrs Pauline Pettitt
ELECTED MEMBERS: Mrs Alice Armstrong Scales
 Mr Mick Burridge
 Mrs Alison Hartwright
 Mrs Bridin Warner Mrs Olivia Whitworth
 CO-OPTED Mrs Liz Barnett

**Standing committee** This is the only PCC committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC subject to any directions given by the Council and their subsequent ratification of decisions. The Rector, Churchwarden(s), Treasurer and Secretary are regular members. From September, the Standing Committee currently comprises Rev’d Annette Shannon, Gill Guy, Pauline Pettitt, Jenny Veasey, Bridin Warner.

**NB**: *This will be the final Annual Report for The Parish of “Kintbury with Avington” – as next year’s will be the first report on the new “Parish of Kintbury with Avington and Hamstead Marshall”!*

**SIDESPERSONS, Readers, Intercessors & Chalice Assistants**

The rota is currently compiled and circulated by the Benefice Administrator. Offers of assistance are always welcome.

**Safeguarding**There were no safeguarding incidents reported during the year, and the PCC is currently fully compliant in terms of training as are other people where appropriate/required. ***Jenny Veasey Parish Safeguarding Officer***

**Proceedings of the PCC 2023**

St Mary’s PCC met six times during 2023.
Alongside regular aspects of general parish administration (worship, finance, fabric, H&S, safeguarding, social, fundraising & outreach activities), the following matters were considered:

* The appointment and contract for the new benefice administrator; Kintbury acts as employer on behalf of Walbury Beacon Benefice (WBB);
* Changes to the structure of WBB finances and parish contributions, with parishes assuming responsibility for managing pastoral fees/payments eg for weddings and funerals; these to include a fee for vergers to go directly to the person acting as verger for the occasion;
* The conclusion of the vestry roof repairs and the fairly complex financial aspects this involved including various insurance payments, FoSM contribution (for which many thanks), grant claim, VAT);
* Quinquennial inspection and report;
* The need for a replacement sound system and hearing loop;
* Internet banking;
* Training and commissioning for Lay Pastoral and Worship Leaders;
* Heating system;
* A new notice board for Christchurch cemetery;
* School collective worship and other church/school links and events;
* Management and storage of church records;
* Environmental issues;
* Problems with the CCTV system;
* Use of the church and St Mary’s Room by external organisations;
* Pastoral re-organisation resulting from proposed vesting and closure of Hamstead Marshall Church.

The PCC was pleased to be able to pay the Parish Share in full in 2023.

During the year the PCC was kept updated with regard to the House for Duty Associate Priest appointment and received regular reports from the Friends of St Mary’s and the school.

 ***Jenny Veasey
PCC Secretary***

**Churchwarden’s Report including Fabric & Churchyard** with other Parish matters:

It has been a very active church year of innovation with services and also there has been  much happening with the  community involvement in our church.
**Inspections**
We had our Quinquennial inspection completed which is a process that takes place every five years to examine the fabric especially of  the church.
We were grateful that there were no unexpected items and the surveyor complimented us on the general upkeep of the building.
We have a n annual year plan for work to be completed and the first phase has already been managed.
In addition we had an Archdeacons inspection, which is normally a three yearly inspection which examines much of the actual running details of the church and documentation involved. Again I am, pleased to say that the inspection went according to plan without any major problems. It was highlighted that we had much  important archive materials which need to be stored safely with the Reading Records office . This matter has been activated thanks to Rev Annette and her husband Dave. The material will be checked for future archive as appropriate and then be accessed by any member of the public whenever requested.
The inspections have been also a good way of checking our fabric and contents fully of our church accordingly which I am pleased to report is in good order overall.
Our log book is also regularly updated and kept in order together with church records.
These were also checked with the Inspection processes.
**Church Vestry**
We are very pleased with the final result of refurbishment following the lead roof theft.
The roof has been replaced with TCSS , which we are assured will be efficient for the future .
Although the cost of this was mostly covered by the Insurance there was additional contributions required and FOSM assisted us partially with this, for which we are most grateful
**New sound system completed**
Now we have an updated sound system suitably stored  and ready for use for a variety of purposes. We are most grateful for the work of an appointed committeee and financial assistance from FOSM also.
**Health and safety**
We are constantly vigilant in this area and our security system has been checked, with installed  cameras and has a signed contract in place.
There was some electrical work required which was managed/ updated, but there are some on going issues at times due to our ancient building and construction.
Lightening conductor checks have been completed and this is in order as the annual check process.
**Churchyards**
Christchurch
We are pleased that a new notice board has now been erected and we were grateful for a donation towards the costs from the PC.
St Mary’s
The overall maintenance is carried out by the council who are regularly prompted.
We did also have a voluntary session with much appreciated help given by Parishioners to do a general tidy .
We have had two new benches installed with Diocesan permission as required.
**Church Heating System**
We understand that our current system is now in decline so a new system will be required. The Diocese have a preferred system which we are exploring with quotes from suitable suppliers. We hope to get this installed before next wintertime and have already started to explore funding for  this. FOSM have kindly agreed to assist us
**Statistics for mission**
This is an annual report sent to the Diocese. I am grateful to Pauline Pettit for her assistance with this
**Fabric committee**
This group has worked extremely hard to maintain good work and running of our church for which we are grateful.
Since my report also covers the fabric issues, there is no separate report for the Fabric Committee.
All our committees have been working well to maintain our church in many different ways and we are thankful for their contributions
**Music at St Mary’s**Our musical endeavors continue with the support of our Musical Director, Chris Lambert.
We have had concerts from Opus 2, the choir ably lead and directed by Chris. NSF have also used our church as a public venue for a concert. Financial Donations for the use of our premises have supplemented church funds.
As we do not have a regular choir to sing at our services Opus 2 and other volunteers have kindly assisted for special services and occasions. Church premises are used for rehearsals.
There are several local organists / pianists who assist if Chris is unable to play for a service. Both our excellent digital organ and grand piano continue to enhance our worship.
This year the contract for Chris ,as our musical director ,was updated and renewed, being mutually agreed with PCC, Rev Annette and the CW.
It is encouraging that music continues to be a major part of our worship and outreach which is much appreciated by the community.
**Teamwork**
Throughout our church and village we have a wonderful group of volunteers who selflessly give their time and talents to our church in so many different ways, from cleaning, opening and locking our church, flower arranging, fund raising, assisting at services, bell ringing and more. Our heartfelt thanks are sent to all the amazing volunteers for all their time and effort given freely to us.

Finally
I thank the PCC, our secretary and treasurer for all their support throughout the year.
In addition our ministry team of both ordained and lay are a huge part within our parish which enables us to be a continued Christian  witness  in our area . We trust this  will continue well into the future.
Rev Annette as our Rector and Liz Barnett as  Assistant Church Warden, work closely with me and have been a tremendous support to make my responsibilities more easy to manage,.
 ***Gill Guy
 Churchwarden***

**WALBURY BEACON BENEFICE MINISTRY REPORTS**

**Rector**

This is my second APCM in post and I am delighted to have the opportunity to provide an outline of what has been happening across the Benefice and to celebrate how God has been moving in our communities.

In March 2023 the Deanery generously offered to cover the costs of an uplift in my position from part-time to full-time for up to three years without impacting on our benefice share contribution. This additional time was so I could address the problems around governance and administration that were uncovered on my arrival, and in acknowledgment that I am covering a vacancy in the southern parishes.

I am very grateful to those across the benefice who have assisted me as I continue to work to bring things up to date, particularly in areas such as safeguarding, administration, and key policies. A special thank you to Tamara our benefice administrator, Christopher Sears and the Ministry Team who have been a source of invaluable support. Now that we have a more secure foundation, I am excited to have time to focus on responding to mission opportunities across the parishes.

Sadly, in November the anticipated licensing of our new Assistant Priest Rev William Mc Dowell was unable to go ahead because of a health issue. We continue to pray for his recovery and hope that he may be able to join us this summer. In January I was asked to consider acting as a training incumbent for a part-time non-stipendiary curate. I am overjoyed to say that Alison Dean will be joining us at the end of June 2024.

In December 2023 we had the ongoing ministry of three Lay Leaders in the benefice, Christopher Sears, Bridin Warner, and Gillian Guy, affirmed when they were officially commissioned by Archdeacon Liz. They, our resident retired priest Canon Patrick Whitworth, and Alison Dean will become part of a larger Ministry Team, joining Jenny and me. This opens lots of opportunities for collaborative ministry and sets a new ministerial dynamic.

This year the benefice churches have been present in many ways supporting the local community. We continue to lead a monthly Holy Communion at Inglewood and have been delighted to see the numbers increasing. It is a joyful experience. I also visit Notrees one morning a month to run a Christian-themed craft activity enjoyed by the residents. The weekly friendship café led by Bridin and Mick in St Mary’s Room continues to be a source of support, encouragement, and companionship for so many. I am delighted to have seen several of the Inkpen congregation visiting the new drop-in café in Inkpen run by the Parish Council. A mid-week Scones and Songs event was much enjoyed by Notrees residents and members of the community. It will be repeated in 2024.

I lead a monthly Collective Worship in Kintbury Church of England School and host a termly School service including a special leaving service for YR6. I will be looking for ways to increase our connections with Inkpen Community School in 2024. In December we ran an Experience Church for Yrs 3-6 in Kintbury and had planned to repeat the event in Inkpen. Sadly, adverse weather prevented it from taking place, but we are negotiating a new date with the school for the summer term 2024. The ‘Experience’ visits involve pupils moving around the church in small groups to visit interactive stations led by the Ministry Team and members of the congregation. This year it was to learn about how different areas of the church are used. In 2024 the stations will reflect aspects of Advent. These visits are always well received by staff and much enjoyed by the children who are engaged throughout. But they could not happen without a large group of talented volunteers from the churches to whom I am very grateful.

In 2024 we are introducing a visit of Kintbury’s YR6s to St Mary’s for a special session based on the ‘It’s Your Move’ resource - a guide to surviving secondary school.

I was invited to visit the Preschool in Kintbury at Christmas. They have since asked if we could host a monthly visit by the children to Church so we shall be exploring options with them.

The Nativity in Kintbury was a new inclusion for 2023, written and led by young adults with a cast of 38 children; It was a huge success. Thank you to the friends and family of Alice Amstrong-Jones for organising this. It is wonderful news to learn that they are prepared to organise another for 2024. There was also a very successful pop-up Nativity with Crib Service in Inkpen, a Crib Service and Angel Festival in Kintbury, and an Animal service in Inkpen. We were joined on Palm Sunday in Inkpen by two donkeys who led a procession up to the church. It added an exciting dimension and is being repeated in 2024.

The church is called to be present for everyone, no matter their age, I am proud of what the church is doing for the lives of children across the parishes. Many say children are the church of tomorrow, but they are very much the church of today!

The weekly numbers attending the benefice churches are gradually increasing back to pre-pandemic levels, and we are exploring ways to make our presence relevant for the young families sadly absent in most services. In 2024 we are introducing some new celebration services that will be particularly child-friendly. Our major festivals across the year such as Christmas, Easter, and Harvest continue to be well supported in all the benefice churches. Festival seasons are times of busyness when there is much to grab people’s attention, so it is reassuring that so many still choose to be with the church. That is wonderful news for us as a Benefice.

The new portable sound equipment has been very useful for the outdoor Rogation Service in West Woodhay, the Animal service in Inkpen, the outdoor Community Carol Service in Kintbury, and the indoor Kintbury Nativity.

An often-overlooked aspect of the church's ministry is baptisms, weddings, and funerals. In 2023 we had 11 weddings, 36 funerals (including burial of ashes), and 9 baptisms across the benefice. These special offices are significant ways the church is present in people's lives. As a Benefice, we have been blessed with many opportunities to draw alongside people in both times of joy and times of grief. These offices are a huge privilege to officiate as people invite us into their lives.

Finances are an important aspect of church life that significantly impacts on possible ministry. With the decline in the number of services during the interregnum and the Covid pandemic, the financial reserves of the churches across the Benefice have declined. The parish treasurers have worked hard to balance everything. The churches are surviving largely down to the generous giving of those in the parishes for which we are incredibly grateful. We are hopeful that we can continue in the positive direction we are currently taking. Thank you to everyone who has given their time or resources to sustain the church because without it we could not be present. The support from so many has been so greatly appreciated.

We are hoping that the vesting of Hamstead Marshall will be completed in 2024.

 ***Revd Annette
 Rector***

**Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)**

LLM is an alternative term for a Reader in the Church of England. The role of Reader was, traditionally, described as “teaching and preaching” – which is perhaps what originally drew me to this particular form of ministry.
Following the appointment of our rector and administrator, it has been a huge relief finally to be relieved of the additional benefice and parish responsibilities of an interregnum.
I am still involved with services across the benefice; with the school as a Foundation Governor, occasionally leading their Collective Worship; and with funeral ministry, which is a great privilege and of course also includes significant pastoral elements.
I enjoy the variety of different types of service and liturgy which come my way, ranging from the sense of gentle historicity and connection with centuries of traditional Anglican worship in sung Mattins following the Book of Common Prayer, through to the informality of All Age Worship, where it is possible to engage with and include the congregation in a variety of ways; as well as “one-offs” which allow for a more creative approach such as Palm Sunday and Crib Services.

***Jenny Veasey
 Licensed Lay Minister***

**Other Parish Reports**

**Children’s and Worship Committee**

In September as part of the Angel Festival volunteers painted stones or knitted angels with the message, ‘peace be with you’, and hid them around the village. It was lovely to see photographs submitted by young people who discovered one. We also held an activity morning on the Saturday with a special Angel Service on the Sunday.

In October we held an Experience Church for the pupils in Church. Multi-sensory stations were set up in the building visited by small groups. Pupils discovered what happened in each of the areas. They created a special altar cloth, filled a tree with peace doves, assembled a cross of prayers, and decorated glass jars to hold candles. In 2024 the whole school Experience is being held on 26th November with the theme of Advent.

This year the Christingle service included some very lively wide-mouth puppets. We are hoping that will pay us another visit.

At Christmas The Armstrong Scales supported friends wrote and organised a Nativity Play with a cast of over 30 children aged from 2yrs. It was a huge success and will be repeated in 2024. The Crib service led by Jenny Veasey continues to gather a large congregation on Christmas Eve.

The children assembled 130 posies in school supervised by Jenny with the flowers kindly prepared and provided by Alison Hartright in anticipation of Mothering Sunday.

At Christmas and Easter, the children were offered un-consecrated Matzo and grapes at Communion. These were enthusiastically received and initiated conversations. Annette provides worksheets or simple crafts for young people in the children’s corner for most main services.

A special thanks to Alison for organising the very popular Easter egg hunt! The children had a wonderful time and the good weather was a blessing.

Kintbury School held a service at the end of every term Christmas, Easter, and the special Leavers service in July.

Initiatives in 2024

* Annette has completed the training in anticipation of creating a team to include Jenny, the Head Teacher, and Isobel Gelder presenting Bible stories through drama and involving the young people.
* a special session in Church is planned for the year sixes when they will be gifted with a copy of ‘It's Your Move’ to prepare them for secondary school.
* Annette has visited Kintbury Pre-School to talk to the children about the nativity and Easter and is looking at ways to make more regular contact.
* This Summer we are holding rewilding Benefice family crafts morning in Churchyard.
* There will be a special celebration of St Francis with an Animal Service on September 30th.
* This year a successful Benefice Rogation service was held around West Woodhay Estate. The congregation included 13 children and a baby from different parishes. We are looking to using Wild Church materials to build on this success.

***Rev’d Annette***

**Flower Group**

We are very lucky to have a jolly band of willing helpers, both for the fortnightly rota for pedestal and porch arrangements, organised by Liz Barnett, but also for special occasion events ably organised by Judy Wilson.

As has always been the case, we are a self-funding group and receive no funds from the Church itself., etc. although the Church does hold some £150 in their Accounts on behalf of the Flower Fund.

During the year we were in a very good financial position with the £150 mentioned above and a very kind donation from the Village Plant Sale which enabled us to put on a very fitting display for the celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III. This also enabled us to arrange flowers for the Angel Festival in September which incorporated “angel wings” in the window displays. Not to mention the usual displays at Easter and Christmas.

We receive very nice feedback from visitors to and regulars of the Church which is very encouraging and spurs us on to greater things.

We are currently endeavouring to use much less Oasis than in the past with a reduction of probably 75% over the last year which is very encouraging. But we are not professional flower arrangers and trying to only use such holding mechanics chicken wire can be very problematic, but we are working hard on this environmental problem. We are moving quite organically to a more simple “village church” feel for the arrangements which by the comments we receive seems to be the way forward and very much appreciated.

We are delighted to continue decorating the Church with flowers which give a nice welcoming atmosphere and we all very much enjoy our efforts for the benefit of the Parishioners of Kintbury and our visitors alike.
 ***Liz Barnett***

**Kintbury St Mary’s School**

I fell in love with Kintbury St Mary’s School when I visited prior to applying for the headteacher role and, just over one year on, I still the feel same!  Our village school is a very special place full of learning and laughter.

“Love thy Neighbour” is our church school vision and we try to weave this throughout all aspects of our school day.  This links to our school values of friendship, hope and respect.  Linked to this we have simplified our school rules with the aim that children who attend Kintbury St Marys are KIND, make SAFE choices and use good MANNERS. We refer to these as #KSM.  Hopefully, our children are displaying these rules and values when you meet them around the village.

Our classrooms have an excited buzz as children engage in their learning activities across the curriculum.  This term we have enjoyed the aromas of freshly baked granola bars, bread and pizza which have filled the school as the children have been enjoying cooking as part of their Design Technology sessions.

In the Autumn term, our Key Stage 2 children enjoyed a school sleepover with outdoor adventurous activities on our school site and our Year 6 children headed to PGL for their residential week in February.  Next year, our Year 6 children will be heading to Wales for their residential in November and we are all looking forward to overnight school camp in the summer 2025.

We continue our links with the church and are well-supported by Reverend Annette and Mrs Veasey who support us in our school collective worship and welcome our children and families into church for curriculum visits and special services.  Our children send their thanks for the presentation of their bibles on leaving us for secondary school.

It was lovely to see so many members of the community join us for May Day and we hope you will be able to join us for our Summer Festival. You can be assured of a warm welcome from our active and support PTA. We have an active social media profile on Facebook and Instagram and hope that members of the community will follow us and like and share our posts.

Our wraparound provision, The Den, is open daily from 7.45am to 6.00pm.  We have a few remaining spaces for September 2024.  If you missed out on our Open Day and would like to book a personal tour of our school, please contact our school office.

***Alison McDonald
Headteacher***

**Music at St Mary’s**

***Chris Lambert
 Director of Music***
**Friday Prayer and Praise**
We consider our prayers to be an important major part  and back bone for our Communjty, Parish and the world.
Every day there is a voluntary appointed person who prays and remembers the list of requests in the chapel , and we are most grateful for their faithful prayers.
There is an email letter circulated weekly to those especially interested to pray with us.
In addition, there is a monthly meeting  for Agape, on the first Friday of the month , when we share together in worship, sing and pray. All are welcome to join with us.
 ***Gillian Guy***

**Prayers and Bears**

We have met for our monthly meeting  with Pre school children / babies, and their carers in the chapel . This is followed by an activity and social time  in St Mary’s Room.
We have a themed topic .  We also have an annual picnic in the garden  of The Old Rectory when we welcome previous members.
Alison Hartwright and Olivia Whitworth are great assistants and I am indebted to them for their support.
 ***Gillian Guy***

**Thursday Café**

The Café is doing well; a few new people have started coming this year and we now average between 15 & 18 each week, with a core of regulars who come every week and really enjoy it.

More recently we have had visits from people in the care side of Notrees with a carer who thoroughly enjoy coming.

This is very encouraging.

We also get people passing through who are pleased to find somewhere to have a comfort break while travelling.

As most people are aware we are in SMR every week 10-30 am to 12 noon.

It is a warm place to come when it is cold and Mick and I enjoy running it each week.

***Bridin and Mick***

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**Parish of Kintbury with Avington**

**Treasurer’s Report to 2024 APCM relating to the Calendar Year 2023**

2023 was a busy year financially, with two major projects, the repair and refurbishment of the vestry and the replacement of the sound system. In addition, Diocesan fees started going through the PCC account again, having been handled entirely at Benefice level in recent times. The accounts show an overall decrease in unrestricted funds, but an increase in restricted funds, with the total funds remaining very similar to the position at the end of 2022.

Total unrestricted gifts and donations were reduced by about 11% this year (£44,308 in 2022; £39,502 in 2023). Donors continue to give generously through regular planned giving and we continue to attract new donors. However we sadly lost several major donors who died during the course of the year. A year’s worth of gift-aid was collected through HMRC, supplemented by tax recovered through the Small Donations Scheme. ‘Other Giving’ included miscellaneous gift-aided donations of £3,725, much from regular members of the congregation who choose to donate in this way. Donations from the use of St. Mary’s Room brought in £1,035, mainly from the Thursday café and the Kintbury Quilters. There was a donation of £1,000 following a baptism. Donations from three concerts brought in £562.

Income from interest and dividends benefitted from increased interest rates.

The fundraising team worked hard, with a Spring Fair raising £781 and the Christmas Fair £2,372. Refreshments at concerts raised a further £175, and the annual ‘Ride & Stride’ event raised £103. With some smaller additions and after deducting fundraising costs, a total of £3,402 was raised.

Parochial fees brought in a total of £13,370. However, £2,730 of this relates to 2022. Thanks go to the Inkpen treasurer who worked on fees which were outstanding from the Benefice account. After passing on fees due to the Diocese and others, the net fee income for 2023 was £6,942. Vergers now receive a small fee in most cases.

Regarding regular expenditure, the parish share was paid in full. It should be noted that the 2023 share was the lowest in recent years, and we are paying more in 2024.

We started paying £433 per month to the Benefice account midway through the year, after a break. This covers clergy expenses and administration costs.

Costs of heat, light, water and insurance were only up slightly on 2022 costs. This is partly due to a fixed electricity contract which expires in Autumn 2024. Attempts have also been made to keep gas use to a minimum.

Repair and maintenance costs were particularly high in 2023 at £5,709. Major items were: Old sound system (paid out before changing it): £649; Gas heater: £791; Inspection of bells: £403; Electrical work: £1,074; CCTV: £352; Gutter cleaning: £480; Application of Smartwater to metal roofs: £249; Fire extinguisher contract: £361; Roof alarm contract: £910; Piano tuning: £75. These items were all paid for from unrestricted funds. Internal repairs in St. Mary’s Room were covered from interest on the St. Mary’s Room investment fund: £318. In addition, the quinquennial inspection was paid for from previous grants intended for fabric rather than general use: £650

The PCC agreed to use interest on the St. Mary’s Room fund for youth work, and this year £234 was spent in this way, as well as £73 to supplement the donations for bibles for school leavers.

The work on the vestry was finally completed following the theft of lead in 2020. In total, £61,022 was spent in 2023. Costs were mainly to J G Restorations who did both the internal and external work. A lightning conductor also needed replacing and architect supervision was also paid for. Insurance covered most of the costs, a total of £46,805 being received. The Friends of St. Mary’s Church (FOSM) had agreed to cover the additional cost of changing the roofing material and gave us £14,588. In addition, the Berkshire Churches Trust gave us a grant of £1,800, which covered the cost of obtaining planning permission, paid out in 2021.

The total receipts in 2023 are higher than the payments as insurance covered some of the money paid out during 2021 and 2022.

After attempts at improving the existing sound system, it was decided to install a new system provided by Control Sound, at a cost of £18,400 including VAT. FOSM agreed to fund 50% of the cost. In addition, an anonymous donor paid for a new loop amplifier via the PCC account at a cost of £929. There was a further donation of £200 towards this project. A new lockable cupboard, costing £250, was made to house the sound system. By the end of the year, FOSM had transferred £3,800 and the remaining amount was still to be sorted out at the end of the year (PCC treasurer to inform FOSM of final costs). This means high outgoings from unrestricted PCC funds, some of which will be recovered in 2024. The PCC agreed to fund any costs which were not covered from the £10,000 legacy of Alfred Martyn Johns, which had been reserved in 2020.

In addition, a portable sound system was purchased at the cost of £1,275, funded mainly by a £1,000 grant from the Diocese. This will be particularly useful for outdoor services and will be available for use across the Benefice. An additional music licence was purchased in order to comply with regulations. The portable sound system was initially paid for privately, the £1,275 to be repaid from the PCC account in 2024.

Thanks go to all donors, especially those who have committed to regular planned giving; givers and arrangers of grants and the many people across the community who support fundraising efforts. The PCC are also grateful to the Friends of St. Mary’s Church for all their support.

With regard to 2024, the PCC and FOSM have begun discussions on the need to replace the heating system, which is becoming unreliable. The Diocese are keen to promote ‘greener’ systems and we have had an energy audit to help inform decisions. The PCC are to start a fund towards this major cost.

The 2024 parish share allocation is £28,165.

We also have £500 from the vestry insurance money towards replacement hymn books for the choir. The PCC have agreed that some new pew bibles might be more useful as we no longer have a choir. An extra £50 has also been donated for this purpose.

There has been a change in this year’s accounts with regard to restricted funds. Historically, we have had a large number of these and the independent examiner has determined that amounts in the Flower, Bellringers, Choir and Fabric funds are relatively small and, for the purposes of simplicity, they are now included within the unrestricted funds. The comparative figures for 2022 have been adjusted accordingly. Therefore only the three endowment funds and the St. Mary’s Room Fund (capital and interest) are now treated as restricted.

Our reserves policy is that we should aim to maintain a balance in unrestricted funds to equate to approximately six months of unrestricted payments, and at the end of 2023 this amount was reached, but without much surplus. 2024 could prove to be rather challenging, and it may be necessary to have an end of year appeal and encourage stewardship.

 ***Pauline Pettitt
 Treasurer***

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Unrestricted | Restricted  | Total Funds | Unrestricted | Restricted | Total Funds |
| RECEIPTSGifts and Donations | Funds | Funds | 2023 | Funds 2022 | Funds 2022 | 2022 |
| Regular Planned Giving | 17,652.10 |  | 17,652.10 | 19,854.17 |  | 19,854.17 |
| Tax Recovered | 7,068.63 |  | 7,068.63 | 6,691.22 | 196.00 | 6,887.22 |
| Cash Collections | 6,573.47 |  | 6,573.47 | 7,052.95 |  | 7,052.95 |
| Organ Lighting |  |  | 0.00 |  | 814.00 | 814.00 |
| Charitable collections at services | 198.25 |  | 198.25 | 750.09 |  | 750.09 |
| Towards School Leavers' Bibles | 50.00 |  | 50.00 | 270.00 |  | 270.00 |
| Other Giving | 7,959.55 |  | 7,959.55 | 9,689.58 | 1 ,500.oo | 11,189.58 |

1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total Gifts & DonationsIncome re Investments | 39,502.00 |  | 39,502.00 | 44,308.01 | 2,510.00 | 46,818.01 |
| Interest & DividendsIncome from Activities | 1,122.84 | 790.90 | 1,913.74 | 798.22 | 949.03 | 1,747.25 |
| Fundraising | 3,471.95 |  | 3,471.95 | 3,530.21 |  | 3,530.21 |
| Parochial Fees (incoming) | 13,369.89 |  | 13,369.89 | 1 ,061.00 |  | 1 ,061.00 |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 16,841.8463,193.166,429.301 ,ooo.oo | 16,841.840.0063,193.166,429.301 ,ooo.oo | 4,591.215,000.00 | 0.00 | 4,591.215,000.00 |
|  128,089.14 790.90 | 128,880.04 | 54,697.44 | 3,459.03 | 58,156.47 |

Total from Activities

Legacies

Vestry repair (ins, grant + FOSM)

Sound system (FOSM, grant, donations Portable sound system

Total receipts

# PAYMENTS

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Heat Light & Insurance |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Repairs & Maintenance | 5,390.29 | 318.49 | 5,708.78197.40 | 1 ,802.48128.35 | 700.00 | 2,502.48128.35 |

Donations & charity collections 521.96 521.96 941.60941.60 Parish Share (net of rebate) 24,786.52 24,786.52 27,965.8327,965.83

WBB (Benefice & Clergy Expenses) 2,598.00 2,598.00 3,861.003,861.00 7,600.34 7,600.34 7,224.517 ,224.51

 Upkeep of Services 197.40

Churchyard Maintenance 52.0052.00 0.00 0.00 Fundraising Costs 70.0070.00 75.00 75.00

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Outgoing fees | 3,698.25 |  | 3,698.25 |  |  |  |
| Organist | 3,107.50 |  | 3,107.50 | 3,240.00 |  | 3,240.00 |
| FlowersQuinquennial inspection | 650.00 |  | 0.00 650.00 |  | 150.00 | 150.00 |
| Vestry (extemal/intemal) Sound system | 61,021.8619,579.70 |  | 61,021.8619,579.70 | 900.00 |  | 900.00 |
| School leavers' bibles Youth work | 320.00 | 73.21233.54 | 393.21233.54 |  |  |  |
| Organ Project |  |  | 0.00 | 1 ,275.46 | 1,108.23 | 2,383.69 |
| Misc small purchases | 224.17 |  | 224.17 | 156.81 |  | 156.81 |

 Administration costs 58.4558.45 1,143.04 1,143.04

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Surplus/(Deficit) of income | (1 ,787.30) | 165.66 | (1 ,621.64) | 5,983.36 | 1 ,500.80 | 7,484.16 |

 Total Payments 129,876.44 625.24 130,501.68 48,714.08 1 ,958.23 50,672.31





Increase/decrease in investment value 2,495.12 2,495.12 (3,490.16) (3,490.16) Reserves b/fwd 31 ,711.27 27,238.05 58,949.32 25,727.91 29,227.41 54,955.32

 Reserves c/fwd  29,923.97 29,898.83 59,822.80 31 ,711.27 27,238.05 58,949.32

## BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER 2023

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Fixed assets: |  |  |
| Piano | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Investments (Note I) | 58,148.56 | 53,136.49 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Total current assets | 30,536.98 | 32,158.62 |
| Total net assets | 89,185.54 | 85,795.11 |

 2023 2022

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Total fixed assets Current assets: | 58,648.56 | 53,636.49 |
| Bank account + cash | 27,937.75 | 19,333.67 |
| CBF Deposit accounts | 2,599.23 | 12,824.95 |

 |  |



|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Represented by: |  |  |
| Unrestricted Funds:Restricted Funds: | 29,923.97 | 31 ,711.27 |
| St. Mary's Room Fund | 29,898.83 | 27,238.05 |



|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Total Restricted and Unrestricted FundsEndowment Funds: (Note 2) | 59,822.80 | 58,949.32 |
| Moore Bequest | 8,070.09 | 7,370.59 |
| Church Repair Fund | 20,367.38 | 18,601.96 |
| Church Services Fund | 925.27 | 873.24 |



 29,362.74 26,845.79

 Total Funds 89,185.54 85,795.11



 Report and Accounts adopted by the PCC at its meeting held on 2024

Signed on their behalf by



## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Note I |  |  |  |
| Investments |  31-Dec-2022 31-Dec-2023 | Sale(Purchase) | Change |

St Mary's Room CBF Inv Fund 26,290.70 28,785. 822,495.12
Church Repair Fund 18,601.96 20,367.381 ,765.42
Moore Bequest 7,370.59 8,070.09699.50

Church Services Fund 873.24 925.2752.03

 53,136.49 58,148.56 5,012.07

Note 2

The value of the Endowment Funds increased by E2,517 during the year.

Interest/Dividends from the Endowment Funds (E797.26 in 2023) are credited to the Unrestricted Fund.

Note 3

Restricted Funds are typically those where money has been raised for a specific purpose. As these funds (except the St. Mary's Room Fund) are now not material, they have been included within the Unrestricted Funds. The comparative figure for 2022 has been adjusted accordingly.

Unrestricted Funds contain monies which are under the control of the PCC and which can be spent on any purpose it deems fit.

Designated Funds contain money set aside from an unrestricted fund for a specific purpose, usually short term. The PCC can decide to redesignate money in these funds for other purposes or retum them to unrestricted funds.

Endowment Funds are funds from sources such as legacies which have come to the PCC with the specific instruction that only the interest generated by the money can be spent, usually for a specific purpose. The capital must be kept intact.

The Moore Bequest provides income for the maintenance of the church and churchyard at Kintbury and to keep the graves of the Moore family and that of E.E. Moore in the churchyard in good order and condition.

The Church Repair Fund derives from the sale proceeds of Avington Church in 1981. The income is to be used on repairs to St. Mary's Church.

The Church Services Fund stipulates that one third of its income is for the provision of religious education on Sundays to the children of the Parish. Two thirds of the income goes to the vicar as long as he/she causes readings to be read in the church on every Saint's day and Holy day and every Wednesday & Friday forenoon. We have permission to close this fund, which will be trnsferred to Unrestricted Funds in 2024.

The St. Mary's Room Fund is restricted to providing maintenance of St. Mary's Room and education projects for children, as the room was built to provide an education centre for children. Interest may be used for youth work/maintenance of the room

# FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Report of Independent Examiner to the PCC of St. Mary's Kintbury with Avington

 I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 1 to 3

Respective responsibilites of the PCC and the examiner

As the charity's trustees of PCC of St. Mary's Kintbury with Avington 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 PCC of St. Mary's Kintbury with Avington accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examinafion I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act

Independent examiners' statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1) accounting records were not kept in respect Of PCC of St. Mary's Kintbury with Avington as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements conceming 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

Signed.

 Date... 

