

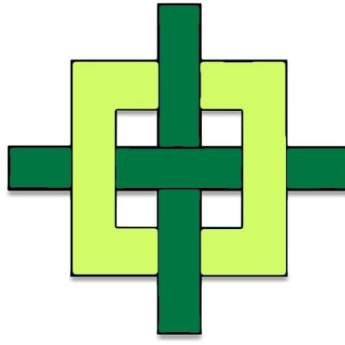
**Parish of St Mary's Lytchett Matravers**  
**Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meeting Agenda**  
held St Mary's Church Lytchett Matravers  
**3 April 2022**

**VESTRY MEETING 2022**

1. Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of Vestry Meeting 28 March 2021
4. Election of Church Wardens

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING 2022**

1. Opening Worship and prayer
  2. Apologies
  3. Minutes of the APCM 28 March 2021 (please read beforehand, see pages 26-45)
  4. Matters Arising from the APCM 28 March 2021
  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 are approved by the PCC
    - 6.3 Tower Captain
    - 6.4 Independent Examiner for the financial year to 31 December 2022
  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 2021**

#### **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 with the Standing Committee meeting four times (three times via Zoom). Attendance for the year was about 75%. The Standing Committee consists of the Vicar, Wardens, Treasurer, chairperson 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>		
Arthur Henry		2022
Karen Hesketh		2023
David Mould		2023
Penny Lewis		2023
Elaine Taylor		2024

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

## Services

Throughout 2021 our aim has been to have as close to our regular worship pattern of services as possible. Each Sunday morning we seek to hold an 8:00am Book of Common Prayer (BCP) communion, 9:30am Holy Communion with a joint Service of the word on third Sundays with our Methodist community and an 11:00am informal worship service named @11 (paused on a 3rd Sunday).

During the lockdown in early 2021 we opted to continue with our 8 am BCP service live in the church as well as online but took our 9:30am and @11 services just online. A new experience for the @11 service was holding it on Zoom so that we could engage in more discussion and connection.

Having been online only for January and February, our services returned to the Church on Mothering Sunday March 14th whilst continuing to be live-streamed for those who were not ready to meet in the building due to vulnerability or geographical constraints. @11 continued with a Zoom connection that enables interaction for those at home.

Later on in the year, whilst work was happening to rewire the church and install new lighting and an AV system, the church had to be closed for services through June. We did continue however with the 8:00am pre-recorded from the Rectory Summerhouse, and the 9:30am service took place outside under the yew-tree (and still live-streamed). Whilst this was quite a chore to set up and take down it was wonderful to continue worshipping together in the open air.

When we returned into the Church on 11 July we were able to use the new sound and visual system and also a bespoke live-streaming system that improved the sound and visual quality of our online offerings. As restrictions were lifted people were allowed to sing along in Church, and in September we began to use the organ to lead our hymn singing rather than a pre-recorded track.

Another major step forward was when our monthly 6pm Evensong service returned in November, which was followed in December by our Carol service led by the Churches in Harmony choir which includes members of St Mary's and the Methodist Church. By the time we got to Christmas we reflected on how masks were still required in church, but we were able to sing, and receive Communion in both kinds by virtue of the vicar intincting the bread in the wine (dipping).

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 2021 we celebrated just one wedding and we held five baptisms. Funerals have continued either in the graveyard, in the church or at the local crematoria or Funeral Directors. Stephen has taken seven of these services at various places along with the internment of ashes of five different people who had been cremated previously and were to be interred into the graveyard or cemetery. There were restrictions on numbers at funerals earlier in the year which made things more difficult for the families, but as restrictions were eased we were able to allow much higher numbers to gather from the Summer onwards.

### **Terrier and Inventory**

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

The inventory has had added to it:

1. An audio-visual system,
2. New lighting in the church
3. Three lights in the church car park
4. Tower cameras and sound bar.
5. ASUS VivoBook S 15 - S513EA 15.6" Laptop includes WiFi

All other items have been checked by the two Churchwardens as correct.

## REPORTS

### 5.1 Fabric Committee Report

In general the fabric of the church buildings is in a good state of repair.

Over the last 12 months:

- The building has been rewired,
- A new audio visual system has been installed together with better lighting,
- A new (to us) better organ has replaced the old one,
- Cameras have been installed in the bell chamber with equipment to enable the images to be displayed on the screen at the back of church
- The old wooden ladder in the bell chamber has been replaced with a steel one
- The internal walls have received a fresh coat of limewash and
- Everything that failed to move fast enough was either washed, scrubbed, polished or vacuumed.

Just before the major work was carried out we had our quinquennial inspection. This was the first one carried out by Keith Loveless. A building as old as St Mary's is certain to have a number of ongoing issues and so it was no surprise to learn that amongst other things we need to:

- Monitor a number of cracks
- Check the angle of lean of the south wall
- Attend to some pointing (mainly south wall)
- Repair some stonework (£800 plus VAT)
- Treat the external woodwork (doors and window frames mainly)
- Paint the gutters and downpipes
- Repoint the boundary wall
- Carry out some other repointing work
- Repair of south wall brick gutter
- Clear gutters
- Replace tower hatch (to roof) with lighter material.
- Repair of Shed

Overall the church is in quite good condition but we cannot be complacent.

#### Terrier and Inventory

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The inventory has had added to it:

1. An audio visual system,
2. New lighting in the church
3. Three lights in the church car park
4. Tower cameras and sound bar.
5. ASUS VivoBook S 15 - Laptop
6. One Electronic Organ – 'Content D2600'

The inventory has had removed from it one older electronic 'Wyvern' organ

All other items have been checked by the two Churchwardens as correct.

## 5.2 Finance Report

Whilst 2021 improved on 2020 there were still some challenges in the early half of the year. With a need to still have some level of restrictions at various times throughout 2021, the year ended with more opportunity for parishioners to attend church even if some parts (such as singing) were definitely muted. Throughout these challenges support for the community was maintained and in addition through Stephen's continuing on-line services enabled others to regularly participate from Cambridge, Oxford, Bedfordshire, Midlands and Scotland to name a few. All being thankful for the fellowship and community sharing.

St Mary's has notwithstanding these challenges met and provided continual pastoral care, fellowship and support and with the generous support of parishioners, the local community, local businesses and Trusts and Foundations met our financial obligations. A special thanks must go to the Lion Hall Trust whose support assisted with the cost of the new lighting works as well as paying for the church printer toner which helps to produce resources for the advertising and enabling of our children and adult teaching work, and also special thanks to The Talbot Trust who funded the replacement Hearing Loop system as well as contributing to the new sound system. Without their support these works would not have been able to be completed.

### General Fund

These funds are utilised for the provision of meeting the day-to-day 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 without costing the donor anymore.

We were fortunate through prudent management in 2020 to have sufficient reserves going forward to meet this year's costs. However, this is not something that can be guaranteed on a regular basis and a need to ensure that costs are met is important going forward. On average the monthly costs (excluding any repairs, maintenance or improvements) are £4,100.00 but with regular giving of around £3,300.00 means a potential shortfall of £800.00 for which fundraising events and magazine sales and advertising all help to bridge.

### Mission

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

### Restricted Fund

These funds are given by individuals, Trusts and Foundations (The Lion Hall Trust and The Talbot Trust) and businesses and are designated for specific purposes. The main work had been to fund better equipment. Meeting current Health and Safety requirements allowing St Mary's to provide on-line services, clear sound and visuals and be more energy efficient.

### **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 works for 2022 following approval are to: -

- Restore the monument dating from the 1500's and to repair the brickwork to the tombs before they collapse. At the time of writing this requires a further £2,500 to enable the works to be undertaken
- Repair the stonework and pointing following the quinquennial assessment £840.00
- Provide additional toilet facilities
- Replace the water Urn for coffee making as the previous one has failed needing £125.00
- Buy a replacement hoover £129.00
- Improve and modernise the kitchen facilities
- Undertake repairs to the church walls £80.00 a square meter
- Undertake external repointing of some of the church 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. We have been fortunate to have built up a small Designated fund to ensure that any small emergencies can be met and have specific funds held towards the bells. But it has not been possible for the General fund and will continue to be the aim going forward.

## **5.3 Electoral Roll Report 2020**

A new roll was compiled on 19 March 2021

There were 2 new names added.

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

## **5.4 Deanery Synod Report**

The Deanery Synod have met three times in the last year, twice on Zoom and once in person at St Peters, Parkstone.

Some highlights have been:

### *Ride and Stride*

This raised an amazing £112,000 last year which was up nearly £30,000. In the last five years Dorset Historic Churches have given grants to churches totaling £300,000. They have been able to bless many churches including ours, which got a mention!

### *Moving Forward from COVID*

John Rolleson (Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod) read from Nehemiah 2v17 emphasizing “The God of Heaven will give us success.” He reminded us that Nehemiah first studied the problem and then formed a plan in which the people rebuilt the walls “in community”.

In the light of this he suggested that we, as churches, do the following four things:

1. Seek God. – find time to be still before Him for restoration and guidance.
2. Reconsider the core things that we do – what are the must haves.
3. Think about the things that we are going to stop doing or not restart.
4. Be thankful to God. Start living thankful lives, being thankful in all circumstances.

Key areas of progress for some and concern for others were:

1. Finance, volunteers, pattern of church worship, individuals changed circumstances
2. Patience, prayer, listening and discernment
3. New shoots, contacts with families, new partnerships emerging between church and community, God’s generosity
4. Looking to a new future

#### *Draft Deanery Plan Review*

#### Key findings following an extensive review included:

- The Parish System works – supported by a Post Code Analysis by parish within the Deanery.
- 80% of church members live within 10 minutes of their Church
- There are some “cold spots” which provide opportunities for outreach.

#### Suggested criteria for a healthy parish have been compiled as follows:

- Electoral Roll should be stable or growing.
- Age Profile should have a healthy spread.
- Giving income should be stable or growing.
- The Church should be serving the local geographic area.
- Should be able to fulfil share payments.
- Should be able to address cross boundary challenges through collaboration.

This will be reviewed further in 2022 and what the implications may be.

## **5.5 Other Reports**

### **5.5.1 Fundraising**

The fundraising team has continued, to raise funds this year, despite restrictions created by the pandemic. Monies raised can be seen within the treasurer’s report.

The ever-popular plant sale was held, outside of houses as last year, due to the pandemic.



During August we held a cream tea within the church as well as outside. The organisation followed the usual pattern, but tables were well spaced inside church. We were overwhelmed with support from the community, and had queues at various times during the afternoon! There were lots of comments from those attending about the enjoyment of the occasion.

An extra event organised was a talk about the 'Poppy' which was held in church, just before Remembrance Sunday. Those that attended enjoyed an informative, and professional talk.

We had three events over the Christmas season. At the end of November, we held a wreath-making session at the Methodist Chapel. This was due to a planned power cut at St Mary's! Everyone who attended said how they enjoyed the event, held during the morning, and were pleased with the outcome of their wreaths.

We, once again joined in with the Chequers Christmas Market. Holding our 'lucky dip' (prize every time) stall. Many who had-a-go expressed delight with the prize they received!

There was also an 'Evergreen Christmas' held at the church early December. Our talented flower arrangers decorated the church for Christmas with evergreens. Those that attended the event from the community, expressed delight in seeing the church ready for the Christmas season. It was so nice to be able to hold events within the church, even if restricted.

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 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 Reverend Stephen Partridge and Reverend Stewart Timbrell, have 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 and Charles Hodson. David Mason and Arthur Henry have also completed their training and are due to be

commissioned early in 2022.

### **5.5.3 *Messy Church***

Messy Church was paused at the start of the pandemic in March 2020, and has not been re-started in its pre-pandemic form. This is partly due to some key personnel not being involved anymore, and also due to the realisation that many of our families were unable to make a regular commitment to attend. It was felt that a better way forward was to stop the monthly Messy church sessions and instead, when possible, to hold one-off Messy Church sessions that engaged with a particular seasonal theme.

The first of these sessions was held in October 2021 as a 'Light Party' and enabled a reconnection with some Messy Church families. Subsequently we have held a Messy Christingle and a Messy Nativity service, both in December, which engaged a number of Messy Church families and some newcomers. These were well supported, and we hope to build on this in the future.

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

This has been a year full of change and sometimes frustration BUT Cheeky Monkeys still provides a welcome to new mums and their babies or toddlers.

For a while they could only meet outside. Then they could use the large hall on a Thursday afternoon which did not work so well. (Now the group happily meet in the large hall on a Friday morning 10 – 11.30am since the beginning of this year). There has been a good spread of parents and grandparents and children attending.

We are very grateful to Margaret Daly, Suzanne and Anya for being so positive during this time and providing such a welcome to all mum.

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

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. We have continued 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 has continued to supply the Primary school with video assemblies regularly and these have been very well received by staff and pupils. 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.

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 in-person Alpha course in the Church during the Autumn, which started with just 2 people but ended with 7 doing the majority of the course. The participants journeyed through the eleven weekly sessions and a morning of teaching about the Holy Spirit that ended with a time of prayer. There was much positive feedback and the plan is to provide a follow-on course: 'God's Big Story' for the participants to continue engaging with faith next term.

#### **5.5.6 Churches Together**

The pandemic continued to limit our meetings this year. We did not have any 'face to face' meetings but communicated via email or telephone.

Unlike last year, the Harvest Supper, was held in the Village Hall. A smaller event than usual, but those that came enjoyed the fish and chip supper, the quiz, and above all the fellowship of being together.

Remembrance Sunday was also held in the Village Hall. Again, this was a smaller event indoors, but was overwhelmingly supported by the community at the War Memorial. Due to the pandemic restrictions, we were saddened not to serve refreshment, as was usual at this event.

The Churches Together Christmas Carol service was also held in the Village Hall. This was also attended by smaller than usual numbers, but the service was 'live streamed' from the hall. Those that attended the service were delighted with the service and enjoyed the Christmas story told with a different approach! Sadly, once again refreshments were not served.

The Churches Together in Lytchett Matravers, once again delivered a Christmas card to households to outline services held over the Christmas period.

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.

Our Safeguarding Officer is Dr. Charles Hodson, one of our LPAs, who is a retired GP.

#### **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)

The COVID pandemic continued to cause problems throughout the year. Using the guidance provided by the Church of England, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and the Government, we safely opened the church when possible. Twenty- three risk assessments were completed, mainly COVID related.

The electrical installation was upgraded to provide additional sockets and new lighting (including emergency lighting) within the church. External lights were improved and new lights installed in the car park. The installation was tested and found to be in a satisfactory condition, the next inspection is due in 2026. The smoke alarms, located in the kitchen and vestry, will need to be replaced in September 2022.

There were three minor accidents recorded, two of them being falls on the vestry step (to the north aisle). The step has now been treated with a non-slip surface and is now darker in colour.

Regular checks were carried out on fire extinguishers, portable electrical equipment, smoke alarms, torches, lighting, hazardous substances, as well as the condition of floors, stairs etc. Steps are being taken for the tiled flooring to be repaired where the lime mortar is worn away.

#### **5.5.9 Bell Ringing**

We held our Tower AGM in January and ensured everyone in the band was given a 'job'. We attended the Branch AGM in January where Cathy continues as Branch Secretary, Debbie as Branch Training Officer and Viv was nominated to join the committee.

Some of us attended 9 online theory classes run by the Guild. We have been able to start back to our extra practices with Lytchett Minster to share ringers and knowledge and we were able to ring at Lytchett Minster during the electrical work at St Mary's. We managed our yearly visit to Brownsea but sadly without ringing and we also enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies outside under the Yew tree instead of our final practice before Christmas.

Our Christmas celebration was postponed until January 2022 when 40 of us shared a delicious meal made by two of our ringers Helen Gorman and Ann Manning and we were able to thank our experienced ringing supporters and members of the PCC.

Debbie and Cathy attended some of the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) online courses. Debbie was asked to give a presentation by the joint CCCBR (Central Council of Church Bellringers) and ART titled '*How to re-establish ringing in our village*'. 140 people were booked on the online course with 114 attending and several contacts made afterwards which Debbie continues to support.

Debbie and Cathy have both attended one or more Safeguarding courses during the year. Debbie achieved Gold 50 Virtual Ringing Things. Some of our ringers attended all the Branch meetings and AGM whether online or in person. Some attended the Guild Festival where Ann sang in the choir and Debbie organised the Ringing Rooms.

The October quarterly meeting was held at St Mary's where 12 of the 30 attendees were from our tower and when Helen was welcomed as a full member to the Branch. Even though there was little time for visitors we still managed to welcome five groups during the year.

We continue to use *Ringling Room* for our weekly virtual practices even when we are ringing back in the tower. Cathy and Debbie have also run 14 online Zoom theory sessions for our ringers. Seven Quarter Peals were rung in Ringing Room including one in February, Half Muffled, on the day of the funeral of Captain Sir Tom Moore. We held a Virtual Ringing Outing to two virtual towers

For the National Day of Reflection for Marie Curie, Cathy tolled the tenor bell for 13 minutes to represent the 13 months since the first UK death from Coronavirus. Viv rang 99 Half muffled tolling on bell 4, in memory of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Debbie, Cathy and Alec tolled Half Muffled tenor and bell 4 for an hour before the funeral service of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. Debbie, Cathy, Viv, Mike, Ann and Alec rang for 15 minutes to celebrate the life of Maurice Andrews MBE, a villager who died in July. In September Debbie gave a presentation about ringing to our village WI accompanied by Viv and Helen.

Monthly and quarterly checks were carried out by Gordon and his team of helpers. Our camera set up in the bell chamber continued through the year and was completed in August with thanks to Alan Bentley who coordinated this with Cathy. You can now see bell 3 when it is being rung on the monitor just outside the tower. Again, Alan coordinated the new simulator equipment with Cathy and we are now running regular simulator practices. In August, some new ladders were installed in the bell chamber to the roof with extra grab handles to help movement around the bell frame. Hayden Crumpler has made us some new wooden knobs just inside the tower to attach a rope to on the infrequent times we need to rope off the tower.

*We are pleased to have kept our band together and increased our numbers from 13 to 16. We now have a band who can ring Plain Hunt continuously for a morning service and we thank the congregation for your kind comments when*

*we are ringing. All of our ringers would like to thank Stephen and the congregation for the warm welcome they are given at St Mary's. They all feel part of our church even if they are coming to ring from as far away as Dorchester or Bournemouth on a Sunday morning.*

#### **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 main focus on environmental matters this past year was in the lead up to COP26 (the 26<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties) which was held in Glasgow during November 2021.) As with other churches this provided us with opportunities to engage in eco focused prayer during the preceding months.

On Creation Sunday Stephen led a service dedicated to the appreciation of and care for God's creation. A local recycling directory had been compiled for distribution to church members and handcrafted green hearts (the 'logo' of the Climate Coalition's 'Show the Love' Campaign) were available in exchange for a donation to Tearfund in order to highlight our concern and care for those most affected by climate disasters. This is an ongoing project.

Stephen and Karen have also been involved with the initial set up Forest Church – an initiative spearheaded by Matt Simpson. To date this is proving a huge success. There is a focus on gratitude for God's creation and bounty as well as opportunities to learn more about it and how to respect and nurture it.

As Eco Church ambassador, Karen continues to urge church members to 'do their bit' by supporting local Win on Waste collections. Win on Waste is a Dorset focused charity who provide local opportunities to recycle otherwise 'hard to recycle' items not collected from our kerbside collections. Many of these materials raise funds for local and national charities.

Post pandemic and with a return to more 'normal' times we shall hopefully be able to turn our attention to working towards the achievement of a Silver Eco Church award.

**Accounts January to December 2021 follow here with the examiner's report for the year ended 31 December 2021.**

**Approved by the PCC on 13 March 2022**

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

**LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**RECEIPTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	<u>General</u>	<u>2021</u> <u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2020</u>	
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<b>Regular</b>					
Collections	2,194	-		2,407	
Regular giving	28,738	-		26,136	
Donations	872			26,161	
			31,804		54,704
Gift Aid recovered	11,765	-	11,765	2000	2000
			43,569		56,704
<b>Magazine</b>					
Sales	2,542	-		3,180	
Adverts	4,079	-	6,621	2,034	5,214
<b>Other</b>					
Weddings	631	-		1,723	
Funerals	3,578	-		2,773	
Misson income	500			-	
Restricted funds - Bells		99		2,706	
Restricted funds - Designated		4,313		-	
Restricted funds - Monument		1,389		-	
Restricted funds - Lighting		84,644		-	
Fund raising	1,093	-		1,840	
VAT Recovered	-	-		-	
			96,247		9,042
<b>Total income</b>	<u>55,992</u>	<u>90,445</u>	<u>146,437</u>	<u>70,960</u>	

**Restricted funds**

	<b>Purrier</b> <b>£</b>	<b>Total</b> <b>£</b>	<b>Total</b> <b>£</b>
<b>CBF Bells fund</b>			
Donations	-	-	-
Interest/dividends on CBF funds	257	257	249
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<u>257</u>	<u>257</u>	<u>249</u>



**LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**PAYMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	<u>General</u>	<u>2021</u> <u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2020</u> <u>Total</u>	
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Regular</b>					
Parish share	40,368	-	40,368		40,368
<b>Working expenses</b>					
Vicar	655	-		463	
Magazine printing	3,589	-		2,585	
Hospitality	-	-		-	
Cost of services	732	-		311	
Cost of weddings/funerals	1,904	-		3,626	
			6,880		6,985
<b>Building costs</b>					
Heat and light	1,892	-		1,904	
Maintenance	339	-		1,034	
Bells maintenance	-	3,814		3,464	
Lighting	-	73,965		-	
Frontals	-	-		2,800	
Architect/Surveyor	-	-		670	
Insurance	1,931	-		1,907	
			81,941		11,779
<b>General</b>					
Bank charges	102	96		120	
Music/Copyright licence	674	-		609	
Transport	198	-		82	
Postage & stationery	-	-		9	
Other	-	-	1,070	228	1,048
<b>Total operating expenditure</b>			130,259		60,180
<b>Other expenditure</b>					
Mission payments	483			1,202	
Computer expenses	1,378	-		-	
Young people fund	-			-	
Outreach	-	-		-	
			1,861		1,202
<b>Total expenditure</b>	54,245	77,875	132,120		61,382
<b>Total income</b>	55,992	90,445	146,437		70,960
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	1,747	12,570	14,317		9,578
<b>Summary of reserves</b>					
Surplus b/fwd 1 January 2021	14,739	13,983	28,722		18,895
Surplus for the year	1,747	12,570	14,317		9,578
Purrier fund income	-	257	257		249
Surplus c/fwd 31 December 2021	16,486	26,810	43,296		28,722

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**AT 31 DECEMBER 2021**

		<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>
	<u>General</u> <u>fund</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>funds</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<b>Investment assets</b>				
CBF Purrier units	-	10,109		8,838
	-	10,109	10,109	8,838
<b>Monetary assets</b>				
Cash	-	-		-
Current accounts	5,658	36,820		28,161
CBF Purrier deposit	-	643		386
	5,658	37,463	43,121	28,547
<b>Total assets</b>	5,658	47,572	53,230	37,385
<b>Represented by:-</b>				
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2021	3,911	33,474	37,385	26,987
Change in value of investments		1,528	1,528	571
Surplus on restricted funds	-	12,570	12,570	11,961
Surplus on general funds	1,747	-	1,747	-2,134
<b>Balance c/fwd 31 December 2021</b>	5,658	47,572	53,230	37,385

**LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**SUMMARY OF RESTRICTED FUNDS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**Restricted Funds**

	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Memorial</u>	<u>Bells</u>	<u>Lighting</u>	<u>Choir</u>	<u>Purrier</u>	<u>Purrier</u>	
	<u>Building fund</u>	<u>Repair fund</u>	<u>Fund</u>		<u>Fund</u>	<u>Deposit</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2021	5,388	1,501	17,241	-	120	386	8,838	33,474
Monies received	4,313	1,388	99	84,644	-	-	-	90,444
Dividends & interest received	-	-	-		-	257	-	257
Donations	-	-	-		-	-	-	0
Transfer between reserves		-	-		-	-	-	0
Change in value of investments	-	-	-		-	-	1,271	1,271
Payments made	-96	-	-3,814	-73,964	-	-	-	-77,874
Balance c/fwd 31 December 2021	9,605	2,889	13,526	10,680	120	643	10,109	47,572

These Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 were approved by the Parochial Church Council on  
 .....

Rev. S. Partridge  
 Chairman

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

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2021, 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 2022

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING 2021

## 1. Opening Worship and Prayer

Stephen opened the meeting in prayer.

## 2. Apologies

See above

## 3. Minutes of the APCM held on 27 September 2020

These had been circulated beforehand. Charles Hodson proposed that we accept them, Alan King seconded; all in favour and the minutes were duly signed by Stephen.

## 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

## 5. Reports:

Elizabeth reported, on behalf of the Wardens, that there had been no changes to the Terrier or Inventory. She thanked Rev. Stewart Timbrell on our behalf for the repairs he had made to the silver flagon.

### 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 98 of whom nine live outside the parish (*corrected from 94 as given in the Report*).

### **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 colouring 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 2019**



LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
 RECEIPTS  
 YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	2019			2018	
	General	Restricted	Total	£	£
	£	£	£		
<b>Regular</b>					
Collections	8,294			9,859	
Regular giving	23,369	-		23,958	
Donations	5416	4,065		4,022	
			41,144		31,839
Gift Aid recovered	7,702	-	7,702	9422	9422
			48,846		41,261
Profit on sale of CBF shares	-	2668	2668	-	-
<b>Magazine</b>					
Sales	2,517	-		2,392	
Adverts	2,767	-	5,574	3,782	8,174
<b>Other</b>					
Weddings	1,819	-		2,302	
Funerals	2,079			2,066	
Bells	-	17285		3586	
Building	-	5,381		10,673	
VAT Recovered	6,372	-		-	
Fundraising	2,093	2,010	37,039	2,991	71,905
<b>Total income</b>	<b>62,718</b>	<b>31,406</b>	<b>94,127</b>		<b>69,340</b>

**Restricted funds**

	Purrier	Total	Total
	£	£	£
<b>CBF Bells fund</b>			
Donations	-	-	-
Interest/dividends on CBF funds	416	416	565
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>565</b>

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
PAYMENTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	General £	2019 Restricted £	Total £	2018 Total £	2018 Total €
<b>Regular</b>					
Parish share	37,525	-	37,525		36,506
<b>Working expenses</b>					
Vicar	595	-		742	
Magazine printing	3,540	-		3,540	
Hospitality	31	-		-	
Cost of services	82	-		261	
Cost of weedings/funerals	6,362	-	10,610	2,836	7,379
<b>Building costs</b>					
Heat and light	2,058	-		2,034	
Maintenance	1,057	460		1,018	
Boiler maintenance	-	34826		-	
Window maintenance	-	-		12158	
Frontale	-	5800		-	
Architect/Surveyor	-	1782		351	
Insurance	1,678	-	47,683	1,832	17,393
<b>General</b>					
Bank charges	60	60		120	
Music/Copyright licence	375	-		366	
Transport	651	-		681	
Postage & stationery	1,210	-		-	
Other	203	64	2,661	421	1,588
<b>Total operating expenditure</b>			98,689		62,906
<b>Other expenditure</b>					
Mission payments	1,711	-		1,257	
Training & nursery	308	-		-	
Young people fund	343	-		-	
Outreach	-	-		107	
			2,362		1,364
<b>Total expenditure</b>	57,997	42,834	100,831		64,230
<b>Total income</b>	62,718	37,406	100,127		60,340
<b>(Deficit) / Surplus for the year</b>	4,721	(11,425)	(6,704)		5,110
<b>Summary of reserves</b>					
Surplus brought forward January 2019	12,150	13,031	25,183		25,183
Transfer between reserves	-	-	-		-
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year	4,721	(11,425)	(6,704)		5,110
Summer fund income	-	416	416		585
<b>Surplus closed 31 December 2019</b>	<b>16,873</b>	<b>2,022</b>	<b>18,895</b>		<b>30,958</b>

**LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**AT 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	<b>General fund</b>	<b>2019 Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2018 Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Investment assets</b>				
CBF Parrier units	-	0,267		15,729
	-	0,267	0,267	15,729
<b>Monetary assets</b>				
Cash		-		-
Current accounts	6,045	12,538		10,172
CBF Parrier deposits		137		7,505
	6,045	12,675	18,720	17,677
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>6,045</b>	<b>20,942</b>	<b>26,987</b>	<b>33,404</b>
<b>Represented by:-</b>				
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2019	14,523	18,881	33,404	27,628
Change in value of investments		-129	-129	-199
(Deficit) on restricted funds	-	-11,009	-11,009	3,303
Transfer between reserves			-	-
Surplus on general funds	4,721	-	4,721	2,372
<b>Balance c/fwd 31 December 2019</b>	<b>19,244</b>	<b>7,743</b>	<b>26,987</b>	<b>33,404</b>

**Notes**

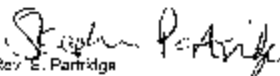
As in previous years the various funds, including the minor trusts for Wilkes, Rickells, Trovay, Granger, Morgan and Toop, have all been included in these accounts as part of the General Fund.

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
SUMMARY OF RESTRICTED FUNDS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Restricted Funds

	St Mary's Building	Murphy	Bells	Q&11	Purrier Deposit	Purrier Units	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance b/fwd: 1 January 2019	9,537	696	3,777	707	7,503	16,028	48,861
Moneys received	7,397	0	17,285	0	-	-	24,676
Dividends & interest received	-	-	-	-	416	-	416
Grants	-	-	4,050	-	-	-	4,050
Transfer to current account for bells	-	-	17,732	-	-7,782	-10,500	-
Change in value of investments	-	-	-	-	-	2,538	2,538
Payments made	-8,305	0	-34,576	0	-	-	-42,881
Balance c/fwd 31 December 2019	<u>-10,745</u>	<u>696</u>	<u>8,031</u>	<u>707</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>8,267</u>	<u>7,743</u>

These Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2019 were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 17th March 2020.

  
Rev. E. Partridge  
Chairman

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

Kenneth Butcher F.C.A.  
Konnerly Legg  
10 Prince of Wales Road  
DORCHESTER  
Dorset  
DT1 1PW

## 6. Elections and Appointments:

### 6.1 Members of the PCC

Nita Parke and Alan King have completed their term of office – Penny Lewis and Elaine Taylor had been nominated and seconded prior to this meeting and were therefore duly elected as members of the PCC for 2021-2022.

### 6.2 Sidespeople

The PCC now has the authority to approve sidespeople for the various services and these now no longer have to be approved by the APCM.

### 6.3 Deanery Synod

Bill and Elizabeth Carter continue as our Deanery Synod representatives until 2023.

### 6.4 Independent Examiner

Ken Butcher has agreed to undertake this role again. Bill Carter proposed that we accept this, Alan King seconded, all in favour.

## 7. Vicar's Vision:

2020 was an incredible, unprecedented, year, here at St Mary's Church and around the world.

We had a Bishop visit us for a great celebration, and we were locked out of the church;  
We had newly restored bells ringing out, and then they were silent;  
We had a wedding with 110 people, and one with just seven;  
We had a funeral with over 100 people, and one with only five;  
We've played the Hokey Cokey with our services as they been in, out, in, out, and shaken all about.

The annual report tells of things that have continued and things that have paused, new things that have started and others that were for a time.

I want to talk briefly about three recognised and overlapping phases that we go through during and after a crisis such as this:

### ***Responding - we ask the question: What can we do?***

When we are locked out of the Church, when we were not able to visit or see one another. Change had to happen quickly, as we worked out how to keep connected, with one another and God, whilst staying safe. This is a phase characterised by activism and planning a way through. Thank you to everyone who has found ways of ensuring our connections in these times.

### ***Recovering - we ask the question: How are we doing?***

We begin recognising that we are all at different places within the situation, same storm but different cabins/boats. This a time help one another reflect, to verbalise our

thoughts and to rebuild our confidence and energy. This phase is characterised by listening to one another, being people-focussed and looking to serve the pastoral needs we become aware of.

***Reshaping - we ask the question: Who are we? Why do we connect? How do we reconnect and re-emerge?***

We look at what to leave behind, what to pick-up, what do we continue. We recognise that change was enforced, but that the journey of transition to a new normal is harder as we have to discuss, discern and decide together - guided by our faith and trust in God. This phase is characterised by strategic thinking, revisiting purpose and values in the light of what we've learned about ourselves and one another.

***Responding, Recovering and Reshaping.***

Like many processes I don't think we can rush these phases, we've been in response mode for a year now, and it would lovely to move into recovery and I think we are almost there.

As to *reshaping* - it may be that some of us would love to just return to exactly the way we were before - unfortunately that is not possible, there are too many things that have changed, for better or for worse, the world is a different place to one year ago, and so are we as individuals and as a church community.

So here's a rough draft timescale that I propose we use as a guide:

***Post-Easter:***

We can begin to acknowledge the beginnings of recovery, we will need time to remember, reflect, and recuperate. We may be able to re-emerge, meet in 6s outside, grow in confidence as we care for one another on a one to one and in groups, socially.

***Post-Pentecost:***

Above all a time of sharing fellowship, gathering in whatever way we can, still a time for mourning losses and celebrating in hope, growing in confidence. (Electrical work/AV installation).

***Post-Summer:***

We will revisit our purpose and values as a Church community in light of what we've learnt, also we have a diocesan Stewardship focus, continue our eco-awareness, and a chance to be involved conversations around identity and sexuality that may happen in a wider benefice or deanery group.

Above all we are still standing, still standing up for the God we believe in, whilst relying on our relationship with him to sustain us,

I am reminded that the time a sporting team needs to be the most focused is when they have just scored a goal, that is when they are most vulnerable. I think we need to be mindful of getting complacent and recognise who it is that helps us to stand firm. All of which leads me to St Paul's words to the Ephesians:

Ephesians 6.10-18

*Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*

Now, more than ever I think there is a recognition in the world that we humans are not as in control of the world as we thought we were. And that gives us a great connection opportunity - first to listen, and second to connect more deeply and third to offer blessing in whatever way we can - prayer, service, invitation.

Thank You for your support and your encouragement, for your prayers and commitment.

It continues to be a privilege and a pleasure to be your vicar and I look forward to all that this year will bring.

**8. Closing in Prayer**

Stephen closed in prayer at 19:40, followed by everyone present saying the Grace together.

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

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