

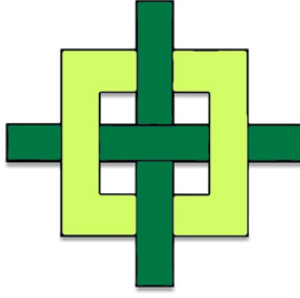
Parish of St Mary's Lytchett Matravers
Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meeting Agenda
held St Mary's Church Lytchett Matravers
24 March 2024

VESTRY MEETING 2024

1. Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of Vestry Meeting 26 March 2023
4. Election of Church Wardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING 2024

1. Opening Worship and prayer
 2. Apologies
 3. Minutes of the APCM 26 March 2023 (please read beforehand, see pages 21-39)
 4. Matters Arising from the APCM 26 March 2023
 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 Tower Captain
 - 6.3 Independent Examiner for the financial year to 31 December 2023
 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

MINUTES OF VESTRY MEETING 2023

Present: There were 21 church members present and thirteen apologies.

1. Rev Stephen Partridge opened in prayer.
2. **Apologies:** Jackie Cannings, Kate Coombs, Richard Coombs, Sheila Goodall, Amanda Irwin, Alan King, Sheila Newnham, Ben Partridge, Isaac Partridge, Angela Tolley, Frances Tomlinson-Mynors, Michael Tomlinson-Mynors, Samuel Tomlinson-Mynors
3. **Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 2022 held on 3 April 2022**
Bill Carter proposed that we accept these, seconded by Roger Ong. All in favour and duly signed by Stephen.
4. **Election of Church Wardens**
Stephen said Elizabeth Carter and Ann Manning had agreed to stand as Church Wardens again. Their nominations having been officially signed and seconded, they were therefore duly appointed as Church Wardens for 2023/2024.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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 seven times through the year with an attendance of 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 2023-2024 consisted of the following members:

Ex-Officio Members:	Office Held (if any)	Post Ends
Stephen Partridge	Vicar	
Elizabeth Carter	Church Warden	
Ann Manning	Church Warden	
Riette Hodson	Secretary	
Roger Ong	Treasurer	

Karen Hesketh	Deanery Synod Representative	2026
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Elected Members:

Elaine Taylor		2024
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Penny Lewis		2024
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Andy Dawson		2025
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David Mason		2025
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Bill Carter		2026
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Ed Peel		2026
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The method of appointment to the PCC is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

Services

We recognise that the Church does not exist principally for itself, but to be the eyes and ears, hands and feet of God in the world. 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 this year.

We also seek to use our Parish Magazine to reach out to the wider community and especially those who may not get community information from other avenues. We are grateful to Jane Pilley who coordinates the community articles that make the front part of the magazine. It is good to be able to continue providing this community connection throughout the year.

Stephen has continued to lead assemblies for the primary school with a growing team to support him in the delivery of short Bible story-based assemblies to the whole school, once each half-term with an extra assembly for Christmas/Advent. This link has helped to raise the profile of the church within the School community to hopefully pave the way for other links in the future. Stephen also uploads a five-minute reflection on Facebook each week which can also be accessed by members of the Lytchett Matravers community.

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 evening Alpha course at the Rectory during the Autumn, which involved six people 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.

Terrier and Inventory

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

The Church Inventory remains the same but has had added:

1. A new vacuum cleaner

2. A new fire extinguisher
3. A new kettle
4. A sound desk to house the audio-visual system.

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

REPORTS

5.1 Fabric Committee Report

Looking back:

- Two windows in the south wall – one either side of the south porch – were removed and the lead work replaced. The glass was also cleaned.
- The lighting controls have been “boxed in”.
- The audiovisual controls have been encased in a cabinet. There are still some minor adjustments to the doors required.
- The hatch at the top of the tower onto the roof was replaced with a much lighter aluminium one.
- An additional double socket has been installed by the north door to allow a card reading device to be available for visitors wishing to make a donation but who don't carry cash.
- The boundary wall has been cleared of weeds in preparation for it being repointed.
- The shed in the corner has been cleared and the roof repaired.

Looking forward:

- We will be putting up a third board in the ringing chamber of the tower.
- We are going through the process of applying for a faculty to create a kitchen in the current vestry.
- We will add a screen and speakers to the “upper room” so that services can be relayed to anyone who might be there (future proofing).
- We will incorporate speakers into the kitchen so that during functions people in the kitchen can be kept in touch.
- We are progressing slowly with making the shed watertight.
- We will replace the door to the notice board and give the whole some much needed care.
- We are waiting on Richard Hardy to carry out some minor repointing work along with repointing the boundary wall.

Bill Carter

5.2 Finance Report

2023 saw a return through the year to final restrictions being lifted and the ability to return to a more normal consistent way of operating. Throughout the year support for the community continued together with our services being streamed on-line, enabling a wider audience to be reached. All being thankful for the fellowship and community sharing.

St Mary's has continued to provide pastoral care, fellowship and support, all with the generous support of parishioners, the local community, local businesses, Trusts and Foundations. This has assisted us in seeking to meet our financial obligations. A special thanks must go to the Lion Hall Trust for paying for the church printer toner.

General Fund

These funds are utilised for the provision of meeting the day-to-day operating costs of St Mary's with these funded through donations (standing orders, collections, gifts and legacies) and also through a variety of fantastic fundraising events. As always, these funds can be increased as donations made with Gift Aid (Gift Aid forms and yellow envelopes are in the church), enabling St Mary's to be able to reclaim an additional 25% from HMRC on top of the donation, but only for those that are UK taxpayers with this not costing the donor anymore.

We were fortunate through prudent management in 2022 to have sufficient reserves going forward to assist with meeting this year's costs as these were £3,329 more than income received. On average the monthly costs (excluding any repairs, maintenance or improvements) are £6,200.00 as heating (2023 £7,963.00 verses 2021 £5,165.00) and maintenance and repair costs have risen but with regular giving of around £5,100.00 means a potential shortfall of £1,100.00 per month. Fundraising events and magazine sales and advertising all help to go towards some of these monthly deficits, but there is still a shortfall. 2024 costs are anticipated to increase further.

Whilst the UK economy has caused difficulties for many, it would be fantastic if individuals felt able to review their giving annually if at all possible.

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 (2023 £1,390, 2022 £1,065.00).

Restricted Fund

These funds are given by individuals, Trusts and Foundations (The Lion Hall Trust) and businesses and are designated for specific purposes. The main work this year had been to fund and repair another of our windows which had Medieval, 17th and 18th century glass (£8,009.00), finish the last of the electrical works, fundraise for a new soakaway (£3,450) to be installed in 2024, replace the Bell Tower hatch, bell rope and stay.

Proposed Works – Funds to be raised

As a Grade 1 listed building with parts dating back to the early 15th century all works have to comply with exacting standards (as should be expected), although this does increase the cost of any works due to their special nature and materials that must be used. Proposed works and wish list for 2024 following approval are to: -

- Repair the stonework, undertake external repointing to parts of the church walls and repointing were required, following the quinquennial assessment £1,020.00.

- Insulate and restore the main ceiling to not only reduce heating costs but return it to how it was previously with this matching the choir/altar ceiling, with costs yet to be ascertained. Estimated at circa £50,000 at current costs.
 - Install the new soakaway and drainage to stop water ingress £3,450.00 (funds raised already).
 - Instal new kitchen facility to assist with fundraising and events and to provide much needed hot water.
 - Improve toilet facility.

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 had been fortunate to have built up a small Designated fund to ensure that any small emergencies can be met, although some of these funds will need to be utilised to meet some of the above costs. We also maintain specific funds held towards the maintenance of the bells.

However, it has not been possible for the General fund to have built sufficient funds and we have drawn on our Designated funds in 2022 and 2023.

Roger Ong

5.3 Electoral Roll Report

The electoral roll was revised on 10th March 2024.

There were four new names added.

The electoral roll now stands at 93, of whom six live outside the parish.

Ed Peel

5.4 Deanery Synod Report

Neither Stephen nor Bill and Elizabeth Carter (Deanery Synod representatives until March 2023) were able to attend the meeting in February 2023. However, it is understood that the main focus of the meeting involved hearing from various Chaplains about their individual roles in different settings - prison, the police and university. There was also some feedback a from the General Synod meeting.

There have been two Deanery Synod meetings for me to attend for 2022/2023 since agreeing to be SMLM's representative. Meetings were held in July 2023 – at St Michael's, Hamworthy; November 2023 – at St John's (Heatherlands), Parkstone.

It has been a pleasure to be able to visit these churches (both very different to SMLM) and to hear about mission in their own particular settings. The location of all these churches in the very heart of their 'mission field' highlighted the fact that, although St Mary's is somewhat removed from our village centre, we do still have a 'unique selling point' – a beautiful building steeped in history away from the hustle and bustle!

Each meeting has had a different focus, but we are usually updated on recent happenings in our link diocese – the Wau partnership in South Sudan and reminded to keep them in our prayers and sphere of giving.

In July we had an informative talk about the routes to Licensed Lay Ministry as we considered and reflected upon ‘one body, many parts (Corinthians 12:12-20).

The main focus of November’s meeting was ‘Making Jesus Known’ when Jonathan Triffit (Director of Mission and Ministry) spoke to us about the five core principles underpinning the vision statement particularly in relation to ‘Creative partnerships in local mission’ whilst bearing in mind that there is also a cost to mission as we also heard about the Diocesan plans for ‘Financing the future sustainably’.

Finally – some extra good news – Penny Lewis has agreed to join me in becoming our second Deanery Synod representative.

Karen Hesketh

5.5 Other Reports

5.5.1 Fundraising

The fundraising team has continued, to raise funds this year, we continue to have a positive response from the community for our events. Monies raised can be seen within the treasurer’s report.

Apart from our August cream tea, which was lower in numbers, our teas continue to attract good support from the community. Our June tea and plant sale is, and continues to be, very popular!

The church decorated with flowers in July also had a positive response. As with all successes there are drawbacks! Ours is the car parking when it is busy. Thanks go to those who kindly supervised the cars. We continue to ask for assistance from our neighbours, who own the field which leads from the car park, at our events.

During August we provided refreshments at the Village Annual Show. By agreement, we gave a percentage donation to the show committee. It was the generous support of our congregation that enabled monies at this event to be raised.

We had two events over the Christmas season:

- We once again we 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! It is always good at the ‘market’ to interact with those who visit the stall. It is unfortunate that this will be, more than likely, the last market held.
- Our main Christmas event was a creative decoration of the church entitled ‘Christmas Songs’ which was held at the church during December. Our talented

members of the community decorated the church for Christmas with displays that reflected a song heard, usually, at Christmas. Many 'groups' joined in, and consequently various members from the groups visited the church! This was the shortest Christmas event we have organised, with the church open only Friday and Saturday. It was, however, positive in the monies raised during this time scale!

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.

Jackie Cannings

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, at Castle Farm Retirement Home and at Forest Hill Nursing Home.

We lead a monthly service of hymns, readings and prayers in the lounge at Forest Hill. This is led by Stephen, LPAs and other members of the congregation.

Our current LPAs are Jayne Catley, Claire Coakes, Charles Hodson, David Mason, Arthur Henry and Karen Hesketh.

5.5.3 Cheeky Monkeys

This exciting parent and child group that meets every Friday in the Village Hall is supported by the church.

The numbers have been creeping up in recent weeks and sometimes are as many as 30 adults and 30+ children, making for a lively and fun time.

The group is very grateful to Margaret for excellent leadership and endless supply of clever craft ideas and play themes.

Carly, Christine and Margaret Allen are stalwart helpers with others doing sessions when they can. Stephen goes into play the guitar at the end of term and can be spotted other times doing the washing up! Thank you.

The insurance, safeguarding and DBS cover is organised by the church and the village hall funded by the church.

It is great seeing the parents connecting together and sharing experiences with one another as they seek to care for their youngsters and exciting to watch youngsters grow and develop. They are the future of our society.

Elizabeth Carter

5.5.4 Mission and Evangelism

We have continued with our regular worship pattern of services throughout 2023. Each Sunday morning we seek to hold an 8:00am Book of Common Prayer (BCP) communion, a 9:30am Holy Communion with a joint Service of the word on third Sundays with our Methodist community, alternating between St Mary's and the Methodist Chapel, and an 11:00am informal worship service named @11 (paused on a 3rd Sunday). Every third Sunday we also have a BCP Evensong led by the Churches in Harmony Choir. In 2023 we started a monthly Wellspring meeting for informal worship and quiet Bible reflection and prayer at 18:00 on the second Sunday of each month.

The @11 service has continued a pattern of meeting on a 2nd and 4th Sunday in Church, and then holding a Bring and Share lunch on the 1st Sunday of the month to enable the participants to share more fellowship together, this is generally hosted in someone's home.

The 8:00 and 09:30 services are all also available live on Youtube along with some other special services such as the Midnight Communion.

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 2023 we celebrated two weddings, one wedding blessing and we also held a renewal of vows service. There were eight baptisms during our main Sunday service for two children and two adults – one family bringing along their five sons to one service! We also had an Adult Baptism using a large paddling pool under the yew tree outside the Church. Funerals have continued either in the graveyard, in the church or at the local crematoria or Funeral Directors. Stephen has taken ten of these services at various places.

5.5.6 Churches Together

Churches Together in Lytchett Matravers continued, in 2023, to have their three combined events. The Harvest Supper was held in the Village Hall. Those that came enjoyed a traditional type of Ploughman's meal and a game of Kurling, which did get a little competitive!

Remembrance Sunday was also held in the Village Hall. This was also overwhelmingly supported by the community at the War Memorial. Refreshments were served, with members of the community taking advantage of this.

The Churches Together Christmas Carol service was also held in the Village Hall. The community joined in with the re-telling of the Christmas Story. Those attending enjoyed the Christmas refreshments provided, as is usual, by the three churches. A collection was taken for Ukraine.

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, meetings and the joint services have continued, either on line, at St Mary's and the Methodist Chapel.

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

Jackie Cannings

5.5.7 Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding policy was reviewed in November 2022 and signed by all members of the PCC. 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).

Regular safety checks were carried out on fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, emergency lighting, torches, the electrical installation and equipment, hazardous substances as well as the general condition of the building and grounds. The emergency lighting failed on several occasions but was quickly repaired under warranty.

Risk assessments were completed for four events throughout the year.

We continue to monitor COVID issues and were able to reintroduce a shared cup at communion services (though not the practice of dipping the bread in the wine).

I am pleased to say that again no accidents were reported.

Andy Dawson

5.5.9 *Bell Ringing*

During the year we have welcomed Sandy Cremin as a **new member** of the Band but sadly we have had to say goodbye to Gordon, Carol, Luke, Jennie and Jack for various reasons.

The Tower has continued to use the **ART scheme** for training which is proving successful with lots of ringers moving on to Level 3 and 4. Our practices remain from 5-7 on a Friday. We continue with a regular **Simulator** session, **Plain Hunt** session and a variety of **Methods** sessions each month.

Successes and goals are completed in **log books**. Jennie Francis achieved Level 3 and Cathy Neyland level 5. Jack Pease passed his M2 teaching Module. Congratulations to all. We have attended several outside courses either with the Branch, the DCA, the Guild or ART.

Cathy has continued to run **Monthly simulator sessions** throughout the year. We have progressed to ringing Plain Hunt on 5, and developing some ropesight skills, alongside the listening and rhythm skills. Some are also using the simulator to ring various methods and to learn how to treble to a method.

Gordon Paterson has continued to maintain our bells and tower in good working order and we thank him for his five years as Steeple Keeper. He has now handed over this position to the capable hands of Alec Cannings. Our Tower Correspondent Jennie Francis having moved away from the area has now been taken over by Helen Gorman. Debbie Phipps has resigned as Tower Captain and we welcome Kriss Knudsen as our new tower Captain for a year.

In March Debbie attended the ART conference where she was awarded the prize for **Inspiring Leadership** and Cathy was awarded Runner up for the **Contribution Award**.

We held at least four **social events** including our annual outing to Brownsea. We had special ringing for the signing of the Commonwealth Charter and the King's Coronation. Some of us attended all the **Branch Practices** and meetings and when it was our turn to host the practice we also offered Cream Teas – the profits of which went to the Young Ringers. We entered three teams in the **Branch Novice Competition** and one of our teams won and then went forward to ring in the Guild Novice competition. We also had a team in the main Branch Striking Competition. We rang for four funerals but sadly no weddings. We had four different groups of visiting ringers.

Members of our band have rung in **23 Quarter Peals**. It was a great achievement to have our first full band Quarter Peal since I took over as Tower Captain.

Our **TC Challenge** this year was for our ringers to visit another tower practice. Seven of our ringers took up this challenge and enjoyed reporting back on their experiences.

We are pleased to be keeping our band together and our numbers are now 15 all of whom have moved on to ringing Plain Hunt.

Our thanks go to the PCC and congregation who continue to support our role in the church.

Debbie Phipps

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 challenge this year has been to continue keeping this as a focus and to gain momentum – Karen attended a virtual Eco Church seminar to this effect which gave much food for thought – it would be good to recruit another ‘eco warrior’ to the ‘team’ to help ‘brainstorm ideas’ for enthusing/encouraging others.

The Eco Church representative continues to liaise with the local recycling forum ‘Win on Waste’ in order to provide church members with information about ‘what and where’ to recycle and to encourage everyone to do what they can.

Many church members responded to the call for sustainable tote bags to be gifted to the Wareham foodbank (to which St Mary’s lends its support) to avoid them having to rely on plastic. Many organisations/outlets/initiatives in Wareham are being encouraged to subscribe to the ‘Sustainable Wareham’ movement and to use alternative bags.

For our ‘Creationtide’ focus we listened to a ‘video’ talk by Laura Young (Tearfund) as part of their ‘Let’s Change the Climate’ campaign urging us to play our part in looking after planet earth in terms of making good stewardship choices ourselves. The underlying message was that we needed to help protect and also to care for the most vulnerable peoples - those who exploit the earth’s resources the least but suffer the most from the disastrous effects of climate change. Prior to the talk people were offered the chance to partake in a number of daily challenges – to focus on how our choices around travel, water, electricity, diet and ‘rubbish’ impact the environment and how we might use precious resources more wisely and reduce consumption. The challenges were quite demanding so Stephen helpfully added in an additional ‘zero level’ to kick start our thought process when beginning to make small changes.

After last year’s focus on sustainability during the Christmas season it was very pleasing to see that many of the decorations and craft items for sale at the Christmas fundraising event had clearly been made with this in mind.

With a new kitchen/welcome project in the offing – there will be an opportunity to ensure that all the ‘household’ products used throughout the church are ‘eco friendly’. This would give us a significant ‘tick’ in the box towards obtaining out silver Eco Church award.

Accounts January to December 2023 follow here with the examiner’s report for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Approved by the PCC on 12 March 2024

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

**LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
RECEIPTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	<u>2023</u>			<u>2022</u>	
	<u>General</u> £	<u>Restricted</u> £	<u>Total</u> £	£	£
Regular					
Collections	3,217	-		2,428	
Regular giving	32,790	-		31,658	
Donations	2,683			2,530	
			38,690		36,616
Gift Aid recovered	8,858	3473	12,331	15586	15586
			51,021		52,202
Magazine					
Sales	2,661	-		2,984	
Adverts	4,163	-	6,824	5,216	8,200
Other					
Weddings	1,165	-		3,890	
Funerals	3,725	-		4,776	
Misson income	379			83	
Bank interest	12			7	
Fund raising	2,382	-		1,026	
Restricted funds - Bells				140	
Restricted funds - Designated		8,535		2,243	
Restricted funds - Monument				4,133	
Restricted funds - Lighting				1,789	
Restricted funds - Cheeky Monkeys		100		-	
Restricted funds - Kitchen				40,350	
Restricted funds - Ceiling		2,126		3,950	
Restricted funds - Windows	-	3,197		1,305	
Restricted funds - Bank interest		70		66	
			21,691		63,758
Total income	62,035	17,501	79,536		124,160

Restricted funds

	<u>Purrier</u> £	<u>Total</u> £	<u>Total</u> £
CBF Bells fund			
Donations	-	-	-
Interest/dividends on CBF funds	518	518	276
Surplus for the year	518	518	276

**LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
PAYMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	<u>General</u>	<u>2023 Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2022 Total</u>	
	£	£	£	£	£
Regular					
Parish share	43,438	-	43,438		42,173
Working expenses					
Vicar	462	-		393	
Magazine printing	3,816	-		3,645	
Computer expenses	376	-		677	
Cost of services	483	-		481	
Cost of weddings/funerals	3,490	-		4,475	
			8,627		9,671
Building costs					
Heat and light	7,963	-		5,165	
Maintenance	670	-		1,024	
Bells maintenance	-	1,816		7,162	
Lighting	-	3,408		13,061	
Monument	-	-		10,524	
Windows		8,009		-	
Insurance	2,142	-		2,051	
			24,008		38,987
General					
Bank charges	60	60		162	
Music/Copyright licence	841	-		747	
Transport	233	-		213	
Postage & stationery	-	-		-	
Designated	-	1,081	2,275	-	1,122
Total operating expenditure			78,348		91,953
Other expenditure					
Mission payments	1,390			1,065	
			1,390		1,065
Total expenditure	65,364	14,374	79,738		93,018
Total income	62,035	17,501	79,536		124,160
Surplus for the year	<u>(3,329)</u>	<u>3,127</u>	<u>-202</u>		<u>31,142</u>
Summary of reserves					
Surplus b/fwd 1 January 2023	17,280	57,434	74,714		43,296
Surplus for the year	-3,329	3,127	(202)		31,142
Purrier fund income	-	518	518		276
Surplus c/fwd 31 December 2023	<u>13,951</u>	<u>61,079</u>	<u>75,030</u>		<u>74,714</u>

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	<u>General fund</u>	<u>2023 Restricted funds</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2022 Total</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Investment assets				
CBF Purrier units	-	9,771		8,924
	-	9,771	9,771	8,924
Monetary assets				
Cash	-	-		-
Current accounts	3,123	70,295		73,620
CBF Purrier deposit	-	8,438		7,920
	3,123	78,733	81,856	81,540
Total assets	3,123	88,504	91,627	90,464
Represented by:-				
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2022	6,452	84,012	90,464	53,230
Change in value of investments		847	847	-1,184
Surplus on restricted funds	-	3,645	3,645	30,624
Surplus on general funds	-3,329	-	-3,329	794
Transfer between reserves				- 7,000
Balance c/fwd 31 December 2022	3,123	88,504	91,627	90,464

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
SUMMARY OF RESTRICTED FUNDS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Restricted Funds

	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Cheeky</u>	<u>Bells</u>	<u>Lighting</u>	<u>Kitchen/Toilet</u>	<u>Ceiling</u>	<u>Window</u>	<u>Choir</u>	<u>Purrier</u>	<u>Purrier</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Building fund</u>	<u>Monkeys</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Deposit</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>£</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2023	11,532		6,504	3,408	40,350	3,950	1,305	120	7,919	8,924	84,012
Monies received	8,535	100					6,670	-	-	-	15,305
Dividends & interest received	35	-	-				34	-	519	-	588
Donations	-	-	-					-	-	-	0
Transfer from lighting fund to ceiling fund				-2,126		2,126					0
Change in value of investments										847	847
Payments made	-1,141		-1,816	-1,282			-8,009				-12,248
Balance c/fwd 31 December 2022	18,961	100	4,688	0	40,350	6,076	0	120	8,438	9,771	88,504

These Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 were approved by the Parochial Church Council on12..... MARCH 2024

Steph Partridge

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 2023, 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
13th March 2024

MINUTES OF APCM 2023

1. Opening Worship and Prayer

We said a collect prayer together and Stephen then opened in prayer.

2. Apologies

See above.

3. Minutes of the APCM held on 3 April 2022

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

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

5. Reports:

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

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

5.1 Fabric Committee Report and Inventory

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

Over the last 12 months:

- The monument at the back of the North aisle has been protected.
- Certain external chest tombs have been rebuilt.
- The Celtic cross to the south of the church has been repaired.
- We also obtained permission to keep the current heating system indefinitely.

There are a number of tasks that are about to be tackled:

- Repoint the boundary wall
- Refurbish two sections of windows
- Repair of south wall brick gutter
- Repair buttress outside north door
- Replace the soakaway on north-west corner of church.
- Some additional electrical work in the tower.

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

5.2 Finance Report

As 2022 progressed life started to get back to some sort of normality although there were still challenges for some. With a need to still have some small level of restrictions for some parts of our services, the year ended with parishioners able to attend church and even weddings at last being able to be held.

Throughout the year support for the community was maintained and having commenced on-line services during the Pandemic, these have been continued enabled not only the community of Lytchett Matravers but also 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 continued to meet these challenges and provided continual pastoral care, fellowship and support, all with the generous support of parishioners, the local community, local businesses and Trusts and Foundations assisting us to meet our financial obligations. A special thanks must go to the Lion Hall Trust for paying for the church printer toner, The Leche Trust and St Andrew's Conservation Trust whose support assisted with the cost of repairing the Monument dating from the 1500's. Without their support these works would not have been able to be undertaken.

General Fund

These funds are utilised for the provision of meeting the day-to-day operating costs of St Mary's with these funded through donations (standing orders, collections, gifts and legacies) and also through a variety of fantastic fundraising events. As always, these funds can be increased as donations made with Gift Aid (Gift Aid forms and yellow envelopes are in the church), enabling St Mary's to reclaim an additional 25% from HMRC on top of the donation (only for those that are UK taxpayers) with this not costing the donor any more.

We were fortunate through prudent management in 2021 to have sufficient reserves going forward to assist with meeting this year's costs as these were £794 more than income received. On average the monthly costs (excluding any repairs, maintenance or improvements) are £6,100.00 as heating (2022 £5,165 verses 2021 £1,892) and maintenance and repair costs have risen. With regular giving of around £5,200.00 this means a potential shortfall of £900.00 per month for which fundraising events and magazine sales and advertising all help to go towards some of these monthly deficits.

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 (2022 £1,065, 2021 £483).

Restricted Fund

These funds are given by individuals, Trusts and Foundations (The Lion Hall Trust, The St Andrew's Charitable Trust and The Leche Trust in 2022) and businesses and are designated for specific purposes. The main work had been to fund and repair a number of chest Tombs, the large Celtic Cross by the bottom of church walk and

the Monument inside the church dating from the 1500's. In addition, a generous donation has been made towards upgrading / improving the kitchen and to see about increasing the number of toilets. Funds have also started to be collected to repair the Medieval, 17th and 18th Century glass and frames of two windows.

Proposed Works – Funds to be raised

As a Grade 1 listed building with parts dating back to the early 15th 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 and wish list for 2023 following approval are to: -

- Repair the stonework, undertake external repointing to parts of the church walls and repointing were required, following the quinquennial assessment £840.00.
- Insulate and restore the main ceiling to not only reduce heating costs but return it to how it was previously with this matching the choir/altar ceiling, with costs yet to be ascertained.
- Instal a new soakaway and drainage to stop water ingress £3,450.00.

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, although some of these funds will need to be utilised to meet some of the above costs. We also maintain specific funds held towards the maintenance of the bells. However, it has not been possible for the General fund to have built sufficient funds, but it will continue to be the aim going forward.

5.3 Electoral Roll Report

A new roll was compiled on 12 March 2023.

There were four new names added.

The roll now stands at 96 of whom nine live outside the parish.

5.4 Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod have met three times in the last year, in February at St Peter's Parkstone, in June at St George's Oakdale, and in November at Christ Church Creekmoor.

Some highlights have been:

In February there was a presentation of the Deanery Plan with an emphasis on Collaboration and to focus on the Abundance of what we already have. The plan was outlined for review at the February meeting, some suggestions and revisions were brought at this meeting and incorporated before the June meeting when the plan was officially approved unanimously.

The June meeting focussed on examples of Doing church differently and Collaboration. Different projects were presented across the deanery including the work of Poole Missional Communities, A lone parent family connect group called SMILE, a deanery youth project called Resound and our own Benefice's Forest Church.

The focus in October was Mission - a session led by the Diocesan Mission Co-ordinator Steve Inglis. His main points were:

Seeing: If we have not been able to see the work of God around us then we need to clean 'our lenses' as God is always at work. Sometimes we have to slow down or do less to see God at work.

Context: We need to pay attention to context when exploring mission. What works in one area may not work for us. The basics of building a fire will vary according to location.

Listening: He highlighted the benefit of time spent on building relationships, on reviewing and sometimes accepting mistakes and starting some aspects again and utilising the gifts of those in our Church community and wider community.

Thoughts for us to consider as we continue to seek to reach out to our community in meaningful ways.

5.5 Other Reports

5.5.1 Fundraising

The fundraising team has continued, to raise funds this year, it was good to 'get back to, for most people, normal!

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

This year, our events took place within the church. Our cream teas, attracting a large number on each occasion, was good to see. We were overwhelmed with support from the community, and had queues at various times during the afternoons. There were lots of comments from those attending about the enjoyment of the occasion. It was particularly pleasing to see the number of members of the community arriving at the August tea, not only to have a 'tea' but to see the history display created by the U3A.

As with all successes there are drawbacks! Ours is the car parking when it is busy. Thanks go to those who kindly supervised the cars. We must endeavour to ask for assistance from our neighbours who own the field which leads from the car park for future events.

In October we held an 'Italian Night' food, and a quiz. This was very welcomed, and those attending kept asking when we were organising the next event! Many commented on the 'welcoming' and relaxed atmosphere. A large number of those attending did not usually attend church.

We had two events over the Christmas season: we once again joined in with the Chequers Christmas Market. Holding our 'lucky dip' (prize every time) stall. Many who had a go and expressed delight with the prize they received! It is always good at the 'market' to interact with those who visit the stall.

Our main event was 'A Sustainable Christmas' held at the church during December. Our talented members of the community decorated the church for Christmas with displays that considered our world, and the environment. Trying to pass on the message that Christmas traditions do not have to 'Cost The Earth'. Those that attended the event from the community, expressed delight in seeing the imaginative and creative approaches and interpretations of the displays.

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 Retirement Home.

Alongside the LPAs we recognise how many of our church community pay pastoral visits to their neighbours and those around the village. This year we have renewed our relationship with Forest Hill Nursing Home and in the Autumn we began leading a monthly service of hymns, readings and prayers in the lounge at Forest Hill. This is led by Stephen, LPAs and other members of the congregation.

Our current LPAs are Jayne Catley, Claire Coakes and Charles Hodson, David Mason and Arthur Henry.

5.5.3 Cheeky Monkeys

Cheeky Monkeys continues to provide a welcome for new parents, carers and their babies or toddlers. We are very grateful to the leadership team of Margaret, Suzannah and Ania, who have developed a good pattern of play, creative activities, snack time and a singing time to finish.

There was an option to return to the Blanchard room on a Monday morning but it was felt that this would be confusing for many of the newer participants, so the decision was made to stay on a Friday in the large hall at slightly more cost. This decision has proved correct as the group regular has numbers of 15-20 youngsters who would not have fitted in the smaller room along with their adults.

5.5.4 *Mission and Evangelism*

We recognise that the Church does not exist principally for itself, but to be the eyes and ears, hands and feet of God in the world. 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 this year.

We also seek to use our Parish Magazine to reach out to the wider community and especially those who may not get community information from other avenues. This year Beverly Barker has taken on the role of advertising coordinator and made good contacts with those who use the magazine to communicate. We are also grateful to Jane Pilley who coordinates the community articles that make the front part of the magazine. It is good to be able to continue providing this community connection throughout the year.

Having continued to contribute regular video assemblies for the primary school during the Spring term, Stephen was able to return to in-person assemblies this Summer term. Since then a team has been growing to support Stephen in the delivery of short Bible story-based assemblies to the whole school, once each half-term with an extra assembly for Christmas/Advent. This link has helped to raise the profile of the church within the School community to hopefully pave the way for other links in the future.

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 Methodist Chapel during the Autumn, which involved 6 people 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.

5.5.5 *Churches Together*

It was good to meet 'in person' again!

The Harvest Supper was held in the Village Hall. 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. This was also overwhelmingly supported by the community at the War Memorial. Refreshments were served this year, with some members of the community taking advantage of this.

The Churches Together Christmas Carol service was also held in the Village Hall. The community joined in with the re-telling of the Christmas Story. We served refreshment this year, which were enjoyed by all who attended! We also had a Ukraine talk, which told of the dreadful conditions, and wonderful local support for those at war in Ukraine.

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, meetings and the joint services have continued, either online or at St Mary's.

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

5.5.6 Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding policy was reviewed in November 2022 and signed by all members of the PCC. 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.

5.5.7 Health and Safety

"We aim 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 were no accidents recorded this year.

Although it seems that the worst of the COVID pandemic is now over, we continue to tread carefully in our efforts to 'resume normal service'. Both our choir and bellringers are now once again able to function without any restrictions. Hand sanitizer is still available in several areas around the church. Throughout the year, the PCC members continued to discuss the resumption of a shared cup at communion services, but have decided not to do so for safety reasons at this moment in time.

Regular checks were carried out on fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, emergency lighting, torches, portable electrical equipment, electrical installation, hazardous substances, as well as the condition of floors, stairs

etc. Repairs were carried out where needed. Two smoke alarms and one fire extinguisher were replaced.

5.5.8 *Bell Ringing*

During the year we have welcomed Kriss, Luke, Sam, Harry and Jack as **new members** of the Band and we congratulate Jennie, Sue and Kriss for becoming **full members** of the Branch.

The Tower has continued to use the **ART scheme** for training which is proving successful with lots of ringers moving on to Level 3 and 4. Our practices remain from 5-7 on a Friday generally with sometimes an extra half hour for learners. We continue with a regular **Simulator** session, **Plain Hunt** session and 3 **Methods** sessions each month.

Successes and goals are completed in **log books** or discussed with one of our trainers and recorded in supporting learner sheets. We have had 7 passes at Level 1, 6 at Level 2, 2 at Level 3 and 1 at Level 5 – Congratulations to all. We have used **online training** on a couple of occasions for theory and we still have the option to use Ringing room if necessary. We have run 4 special courses for our advanced ringers and attended 14 outside courses either with the Branch, the Guild or ART.

Monthly simulator sessions have continued throughout the year with the addition of the projector and screen in the ringing chamber.

In March 2022 Taylor's of Loughborough finally completed the **post refurbishment check** of the bells and frame which had been due in May 2020. We were given a clean bill of health. For reasons unknown the nuts holding the stays on bells 2 to 6 began to loosen at the end of the summer. They have been replaced by locknuts which cannot work loose. In the past few weeks we have experienced a stiffening of the ropes making bell handling tricky. A rope warmer is being discussed which would solve the problem.

We held at least 4 **social events** plus our annual outing to Brownsea. We had special ringing for ART's 10th Birthday, Jubilee and Death of the Queen. Some of us attended all the **Branch practices** and meetings and we took part in the **Branch Ringing Bonanza**. We rang for 5 funerals and 5 weddings. We rang for Tony from the Care Home in Poole. We had 6 different groups of visiting ringers.

There have been **8 QP's** rung by either Cathy, Gordon, Alec and/or Debbie. Gordon rang his first on Tenor, Alec his first on Tenor and then on Treble, Debbie her first on a Minor method and Cathy and Debbie their first of Grandsire.

Our **Tower Captain Challenge** this year for our ringers to run 20mins of the practice went down well and we're looking forward to the challenge this

year for all ringers with their Bellringing Buddy and experienced Buddy to visit another tower on one of their practice nights. We look forward to meeting more East Dorset ringers in this way too.

We are pleased to be keeping our band together and indeed have increased our numbers **from 16 to 20**

Our thanks go to the PCC and congregation who continue to support our role in the church

5.5.9 Eco Church

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

There has been a continued focus on God's creation and our stewardship during the last year.

Electrical works in the church have included the incorporation of energy saving light bulbs and insulating foil has been placed between radiators and external walls to lessen the escape of heat.

In September Creation Sunday was celebrated and services were dedicated to the appreciation of and care for God's creation. Environmental concerns regularly feature in our prayers of intercession.

Leaflets highlighting Tearfund's campaigns for toilet, tap, bin and fridge twinning have been made available in church to raise awareness and encourage giving towards helping those in the greatest need. In addition - handcrafted green hearts (the 'logo' of the Climate Coalition's 'Show the Love' Campaign) continue to be available in exchange for a donation to Tearfund in order to highlight our concern and care for those most affected by climate disasters.

A Sustainable Christmas 'event' was held over three days in December and proved popular with church members and community visitors. The church was decorated by the Church Fundraising Team in a sustainable way to showcase alternative ideas. Community groups were invited to contribute decorations based on the principles of the three R's (reduce, reuse and recycle). Two 'real' Christmas trees were donated having been sourced sustainably from a local heathland clearance project. Several groups provided homemade sustainable 'trees' on which to display the decorations.

Children from the local Beaver group, Cheeky Monkeys, the school Eco group and 'Get Lively in the Library' all contributed decorations as did both village WI groups and a few very creative individuals. Words accompanying displays suggested alternatives for trees, gifting, wrapping and sending cards in a more sustainable manner and encouraged the avoidance of unnecessary waste and environmental damage.

Information about Forest Church and Eco church are now also on permanent display.

As Eco Church ambassador, Karen Hesketh continues to advise church members about recycling and how to 'do their bit' by supporting local Win on Waste collections which offer opportunities to recycle otherwise 'hard to recycle' items not collected at the kerbside.

A progress review against the official Eco Church parameters is expected to form the basis of discussions between Stephen and Karen in the coming months. We shall know on which areas we need to focus in order to achieve the silver level.

6. Elections:

6.1 Members of the PCC

Karen Hesketh and David Mould have come to the end of their three-year term of office. Ed Peel and Bill Carter have been officially nominated and unanimously elected to serve until the APCM in 2025.

6.2 Tower Captain

This appointment no longer has to be ratified at the APCM; Debbie Phipps recently having been reappointed at the AGM of the East Dorset Guild of Bellringers, this will be ratified at the next meeting of the PCC.

6.3 Independent Examiner for the Financial Year to 31 December 2023

Roger Ong (Treasurer) said Ken Butcher had kindly agreed to act as Independent Examiner of our Accounts for a further year and he suggested that the meeting approve this. Bill Carter seconded, all in agreement.

7. Vicar's Vision

It is always good to look back and celebrate all that has gone on in our Church over the last year, It was certainly eventful for me, catching Covid whilst at a great leadership conference in March, and we celebrated the Queen's jubilee and then her death a few months later. I got to be at the parliamentary Prayer breakfast which preceded an incredible set of resignations within government, there was also a baptism in the River Stour in August. But the highlight was probably marrying my Son, Ben, in Reading during August, Then, literally a low, as a dodgy ladder placing left me in hospital for nearly a week and a few weeks of enforced reflection and rest - Thank You to all who supported, especially Elizabeth and Ann (and of course Carrie).

In the Church we had our amazing Cream teas back to full force, along with other great events including the Italian event that I missed whilst in hospital,

We have prayed, worshipped, learnt and grown through the year, and were relieved to get to Christmas 2022 being able to sing without masks and feeling more confident about being around one another. And people have been so generous in their stewardship and investment in our Church - amazing with finances but also in time and skills. The first verse I read this morning Psalm 37 vs 21
'the righteous give generously'

As I have reflected over the last few weeks I've felt drawn to a number of different images,

Firstly from Psalm 127 - *Unless the Lord's builds the house its labourers labour in vain'*
(Psalm 127.1)

We had some amazing craftsman restoring the Tudor monument and chest tombs - including finding one that had never been filled-in 140 years ago, our 2 windows are currently being restored thanks to more generous investment and We have been building back our worship together seeking to ensure that our focus is not on ourselves but on God,
not what we can get from our worship but what we can give. and How we can serve God and our community.

A second picture also comes from Psalm 127 (vs 3)
Children are a heritage from the LORD,

Not that all ages are not important, but that when there are few youngsters around we can forget how important our connection to them is, whether as family members or other youngsters we come across in our lives.

As a church we have had some amazing baptisms this year - 18 of them, we have also seen many children and families join in the fun at the community toddler group we support - Cheeky Monkeys, I have also been able to enter back into the School - doing lessons with a number of different year groups, and a half termly assembly with a growing team of willing volunteers. At the end of 2022 we had an amazing Christmas Eve Nativity service with lots of contacts we've made through the year, and I hope we can replicate some of that on Good Friday. I know youngsters are not everyone's cup of tea but... We need to keep the children on our radar if we are to be a Church for the next generation, this may be a crucial reflection as we seek to clarify our vision as a Church in 2023.

The third and final picture comes from Mark's Gospel...

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." (Mark 1.17)
Jesus calls the fishermen to come and fish for people, and this seems a difficult image for us - as if we are called to trap people into the kingdom/church. I sense the Spirit's inspiration to reclaim this image by seeing the net as a net of blessing and love.

A net we spread across our community without feeling the need to pull it in straightaway and drag people into Church, we need to move on from that 'Reach out, grab in' mentality, and try to see ourselves as bringing people into God's kingdom, into God's sphere of influence, not our Church or into our sphere of influence.

We can recognise that many of those around us are already part of his Kingdom and maybe worship elsewhere or are looking to be invited and welcomed into a place of worship. Waiting to be told they are loved by God and worthy to come before him. My reflection developed to see that the net then needs three things to make it effective, and so do we as a community,

Firstly the net needs to be close but not closed, the net needs to have a flexible structure of connection that creates the ability to stretch in and out and produce holes in between the strings, it can be squashed right up, good for storage on the boat but not for fishing - so we also need to be close in fellowship, connecting together in times of prayer, worship, food and fun. But we mustn't be **so close that we are closed**, so that no-one or nothing can penetrate. The single most important thing we must do as Christians in this place and across this community, is WELCOME, welcome happens all week, but especially on a Sunday morning and by everyone, whether we are welcoming friends, family or those we don't know.

Secondly the net needs to be open but not separate. The net must be open to spread wide, but if it is pulled too far it will break and be ineffective. We too must stay open but also in touch with one another, through the week, in the ups and downs of life. The home group, lent course, choir and bellringing practice are great examples of connecting up and being accountable to others as we seek to grow together. Sharing together the ways we have been blessing and caring for our community, and supporting one another in that.

Thirdly, and finally, the net needs to be attached to the boat, otherwise it just floats free and goes where the winds and tides take it. We too need to be grounded in our boat - grounded in God, founded on regular scripture and worship, both daily-personal and weekly-corporate connecting. There's no short cut for this, but no guilt trip either. We will all face choices each week and each day, so many possibilities for our time and energy, the question then is how much do we value being part of a bigger picture, how much do we want to commit to the narrative of God's big story. It takes commitment and sacrifice, a choice of the mind not just following the feeling of our hearts. As we take up our cross there will be things we lay down. As the disciples laid down their nets there was a cost, but they saw it all worth it to help spread the net of God's love and the message of hope and breakthrough.

So that's it - we focus on **the Lord building us up**, we **keep in mind all ages** - those we see and those we don't and we **are a net**, seeking to be close but not closed, open but not separate, and fully attached to the boat that is God through Christ by the Holy Spirit, to ensure we are effective and grounded.

Collect prayer:

Loving Father, who welcomes and warms every heart that turns to you, give us vision to set the right course for your Church in its fellowship, worship and mission, that we might overflow with wonder and truly witness to the good news of our saviour Jesus Christ, who is our joy and strength and lives and reigns, together with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

8. Closing in Prayer

Stephen closed in prayer at 19:00.

[Accounts January to December 2022 follow here with the examiner's report for the year ended 31 December 2022.](#)

Approved by the PCC on 14 March 2023

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

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

**LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
RECEIPTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	<u>2022</u>			<u>2021</u>	
	<u>General</u> £	<u>Restricted</u> £	<u>Total</u> £	£	£
Regular					
Collections	2,428	-		2,194	
Regular giving	31,658	-		28,738	
Donations	2,530			872	
			36,616		31,804
Gift Aid recovered	8,386	7200	15,586	11765	11765
			52,202		43,569
Magazine					
Sales	2,984	-		2,542	
Adverts	5,216	-	8,200	4,079	6,621
Other					
Weddings	3,890	-		631	
Funerals	4,776	-		3,578	
Mission income	83			500	
Bank interest	7			-	
Restricted funds - Bells		140		99	
Restricted funds - Designated		2,243		4,313	
Restricted funds - Monument		4,133		1,389	
Restricted funds - Lighting		1,789		84,644	
Fund raising	1,026	-		1,093	
Restricted funds - Kitchen		40,350			
Restricted funds - Ceiling		3,950			
Restricted funds - Windows	-	1,305		-	
Restricted funds - Bank interest		66			
			63,758		96,247
Total income	62,984	61,176	124,160	146,437	

Restricted funds

	<u>Purrier</u> £	<u>Total</u> £	<u>Total</u> £
CBF Bells fund			
Donations	-	-	-
Interest/dividends on CBF funds	276	276	257
Surplus for the year	276	276	257

**LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
PAYMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	<u>General</u>	<u>2022 Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2021 Total</u>	
	£	£	£	£	£
Regular					
Parish share	42,173	-	42,173		40,368
Working expenses					
Vicar	393	-		655	
Magazine printing	3,645	-		3,589	
Hospitality	-	-		-	
Cost of services	481	-		732	
Cost of weddings/funerals	4,475	-		1,904	
			8,994		6,880
Building costs					
Heat and light	5,165	-		1,892	
Maintenance	1,024	-		339	
Bells maintenance	-	7,162		3,814	
Lighting	-	13,061		73965	
Monument	-	10,524		-	
Architect/Surveyor	-	-		-	
Insurance	2,051	-		1,931	
			38,987		81,941
General					
Bank charges	81	81		198	
Music/Copyright licence	747	-		674	
Transport	213	-		198	
Postage & stationery	-	-		-	
Other	-	-	1,122	-	1,070
Total operating expenditure			91,276		130,259
Other expenditure					
Mission payments	1,065	-		483	
Computer expenses	677	-		1,378	
			1,742		1,861
Total expenditure	62,190	30,828	93,018		132,120
Total income	62,984	61,176	124,160		146,437
Surplus for the year	794	30,348	31,142		14,317
Summary of reserves					
Surplus b/fwd 1 January 2022	16,486	26,810	43,296		28,722
Surplus for the year	794	30,348	31,142		14,317
Purrier fund income	-	276	276		257
Surplus c/fwd 31 December 2022	17,280	57,434	74,714		43,296

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	General fund	<u>2022</u> Restricted funds	Total	<u>2021</u> Total
	£	£	£	£
Investment assets				
CBF Purrier units	-	8,924		10,109
	-	8,924	8,924	10,109
Monetary assets				
Cash	-	-		-
Current accounts	6,452	67,168		42,478
CBF Purrier deposit	-	7,920		643
	6,452	75,088	81,540	43,121
Total assets	6,452	84,012	90,464	53,230
Represented by:-				
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2022	5,658	47,572	53,230	37,385
Change in value of investments		-1,184	-1,184	1,528
Surplus on restricted funds	-	30,624	30,624	12,570
Surplus on general funds	794	-	794	1,747
Transfer between reserves		7,000	7,000	
Balance c/fwd 31 December 2022	6,452	84,012	90,464	53,230

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
SUMMARY OF RESTRICTED FUNDS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Restricted Funds

	<u>Designated</u> <u>Building fund</u>	<u>Memorial</u> <u>Repair fund</u>	<u>Bells</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Lighting</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Kitchen</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Ceiling</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Window</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> <u>£</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Balance b/fwd 1 January 2022	9,605	2,889	13,526	10,680				120	643	10,109	47,572
Monies received	2,244	7,333	140	5,789	40,350	3,950	1,305	-	-	-	61,111
Dividends & interest received	66	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	276	-	342
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Transfer from unrestricted current account	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,000	-	7,000
Transfer from designated fund to memorial	-302	302	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Change in value of investments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-1,185	-1,185
Payments made	-81	-10,524	-7,162	-13,061	-	-	-	-	-	-	-30,828
Balance c/fwd 31 December 2022	11,532	0	6,504	3,408	40,350	3,950	1,305	120	7,919	8,924	84,012

These Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 14th March 2023

Stephen Partridge

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 2022, 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
15th March 2023