

PARISH REVIEW

for the year ending 31st December 2021



South Downs Gateway Churches

St Mary's
Twyford

To be presented at the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
On Sunday 24th April 2022 at 3pm
in the church

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South Downs Gateway Churches

Morestead, Owslebury,
Twyford & Colden Common

Learning, Praying, Serving, Caring



The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:11-16

Greetings!

Welcome to the 2021 Annual Review for St Mary the Virgin, Twyford.

This report is in pdf format so it can be viewed on a screen or printed. This has allowed us to use colour, which makes the graphs in the finance section much clearer.

Some copies will be printed for those who cannot view it online.

It is also available at <http://www.sdgateway.org.uk/Downloads/>

George Medd, editor

Agenda – Vestry Meeting

for the meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting) to be held on
Sunday 24th April 2022 at 3pm

1. Election of Churchwardens for the ensuing year
2. Re-appointment of Assistant Churchwardens

Agenda – Parochial Church Meeting

for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
to be held immediately afterwards.

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To approve the Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting.
3. Matters arising from those Minutes.
4. To receive the following Reports from the PCC:
 - a. The Vicar's Review of the year.
 - b. The Churchwarden's Report on the fabric, goods, and ornaments of the church.
 - c. The Electoral Roll Officer's Report.
 - d. The Annual Report on the proceedings of the PCC, and of the Deanery and Diocesan Synods.
 - e. The Treasurer's Report and to adopt the independently examined Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021.
5. Elections
 - a. To elect PCC Members (up to five).
6. Appointments: To appoint an Independent Examiner.
7. Any other business (to be emailed to the Vicar at least 72 hours before the meeting).

1. Governance

1.1. Vicar's Report

Last year I wrote that we had been experiencing unprecedented consequences of the pandemic – little did we know that this year's report could echo the same sentiment, albeit with a flicker of hope shining through following the amazing vaccination program and our venturing out, slowly, hopefully and surely into some semblance of communal life again.

I am now approaching four years of working with you. Half of this time has been during some of the most difficult and unprecedented days we have all experienced. Covid-19 disrupted all our lives and created many new 'learning curves' for us all. One, in particular, has been the general need to learn – at speed – to use communication technology in ways none of us would have predicted. On the flip side, so many of our traditional means of communicating – coffee and lunch groups; pastoral visits; services; PCC and other meetings to name but a few have been severely curtailed, if not stopped altogether. So, what has been going on? Below, I summarise the areas of work God has led us into over the past year:

I want to start by especially thanking the Wardens and PCCs of 2021 for stepping up during the year as we looked for ways to become smarter, more efficient, and more effective at getting the day-to-day tasks done, and to have more people share the load. In particular, thank you to Elaine for keeping us all on track and making sure that the Benefice worked like a well-oiled machine. Elaine will be sorely missed when she retires in the next few months.

Pastoral contacts:

As per 2020, in-person visits have continued to be an almost impossibility, due to both restrictions and people's own rational fears and worries. However, due to the joys of phones, computer screens and the like, in conjunction with many of you, most of our members, as well as others in our communities, have received some sort of pastoral call.

This has also been helped by the fact that in-person services resumed in all our parishes in August, and whilst numbers started off slowly, they have gradually increased, with the roll-out of vaccines and boosters.

Worship services:

It has been lovely finally to feel comfortable in meeting all together and being able to sing. Whilst we have been able to have Communion, the common cup has not returned for obvious reasons and whilst intincting the wafer in the wine by the clergy has been allowed, I plan to explore what options are available to enable us to revert to drinking wine during the eucharist.

Weekday prayer:

Most Friday mornings at 10am, a loyal group of intercessors meet up on zoom. This group is open to everyone whether you feel you can pray eloquently or not.

ECO Church:

Following on from Twyford receiving the Eco Church Bronze award in 2020, Colden Common followed suit and gained their award in 2021, with Owslebury also starting the process this year.

A big thank you to all those who have been involved in the process. My prayer is that we will get, at least a bronze Eco-Church award in each of the four parishes.

Outreach:

Whilst the main outreach events went ahead this year (Harvest, Service of Memories, Christmas etc), for obvious reasons numbers were very low. Christmas seemed to go from 'something to aim towards,' to 'an event to get over and done.'

The internet, especially Facebook, has continued to be a lifeline and a great outreach tool to build upon the connection between the residents and the church. However, following on from the successful year of making our services available online, the viewing demand dropped to zero and so I have decided to pull the plug until such time as it might be needed again, or it becomes a lot easier to do.

This year our Advent Toy collection went to SWVG, a local charity that supports refugees. These were gratefully received, and I was able to see some of the children lugging around donated teddy bears and dolls with beaming smiles on their faces. Something tells me we will have to do this a lot more in 2022!

Back for another year, I want to thank the team who put together over 90 Christmas hampers for families who are struggling, no thanks to Covid and the massive increase in fuel prices. I have received a number of letters from very thankful people.

Schools work

When the schools came out of lockdown, the Head at Twyford St Mary contacted me and asked if on the second day back, they could visit the church and have a service, so that they could declare how important the church is to them. As the children walked to the church, they laid a line of decorated stones as a symbol of the link we have with each other.

Owslebury school also got in touch and asked me to resume my monthly assemblies.

The buildings:

Our doors have stayed open, and I think people have appreciated this. Unfortunately for Colden Common, its roof has also remained open. Following five different thefts from the roof and over £50k worth of damage, most of which is being covered by insurance, even with a gaping hole, the paperwork and different forms of approval have meant that the roof, at time of writing, has still not been repaired.

There have been a lot of minor repairs carried out and I have been very impressed with the new heating panels Owslebury have installed. Thank you all who keep our churches looking and operating so well.

Finances:

Our financial situation still looks precarious. However, thank you to all of those who have continued to give, even with the increase in the cost of living. Please, Please, Please, if you do not already do so and especially if you are a Taxpayer, would you sign up to give regularly via the Parish Giving Scheme. It is simple to sign up to and it makes things so much easier for our Treasurers as Gift Aid is automatically claimed for us. Links can be found on the front page of our website.

Diocese

As we will all know, there has been a certain amount of change within the Diocese. Following a long period of uncomfortable Pastoral reorganisations and concerns within the Diocese, Bishop Tim took early retirement. This has obviously caused a major amount of upheaval and additional work for many involved in steering the Winchester Diocese. Until a replacement is found, please keep Bishops Debbie and David in your prayers.

Looking Forward:

I am now going to cheat a little on this final paragraph and just repeat the one I wrote last year. I believe that this still holds true, and it is important, when the current pandemic allows, that we try to work fully in the new normal ...

“As we experience this time of uncertainty, let us pray that we interpret something new emerging. Let us pray that we see through God’s eyes and can discern a new direction with a new normal, by developing new strategies and the renewed energy for mission and ministry. As we have grown in unity within our benefice, let us now collaborate our efforts and be faithful, thoughtful, and sustainable, and build upon that which the body of Christ would have us do.”

Let us all pray for a better 2022.

Revd Damon Draisey

1.2. Churchwarden’s Report

2021 was a year of uncertainty. We were still locked down due to rampant cases of Covid over Christmas and all services were delivered over Zoom through all of January, February, and March. We reopened the church to services on 4th April to celebrate Easter and were able to keep it open for the rest of the year, but the general atmosphere of uncertainty/anxiety prevailed, as we suffered different waves of the virus which made every decision over whether to go ahead with a particular event or service a matter for debate, conjecture, and a lot of prayer. Towards the end of the year the Omicron variant appeared to ruin yet more family Christmases, though we were able to run a full range of services including Remembrance Day (outside), a Carol Service, Crib Service, Midnight Eucharist, and a Christmas Day lay-led service.

I would like to pay tribute to all who kindly came back to the church to ensure that we had organ music, readers, intercessors and, from October, coffee and biscuits.

We have been greatly blessed by continuing generous support throughout this period from people who felt able to return in difficult and uncertain times.

The Events Programme gradually revived, starting with the Christian Aid Plant Sale on the 15th May which raised £2,000, followed by the Twyford Green Fair in July with its eco message, which was a great success. In August David Hall kindly organised an organ recital by eight organists, and Vicki Feldwick organised a choir concert in November, and in December. Andrew Denham gave an art exhibition. All these meant that the church was used, not only for services, but for other events contributing to the community, and this is a development we would like to build on. Unfortunately, the Ministry Team was reduced by the retirement of Val Corcoran in July due to ill health. There was a recognition of her contribution in a service at the end of August. She is much missed for her ministry, her chairmanship of the Mission Advisory Group to the PCC and her leadership of Messy Church. This initiative has been taken up by Owslebury, where it is thriving, but this unfortunately doesn't attract young people from Twyford where there is a sad gap in our outreach.

There has been a reorganisation of services to reflect the retirement of Val and Gillian Hargraves, and the moving away of Barbara Crabbe and Michael Jackson, which has left Damon supported in Twyford only by Ron Pont, who leads the third Sunday Service, and Peter Lippiett who leads one service per month and, on request, additional 'special services' such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

We have therefore moved into a pattern of services taken by Damon once a month, Peter once a month, Ron once a month, and the fourth service is a Benefice Service usually taken by Damon (three Eucharists per month). There are four 'Fifth Sunday Services' per year, which are arranged according to preference. This is barely adequate to keep a regular pattern of services and feels fragile, but we are most grateful to Ron and Peter for continuing to lead our worship.

Work continues in the churchyard, where spring working parties were held on three consecutive Saturdays in April and three alternate Saturdays in October, and a big thank you to the volunteers who came out to continue to cut back the foliage and work on making the churchyard a peaceful haven. The project in the autumn was to create new compost bins, so that the old one could be emptied and repaired - work continues with this.

The Grass-cutting Appeal organised by David Thompson and David Sullivan has continued to function throughout this period and the new company continues to do a good and thorough job using strimmers as well as mowers to reach all areas. This is an expensive process, and the gardeners do this at considerable risk, due to the thoughtlessness of dog owners who do not clear up after their dogs. We are very grateful to 'the Davids' for all they do.

We thank Mags Lippiett for her work as our Eco Champion and she has led the efforts to clear the bank to the left of the path and start to make this a wild-life area. Plans continue to evolve, but we are proud that the churchyard continues to be well used.

The entrance to the churchyard has been greatly enhanced by a new noticeboard donated by an anonymous donor which replaces a very weary and out-of-date wooden one, and which is kept up to date by Mags Lippiett.

It was a terrible blow to lose Ian Wheeler suddenly in April, as he did wonderful work welcoming the children from the different schools (Twyford St Mary's and Twyford Prep and Pre-prep) to their services at spring and Christmas, not to mention a host of other services within the church, as deputy verger, and he is sorely missed.

We particularly thank our verger, Dick Gray, who assists at the Eucharist Services and many of the special services (weddings, funerals etc.). We also thank all who turn up regularly with keys to open or lock up, to keep the church available to the community during this time and ensured the Covid arrangements were robust in 2021.

We thank Ros Medd for keeping us and the PCC so well organised and prepared and we would welcome any church members who would like to join the PCC or any of the Advisory Groups, as the PCC is not large, and we would like this approach to be sustainable. All contributions are much appreciated; please let us know if you are interested. We are always looking for new events and activities to draw people into the church to make it a centre for community activity as well as worship, so any ideas are more than welcome, especially as we come out of lockdown.

Juliet Hawkes

1.3. Church Building & Fabric Advisory Group Report

The church building is in good overall repair and a Quinquennial Survey is booked for 31st March 2022 after which we will have to find a new Church Architect as Seymour Bainbridge, the Church Architects, are closing.

We reviewed our use of fossil fuels during 2020 and concluded that it would be financially detrimental to change the current gas heating in the main church (the boiler was replaced in 2018) and we are gradually moving over to LED lights throughout as the old lamps fail. Similarly, our use of the building does not justify the installation of solar panels, even if we were given permission to do so.

However, the gas boiler in the church rooms is at 'end of life,' and we are in the process of getting quotes to replace this with an all-electric system which will have lower maintenance costs and will be a low carbon solution as a result of the rising provision of national electricity from low carbon sources. However, the overall fuel bill will rise due to the rise in the cost of fossil fuels and the increased cost of electricity over gas.

The Bells Appeal continued, and I am pleased to report that three new bells and five refurbished bells will be re-hung in the Summer of 2022.

Juliet Hawkes

1.4. Parochial Church Council Secretary's Report

Membership:

Members serving <i>ex officio</i>		
Damon Draisey (Vicar and Chair) Juliet Hawkes (Churchwarden and Vice-Chair)		
Members elected for three years		
2019-2022	2020-2023	2021-2024
Andrew Brooks Nigel Close	Christine Hill Ron Pont	Anthony Bateman Michael Biddle Vanessa Eales
Deanery and Diocesan Synod Representatives (PCC members <i>ex officio</i>)		
2020-2023 (Deanery Synod) Ron Pont, Juliet Hawkes		
Standing Committee		
The Vicar and Churchwarden (<i>ex officio</i>), the Treasurer, the Secretary, Michael Biddle, and Andrew Brooks (all elected by the PCC).		

Advisory Group Membership and Chairs:

The Advisory Groups (Mission, Fabric and Finance) continued to carry forward much of the work of the Council, and at the same time inform and advise the Council in its deliberations. Their year's work is reported elsewhere in this Review. The Mission Advisory Group ceased to meet in October 2021 and discussions about how best to carry forward its work are ongoing.

Mission	Finance	Fabric
Valerie Corcoran	Nigel Close	Juliet Hawkes
Ian Wheeler, Ron Pont, Mags Lippiett, Neil Richards, Damon Draisey, Juliet Hawkes	Juliet Hawkes, Michael Biddle, Sheila Lees, Judith Lathlean	Andrew Brooks, Anthony Bateman, Michael Biddle, Martin Locke, Wendy Sullivan

Foundation School Governors:

Linda Snoswell and David Evans (both September 2020 to September 2024)

Safeguarding Officer:

Vanessa Eales (safeguarding@sdgatewaychurches.org.uk)

PCC Report:

In March, the PCC discussed over Zoom the development of the new Signpost magazine and authorised the distribution free of charge of the first copy to every household. This was made possible by Michael Biddle's great work to produce a

definitive list of households in the Parish. Having become a Bronze Eco Church at Mags Lippiett's initiative, the PCC has signed up to the Church of England's commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030. The Council also secured a Faculty for the Bell work and formalised a Churchyard Policy.

At the meeting following the APCM, all existing officers were re-elected.

The July meeting was cancelled due to Covid, but we were back on Zoom in October to consider the problem of car parking, the theft of an expensive microphone at the lectern, the best model for replacement heating for the church rooms and the future of the Mission Action Group.

Meetings are busy and there is always plenty to discuss – even in this second year of restrictions of every kind. We hope others in our church community will come forward to join the PCC in the coming year.

I am required to state the following in this Review: St Mary's Church is situated at Church Lane, Twyford, Hants SO21 1NT. The correspondence address is: The Vicarage, Main Road, Colden Common, Hampshire, SO21 1TL. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure and Church Representation Rules) and a charity currently exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Safeguarding

The PCC is required to acknowledge formally in this Review its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Our Safeguarding Officer is Vanessa Eales. Safeguarding is a standing item at all full Council meetings. No safeguarding issues were reported in 2021. All Council members are required to hold a satisfactory DBS certificate and to have completed the first two levels of Diocesan Safeguarding Training.

Rosalind Medd, PCC Secretary

1.5. Electoral Roll Officer's Report

Last year's report showed that there were 92 on the roll and the current number is 90, representing 67 households. The roll is always open to new members so please let me know of anyone who would like to join.

George Medd - Electoral Roll Officer (george@medd.org.uk)

1.6. Deanery Synod Representative's Report

Each of the churches in our benefice is entitled to send one or more representatives to this larger group of churches in the Diocese.

Meetings during the pandemic have been on Zoom. This is much easier than going out at night to another church, takes less time, and is also easier to have a say.

There are three meetings a year, with each agenda full of matters of common interest. Reports of what took place are then circulated for every PCC.

Ron Pont

2. Mission

2.1. Children and Young People

2.1.1. Twyford St. Mary's Primary School

The staff and children of TSM were undaunted by the difficulties raised by Covid during the year, the first few months being particularly hard. The lively atmosphere, thirst and excitement for learning continued despite the trials of home learning, Google Classroom, bubbles, LFTs, social distancing, masks and all the other measures used to keep the children and staff safe and well. In just one week in February, besides the usual curriculum learning, there was a virtual Fire and Rescue Service visit for KS1, a Lego competition, a dance challenge, after-school sports activities, and a reading relay, even though pupils were not actually in school.

The week the children returned to school in March was dedicated to Well Being, the school being very mindful of the effect the pandemic has had on the children's mental health. On the Tuesday of that week, a group of children walked to the Church laying decorated pebbles on the way to mark the reconnection of the school and Church. They were met there by Revd Damon who led them in a short service. However, because of necessary Covid restrictions, several activities which would normally take place in church in the first half of the year have had to be held in school (sometimes outside). Revd Damon took the Easter Service in school, although by Harvest Festival the Church could be used as the venue once again. Rev Damon and Jane Roots (Churchwarden at Colden Common) continue to lead Collective Worship for the whole school once a week.

It was good to see Mrs Davies in Church for the service for Val Corcoran to recognise her big contribution to the Spiritual life of the school. Similarly, the school marked the passing of Ian Wheeler earlier in the year when a group of children walked to the church to pay their respects and remember him. Ian was a staunch supporter of TSM (and ex pupil!) and was always there to help with school events in Church.

The school held various events in Christian Aid week engaging fully with the message 'Care for the world - it's up to us' raising an impressive £520 during the week. They also participated in the Twyford Green Fair that showcased the Eco projects they had been working on.

Despite the practical problems during the year, concentrated curriculum learning continued as usual and children were prepared throughout the year to move successfully by September to the next stage of their education whether it was from YR to KS1, KS1 to KS2, or KS2 on to Secondary School.

There was also a wealth of other stimulating events taking place and opportunities available when restrictions allowed: Residential visits, sporting events, healthy eating week, activities week, visits from a theatre company, forest school, visits to complement the curriculum, election week (complete with canvassing by the candidates and speeches culminating with votes in a ballot box). These are just a few as there are too many to mention them all.

There have been few staff changes with class teachers remaining the same, although Mrs Keating (YR/1) has been appointed to the role of Senior Teacher (there is no Deputy Head) and there have been some changes to Learning Support Assistants.

The Governors were sorry to lose Bruce Greig who retired after 10 years' service during which time he oversaw many changes. He served for many years as Chair and Deputy Chair so had a wealth of knowledge and experience of governance.

Unfortunately, because of Covid, Governors' visits to school last year were limited and all our meetings during the year were virtual. However, now there are fewer restrictions, we hope we can be included in more school activities.

Please continue to hold the amazing work the school does for the children of our community in your thoughts and prayers.

Linda Snoswell, David Evans, Damon Draisey (Foundation Governors)

2.2. Education and Spiritual Food

2.2.1. House Group

Following the months of lockdown our little group reconvened in September. Our meetings continued on the first Friday morning of each month.

So far, we have almost completed our study of 'The Psalms', one of the York Courses.

We are now investigating new York Courses that will hopefully help us in the present world situation.

If you would like to join us, we will give you a warm welcome.

Cynthia English (01962 713427)

Ron Pont (01962 712332)

2.2.2. The Life Group

This house group started meeting again in October 2021 in the Pont's house, commencing with the DVD course 'God is closer than you think!' followed by a study course digging deeper into one of Paul's epistles to the churches.

The pattern is to have three sessions across the year of about eight meetings in the autumn, another eight between Christmas and Easter, and a final eight after Easter.

Participation in the group is easy and fluid, and anyone is welcome for one or more meetings.

Ron Pont (01962 712332)

2.2.3. Library

Twyford Church Library is now up and running again as a resource for all four churches. A book carousel and a large bookcase contain a wide selection of titles ranging from light reading biographies to topics stimulating one's personal spiritual life.

Borrowing is simple, merely requiring a signature and phone number in the register. There is no time limit for keeping a book out.

Molly Pont

2.2.4. Bible Reading Fellowship

In the last two years much has changed including St Mary's church BRF group. In 2020 there were ten members and there are now five of us but I'm hopeful that our small group can grow in numbers once again.

New Daylight BRF Bible reading notes are published 3 times a year in January, May, and September. I order and deliver copies to the group members for them to read at home. There is a small annual charge for this publication which goes directly to the BRF charity.

New Daylight provides the reader with daily Bible readings, the authors comments/reflections and often a short prayer. It is a useful resource to use alongside the Bible.

I leave past copies and BRF newsletters/leaflets promoting BRF as a resource for all at the back of St Mary's church. Please do take a copy to read at home and contact me if you would like to subscribe to New Daylight. My contact details can be found with the BRF information in church.

Best wishes to you all for 2022.

Carol Anne Pullen (St Mary's church BRF secretary)

2.3. Charitable Outreach

2.3.1. The Children's Society

In 2021 I sent to the Children Society £675.47 which is £130.44 down on 2020. I consider this a great achievement with the restrictions that have prevailed since the lock down and a reduction in the use of cash.

On behalf of the Children's Society, I thank you. Once again, we have a reduction of three boxes this year with no new holders willing to take them up so if anyone feels able to have a Children's Society Box in their home that they can put their change into each week, I am able to supply a new box at no cost to you.

I will be collecting the Children Society Boxes in July this year so please look out for information in the church magazine.

Thank you all who are Box holders you're doing a Great job!!

Andy Spencer (01962 712238)

2.3.2. Christian Aid - We Believe in Life Before Death

We believe in life before death

Poverty is not a natural and inevitable state of affairs. It is a consequence of what we do, or what we fail to do. Millions of people around the world are united in the shared belief that it does not have to be this way, and that positive change is possible. Christian Aid, with our partners and supporters, is part of that movement. We stand alongside poor communities who work tirelessly to lift themselves out of poverty.

2021, like 2020, has been a year like no other due to the pandemic. As a village, primary school, and church community we have tried to act as a light in the darkness

although the plans for raising awareness and funds have been curtailed in these testing times.

Our aim for 2022 is together as a whole community to become involved in more ways in which we can continue to act for a fairer world.

2021 activities in Twyford were restricted to:

May – Christian Aid Week – with a focus on Kenya and Climate Justice – ‘Every last drop.’

With the G7 summit in Cornwall and COP26 in Glasgow, Christian Aid Week highlighted the injustices of climate change. In Kenya, as in other parts of the African continent, when it rains, it pours, causing extreme and sometimes dangerous flooding. Then long periods of time can pass with no rain at all. The country experiences droughts on a recurrent basis which are becoming much more severe and more regular.

We decided to give up house-to-house collecting this year and have designed our own e-envelope collecting scheme. Some people preferred to donate using the conventional envelope scheme. Together this raised £927.

At their morning assembly on Friday, May 14th, Twyford Primary School presented us with £520 for Christian Aid which they had raised through their various imaginative fundraising ideas. Our link with the school has been one of the most encouraging highlights of the year.

On Saturday, May 15th, Plant Exchange in St Mary’s churchyard raised over £2,000 in donations.

The total for the Week (including gift aid) came to £3,924.40.

We would like to thank all our supporters for their giving, acting, and praying.

Plans for 2022 include:

Fairtrade assembly at Twyford St Mary’s Primary school.

Soup lunch during Lent with donations for the work of Christian Aid in Afghanistan.

Plant Exchange in St Mary’s churchyard during Christian Aid Week.

Twyford St Mary’s Primary school fundraising during Christian Aid Week.

*Maggie Lippiett (magslippiett@yahoo.co.uk),
Cathy Pope (catherinealexanderson@gmail.com)*

2.4. ECO Church

The strategy for Eco church is presented in five categories – worship and teaching; management of church buildings; management of church land; global and community involvement, and lifestyle. An online survey is a guide to getting started and maintaining progress. It is not a tick box exercise.

Since we signed up to becoming an Eco church:

Worship and Teaching

We have planned an annual special Sunday service relating to caring for God's earth. This year we held such a service the day after our village Green Fair.

Our intercessions regularly reflect care for creation, and we have invited guest speakers to preach on environmental issues at our special services.

Each month there is an article with an eco-update in Signpost and publicity for Eco events in the pew sheet.

The ministry team led by the vicar has been strongly supportive and has made a formal commitment to improving the environmental credentials of our church by endorsing the undertaking of work towards becoming an Eco church.

Management of church buildings

We have measured our energy use and calculated the carbon footprint of our church premises.

Our church administrator uses recycled paper whenever possible.

We have a policy to limit floodlighting and security lighting (dusk to dawn).

The loos are fitted with dual flush buttons and recycled loo paper is used. Also cleaning products are environmentally friendly.

Management of church land

Our church warmly welcomes walkers and visitors to the churchyard who often rest awhile to contemplate.

We have a new notice board which is kept up to date.

The churchyard working party works diligently to maintain the churchyard and has recently planted a hedge along the northern and western boundaries of the churchyard. The whips were generously donated by the Parish Council.

The compost bins have been brilliantly sorted and are well maintained, as are the litter bins.

We have started an area for native wildflowers to flourish and are seeking further advice from the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT). Susan Simmonds visited on Oct 12th to advise on how to develop and maintain this. We now have a hedgehog house and a bird box.

Global and Community involvement

Our church organises environmental awareness-raising events – Snowdrop Saturday, Christian Aid local plant 'bring and share,' Green Fair.

Our eco champion is part of a community group ACT (Action on Carbon in Twyford) that meets regularly to discuss environmental concerns and ways of reaching out to and informing the community. Three members of this group are parish councillors. Public meetings have not been possible until recently, but on Oct 6th, a presentation on retrofitting was given in the parish hall at an open meeting and further such meetings will be planned based on the expressed needs of the community.

We maintain close links with the village church primary school, and each supports the other's events.

We are close to an area of special scientific interest and in a conservation area as part of the South Downs National Park and many of our church members support the HIWWT and Winchester Action on Climate (WinACC).

Each year one of our church members organizes a litter pick and the hub is at the church.

In 2021 our church hosted a Green Fair, showcasing local produce and highlighting local environmental initiatives.

Our sister churches in the benefice at Colden Common and Owslebury have joined the Eco church journey. Colden common has been awarded the bronze Eco church award and Owslebury has just started.

The members of our church are informed about the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on communities elsewhere in the world (e.g., via Christian Aid and Tradecraft Exchange).

Our church is registered with the Fairtrade Foundation as a Fairtrade church and wherever possible, Fairtrade and ethically sourced goods are used at church services and events – local, organic, animal friendly and fairtrade. If we are providing meals, we will always include a veg-vegan option.

We have been limited by the pandemic over the past 18 months but intend to revive a soup lunch in Lent in the church rooms.

Lifestyle

The vicar has appointed an eco-champion to promote the cause of our church community becoming more environmentally sustainable.

Personal use and consumption of Fairtrade products is available through our Fairtrade representative who will order items for church or personal use.

Our church funds are ethically invested.

Occasionally practical lifestyle tips and advice on caring for God's earth are included in our church newsletters and on our benefice website.

Maggie Lippiett (magslippiett@yahoo.co.uk)

2.5. Parish Magazine – 'Signpost'

(Twyford, Owslebury and Morestead)

The Parish Magazine ceased production in March 2020, as it was considered unsustainable to deliver it during a period of national lockdown. It was restarted in April 2021. During that time, we considered the possibility of uniting the magazines produced by Colden Common and Twyford, but due to the nature of each, it was agreed that we would continue the same spread of distribution as before the pandemic.

The relaunch was an opportunity to rethink and refresh it, as the number of subscribers had been dropping, and much of this was thought to be due to

competition with the social media pages and that the charming pictures of the three churches on the front made it very much a church-focused production.

It was agreed not to ask for a subscription increase for both readers and advertisers nor to charge either until January 2022 when the new production had bedded down. We are grateful to Theo Johnson who has continued her sterling work as Editor, and Steve Jarvis who prints the magazine for us at cost price.

The relaunch was set in time for Easter 2021 with a village-wide distribution. Wendy Sullivan, who had master-minded the distribution for many years (with assistance from Nigel and Celia Close) decided to retire, and a small presentation was made to her. Happily, her place has been taken by Judith Lea, who has done a wonderful job of gathering together the distributors, both existing and new. We are still very keen to recruit more subscribers and distributors.

In preparation for the publication, a group was gathered together consisting of Judith, Theo, Ros Medd, Georgie Sollom, Melissa Frost, Nigel Close, Chris Pope, and Amanda Garrett to make the production more appealing to villagers.

We looked at several ideas, renaming it 'The Signpost,' with a new cover and the back cover is to be used to advertise an event in the coming month. We have also started a colour-printed cover rather than a coloured paper cover. Obituaries of local people (with the families' agreement) will be included, and there is a double feature of quizzes and colouring pictures for children across the centre page.

We continue to publish most articles that are submitted, and we particularly welcome history pieces, walks and nature items, the eco-focus provided by Mags Lippiett, and, whilst Terry Forder-Stent continues to report on birds in the area and sometimes further afield, we particularly miss the contributions on local rambles provided by David Eaton (who died in September 2021). We rely very much on local people coming forward with their ideas of what they want to share, and what they would like to see, so we welcome any and all ideas.

Juliet Hawkes

3. Church Groups

3.1. Bell Ringers

Remarkably, the ringers have managed to ring for most Sunday services during this last year unlike the previous year! We also managed to celebrate the William Davies supper, again, unlike the previous year!

Our fund-raising for the renovation of the bells was on hold during the lockdowns, but resumed during last year, and we are now at a point where the project is in progress. The bells are now at Whites of Appleton for their renovation. They were removed at the beginning of February with huge help from several village chaps. We anticipate that they will be returned at the end of May. Hopefully, the money raised is sufficient to complete the project, but this is unknown until the work progresses.

An interesting piece of research by Andrew Johnson has found that the oldest bell – no 5 – was almost certainly paid for by William Davies in the 1700s. This bell is being

replaced and has no scrap value, so we are hoping that money allowing, we will be able to keep it as a tolling bell. To install it is outside the current remit for Whites, but their initial thoughts, when asked, were that it wouldn't be a difficult task so hopefully it will be affordable. It seems important to keep such a significant bell in the history of Twyford.

A minibus of interested ringers and villagers travelled to Loughborough in the autumn to watch one of the three new bells being cast; it was an amazing and interesting day out.

The ringers are for ever indebted to Juliet Hawkes for her enthusiasm and huge efforts to bring this project towards completion, and to the generosity of so many people in raising the funds. The bells will now be in good order for many decades, well into the next century.

Angela Forder Stent

3.2. Brass Cleaners

The work done by the brass cleaners, led by Isobel Gray is always appreciated.

3.3. Church Cleaning

For most of last year the church was cleaned brilliantly by the noble Amanda who did a splendid job keeping clean the main body of the church as well as her usual patch of the church rooms and the kitchen and loo. The voluntary cleaning teams were 'stood down' until it was deemed a safe time to re-open the rota, with a grand Autumn 'Spring Clean' which took place on November 6th.

Thereafter the old rota swung back into action, and the new rota for 2022 was sent out and for the first time, arranging to clean the church once a fortnight only. We will see how this works out.

Trish Mardon and Maggie Lippiett

3.4. Church Music

Another year has passed with virtually no activity for the ad hoc choir. No choir was required for any weddings, funerals, or special services. The only occasion singers met as a choir was for the Christmas Carol service when a small group led by Vicky Feldwick filled the church with familiar and much-loved carols under candlelight, always a favourite with choir and congregation. The number singing was much lower this year as Covid was still threatening to strike and some regulars were taking extra precautions to protect their Christmas plans.

The Church buildings continue to act as a venue for music concerts including a recent one by Sarah McQuaid, a singer, songwriter, composer, and multi-instrumentalist. Other concerts are being planned for the coming year.

As Covid recedes, it is hoped that music for services will once again become the norm at St. Mary's.

Annie Hibberd

3.5. Flower Arrangers

2021 was very difficult for everyone. Flowers in Church continued for most of the year, assisted by the lovely music. Polly Payne and I have continued each month to change the flowers with the seasons.

I hope you have enjoyed them as much as we have enjoyed arranging them. We have also arranged flowers for a few weddings and, sadly, several funerals.

The three schools have kindly dressed the windows for special occasions:

St Mary's Primary – The children dressed the windows for Christmas 2020 & Easter 2021.

Twyford Prep – They did the same for Christmas 2021

The Play Group are planning to do some decorations for this coming Easter.

It is wonderful to have the children's support; they all make a very good job of it. Many thanks to them all.

My granddaughter Amelia, for her Duke of Edinburgh Award, worked to clean up the Churchyard and gravestones. If anyone else is interested in helping in the Churchyard as part of their volunteering activity, please see Juliet who will happily sign your paperwork.

If anyone would like to help in arranging the church flowers, perhaps in memory of a loved one or just because you love flowers, you would be most welcome; please just call me. You will need to supply the flowers and foliage, water them midway through the week and then clear them away when they have finished flowering.

Let's hope 2022 will be happier and safer.

Valerie Roberts (01962 711538)

4. Finance

4.1. Freewill Offering Scheme

2021 was another year of Covid challenges for our Church and a difficult time financially for some. I, and all Church supporters, are very encouraged that the freewill offering scheme contributed more than in 2020. The many who give regularly continued even if they were not able attend services. Some increased their giving, and we had a few generous one-off gifts. The figures are in the accounts.

May I remind everyone of the ways of giving as well as the need to give generously. Standing orders are always welcome as they provide a predictable regular income. I can reclaim gift aid where appropriate and can provide envelopes for regular giving or individual payments.

However, these are now more or less superseded by the 'Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme' (GASDS). With this, collections received in Church, provided they are less than £20, are eligible for Gift Aid reclaim. There is a collection plate at services and often an online card reader. We are always grateful for 'one-offs' too!

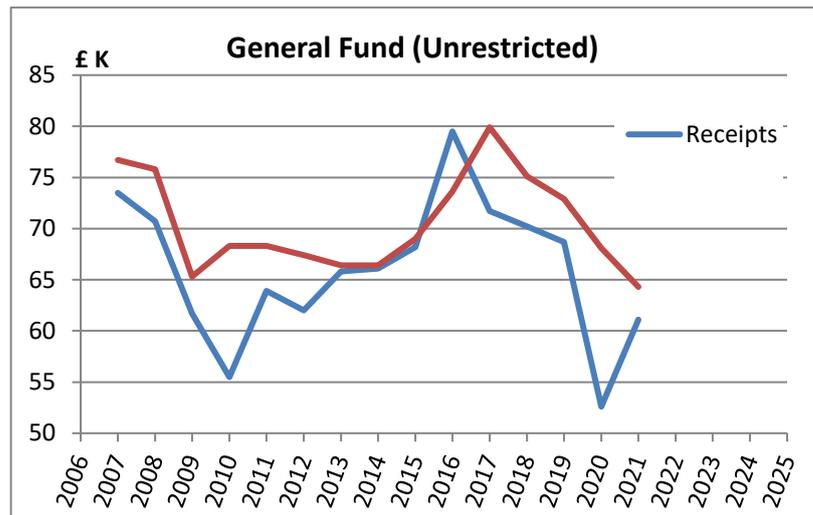
I am pleased to help anyone with the 'whys and wherefores' and to say thank you to all who have given and helped our Church to thrive.

Sheila Lees 01962 713164 (sheila.lees@btinternet.com)

4.2. Treasurer's Report

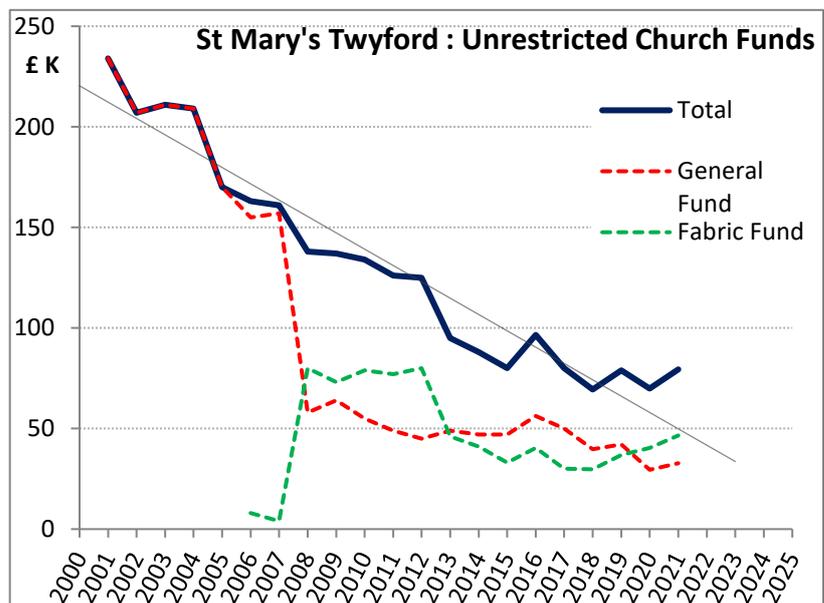
With vaccines coming on-stream, and a gradual lessening of Covid restrictions, it will come as no surprise that 2021 was a better year. This graph shows how income recovered from the huge dip in 2020, while we continued to keep expenditure within limits.

The budget predicted an £8k loss on the General Fund; in the event we achieved a £3k loss. This was partly because the church was open for services and events for more of the year than seemed likely in January, but mostly from the increased generosity of contributors to the Freewill Offering scheme.



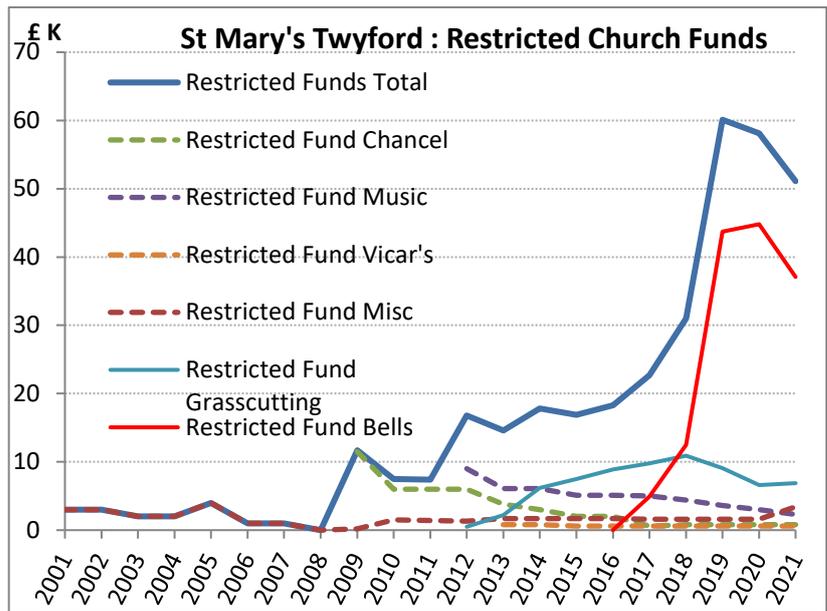
Three-quarters of our income is from regular giving – mostly boosted by 25% through Gift Aid – and I would like to thank you all for keeping St Mary's afloat. Sheila Lees works hard to keep track of the FWO and Gift Aid. Do please talk to her if you can give something each month, or if you feel you could manage a little more. Our spending represents more than £1,000 per year for every member of our worshipping community and we do need to bring that blue line up to meet the red one!

The total of the two unrestricted funds – the General and Fabric funds – continues to show an overall downward trend, despite a slight upturn this year which mostly reflects the gain on our invested funds.



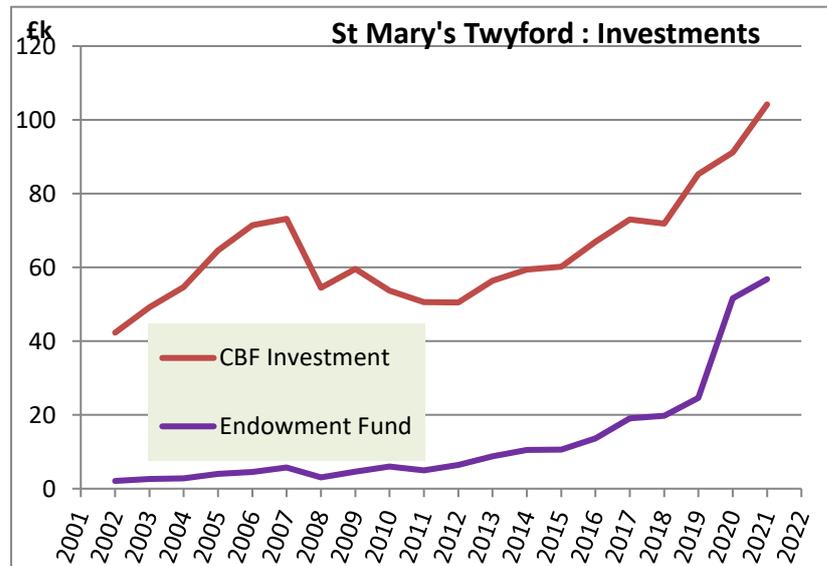
Our Restricted funds – those monies that may only be spent for the purpose for which they were donated – are generally little changed except for the Bell Fund.

This was more active than the graph shows as it gained £22k in new donations and grants but paid out almost £30k to the bellfounders for casting our three new bells. With anticipated grants and the probability of further donations, the Bell Appeal looks to be on a sound footing.



Our investments continued to do surprisingly well. The Endowment Fund (from which we receive the dividends but may not spend the capital) increased, although by much less than the previous year.

Meanwhile, the CBF investments increased by 14% over the year; a paper gain which may not be sustained but it does at least make our year-end funds look slightly healthier than the receipts and payments would suggest.



Nigel Close, PCC Treasurer

4.3. Finance Advisory Group

The Finance Advisory Group (FINAG) again met once by Zoom to discuss various aspects of the finances. It set the Budget and agreed to apply the investment dividends to the General Fund only, instead of splitting it with the Fabric Fund. The Reserves Policy was reviewed: the Working Capital reserve on the General Fund of £16k and the Emergency Building Work Reserve on the Fabric Fund of £30k were deemed appropriate and therefore continue unchanged.

Nigel Close, PCC Treasurer

4.4. Independent Examiner's Report

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH, TWYFORD

This report is on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended **31 December 2021**. The financial statement has been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, on the **Receipts and Payments (R & P)** basis. The reporting requirement is for an Account of Receipts and Payments together with a Statement of Assets and Liabilities (SOAL). This broadly follows the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2015.

Respective Responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner.

As a member of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission Act 2011. Charities (including Churches) may use this basis if their gross income is below £250,000.

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 financial statements 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

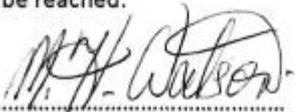
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

* To keep accounting records in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, and

* To prepare financial statements, 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 my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts be reached.

Signed.....

Date 7th February 2022

Mr Michael H Watson. CEng. M.I.Mech. E.

Littlebourne Lodge, Hazeley Road, Twyford, Winchester. SO21 1PZ.

4.5. Accounts for the Year 2019

The accounts for 2019 are shown in the following pages. The Section that follows them, 'Notes to the Financial Statements,' forms part of these accounts.

Income and Expenditure

Description	General	Fabric	Bell	Chancel	Churchyd	Grasscut
	Unrestrict	Designated	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted
Freewill Offering (FWO)	39,897					
Loose plate collections	1,188		451			
Electronic donation	416		30			
Giving through church boxes	129					
Donations appeals etc	331		12,992		1,145	3,782
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	9,591		28			491
Legacies			1,000			
Recurring grants					80	
Non-recurring one-off grants	105		3,250			
Fund-raising	1,761	32	480			
Dividends	2,466	328				
Bank and building society interest	0					
Fees for weddings and funerals	4,864					
Bookstall sales - fund raising	20					
Church room lettings - objectives						
Church room lettings - fund raising	20					
Magazine income - advertising						
Parish magazine sales	351					
Insurance claims						
Surplus - sale of fixed assets			4,000			
Contributions from benefice						
Total	61,138	360	22,230		1,225	4,272
Costs of fetes & other events			-343			
Charitable Giving						
Common Mission Fund (parish share)	-51,711					
Organist fees	-1,450					
Clerical Registry	-104					
Honoraria	-480					
Working expenses of incumbent	-40					
Office costs	-27					
Parish training and mission	-440					
Messy Church						
Church running - insurance	-4,334					
Organ / piano tuning & maintenance						
Church maintenance	-1,974	-554				
Supplies	-529					
Upkeep of churchyard					-144	
Grasscutting						-3,955
Church running - electric	-1,442					
Church running - gas	-297					
Church running - water	-66					
Magazine expenses	-1,363					
Bookstall costs						
Governance costs						
Church major repairs			-29,758			
Church decorating						
Total	-64,258	-554	-30,101		-144	-3,955
			160		27	
	-162					-25
RESULT	-£3,282	-£195	-£7,711	£0	£1,108	£292

Income and Expenditure

Music Restricted	Other Restricted	Endowmnt Endowment	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020	TOTAL 2019	TOTAL 2018	TOTAL 2017
			39,897	35,938	37,055	40,200	39,920
			1,639	1,061	4,114	4,068	4,593
			445	339	-	-	-
			129	203	258	479	460
			18,249	3,449	28,427	11,305	8,728
			10,109	7,855	15,487	12,328	11,448
			1,000	1,000	-	500	-
			80	80	80	80	80
			3,355	0	2,337	3,725	1,409
			2,273	419	5,745	3,625	6,873
			2,794	2,757	2,613	2,550	2,496
			0	3	4	2	2
			4,864	2,511	3,928	5,076	4,576
			20	0	-	-	19
			0	100	-	130	130
			20	75	100	185	10
			0	0	3,125	390	1,390
			351	1,669	1,970	1,992	2,121
			0	0	-	-	-
			4,000	0	917	-	-
			0	26	-	283	-
			89,225	57,486	106,160	86,919	84,255
			-343	0	609	721	550
			0	0	20	20	20
			-51,711	-57,652	57,614	59,304	59,629
			-1,450	-750	1,850	1,675	1,500
			-104	-299	632	262	211
			-480	-300	540	384	2,529
			-40	0	-	1,532	1,371
			-27	-937	583	48	1,475
			-440	-42	985	542	849
			0	-14	148	157	203
			-4,334	-4,289	4,142	3,997	4,213
-678			-678	-611	853	991	1,514
			-2,528	-790	1,444	1,134	2,660
			-529	-566	1,017	1,226	3,377
			-144	0	-	-	2,734
			-3,955	-4,400	4,110	3,460	2,465
			-1,442	-1,394	1,144	961	949
			-297	-798	1,252	1,409	991
			-66	-57	93	100	72
			-1,363	-185	1,080	1,130	950
			0	-23	64	162	174
			0	0	185	97	95
			-29,758	-1,265	2,717	8,971	15,624
			0	0	-	-	-
-678			-99,691	-74,372	81,083	88,283	104,156
			187	0	-	5,000	2,007
			-187	0	-	5,000	2,007
			-	-	-	-	-
-£678	£0	£0	-£10,466	-£16,886	£25,077	-£1,364	-£19,901

Income and Expenditure

Fund	Balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Balances carried forward
General - General fund	29512	61138	-64258	-162	6523	32753
Fabric - Fabric Fund	40310		-554	0	6523	46638
Grass - Grasscutting Fund	6602	4272	-3955	-25	0	6894
Bell - Bell Appeal Fund	44782	22230	-30101	160	0	37071
Chancel - Chancel Fund	776	0	0	0	0	776
Music - Music Fund	2976	0	-678	0	0	2298
Vicars - Vicar's Fund	623	0	0	0	0	623
Churchyd - Churchyard Fund	720	1225	-144	27	0	1828
Other - Other Fund	1624	0	0	0	0	1624
Endowment - Endowment Fund	51595	0	0	0	5249	56844
Totals	179,520	88,865	-99,691	0	18,295	187,349
<i>There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown</i>						

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Fixed assets						
6440 : CBF CoE Inv Fund Income Shares	52,122	52,122	0	0	104,244	91,198
6450 : Scottish Mortgage Inv Trust	0	0	0	56,844	56,844	51,595
Total	52,122	52,122	0	56,844	161,088	142,793
Current assets						
6501 : Bank current account 73311324	-20,044	-5,484	51,447	0	25,919	36,619
6510 : FWO current account 73345547	100	0	0	0	100	100
6520 : CCLA (CBF) deposit account	497	0	0	0	497	497
6590 : Cash in hand	79	0	0	0	79	79
Total	-19,369	-5,484	51,447	0	26,594	37,294
Liabilities						
6699 : Agency collections			-333		-333	-567
Total			-333		-333	-567
Net total assets	32,753	46,638	51,114	56,844	187,349	179,520
<i>There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown</i>						

4.6. Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ending 31st December 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICY

This financial statement has been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 on the **Receipts and Payments** (R & P) basis. Charities (including churches) may use this basis if their gross income is below a threshold, which is currently £250,000. R & P deals with receipts when the money arrives, and payments when the cheque is sent. It trades a more concrete day-to-day picture against a less comprehensive strategic overview. And the bookkeeping is simpler.

The reporting requirement is for an Account of Receipts and Payments together with a Statement of Assets and Liabilities (SOAL). The format of these reports is not defined, although they broadly follow the Statement of Recommended Practice SORP 2015.

The accounts have been prepared using Data Developments software Finance Co-ordinator V4.54 with reports output to Excel and formatted.

2 FUNDS

Charities must clearly distinguish between, and account separately for, various types of fund:

UNRESTRICTED: The church will have ordinary funds, which are for general use in promoting the church's usual purposes; these are unrestricted funds.

DESIGNATED: The church may have decided to set aside sums in respect of specific projects; these are designated funds. They can always be redirected back to unrestricted funds if the church chooses.

RESTRICTED: There may be special funds for specific purposes. Appeals which the church has made for special and specific objects; funds or grants given to the church by donors who have specified that they should only be used for specific objectives. These are restricted funds and can only be used in respect of the purposes for which they were given. They cannot be added to unrestricted funds without the consent of the donor.

ENDOWMENTS: are those funds, which are held on trust to be retained as 'capital' funds i.e., the income from the funds can be spent on either unrestricted or restricted purposes (depending upon the directions of the donor), but the capital must be retained; it cannot be spent.

Income and Expenditure

In addition to our GENERAL Fund, which is Unrestricted, we have:

<i>Designated FABRIC Fund:</i>	Set up in 2008 with £80K transferred from the General Fund to cover major works – principally those identified during Quinquennial Inspections
<i>Restricted BELL APPEAL:</i>	To renovate the bells.
<i>Restricted CHANCEL Fund:</i>	To preserve and enhance the chancel, including the mural and wall paintings.
<i>Restricted CHURCHYARD Fund:</i>	To preserve and enhance the church grounds, including the yew tree, graves, paths, benches, walls etc.
<i>Restricted GRASSCUTTING Fund:</i>	Set up after a public appeal to pay the cost of mowing the churchyard.
<i>Restricted MUSIC Fund:</i>	Originated by a legacy ‘for the music in church.’ Our hymn books were purchased from this fund. From 2018, it has paid for the tuning and maintenance of the organ.
<i>Restricted OTHER Funds:</i>	Inherited from previous years. I hope to discover their origins and purpose, but at present they must lie dormant.
<i>Restricted VICAR’S Fund:</i>	Set up by a donation ‘for use at the Vicar’s discretion.’ The vicar can offer immediate charitable assistance without question.
<i>Endowment (Capital) Fund:</i>	A legacy of shares, the income from which is treated as unrestricted, but we may not dispose of the capital.
<i>AGENCY or ‘POSTBOX’ Funds:</i>	In-and-out monies held briefly, then passed on: funeral collections for a charity, Christingle, leaving gifts etc.

The opening and closing value of each fund is shown in the FUND MOVEMENT SUMMARY table.

3 FREEWILL OFFERING (FWO)

Regular giving provides a stable, vital base of funding, and most of it attracts a 25% bonus through Gift Aid. I am very grateful to Sheila Lees for the not inconsiderable task of administering the scheme, tracking donations, and claiming tax.

4 GRANTS

A recurring grant of £80 from the War Graves Commission appears in the Churchyard Fund. We received non-recurring grants from Hampshire & Islands Historic Churches Trust of £105 for General funds and £3,250 for the Bell Fund.

Income and Expenditure

5 FEES

Statutory and other fees for weddings and funerals. Other disbursements (to the Diocese, organists, vergers, and bellringers) are Agency payments.

6 CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AND TO THE BENEFICE

Twyford pays for the Vicar's expenses and clergy from the Clerical Registry on behalf of the whole benefice and then claims from the other parishes in agreed proportion. Twyford pays its proportion of the costs of the Benefice Office in Colden Common (recorded under code 2110 Office Costs). The only transaction in 2021 was a small correction from the previous year.

7 COMMON MISSION FUND – CMF (or PARISH SHARE)

Our contribution pays for the costs of clergy – their salaries, accommodation, pensions, and training – together with Mission funding and diocesan services. Our relatively affluent village with its reasonably well-attended church means that our payment is substantial. After steep increases during the transition to this system, the amounts due have now stabilised.

8 MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church did not meet in 2021.

9 RESERVES

Current PCC policy is to maintain a Working Capital reserve on the General Fund of £16k and an Emergency Building Work reserve in the Fabric Fund of £30k.

10 FIXED ASSETS

The value of the CBF CoE Investment Fund shares has been allocated 50% to the General Fund and 50% to the Fabric Fund.

Revaluation of the CoE Investment Fund and of the shares comprising the Endowment Fund are shown in the Fund Movement Summary under gains and losses.

11 BANK CURRENT ACCOUNT

The total shown in the SOAL for our main account - £25,919 – includes unreconciled payments by six cheques (totalling £1,252) which had not been presented at year-end, and one dividend of £62 which had not been received at year-end. The actual bank balance on 31st December was therefore £27,110.

Nigel Close, PCC Treasurer

**Approved by the PCC of St Mary the Virgin, Twyford
and signed on its behalf**

.......... (signed) ...4th March 2022... (date)

5. Minutes of the Annual Parish Church Meeting 2019

Held in church following part of Compline on Sunday 24th March 2019

Vestry meeting

1. Welcome

Damon welcomed 22 people joining the meeting on Zoom; he opened with a reading from Isaiah 41.10 *'don't be afraid, I am your God, I hold you steady and keep a firm grip on you'*, followed by a prayer.

2. Election of Churchwardens

There was a single nomination to the role of Churchwarden. Juliet Hawkes was proposed by George Medd, seconded by Michael Biddle, and re-elected unanimously, to applause. Damon thanked her on behalf of the meeting for her willingness to be proposed again and her tireless efforts in the role.

The meeting unanimously supported Judith Lathlean and Nigel Close's willingness to continue as Assistant Churchwardens.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for absence were received from Ian and Jenny Streat and Sylvia Stops (Sylvia joined later on Zoom).

2. Minutes of the APCM held on the 11th October 2020

No amendments to the Minutes were suggested: their adoption as a true record was proposed by Annie Hibberd, seconded by Mags Lippiett, and agreed unanimously. They were signed by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising

No matters arising from the Minutes were raised.

4. Reports

a. The Vicar's review of the year

Damon spoke first of thanks for the benefice wide support he had been given in the unprecedented circumstances of the year, in particular the positive response to all he was doing. Despite the challenges, he felt that there is a stronger connection throughout the benefice. He had been reassured to hear how our congregations were helping their communities, and about conversations and contacts being made with non-church neighbours by Facebook, email and at the school gates – real outreach. The Christmas Hampers were a huge success, not only for what they contained but also showing that we were still able to be church and do church.

Open, shut, open shut, rules, regulations, cleaning: everyone has just got on with it. Weekday prayer will continue on Zoom as more people are still joining. Help from Twyford's Messy Church has pushed forward the establishment of a Messy Church in Owslebury. Owslebury has also achieved a Bronze Eco Award.

Income and Expenditure

Looking forward, Damon said we need to hang onto God and allow his spirit to lead us. Most importantly, we need to see our community as God sees it. He thanked everyone for all they have done.

Mags Lippiett asked about the future of Messy Church following Valerie Corcoran's retirement due to ill health. Damon reported that he is meeting with four local church families to discuss options.

b. The Churchwarden's Report

Juliet hoped she had painted a full picture in her written report of 'a different year.' Her goal had been to keep the church open and services going as much and as safely as possible, and she felt that had largely been achieved. She was looking forward to the Christmas services and prayed for an easier time than 2020.

George Medd described the amazing work done by Juliet in photographing and recording every grave in the churchyard and the contribution this will make to the history of this place and the work of people researching their ancestors. Congratulations go to her on achieving this whilst doing 110% in all her other tasks.

It is unlikely that the bell project can be completed by Autumn 2021, but all are optimistic that it will finish successfully in 2022. In the meantime, the funding needs to be fully realised especially for the third bell. It was reported that there would be Tower Tours at the Eco Fair in July.

Juliet praised the marvellous work Chris Pope has been doing on keeping the organ from deteriorating whilst the building has been unused. This has highlighted the serious challenge ahead of making sure the building is used more often.

c. Electoral Roll Officer's Report

George Medd, Electoral Roll Officer reported that there were 91 members on the Roll, down from 95.

d. The Annual Report on the proceedings of the PCC, Diocesan and Deanery Synods

The meeting received, in a formal sense, the Annual Report, which had been published and circulated in advance. The PCC Secretary had no further comments to add; Damon noted that the PCC had been able to carry on meeting on Zoom during the pandemic but that Synod meetings had suffered.

e. Treasurer's Report

Nigel introduced a deficit report, as planned, added to which he calculated there had been a loss of around £10,000 due to Covid. Freewill offerings have held up reasonably well, but pew collections have been badly affected. There have been some donations, but our assets are running out. On a Diocesan level

Income and Expenditure

Damon reported that 50% of all parishes had been touched by an overall re-ordering process with 12 clergy posts lost.

Adoption of the Accounts

A motion to adopt the approved Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 was proposed by Michael Biddle, seconded by Vanessa Eales, and passed unanimously. A vote of thanks was given to Nigel, and Sheila Lees for her continued management of our offering scheme.

5. Elections

PCC Members

Anthony Bateman, Michael Biddle, and Vanessa Eales were unanimously elected to the PCC, Anthony for the first time, and thanked for their willingness to take part.

6. Appointments

Independent Examiner

Mike Watson, the Independent Examiner of our Accounts, has kindly confirmed that he is willing to continue in this role. His re-appointment was proposed by George Medd and seconded by Jane Rogers. It was agreed unanimously, with gratitude.

7. Any Other Business

Andy Spencer reported on a successful year for the Children's Society Boxes: £805.91 was collected, a rise of £136.94 on the previous year.

The meeting remembered with sadness the loss of two of its members, Ian Wheeler, and Sheila Gawthorpe, described as great 'servants to the church.'

The meeting ended with prayer to find our way through the current challenges and to proclaim God's good news to everybody.

Damon was thanked for holding us together imaginatively, creatively, and spiritually.

Ros Medd, PCC Secretary