

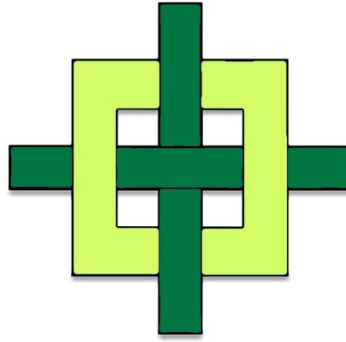
**Parish of St Mary's Lytchett Matravers**  
**Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meeting Agenda**  
held St Mary's Church Lytchett Matravers  
**28 March 2021**

**VESTRY MEETING 2021**

1. Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of Vestry Meeting 27 September 2020
4. Election of Church Wardens

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING 2021**

1. Opening Worship and prayer
  2. Apologies
  3. Minutes of the APCM 27 September 2020 (please read beforehand, see pages 21-27)
  4. Matters Arising from the APCM 27 September 2020
  5. The Reports
    - 5.1 Fabric and Inventory – Wardens
    - 5.2 Finance – Treasurer (please read beforehand)
    - 5.3 Electoral Roll (please read beforehand)
    - 5.4 Deanery Synod (please read beforehand)
    - 5.5 Other reports
    - 5.6 Any Questions
  6. The Elections and Appointments
    - 6.1 Members for the PCC
    - 6.2 Sidespeople – these can now be approved by the PCC
    - 6.2 Independent Examiner for the financial year to 31 December 2021
  7. Vicar's Vision
  8. Closing Prayers
- (A brief meeting of the new PCC will follow to elect PCC officers)**



## **St Mary's Church Lytchett Matravers**

### **Annual Report 2020**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

##### **Aims and Purposes**

St Mary's Church Lytchett Matravers is responsible, with the Team Vicar, the Rev. Stephen Partridge (licensed to post July 2016), to enable worship of God and to promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in and for our geographical parish community.

##### **Objectives and Activities**

We are also committed to maintaining a strong connection with the wider village community and to continue with our fundraising efforts in order to finance future reordering.

##### **Structure, Governance and Management**

###### ***The PCC***

The PCC met six times through the year (once via Zoom), with the Standing Committee meeting five times – all via Zoom. Attendance for the year was about 75%. The Standing Committee consists of the Vicar, Wardens, Treasurer, chairman of the Fabric Committee and the Secretary.

All PCC meetings are advertised in the newssheet and all members on the Electoral role can request to see the minutes of these meetings after they have been accepted by the PCC (with any confidential matters removed).

###### ***Administrative Information***

**The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's the Virgin, Lytchett Matravers** is a charity excepted from registration with the charities commission.

St Mary's is an independent parish within the *Benefice of The Lytchetts and Upton in Poole Deanery*. The Team Rector and Parish Priest for the Parish of Lytchett Minster and Upton is Rev. Matt Simpson. The Benefice is part of *Diocese of Salisbury* within the *Church of England*.

The PCC for the Year 2020-2021 consisted of the following members:

<b>Ex-Officio Members:</b>	<b>Office Held (if any)</b>	<b>Post Ends</b>
Stephen Partridge	Vicar	
Elizabeth Carter	Church Warden	
Ann Manning	Church Warden	
Bill Carter	Deanery Synod Representative	2023
Elizabeth Carter	Deanery Synod Representative	2023
Roger Ong	Treasurer	
Riette Hodson	Secretary	
<b>Elected Members:</b>		
Alan King		2021
Nita Parke		2021
Arthur Henry		2022
Karen Hesketh		2023
David Mould		2023
Kat Riddell		2023

The method of appointment to the PCC is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

## Services

Our year at St Mary's began with our regular pattern of services with our 08:00 Book of Common Prayer (BCP) communion, 09:30 Holy Communion with a joint Service of the word on third Sundays with our Methodist community and the @11 all taking place in St Mary's. The monthly Evensong service on third Sunday evenings was led by Rev. Stewart Timbrell in January and February, and we are grateful to him for his dedication to this.

The lockdown in March meant that after live-streamed services from the church without a congregation at 08:00 and 09.30 on 22 March. We then entered a number of months where a

livestream service was delivered from the summerhouse on the Rectory Lawn, with a worship journey of videos provided each week for the @11 congregation. Congregation participation was enabled by using pre-recorded videos of the bible readings and prayers. Our Methodist link was continued by having Methodist members contribute pre-recorded prayers, readings and a sermon every third Sunday.

Although we couldn't gather to physically to worship, the online service was accessible to many people who could not attend Church for different reasons. We reached people in the Midlands, the North of England, Scotland and even New Zealand during this time. Some joined us for a short time, others have continued connecting in throughout the whole year.

The livestream came back to Church with no congregation in July and then the congregation were able to return in August, when we provided a live 08:00 and 09:30 service which were streamed live online as well. @11 returned to the Church in September, first outside for a few weeks and then coming into the building - this was also streamed live on Facebook. Worship in the building was restricted by a number of measures to avoid risk of infection - this meant that congregation members had to wear masks, were not able to sing and not share a common communion cup, sanitisation of hands was encouraged on entry, exit and before receiving communion bread.

Another Lockdown in November meant the services went back just online for that month, but we were back in the building for Christmas. To counteract the restrictions on singing we were able to host the Churches in Harmony choir before Christmas and record them to provide some backing music to our Christmas services.

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.

During 2020 we celebrated four weddings, one with only seven people present due to the restrictions at the time. We held two baptisms before this ministry was restricted by the pandemic. Funerals have continued, either in the graveyard, in the church or at the local crematoria or Funeral Directors. Stephen has taken twelve of these services at various places. There have been a restriction on numbers which has made things even more difficult for the families, but it is hoped we will be able to hold some services of thanksgiving when restrictions are eased.

### **Terrier and Inventory**

There have been no changes either to the Terrier (land associated with St Mary's) or to the Inventory.

## REPORTS

### 5.1 Fabric Committee Report and Inventory

#### General

Throughout the year our Health and Safety Officer, Andy Dawson, has continued to carry out regular monthly inspections to maintain safety despite the church being used a lot less. There are some outstanding issues from the last quinquennial report but other than these the church is believed to be in a good condition.

#### During 2020 we have achieved a couple of things:

- 1) Installed a fibre optic cable into the church.
- 2) Connected the fibre optic cable to a termination box and router providing superfast broadband for the church. This was completed just days before the first lockdown and has proved a great asset during the year.

#### We have also been working on the following:

- 1) Replacement lighting and rewiring of the church – I am pleased to report that as of the beginning of February we have planning permission for three outside carpark lights and DAC approval for the scheme as a whole. We hope to receive the official Faculty by 17<sup>th</sup> March.
- 2) Improvements to the tower (steel ladder to replace wooden one in bell chamber and technical equipment to tie in with the new sound system which has been held in abeyance this year) – we have all necessary permissions to do this work.
- 3) Application to put up three new peal boards and a commemorative plaque in the tower.

#### Looking forward to 2021 we hope to do the following:

- 1) Install a new lighting system and complete the rewiring of the building. This will include removing all redundant and old cable trunking, thus tidying up the interior of the church.
- 2) Install a new audio-visual system.
- 3) Add a number of enhancements to the church tower.
- 4) Put up three peal boards and a plaque to commemorate the bell refurbishment.
- 5) Replace the wooden ladder in the bell chamber with a steel one with security hoops to assist in opening the hatch.
- 6) Carry out a number of quinquennial repairs. Next inspection 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021.
- 7) Begin exploring our options for better kitchen and toilet facilities.

### 5.2 Finance Report

Who could have predicted what 2020 was to bring at the start of the year? Various lockdowns, restrictions and when and how many parishioners could attend church all impacting on fellowship and the lives of the community of Lytchett Matravers.

Throughout these challenges support for the community has been maintained, but in addition through Stephen's online services those participating increased with regulars participating from Cambridge, Oxford, Bedfordshire and even Germany to name a few, all being thankful for the fellowship and community sharing.

St Mary's has, notwithstanding these challenges, met and provided not only pastoral care, fellowship and support but with the generous support of parishioners, the local community, local businesses and Trusts and Foundations met our current financial obligations. A special thanks to the Lion Hall Trust who have continued to pay for the church printer toner which helps to produce resources for the advertising and enabling of our children and adult teaching work.

### **General Fund**

These funds are utilised for the provision of meeting the operating costs of St Mary's with these being funded through donations (standing orders, collections, gifts and legacies) and also through a variety of fantastic fundraising events (although a little less than normal). As always, these funds can be increased through donations made with Gift Aid, with St Mary's able to reclaim an additional 25% on top of the donation for those that are UK taxpayers. We were fortunate through prudent management in 2019 to have sufficient reserves that enabled the deficit to be met. However, this is not something that can be undertaken on a regular basis and a need to ensure that costs are met is important going forward.

### **Mission**

Through kind donations St Mary's was still able to provide support for a number of charitable works at both local, national and international level helping to support and encourage people through sometimes difficult times.

### **Restricted Fund**

These funds are given by individuals, Trusts and Foundations and businesses and are designated for specific purposes. The main work has been to fund the equipment to provide online services and to work towards the necessary approvals for replacement wiring, new energy efficient lighting to include lighting for the carpark and to replace the sound equipment and provide improved vision of services.

### **Proposed Works – Funds to be raised**

As a Grade 1 listed building with parts dating back to the early 15<sup>th</sup> century all works have to comply with exacting standards (as should be expected), although this does tend to increase the cost of any works due to their special nature. Proposed work for 2021 following approval are to: -

- Renew the electrical wiring to bring up to current standards
- Improve the lighting and change to energy efficient units

- Install a sound and vision system

It is still the aim to also work towards:

- Restoring the 1500 century monument for which £2,650 has been raised through grants and requires a further £2,500 to enable the works to be undertaken
- Providing additional toilet facilities
- Improve and modernise the kitchen facilities
- Undertake repairs to the churchyard walls

There will also be general maintenance work to be undertaken in addition to the above, so all donations and support are very welcome!

### **Reserves Policy**

The continuing aim of the PCC is to have reserves for both the general fund and also reserves for the fabric of the church, but this is currently not possible although will continue to be the aim going forward.

## **5.3 Electoral Roll Report 2020**

A new roll was compiled on 14 March 2021

There were six new names added.

The roll now stands at 94 of whom nine live outside the parish.

## **5.4 Deanery Synod Report**

The February Meeting was in person in Oakdale with Bishop Nicholas. This was reported on in last year's APCM.

There was a meeting in November by Zoom hosted by the Bishops. The theme was "Hope Does not Disappoint". We were then asked to consider several questions:

1. What have we lost since March that we valued?
2. What have we lost that we haven't missed?
3. What have we gained but only for a time?
4. What have we gained that we would want to keep?
5. How can we disciple and nurture those who we have connected with for the first time?

We broke into groups and some of the feedback was:

- Lots of good has come from livestream services.
- Using the internet has encouraged innovation and new ideas.
- There is a challenge integrating people without IT skills especially elderly.
- There has been an increase in Christian activity in the community.
- Although the buildings have often been empty the church is thriving.

- There have been much closer links between church and community, benefitting each other.

### **Report on finances**

The goal is to break even on the budget by 2025 but at the moment there is a 2-million-pound deficit each year. The parish share will remain the same in 2021 as 2020. There will be four clergy post losses and about 10% of Church House staff. They will look sensitively at developing some Glebe land.

### **New Imagination of Ministry**

With the focus on pastoral care, we will as a church in Dorset explore a) new ways of being church, b) rural communities needs c) market town outreach and d) Churches growing in new housing developments.

Breakout discussions raised the following issues:

- Can we get the technology and people with the skills to develop our use of it.
- Using church IT facilities to train others or let others use computers.
- Scope for the church to help people to live with the virus as it will be here for a while.
- Encourage the churches to use the same language for actions so the impact can be seen across the diocese and people recognise a provision in different areas.
- The importance of hanging out where people are.
- Being ready to say why we do something and gossip the gospel.
- Being outside the church helps us think about what the church actually is.
- COVID has released us from the burden of meetings so how do we take this forward.
- The idea of having some village folk on some committees eg fund raising helping to integrate church and community.

## **5.5 Other Reports**

### **5.5.1 Fundraising**

The fundraising team has this year continued to hold events within the community due to the national COVID 19 pandemic.

Monies raised can be seen within the treasurer's report.

This year we have held two events during the summer months, a plant sale in June and a "produce" stall in August. Both stalls were out of doors to comply with Government regulations at the time.



We also joined in with the first Christmas community market at the Chequers Inn, once again out -doors. This was over a period of three weeks, with a different stall for each week.

These events enabled St Mary's to be seen within the community, creating a time to raise money and also time to interact with the community members themselves.

It was a very different year for fundraising with no events held at the church due to restrictions. We look forward to moving forward, and organising future events to benefit the church and enable our visitors to see our lovely historic church.

Without our generous congregation and friends we would not have been able to have raised the monies we have. It is everyone's effort, donations, physical help and purchases made that have contributed to the successful outcome of our events. A real St Mary's team effort!

If you feel you would like to join the fundraising group or have any ideas for future events then please notify one of those on the team. All monies raised contribute towards the repair and upkeep of the church.

As always, we appreciate and thank you for your continued support.

### **5.5.2 Pastoral Care**

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Our Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA) team, along with Rev. erend Stephen Partridge and Rev. erend Stewart Timbrell, has visited all church members who have requested it to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or at Castle Farm Nursing Home. Alongside the LPAs we recognise how many of our church community pay pastoral visits to their neighbours and those around the village.

Our current LPAs are Jayne Catley, Claire Coakes, Charles Hodson and Liz Southgate.

### **5.5.3 Messy Church**

This year, for Messy Church, things have looked very different due to the COVID pandemic. We haven't been able to run sessions in church and we've missed our families and regular volunteers.

However, this didn't stop Easter bags going out to our Messy Church families with Easter activities to enjoy at home. Stephen has done a fantastic job of

keeping our Messy Facebook page up to date with all the activities and Zoom services church has had to offer, so that our Messy community can engage in those too.

We did a Messy at home “Light Party” bag full of crafts and activities for the children to enjoy over Halloween half term, with a coloring competition which had a good response. The Messy Christingle bags were a real hit with those families attending the Online Benefice Christingle service. The Online Christmas Eve Nativity was advertised through our Messy Facebook page and well attended.

We look forward to what next year holds and hopefully welcoming our Messy Church families back to the church.

#### **5.5.4 *Cheeky Monkeys***

The year started well but with COVID 19 creating a National Lockdown from the middle of March all activities had to cease.

We did try a few socially distanced get togethers on the recreation field in the summer but these were not well supported. Margaret has put occasional activities onto the Facebook page to keep up connections.

When the group can reconvene is partly dictated by when the Village Hall can make the Blanchard Room available.

#### **5.5.5 *Mission and Evangelism***

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. We have been able to support a number of charities with our giving at special services and events despite the difficulties this year. It is good that these efforts on behalf of others can be combined with opportunities for fellowship when we are able to.

Our parish magazine is distributed monthly to all parishioners who subscribe and is available in the Church and the Library. The magazine keeps our parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our Church and articles that help develop our knowledge and trust in Jesus. We were grateful to Lytchett Minster school who printed the magazine when our usual printer had to temporarily close during lockdown. It was good to be able to continue providing this community connection throughout the year.

Stephen was not able to enter the Primary school this year to take an assembly due to COVID restrictions, but he has been able to provide regular video assemblies shot at Church or in the Rectory. These have been well received and

even provided for families at home to watch when the school was closed to most children. He hopes to continue linking in the school in this way and that this will pave the way for more connections between the Church and the School.

At the start of the first lockdown in March a group was set up in the village to support those in need, whether to provide donated food, pick up prescriptions or help with shopping. This group became known as the “Lytchett Angels” led by Lisa Barker, and we as a church have connected in to support and pray for their work. A number of Church members have volunteered for the “Angels” through the year and we hope to continue supporting them in whatever way we can.

All our community connections are to show God’s love and blessing across our local area and to pave the way for fellowship that may lead to conversations about life and faith. Stephen led an Online Alpha course with six participants over the Zoom platform during the autumn. This was a new and slightly strange venture, but it was well received and the participants journeyed through the whole eleven weekly sessions and a morning of teaching about the Holy Spirit that ended with a time of prayer. It is hoped that future Alpha courses may have the option of being in person or online depending on the needs of the enquirers.

#### **5.5.6 Churches Together**

We did not think that our meeting in February would be the only meeting of the year! Great plans were made, but unfortunately, due to the pandemic and Government restrictions, we did not meet again during the year.

The Harvest Supper, due to be held in the Village Hall, was cancelled.

Remembrance Sunday was held “virtually” in St Mary’s, with Rev. Karen leading the service with Stephen. It was a moving service, despite the restrictions, and many viewed this online.

The Churches Together Christmas Carol service was also cancelled.

Churches Together have kept in touch by email and the joint services have continued, either online, or at St Mary’s.

We all hope for a more positive year to come, where we can share in God’s word and love.

### 5.5.7 *Safeguarding*

Our Safeguarding policy was Reviewed during 2020 and minor alterations were made. All notices etc were refreshed, including online. No incidents were reported.

Rev. Stephen Partridge is currently undertaking responsibility for Safeguarding with the help of Claire Coakes.

### 5.5.8 *Health and Safety*

'We aim to provide a safe and comfortable environment for all of our Church community and visitors to St Mary's Church' (Statement of intent, PCC Meeting 20 February 2018)

There have been no accidents registered in church in 2020. However, during this year one person fell on the church path and was slightly injured. No remedial action by the church was necessary.

The following regular checks have been carried out: *Fire extinguishers* - positional check and ensuring fully charged. *Condition of floors, stairs etc*, looking for any building defects and hazardous substances as well as any hazards in the churchyard. Ensuring all light bulbs and emergency torches are working.

The fire extinguishers and all portable appliances have been professionally examined. A fire risk assessment was completed. Fire warden training has been postponed due to the COVID restrictions.

The electrical installation is required to be tested every five years, and the next test is due in September 2021.

Eleven risk assessments have been completed throughout the year. Most of these were to do with the safe opening of the church in line with legislation. This has been done using the guidance provided by the Church of England, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and The Government.

Wi-Fi has been installed which should improve the speed in which we can contact the emergency services if we need to do so.

In the near future it is planned to upgrade the lighting installation in the church which includes the provision of emergency lighting. The plan is also to fit external lighting to cover the carpark area as currently it is unlit.

### 5.5.9 *Bell Ringing*

We started the year well with six of us ringing in the New Year. We had our AGM in the church and on another night our Christmas party at the Chequers Inn. Following the installation of the bells we eventually got round to measuring up for new muffles which arrived in March.

In February we had four sets of visiting ringers. We rang for one service of Thanksgiving and two weddings (one between Lockdowns when Debbie just rang a solo). Ann Manning rang for VJ Day on 15 August. We managed to try out our new muffles as Gordon Patterson rang a solo for All Souls service.

Our service of Rededication took place on 26<sup>th</sup> January... and then there was **lockdown**.

With the Bell Restoration project completed we were able to spend some time preparing a faculty for the other bell jobs. We are hoping to have a live video recording from the bell chamber into the church for which we thank Alan Bentley for his support in planning.

On 2 August we were allowed back to ring as long as we could be COVID safe with good social distancing and wearing masks (made with the church logo by Debbie for all our ringers). As our tower is quite small, doesn't have good ventilation and is open to the rest of the congregation we sadly were told we could only ring one bell. At first I thought this would not be a good idea as it wouldn't sound very good but Stephen felt it would be nice having been quiet for so long to have a bell to welcome the congregation. From then on, we rang as often as we could with everyone who was able to ring ringing at least once and for some twice.

Towards the end of the first lockdown Debbie managed to design and plan the three plaques in recognition of the Bell Restoration. Our thanks go to Jack for designing the plaque for three of our Quarter Peals and to Alan for framing the plaque and also mounting the brass plaque for the Restoration and Dedication.

#### ***Handbells***

Still only able to ring one bell we thought some of us could try handbell ringing. We tracked down the Branch handbells and Debbie had a couple of lessons from Alan and Kathy Bentley. We had two practices before the second lockdown and then one more practice at the carols before ringing for our Carol Service and Christmas Day.

#### ***Association of Ringing Teachers involvement (ART)***

In January Viv passed her Level 3 ART and Cathy passed Level 4. Debbie and Cathy have started the 50 Virtual Ringing Things with Debbie achieving her Silver certificate and Cathy her Bronze before the end of the year. Debbie has now achieved Gold. Debbie and Cathy have registered for other online courses - Understanding Call Changes and Minor Stepping Stones. Cathy and Debbie attended one of the ART M2V Ringing Room workshops.

### ***Tower Jobs***

Several Tower jobs had to be carried out this year along with the regular tower checks which kept Gordon (Steeple keeper) busy on the research, planning, purchasing of materials, supplying tools and organising helpers (Alec and John). These included the soundproofing in the middle chamber, replacing the middle hatch and painting the clappers so the muffles don't slide around. We eventually sorted out which paint to get as it had to be a clear paint so as not to obscure the wording on the new clappers. This was carried out between lockdowns, all well masked up because of the fumes *and* COVID precautions, and having to go down twice in one day.

### ***Online Ringing***

Concerned that we might lose some of our ringers with such a long time away from the group and ringing we looked at online virtual ringing – none of us are well established ringers so Debbie spent some time looking into a ringing platform which had been created called Ringing Room. Although the technology initially caused problems we now have ten competent online ringers. We have recruited a friend of Debbie's who has never rung with us in a tower though has had the odd pull during our Open Days. A new recruit who was going to start in March has joined us in Ringing Room and also ended up getting the bug, so they will both have a lot of theory behind them before starting to learn to ring in the tower. By 2021 we had to start having two sessions in Ringing Room of 1½ hours each.

Though we will have sadly lost two ringers (one moved away from the area and one who was going to come back to ringing this year after illness has decided not to join again) we may have gained two new ringers so we had 13 ringers at the end of 2020 but hopefully 15 when we get back to ring.

### **5.5.10 Eco Church**

*"The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it"*  
Psalm 24, v1

The only Eco Church gathering this year was when around 50 “Eco Champions” from across the Diocese met together via Zoom to hear the latest update from the Bishop.

2020 was intended to see a national and diocesan focus on “caring for creation” – starting in Lent with Ruth Valerio’s “Saying Yes to Life” and carrying on through the seasons with the Lambeth Conference up to Creationtide in the autumn and subsequently leading up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in November (both these conferences are of course now postponed until 2021).

The meeting concentrated on the fact that the first COVID lockdown gave us a wonderful opportunity to highlight environmental matters – notably how CO<sub>2</sub> emissions can fall dramatically as a direct result of changes in human behaviour! There is now also a huge potential for environmental campaigners to influence post pandemic recovery strategies towards a ‘green’ agenda.

As well as hearing about Parish related Eco developments, the Bishop and others talked about what we could do now and different ways to make our voices heard. St Mary’s church members have since been encouraged (via the fortnightly newssheet) to sign up to Tearfund’s “Reboot” campaign. The Bishop was aware that there was not a focus on reducing our carbon footprint through reducing energy usage, but this clearly remains at the core of any plan and there will be much more about it in the immediate future.

A global pandemic has been the perfect opportunity to concentrate our minds on what happens when mankind becomes a dominant force in the natural order of things and thereby altering the balance of nature. Prayers of intercession have often focused on environmental issues, asking God’s forgiveness and guidance in terms of making changes.

The fact that COP26 (the 26<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties) is being held in the UK (Glasgow, November 2021) will provide opportunities for churches to become more eco focused during the forthcoming months.

With opportunities for churches to hold services again, we shall be able to look forward to more ways in which to highlight some local campaigns and plans in terms of how everyone can ‘do their bit’ to contribute to better stewardship of God’s creation.

**Accounts January to December 2020 follow here with the examiner's report for the year ended 31 December 2020.**

**Approved by the PCC on 14 March 2021**

**Signed on their behalf by Rev. Stephen Partridge (Chair)**



**LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**RECEIPTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	<u>General</u>	<u>2020</u> <u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2019</u>	
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Regular</b>					
Collections	2,407	-		8,294	
Regular giving	26,136	-		23,369	
Donations	10,161	16,000		9,481	
			54,704		41,144
Gift Aid recovered	2,000	-	2,000	7702	7702
			56,704		48,846
Profit on sale of CBF shares	-		-		2668
<b>Magazine</b>					
Sales	3,180	-		2,817	
Adverts	2,034	-	5,214	2,757	5,574
<b>Other</b>					
Weddings	1,723	-		1,819	
Funerals	2,773	-		2,079	
Bells	-	2,706		17,285	
Building	-	-		5,381	
VAT Recovered	-	-		6,372	
Fund raising	1,840	-	9,042	4,103	37,039
<b>Total income</b>	<u>52,254</u>	<u>18,706</u>	<u>70,960</u>	<u>94,127</u>	

**Restricted funds**

	<u>Purrier</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£
<b>CBF Bells fund</b>			
Donations	-	-	-
Interest/dividends on CBF funds	249	249	416
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<u>249</u>	<u>249</u>	<u>416</u>

**LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
PAYMENTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	<u>General</u>	<u>2020 Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2019 Total</u>	
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Regular</b>					
Parish share	40,368	-	40,368		37,525
<b>Working expenses</b>					
Vicar	463	-		595	
Magazine printing	2,585	-		3,540	
Hospitality	-	-		31	
Cost of services	311	-		82	
Cost of weddings/funerals	3,626	-	6,985	6,362	10,610
<b>Building costs</b>					
Heat and light	1,904	-		2,058	
Maintenance	1,034	-		1,537	
Bells maintenance	-	3,464		34,828	
Window maintenance	-	-		-	
Frontals	-	2,800		5,600	
Architect/Surveyor		670		1,782	
Insurance	1,907	-	11,779	1,878	47,683
<b>General</b>					
Bank charges	60	60		120	
Music/Copyright licence	609	-		375	
Transport	82	-		651	
Postage & stationery	9	-		1218	
Other	228	-	1,048	287	2,651
<b>Total operating expenditure</b>			60,180		98,469
<b>Other expenditure</b>					
Mission payments	1,202			1,711	
Training & ministry	-	-		308	
Young people fund	-			343	
Outreach	-	-		-	
			1,202		2,362
<b>Total expenditure</b>	54,388	6,994	61,382		100,831
<b>Total income</b>	52,254	18,706	70,960		94,127
<b>(Deficit) / Surplus for the year</b>	(2,134)	11,712	9,578		(6,704)
<b>Summary of reserves</b>					
Surplus b/fwd 1 January 2020	16,873	2,022	18,895		25,183
Transfer between reserves			-		-
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year	-2,134	11,712	9,578		(6,704)
Purrier fund income	-	249	249		416
Surplus c/fwd 31 December 2020	14,739	13,983	28,722		18,895

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**AT 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	<b>General fund</b>	<b><u>2020</u> Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b><u>2019</u> Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Investment assets</b>				
CBF Purrier units	-	8,838		8,267
	-	8,838	8,838	8,267
<b>Monetary assets</b>				
Cash	-	-		-
Current accounts	3,911	24,250		18,583
CBF Purrier deposit	-	386		137
	3,911	24,636	28,547	18,720
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>3,911</b>	<b>33,474</b>	<b>37,385</b>	<b>26,987</b>
<b>Represented by:-</b>				
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2019	19,244	7,743	26,987	33,404
Change in value of investments		571	571	-129
Surplus/(Deficit) on restricted funds	-	11,961	11,961	-11,009
Transfer between reserves	-13,199	13,199	-	-
Surplus on general funds	-2,134	-	-2,134	4,721
<b>Balance c/fwd 31 December 2020</b>	<b>3,911</b>	<b>33,474</b>	<b>37,385</b>	<b>26,987</b>

**LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**SUMMARY OF RESTRICTED FUNDS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**Restricted Funds**

	<u>Designated</u> <u>Building fund</u>	<u>Memorial</u> <u>Repair fund</u>	<u>Bells</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Choir</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Purrier</u> <u>Deposit</u>	<u>Purrier</u> <u>Units</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2020	-10,145	696	8,081	707	137	8,267	7,743
Monies received	-	-	2,706	-	-	-	2,706
Dividends & interest received	-	-	-	-	249	-	249
Donations	-	-	16,000	-	-	-	16,000
Transfer between reserves	19,063	805	-6,082	-587	-	-	13,199
Change in value of investments	-	-	-	-	-	571	571
Payments made	-3,530	0	-3,464	0	-	-	-6,994
Balance c/fwd 31 December 2020	<u>5,388</u>	<u>1,501</u>	<u>17,241</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>386</u>	<u>8,838</u>	<u>33,474</u>

These Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 were approved by the Parochial Church Council on **14th March 2021**

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Rev. S. Partridge  
Chairman

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE PCC**  
**OF ST. MARY'S, LYTCHETT MATRAVERS**

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages 1 to 4, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011, ("the 2011 Act").

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirements of the Regulations and section 144(2) of the 2011 Act do not apply. It is our responsibility to issue this report on these accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

**Basis of independent examiners report**

Our examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently we do not express an opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent examiners statement**

In connection with our examination, no matters have come to our attention:

1. Which give us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- (i) To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act: and
- (ii) To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met: or

2. To which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Kennedy Legg Certified Accountants**

10 Prince of Wales Road  
Dorchester  
Dorset  
DT1 1PW  
March 2021

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING 2020

## 1. Opening Worship and Prayer

We sang *Before the Throne of God Above* together and Stephen opened the meeting in prayer.

## 2. Apologies

Jackie Cannings, Sheila Goodall, Bob Goodall, Bob Irwin, Annie Mitchener, Ben Partridge, Rodney Shephard

## 3. Minutes of the APCM held on 31 March 2019

These had been circulated beforehand. Liz Southgate proposed that we accept them, Mat Riddell seconded; all in favour and the minutes were duly signed by Stephen.

## 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

## 5. Reports:

### 5.1 Fabric Committee Report

During 2019 we have done a number of things:

- Replaced a section of fence by base of the Horse Chestnut tree.
- Added hinges to the hatch at the top of the tower and attached a safety chain.
- Fixed a permanent steel ladder in the tower.
- Removed, refurbished and rehung the bells.
- Painted and repaired the bell frames.
- Painted the walls of the bell chamber and intermediate chamber.
- Taken possession of the new choir frontals.
- Had an autumn clean up both inside and outside of the building.

We have also been working on the following:

- Sound and vision system – We have a faculty to install this but are waiting for the rewiring of the church to do the work.
- Fibre optic cable into the church – this has taken a while but should be completed by the time you read this.
- Connection of the fibre optic cable to a termination box and router providing superfast broadband for the church – permission has been granted and the necessary connection should have been made by the time you read this.
- Replacement lighting and rewiring of the church – after a couple of false starts, we have in the last couple of months been working with Hooke Electrical who are very keen and proactive in their approach.

## 5.2 Finance Report

This year, through the support of parishioners, the local community, local businesses and Trusts and Foundations, we have been able to undertake further improvements at St Mary's whilst continuing to provide support to the local community and other charitable organisations. A special thanks to the Lion Hall Trust who have continued to pay for the church printer toner which helps to produce resources for the advertising and enabling of our children and adult teaching work.

### General Fund

These funds are utilised for the provision of meeting the operating costs of St Mary's with these being funded through donations (standing orders, collections, gifts and legacies) and also through a variety of fantastic fundraising events (Burns night, art exhibition, cream teas, historical talks). These funds can be increased through donations made with Gift Aid, with St Mary's able to reclaim an additional 25% on top of the donation for those that are UK taxpayers. The challenge will be to ensure that sufficient funds are received for 2020 to ensure that St Mary's can be maintained, and the community work continues to be undertaken.

### Mission

Through kind donations St Mary's was able to provide support for a number of charitable works to both local, national and international organisations helping to support and encourage people through sometimes difficult times.

### Restricted Fund

These funds are given by individuals, Trusts and Foundations and businesses and are designated for specific purposes. This year saw the new choir frontals being delivered in time for the Christmas services, a new access ladder allowing safer access to the bell tower and the tremendous fundraising effort that enabled the six bells at St Mary's to be fully refurbished with the oldest bell dating to 1430. Special thanks must go to Allchurches Trust Limited; Dorset Historic Churches Trust; Sharpe Trust; LEBRF; The Elmgrant Trust; Dorset County Association of Church Bellringers; Church Buildings Council; Erskine Muton Trust; Hobson Trust, Barron Bell Trust and The Talbot Village Trust and the many bell ringers and their supporters.

### Proposed Works – Funds to be raised

As a Grade 1 listed building with parts dating back to the early 15<sup>th</sup> century all works have to comply with exacting standards (as should be expected), although this does tend to increase the cost of any works due to their special nature. Proposed work for 2020 subject to funding being received are to: -

- Renew the electrical wiring to bring up to current standards
- Improve the lighting and change to energy efficient units
- Install a sound and vision system
- Provide additional toilet facilities
- Improve and modernise the kitchen facilities
- Undertake repairs to the church walls



There will also be general maintenance work to be undertaken in addition to the above, so all donations are very welcome!

### **Reserves Policy**

The continuing aim of the PCC is to have reserves for both the general fund and also reserves for the fabric of the church, but this is currently not possible although will continue to be the aim going forward.

## **5.3 Electoral Roll Report 2019**

A new roll was compiled on 14 March 2020

There were **5** new names added.

The roll now stands at **94** of whom **9** live outside the parish.

## **5.4 Deanery Synod Report**

The Deanery Synod representatives are Bill and Elizabeth Carter and they have been to three Meetings this year with Rev. Stephen Partridge.

The Deanery Synod met three times during the year. On each occasion the meeting starts with a brief statement on where the host church is at followed by a short service of worship.

In May members were welcomed to St Mary's Church – the first time for about half those present. The Rev. David Price looked at church growth sharing his experience of starting a church on a new housing estate. He described the benefit of starting with a clean slate. He listed a number of lessons he had learned which included confidence in Jesus, having a common vision, starting early, sticking to basics, something for the local community to be able to access and the role of the wider church in its support.

We also heard from Jude Perring who is supporting Rev. Nisbet Tessa in Hamworthy. Jude believes genuine commitment to the church and to each other has resulted in sustained growth.

Finally we heard from Rev. Louise Ellis vicar of Holy Angels, Lilliput. Church schools in the area impose church attendance for a year prior to starting school. The church decided to introduce a service at 9:00 which is very family oriented and lasts about 45 minutes which has proved extremely popular.

In October we met at St John's Parkstone. The Rev. Carole Peters-King, the Communications Director for the Diocese, spoke about the use of modern forms of communication. She encouraged us to look at how we might use different modern media to "chat" the gospel to different audiences, perhaps tweeting, emailing, texting or using Facebook depending on the listener. She also encouraged us to share our parish news with the diocese to encourage others.

In February this year Bishop Nicholas spoke at an open meeting about the environmental challenges facing the world today, citing the rapid loss of global ice sheets, as well as mentioning some small encouragements such as the concept Eco

Church morphing to include Eco Synagogue and Eco Mosque. The Paris Summit demonstrated politicians need pressure from their constituents to activate change. The Eden project listed amongst its top ten tips / habits "Giving Thanks". Major charities have discovered that people are paralysed by fear but motivated by love. If you love it, you will want to protect and nurture it or its environment. I am not loving my neighbour if I am polluting his water.

Different people within the church will have different ideas about how to effect change, the important point is that we do not let different tactics divide us and weaken our action. Our main challenges to ecological change are selfishness, greed and apathy.

## 5.5 Other Reports

### 5.5.1 Fundraising

The fundraising team has this year continued to hold events both in the church and within the community, raising £3,620 in the process.

This year we have held two new events - a Burns Night evening in the village hall, and a quiz evening at church.

The Burns Night tickets sold out before we even had time to advertise! An enjoyable evening was had by all. This event was supported by church members and members of the community freely giving of their time to raise money for church. The quiz evening was held in church. Again, but after a slower start, the event was a 'sell out'! We are holding a quiz evening again this year.

Our cream teas continue to be popular, with holiday makers joining us on many occasions! This year saw an increase in numbers, with many new members of the community joining us. These events have encouraged not only visitors to church, but they have also helped develop a sense of fellowship too. It seems many people know our signs around the area and are positive about our advertising! We have gained this knowledge by asking visitors their opinion.

We also held a Christmas table decoration lunch in church. This was well supported and is something that will be repeated in the future.

St Mary's can also be seen within the community as we join in with local events. This includes the Not Just Women's Institute fair, as well as the village fair when organised. This not only creates an opportunity to raise money, but also a time to chat to members of the local community.

Without our generous congregation and friends, we would not have been able to have raised the monies we have. It is everyone's effort, in whatever capacity, that has contributed to the successful outcome of our events. A real St Mary's team effort!

If you feel you would like to join the fundraising group or have any ideas for future events, then please notify one of those on the team.

All monies raised contribute towards the repair and upkeep of the church. As always, we appreciate and thank you for your continued support.

### **5.5.2 Pastoral Care**

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Our Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA) team, along with Rev. erend Stephen Partridge and Rev. erend Stewart Timbrell, has visited all church members who have requested it to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or at Castle Farm Nursing Home. Alongside the LPAs we recognise how many of our church community pay pastoral visits to their neighbours and those around the village.

Our current LPAs are Ann Jones, Jayne Catley, Claire Coakes, Charles Hodson and Liz Southgate.

### **5.5.3 Messy Church**

Normally held once a month on a Sunday afternoon between 16:00 and 20:00, we had a number of sessions during the year. Latterly we have tweaked the format slightly and now mingle/chat and complete the craft activities before the celebration and worship time. This seems to work well and gives everyone a chance to 'bond' before we have a 'show and tell' type session to 'celebrate' what the children have made. This leads into a story enabling Stephen to draw everything together with the children taking an active part in the narration and also in the following worship time. Regular attendees have 'adopted' a number of songs as their favourites and they enjoy demonstrating the actions to their parents and any new participants. Good friendships are being forged between some of our regular families.

Good preparation is key, so each Messy Church session is planned carefully beforehand by the team (Stephen, Kat and Karen) who also set up on the day. We have a small but loyal band of helpers who are always happy to be asked to help with running crafts, chatting to parents, making tea/tidying up/baking/helping with shared meal preparation etc. Although there are a number of people who offer their time and talents in this way, we are always happy to welcome more helpers to this important area of ministry.

A large part of resourcing the crafts is met by the Lion Hall Trust whose support we are very grateful for. We also endeavour to re-use and recycle where possible to save on costs. Leaders also regularly donate resources as part of their 'church giving'. The storage of resources continues to be a challenge in terms of a relatively inaccessible location which is hard to organise and is not always 'user friendly' in terms of the health issues of some of our leaders and helpers.

Aside from leaders and helpers we have three or four families who attend Messy Church regularly. On average there are between six and eight children per session along with their parents. There are a couple of older children who do attend and who are now starting to 'help out' with the technology and the running of a craft activity. There is a certain challenge balancing what we do to engage children across the age range but encouraging the older children to 'help' gives them a valued 'role' to play.

#### **5.5.4 *Cheeky Monkeys***

Our numbers at Cheeky Monkeys fluctuated from week to week during 2019 but we usually had between 7 to 12 adults and 10 to 16 children.

Themes we have had during the year include - Dinosaurs, Teddy Bears picnic, Autumn, Chinese New Year and Christmas.

We had the following at each session:

- A sensory table where the children have explored different mediums including gloop, moonsand, playdough, water and cooked and dry pasta,
- Art and Craft activities including junk modelling, painting, printing, sticking and making bird feeders,
- Role play including the sandwich shop, the Doctors, the cake shop, gardening, the office and the kitchen.

#### **5.5.5 *Mission and Evangelism***

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. We have been able to support a number of charities with our giving at special services and events such as the Churches Together Lunch. It is good that these efforts on behalf of others can be combined with opportunities for fellowship.

Our parish magazine is distributed monthly to all parishioners who subscribe and is available in the Church and the Library. The magazine keeps our parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our Church and articles that help develop our knowledge and trust in Jesus.

Stephen has been taking half-termly assemblies in the Primary school and we hope and pray this will pave the way for more connections between the Church and the School.

#### **5.5.6 *Churches Together***

The Churches Together group consists of two or three representatives from St Mary's Church, The Methodists and The Lighthouse Church. We are also called the Church Family in Lytchett Matravers and seek to represent the Christians in the village at various joint events through the year.

In 2019 we met once in January to Rev.iew various Autumn and Christmas activities and were pleased with how they had gone. The Harvest Meal was again

well attended, and the fish and chip meal, and desserts provided by each church, were enjoyed by all! Once again food bank items were collected for distribution to those in need within the community. In September we met again to confirm plans for the Remembrance Sunday service, which was well attended. The rain just held off!

It was decided to hold a Christmas card 'competition' for the design of the 2020 Christmas card. This will be actioned next year. The committee thanked Tina for her designs to date. The Community Christmas Carol Service was enjoyed by many in the Village Hall. The community fellowship was evident as everyone shared traditional Christmas treats, mulled juice and hot drinks.

Everything again went well thanks to the great work of those on the committee and others from the churches. We planned our next January meeting to be in the Chequers Inn which duly took place and again was a Review of a successful year of events. Thanks, was given to the outgoing Treasurer and it was considered to seek advice regarding whether a Churches Together account could be run through one of the churches. It was also very pleasing to welcome Chris Dawson, from St Mary's, who joined the group as we plan further events for 2020 and beyond.

#### **5.5.7 Safeguarding**

Our Safeguarding policy was Reviewed during 2019 and minor alterations were made. All notices etc were refreshed. No incidents were reported.

Jo Sepkes-Jones resigned as Safeguarding lead in July 2019 lead due to ill health; Rev. Stephen Partridge has taken over responsibility for Safeguarding with help from Claire Coakes.

#### **5.5.8 Health and Safety**

'We aim to provide a safe and comfortable environment for all of our Church community and visitors to St Marys Church' (Statement of intent, PCC Meeting 20 February 2018)

I am pleased to say that no accidents have been registered in the last 12 months.

The following regular checks are carried out: - Fire extinguishers - positional check and ensuring fully charged. Condition of floors, stairs etc, looking for any building defects and hazardous substances as well as any hazards in the churchyard. Ensuring all light bulbs and emergency torches are working.

On a yearly basis, the fire extinguishers and all portable appliances are professionally examined. A fire risk assessment is done and fire warden training undertaken. The electrical installation is required to be tested every five years, and the next test is due in September 2021.

Eleven risk assessments were completed for special occasions such as fundraising events throughout the year.

Wi-Fi is in the process of being installed which should improve the speed in which we can contact the emergency services if we need to do so.

In the near future, it is planned to upgrade the lighting installation in the church which includes the provision of emergency lighting. The plan is also to fit external lighting to cover the car park area as currently it is unlit. This should make the car park area safer.

#### 5.5.9 *Bell Ringing*

We were highly involved in Branch and Guild events. We attended 10 of the **Branch monthly practices** and 17 **training courses** throughout the year. All our ringers have now passed ART (Association of Ringing Teachers) Level 1 Bellhandling. Four have also passed Level 2 and one passed Level 3. Six of us attended the ART mini conference where Debbie gave a presentation. We entered 2 novice bands and 1 band for the main competition for the **Branch Ringing Competition**. Our teams did well and Ann and Debbie won the cake competition. Cathy and Debbie joined Spetisbury for the **Guild Ringing Competition** in September which we won as a joint team.

Our more experienced ringers continued a monthly practice with Lytchett Minster. Through these sponsored events we raised over £243 which enabled us to donate No 5 clapper to our tower. We now have 4 of our ringers who frequently ring Quarter Peals. We rang for 3 weddings, 2 funerals and in support of Notre Dame. We had 5 groups of visiting ringers but sadly had to turn away 3 or 4 when we were without our bells. We rang for several Christmas services and we also rang out the old year and the New Year in.

Our social events were a Band Christmas party and our annual visit to **Brownsea Island** for a tour, lunch and ring with some of our Lytchett Minster friends. Before the bells were taken out we had a final ring and Band BBQ. Also a day out for some of our ringers to **Devon** and a visit to Taylor's Bell Foundry.

Emma and Debbie continue to put up entries into the Lytchett Matravers Bellringing **Facebook** page and Debbie puts posts into the Branch Facebook page, church and village pages and **Church website**.

Over 700 visitors came to seven Fundraising events for the Bell Restoration Project raising over **£4,500**. We had seven small groups who we gave presentations to or they visited the church and we took Display Boards to the Lytchett Matravers Library and Poster and Flyers to the Wareham Museum.

In March our ladders were installed making access to the bell chamber much easier and safer. Painted black they look good from the body of the church and don't get in the way of ringers.

The Restoration project itself started with a **Project Launch** in April when 48 visitors came to hear what we were planning on doing with the bells and how they could join us in this exciting project.

In August, after just under a year of Grant Applications, Fundraising Events and talks, we were ready to begin the process of preparing our bells for restoration. Our bellringing band volunteered to help with the bell restoration and along with other church members we provided workers, bakers and tea ladies. After the bells were taken out of the tower our volunteers cleared out decades of dust and rubble leaving the belfry ready to paint the frame. In October, a team of volunteers painted the frame and walls but in November we found a crack in the frame which had to be repaired. It took 3 weeks for the bells to be installed but we are told we have one of the best ring of 6 bells in the Branch now and are delighted with the results.

We were given grants from 12 Grant Bodies amounting to **£29,650** for the ladders and the bells. We were also able to borrow from The Purrier Fund to get the project up and running but through the applications and fundraising we have been able to restore much of this fund so it can continue to work for its initial bequest which was to be able to **keep the bells in perpetuity**. It would have been inappropriate to take the money out and not restore it for use in repairs to the bells, structure and the tower for future generations.

During the next year we are hoping to improve the simulator facility and introduce a visual link to the bells to be shown in the church. Most of the work will be done by bellringers and not distract from other important work going on in the church. Both of these projects, when completed, will bring more people into our church.

I would like to thank Stephen, the PCC and church members in supporting this project. We are now one of the most active towers in the Branch.

More detailed report about our Bell Restoration Project can be found on our website - <http://www.smlm.co.uk/bellringing-at-st-marys/>

#### 5.5.10 Eco Church

*"The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it"* Psalm 24, v1

This year has seen us register with the Eco Church – a project run by A Rocha UK 'to help us care for creation, to love our global neighbours and follow God faithfully'. We have gained a bronze award and are now working towards the next stage - a 'silver' award.

An Eco awareness day, open to the wider community as well as church members, was held to explain what Eco Church was all about and how we are assessed in the five areas of Worship and Teaching, Buildings and Land, Lifestyle as well as Community & Global Engagement.

The displays aimed to raise greater awareness about the challenges that our planet faces and included information and advice on how we can be better

stewards of the earth's resources. There was an emphasis on the 7 Rs for 'Green Christians' Rejoice, Refuse, Reduce, Re-use, Repair, Rent, borrow & share, Recycle.

The church now has three recycling ambassadors who are happy to facilitate the recycling of materials which we cannot put in our kerbside collections. Thank you to everyone who is embracing this initiative.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_