

PARISH REVIEW

for the year ending 31st December 2022



South Downs Gateway Churches

St Mary's
Twyford

To be presented at the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
On Monday 24th April 2023 at 7pm
in the church

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South Downs Gateway Churches

Morestead, Owslebury,
Twyford & Colden Common

Learning, Praying, Serving, Caring



Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace; and be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:15-17

Greetings!

Welcome to the 2022 Annual Review for St Mary the Virgin, Twyford.

This report is in pdf format so it can be viewed on a screen or printed, and in booklet form to save paper! This allows us to use colour, which makes the graphs in the finance section much clearer.

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

George Medd, editor

1. Agenda

Agenda – Vestry Meeting

for the meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting) to be held on
Monday 24th April 2023 at 7pm

1. Election of Churchwardens for the ensuing year
2. Re/Appointment of Assistant Churchwarden(s)

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 2022.
5. Elections
 - a. To elect PCC Members (up to three).
 - b. To elect up to two Representatives to the Deanery Synod.
6. Appointments: To appoint an Independent Examiner.
7. Any other business (to be emailed to the Vicar at least 72 hours before the meeting).

2. Governance

2.1. Vicar's Report

Dear Friends

As we have completed another year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the many blessings that we have received as a community. Despite the problems that we have faced, both individually and as a church, we have continued to come together in love and support of one another. I want to start by thanking the Churchwardens, the members of the PCC, and everyone who has helped in making the four churches in our benefice operate so well. It is truly a team effort, and your dedication and hard work are very much appreciated.

Over the past year we have faced several trials, including the major roofing work that was necessary in Colden Common due to lead thefts. However, thanks to the hard work and commitment of our community, we have been able to overcome these obstacles and continue to maintain our beautiful church buildings.

I would like to extend a special thank you to all those who have contributed to the upkeep and maintenance of our churches. Your hard work and dedication have been instrumental in ensuring that our churches continue to look and operate so well, whether it was through volunteering your time, contributing financially, or simply showing your support, your efforts have not gone unnoticed.

During the year, we have had to say goodbye to our administrator, Elaine, who retired after almost 30 years of service. She has been missed, and we are grateful to all those who have taken on some of her roles. However, we are still looking for someone to take on the position of Benefice Secretary.

On a more positive note, we have seen some exciting developments in our community. The new children's church in Twyford, called 360, has been a great success, with around thirty children and their parents attending.

The New Rock Choir, Trinity C4, in Colden Common, has also been growing in numbers and it has been an unexpected source of income for us through subscriptions and concerts.

Owslebury village has been going strong and reaching out to the community with its Messy Church and, as with Twyford and Colden Common, has been running several eco-church initiatives.

Morestead has put on a couple of fantastic events, including a talk by Sir Francis Richards on his time at Bletchley Park.

We should all be proud to be making such positive connections with our neighbours in this way as well as our drive to improve our environment.

One of the major projects of the year was our annual Christmas food hamper drive. I am proud to report that we were able to distribute 108 hampers to those in our community who are struggling financially. These hampers were filled with nutritious food and other essential items and were made possible through the generosity of our members and the hard work of our volunteers. I know that these hampers made a

real difference in the lives of those who received them, and I am grateful to all who contributed to this important effort.

However, we still face financial challenges, and I want to thank all those who have continued to give, despite the increase in the cost of living. If you do not already do so, I urge you to sign up for regular giving via the Parish Giving Scheme, especially if you are a taxpayer. It is simple to sign up, and it makes things much easier for our treasurers, as Gift Aid is automatically claimed for us. Links can be found on the front page of our website.

Unfortunately, attendance has been down since the Covid lockdown, and we continue to experience uncertainty. However, let us pray that we interpret something new emerging and that we can discern a new direction with a new normal. Let us develop new strategies and renewed energy for mission and ministry. As we have grown in unity within our benefice, let us now collaborate our efforts and build upon that which the body of Christ would have us do.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I am filled with hope and optimism for what we can accomplish together. I believe that with faith, love, and hard work, we can continue to make a positive impact on the lives of those around us.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our church and our community. May God bless you all in the coming year.

Damon

Revd Damon Draisey

2.2. Churchwarden's Report

2022 was the year we came out from under the blanket of uncertainty over Covid. Many remain nervous of ongoing cases, but life began to return to normal.

We continued to be supported by wonderful volunteers who opened and closed the church each day to ensure that it can be accessed by the community and can be a resource for all. Unfortunately there continued to be petty acts of vandalism, which have trying repercussions in terms of the time, effort and funds devoted to rectifying them.

An example would be the person who saw fit to fill the wall-safe lock with epoxy resin rendering it unusable for many months until we were able to find someone to remove the safe door, remove the resin and refit the door so the wall-safe can be used again, but the lock is now protected from further assault. In the same vein, we will not be leaving candles on the altar as people come in and burn them down.

The services continued to attract a small but faithful congregation, and Molly Pont did a wonderful job of organising a rota of coffeemakers, welcomers, readers and intercessors for which she is truly thanked. She has now handed over to Sheila Lees who continues to run this essential service.

Elaine Izard retired from her post of Benefice Administrator at the end of May and her contribution is greatly missed, but we now have support for the monthly pewsheets and baptisms. All this has put an unsustainable load on Damon, as has been

revealed by the impact on administrative matters during his recent period of sickness, and we badly need a more equitable share of the load, while recognising that volunteers with the dedication of Elaine are hard to find.

We therefore need to consider carefully what assistance is required and how, as four parishes, we need to support this assistance as the lack of support not only impacts directly on the Vicar with more and more being loaded on his shoulders but also makes the role of Churchwarden more difficult.

The church cleaners' rota also revived, and we are very grateful for the support that these volunteers bring to keeping the church a welcoming place, not only to those attending services but also for private worship and events. Notable also is Amanda Garrett who has served us faithfully throughout the pandemic and continues to keep the toilets and church rooms in good order.

I must mention our organists who provided wonderful music for our services and ensured our organ, which is a great asset, continued to be used and valued.

The churchyard working parties (three in the spring and three in the autumn) ensured that the churchyard was kept in overall order. The Grass Cutting Fund and the contractor are essential in ensuring regular maintenance of the area, and we are most grateful for their continuing support.

We have planted some oaks, and also put hedges on the north and south boundaries at the bottom of the churchyard and the south boundary near the church (though some of these suffered during the drought this summer). In the last year, we had the assistance and support of Jeff Mardon, Jonathon McGill and Paul Coward in doing essential maintenance on the driveway, and while the potholes have returned, they are still better than they were.

The Events Programme went back into full swing with a mixture of charitable and semi-commercial events designed to supplement church funds while welcoming people into the church as a performance and community space. We had the usual snowdrop event in support of Fair Trade, the March Soup Lunch and May Plant Sale for Christian Aid, and the Green Fair in support of our role as an Eco Church.

We had six weddings during the year, seven funerals, two committals of ashes ceremonies, and four baptisms. The local schools also used the church on a regular basis with Twyford St Mary's using the Church for their Spring and Easter services, their play in the summer and their Christmas and Carol services. Twyford Prep and Pre-Prep also used the church for their Christmas services, and both schools used the church for the associated rehearsals.

We had occasional concerts initiated by Chris Pope while he was Churchwarden, and this year we developed the programme to see if it is an acceptable way of increasing the use of the church by the local community and bringing in some additional funds.

Oliver Gray, who has an active interest in live folk music, has introduced some performers and we had a total of eight concerts including some performers who were already known to us, or who made direct contact with us. These have shown that the

church is appreciated as a venue by performers and can attract a respectable attendance. Although bringing in a small income, local village interest has been disappointing. As I write, there is some concern as to whether this is an area that we wish, as a church community, to develop.

The larger events, hosted by the church, such as weddings, funerals or concerts, rely for their success on the use of parking provision in part of the field generously lent by Sir Ian Kennedy, for which we are very grateful.

We particularly thank our Verger and his wife, Dick and Isobel Gray, who assist at the Eucharist Services and many of the special services (weddings, funerals etc.). We also thank Valerie Roberts and her team who have supported the church through their wonderful flower arranging.

We thank Ros Medd for keeping us and the PCC so well organised and prepared, and 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 welcome additional members.

I would also like to thank Theo Johnson, who has been our editor of the magazine, 'Signpost' for some time, Judith Lea and Nigel Close who mastermind distribution, and our printer Steve Jarvis.

The magazine currently covers Twyford, Owslebury and Morestead (although Owslebury has its own Newsletter as well). Colden Common had a parish magazine edited by Elaine Izard, and it is currently proposed that the 'Signpost' be rebadged and extended to cover Colden Common (which also has a community magazine) so that there is a Benefice-wide publication.

Our ministry team are, of course, essential to our functioning as a church community, so I thank Damon and Peter for their continued leadership and note with sadness the passing of Val Corcoran who did so much for the development of mission in the parish and particularly with young people.

We welcome Damon's initiative in forming Gateway 360 and look forward to welcoming them as an increasing influence on our community. I must thank Ron Pont for his ongoing commitment to the worship at services, although he has stepped back from regularly leading the '3rd Sunday Service'. As a result, a new rota of people willing to lead a 'Service of the Word' has been formed to fill this gap in the persons of David Owens (previously chaplain at Twyford Prep School) from Fair Oak, Jonathan Harber (from Christchurch) and our own George Medd (who has for some time been committed at the Cathedral). We welcome them all, and also Helen O'Sullivan, who has now returned to work in the Winchester Diocese and is able to help out from time to time.

Finally, Chris Pope's booklet on St Mary's Church and its artefacts called, 'A Brief History and Description of St Mary's Church' appeared at the back of church during 2022 having been much delayed by the Covid outbreak. Chris has produced this at his own expense, and such has been its popularity that he is now producing the second printing. This has been a great addition to the church, and I am very grateful

for the time and work he has put into this project on behalf of the church community so others can enjoy our beautiful church.

Juliet Hawkes

2.3. Church Building & Fabric Advisory Group Report

The church building is in good overall repair and had a satisfactory Quinquennial Survey in March 2022. Although there were some minor comments, there was nothing apart from issues with the general maintenance of the building. Our new architect is Michael Weakley Associates.

The major improvement in the facilities of the building was the completion of the bells project in November 2022, with the installation of three new bells and the refurbishment of the remaining five with the oldest bell being retained. The bells were blessed in a ceremony conducted by the acting Bishop of Winchester, Debbie Sellen, and have since been rung by the local bellringers who are pleased with the results of the project.

It is hoped that this new ring of bells will encourage new blood into our bellringing group, and training sessions for new bell ringers are already in progress. Also included in the project was the provision of swift boxes and we are hopeful that these will be occupied in May 2023.

In 2022, the PCC approved the initiation of projects to replace the heating and water system and carpets in the church rooms, the completion of the church cushion project, and the provision of a curtain over the north door. Work on these projects continues and will be completed during 2023.

Juliet Hawkes

2.4. 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		
2020-2023	2021-2024	2022-2025
Christine Hill Ron Pont	Anthony Bateman Michael Biddle Vanessa Eales	Andrew Brooks Nigel Close
Co-opted		
2022-2023		
Jade Pain		
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 Fabric and Finance Advisory Groups continued to support the Churchwarden and Treasurer, and at the same time inform and advise the Council as a whole. Their year’s work is reported elsewhere in this Review.

Finance	Fabric
Nigel Close	Juliet Hawkes
Juliet Hawkes, Michael Biddle, Sheila Lees, Judith Lathlean	Andrew Brooks, Anthony Bateman, Michael Biddle, Martin Locke, Wendy Sullivan

Foundation School Governors:

David Evans (Sept 2020 – Sept 2024) and Carola Breuning (Sept 2022 – Sept 2026)

Safeguarding Officer:

Vanessa Eales (safeguarding@sdgatewaychurches.org.uk)

PCC Report:

The nine members of the PCC met four times in 2022. Members are very committed to attending. From April, they welcomed Jade Pain’s co-option to the Council for a year and look forward to her election at the 2023 APCM.

Business has included monitoring expenditure within the Bell Project, appointing a new Architect (Michael Weatley Associates), proposing a new Independent Examiner (Jeff Mardon), and nominating a new Foundation Governor (Carola Breuning).

Fabric and finance issues included dealing with dog fouling in the churchyard, cushions, heating and a draught curtain, an extension to the dais and carpeting and the use of the driveway by the Diocese. A grant from our patrons, Emmanuel College, is going towards improved audio-visual resources for worship. Services, outreach, environmental issues, clergy dress and using the church rooms also featured on the agenda.

Latterly, as fuel prices soared, the decision was made to worship in the church rooms for reasons both of economy and the well-being of the congregation.

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 2022. All Council members are required to hold a satisfactory DBS certificate and to have passed CO1 Safeguarding Training.

Rosalind Medd, PCC Secretary

2.5. Electoral Roll Officer's Report

Last year's report showed that there were eighty-eight on the roll and at the time of printing, the number was eighty-six, representing sixty-two 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)

2.6. Deanery Synod Representative's Report

There are normally three Deanery Synod meetings per year, held around the Deanery and chaired by the Rural Dean. Our two deanery Representatives are Ron Pont and me. Damon, as our Vicar, is automatically part of the Synod, and there was a sprinkling of other representatives from the other parishes in the Benefice, notably Jane Roots and Andy Manship.

There was a meeting held in February chaired by Karen Kouseff, Area Dean, which approved the Deanery Mission Action Plan, reported Damon's election to the Diocesan Synod, and held a meeting on 'rooting the work of the local churches in prayer.' The rest of the minutes documented changes in priests around the deanery. There was no meeting held in June, but there was one in October, chaired by the new Area Dean, Ed Dines, which reported on a learning day on racism in the church, focussing on the extent to which we welcome diversity (or not). There was a report by Alison Coulter who is Vice Chair of the House of Laity of the General Synod. This has been wrestling with the difficulties of Safeguarding, and the General Synod has now agreed to interim payments to those affected, while still working on a comprehensive compensation scheme.

It has also identified £1.3 billion to support the Church of England to develop as a church of missionary disciples. The process of selecting the next Bishop of Winchester proceeds apace and an announcement should be made shortly.

As a result of that meeting, work is being done to investigate the feasibility of creating a Register of lay people authorised to take non-eucharistic services, to support a reduction in the number of priests in the Diocese.

The decision to issue reports on the meetings to aid dissemination to the parishes was welcomed, as was the decision to forego fees for attending in 2022 and 2023.

Juliet Hawkes

3. Mission

3.1. Twyford St. Mary's Primary School

The status as a Church School, and the relationship with St Mary's Church, Twyford, runs through from the governance frameworks, teaching, worship and weekly activities.

Governance frameworks

The school values of courage, care, joy and respect and the vision as a CofE school deeply committed to children, parents and the village community are fundamental to all activities at Twyford St Mary's. Those values run as threads throughout school life from annual curriculum plans to daily interactions between professionals and the young people in their care.

Each year the school undertakes a strategy cycle that runs from a self-evaluation exercise through to objectives set by the governing body and a School Improvement Plan (SIP) that is prepared and implemented by the staff team and monitored by governors. Every three to five years, a broader examination of strategy is undertaken. A framework of policies is in place that covers a wide range of considerations from curriculum through to safeguarding. All of the above sits within external frameworks set by OFSTED and the Church of England.

The Governors undertake regular monitoring to engage with teaching professionals and pupils of the school. This involves triangulating between plans, impact data and direct visits looking at classroom activities. The school benefits from outside advice and monitoring visits from the Local Authority, as well as OFSTED and SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection reports. A wide range of performance data, surveys and group discussion outputs across children, staff, parents and other stakeholders inform the school evaluation and identifies areas for school improvement.

Impact of being a Church School

Within the above frameworks, there is a thread from Christian values through to a wide range of policies covering topics such as Religious Education, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development, collective worship and behaviour. The School and the Church have a close practical connection, with children regularly participating in Church activities, and members of the church leadership and congregation participating in governance, collective worship, well-being support and community events.

Children across the school learn not only about the Christian faith and other religions, but they are equipped with tools (such as the 'Philosophy 4 Children' approach) that help them to explore their own identity, beliefs and values and connect that understanding with their own individual and collective behaviour. Pupils are also encouraged to explore the concept of spirituality through daily reflections and worship, seeking their own understanding of 'self, others, beauty and beyond.' The

school staff regularly engage with diocesan resources to help them plan and explore these concepts and bible stories with the young people of the school.

The school values are modelled and encouraged by all teaching staff. Every child in the school will see the consistency of the school values and how they relate to them. Children are then equipped to regulate their behaviour, participate together as a responsible school community and have a voice to promote change in the school.

Children are also encouraged to understand and engage with the wider world through classroom teaching and discussion, visitors, field trips and international connections. To promote responsibility and engagement, there is also a range of roles and mechanisms for children to direct and choose their response (e.g. clubs, jobs and projects) and put their beliefs and values into action. This can take many forms, for example: fundraising in response to world events, through to local action on climate change. The children of Twyford St Mary's know we are 'a village school making the world of difference.'

David Evans, Carola Breuning, Damon Draisey (Foundation Governors)

3.2. Education and Spiritual Food

3.2.1. House Group

Since last year's report the group has been studying another York Course – 'God Has No Favourites.' The booklet consists of five sessions:

- The Best Picture Of God
- Neither Jew Nor Gentile
- Neither Male Nor Female
- Neither Slave Nor Free
- What Is A Christian?

Each of the sessions ends with a range of questions designed to stimulate lively group discussion. Before we tackle the questions, we listen to the course audio containing conversations between Carmody Grey, the author of the booklets, and Simon Stanley, co-founder of York Courses, exploring and expanding on topics raised in the course booklet. There are also contributions from three people from different Christian backgrounds.

We meet at 10am on the first Friday of each month and new members will be very welcome.

Cynthia English – 01962 713427 - leonard.english6@gmail.com

3.2.2. Library

Twyford Church Library has a varied choice of interesting books available as a resource for all four churches. There is a bookcase and a book carousel at the back of the church displaying a wide selection of titles to encourage one's Spiritual life.

There are also some light-reading biographies, poetry and verse and books with content relating to aspects of Christian life in the 21st century. A few books for younger-aged children are also displayed and available for borrowing.

Simply choose a book and return it to the bookcase once you have finished reading it.

The care of the church library has recently been taken over from Molly Pont and we hope that we can continue her good work.

Carol Anne Pullen and Paul Braithwaite

3.2.3. Bible Reading Fellowship

We remain a small group of five members in the BRF group from St Mary's church. I am still hopeful that we can grow in numbers once again and would welcome new enquiries for New Daylight booklets.

New Daylight BRF Bible reading notes are published three times a year in January, May and September. I order and deliver copies to group members to be read at home as we do not meet as a group to discuss our reading of these notes. 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 author's comments/reflections and often a short prayer. It is a useful resource to use alongside the Bible.

I will continue to 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.

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

3.3. Charitable Outreach

3.3.1. The Children's Society

This year, the Children's Society Box collection was £781.03 which is £105.56 up on 2021. I consider this a great achievement with the restrictions that have prevailed since the lockdown and less usage of cash.

On behalf of the Children's Society, I thank you. Once again, we have lost another two boxes this year with no new holders willing to take them up.

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

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.

Thank you all who are box-holders, you are doing a great job!

Andy Spencer (01962 712238)

3.3.2. Christian Aid - We Believe in Life Before Death

Christian Aid stands for dignity, for equality, for justice. Everyone is equal in the sight of God. For over 75 years, this truth has inspired us to stand together in solidarity with our most marginalised global neighbours, of all faiths and none.

Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. We seek to eradicate extreme poverty by tackling its root causes. Together with people living in poverty, we amplify our voices to speak truth to power and create lasting change.

Events in 2022

Fairtrade fortnight

Charlotte Bailey from Tradecraft and the Winchester Food Partnership led an assembly at Twyford St Mary's Primary School on Fairtrade.

Snowdrop Saturday raised a contribution towards the cost of Fairtrade coffee and tea at a social event organised in church.

Super Soup lunch

Assisted by a dedicated band of cooks, waiters and washers up, we extended a welcome to the community for a soup lunch. This raised £611.50 for Christian Aid.

Christian Aid Week 15th – 21st May – Focus on Zimbabwe

In rural Zimbabwe, seven out of ten women rely on farming to earn a living and provide for their families, but the climate crisis has brought intense droughts that have left their land barren. So far, Christian Aid has helped over 27,000 people in Zimbabwe to stand strong and resilient to the climate crisis but there is still more to do.

Our main fundraising event was a plant sale with donations from people who had spare plants and seedlings at home in excess of their own requirements. We raised £1,585 and learned that this would help in setting up water taps on farms, teaching women how to grow food and providing hardy seeds with resistance to drought, turning dry and dusty land into gardens of hope.

The children from our primary school were deeply preoccupied with SATS and a school inspection so were unable to take part as fully as in previous years during Christian Aid Week. Despite this, several of the pupils handed in envelopes with contributions.

Thanks to all our church members for their support of Christian Aid in many and various ways. We beg you to continue this: we believe in life before death.

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

3.4. ECO Church

What is Eco Church?

From worship to building management, outreach to personal lifestyle, loving God and his creation should influence all that we do in our individual and church life. The world is facing a Climate Crisis and we need to play our part in mitigating the effects of Climate Change.

This is why A Rocha UK has developed Eco Church - an interdenominational award scheme for churches concerned with recognizing this Global Climate Crisis and

wanting to respond. Eco church aims to keep us focused on how our church operates in key areas of its life and work:

- Worship and Teaching
- Management of Church Buildings
- Management of Church Land
- Community and Global Engagement
- Lifestyle

Having received a bronze award in 2019 for our efforts, we are maintaining an 'eco' focus and improving our status where we can. Our Vicar and Churchwarden, together with the PCC, continue with their support.

Worship and teaching

Environmental issues are addressed regularly in our worship and special Sundays are celebrated (e.g. Christian Aid and Green Sunday following the Green Fair). Garth Hewitt, founder of the Amos Trust and a well-known climate activist, preached at our Green Service on July 16th.

Our vicar and Churchwarden together with the PCC continue with their support.

On April 7th, several members of our church went to St Paul's Church, Winchester to hear Alok Sharma speak following COP 27 in his role as president, chaired by Steve Brine MP.

Management of church buildings

The Fabric Group of the PCC is addressing these issues, mindful of the historic, listed status of St Mary's church and the challenges this presents.

We have made progress with lighting, replacing old bulbs with LED ones. Cushions for the wooden pew seats have been made for comfort and warmth, there is an ongoing debate about hanging a curtain near the north door to stop draughts, and new carpeting for the church rooms.

During the winter months, the venue of the main service moved to the church rooms to save on heating.

Discussion on the type of heating for the church rooms is ongoing and we are currently awaiting responses from the church architect and Rupert Gregory. Because of changes in Diocesan guidelines, the Churchwarden has written to our new architect asking for her to consider our three projects needing List B approval (i.e. not requiring a full Faculty), namely the curtain, the carpeting in the church rooms and the heating in the church rooms, and she awaits her response.

We are extremely grateful to the Churchwarden and PCC for all their efforts at maintaining a handle on sustainable management of the church building.

Management of church land

We have a dedicated churchyard working party (always room for more!) and together we hope to manage the land for the encouragement of native wildlife (birds, animals and plants). We have had helpful occasional meetings with David Sullivan who

masterminds the grass-cutting programme and keeps the bank and wild area outside the south door strimmed once a year.

We have several (kindly donated) birdboxes down the southern slope and a hedgehog box. The newly refurbished bell tower has some swift boxes.

On March 5th, we planted a blackthorn/hawthorn hedge along the Berry Lane perimeter of the churchyard.

Snowdrop Saturday on February 26th added more snowdrops to the churchyard as part of Sheila Gawthorpe and Carol Kennedy's millennium project.

Community and global engagement

We regard Fairtrade Fortnight and Christian Aid Week as priorities in keeping our window on the world open and we support their efforts at mitigating the effects of the climate emergency in the global south. We do this through talks and fundraising.

Feb 17th – Charlotte Bailey of Winchester Food Partnership and Tradecraft led an excellent assembly at Twyford St Mary's Primary School on Fairtrade.

March 30th – we invited the community to join us for a soup lunch and raised more than £610 for Christian Aid.

May 14th – during Christian Aid Week we held a plant sale in the churchyard, raising £1,585 for Christian Aid's work in Zimbabwe.

Every month an Eco update is published in the Signpost magazine.

Several church members write regularly to our MP Steve Brine urging him to act where they feel this is necessary for the sustainable flourishing of the planet.

Regular meetings with ACT (Action on Carbon in Twyford) present an opportunity to exchange information and to help plan events such as the Green Fair (July 16th) tree planting, and support for the weekly seasonal cycle bus. Also to discuss ways of increasing awareness of the Climate Crisis and safer walking and cycling through the village.

Twyford St Mary's Primary School is keen to support the church and has a regular 'church corner' in their weekly Bell newsletters.

Holy Trinity Colden Common now have an Eco champion (Pam Glasspool) and a small, dedicated team, as do St Andrew's Owslebury (Belinda Smith). These are both parishes in our benefice and need our full support.

Lifestyle

Drinks and meals provided at any event in the church aim to be locally sourced, organic, animal-friendly and fairtrade (LOAF).

Two houses of members of our congregation have become 'Superhomes' and are open to visitors wanting to explore ways of retrofitting and how this can be achieved.

We held our second Green Fair on July 16th around the church, inviting many environmental organisations to set out their stalls and offer ways of adapting our lifestyles to live more sustainably.

There is still much to be done and the climate crisis is with us to stay as long as we keep our heads buried in the sand. The effects of climate change are with us now – punitively in the global south but noticeable in the north. We need to act and to act now! If you feel you would like to join a church-based group to look at these issues, you would be warmly welcome.

Maggie Lippiett (magslippiett@yahoo.co.uk)

3.5. Parish Magazine

The Parish Magazine – Signpost – came out in eleven editions in 2022 and thanks are due to the hard work of its editor, Theo Johnson, its Distribution Coordinators Judith Lea and Nigel Close, printer Steve Jarvis, and the team of distributors.

Elaine Izard, who produced the Colden Common Magazine, retired in May 2022 and their magazine then ceased production. Efforts have been made to extend the Signpost to cover Colden common, but it was felt that there should be changes to the publication to recognise that it now incorporated Colden Common interests, and this has taken time to organise.

The proposal is that the name should change to the Gateway, with a new cover and to incorporate details of Colden Common and eventually their advertisers. However, the distribution mechanism is faltering, and it needs further work to establish the new production.

In the meantime, the magazine continues to meet the needs of villagers who are not comfortable with social media. The information in the magazine depends on the information on the Benefice website and this is itself a work in progress, so there have been times when the information has not been entirely reliable. However this is now being addressed, and we are hopeful that by the end of 2023, the magazine will be on a more stable footing.

Juliet Hawkes

4. Church Groups

4.1. Bell Ringers

We started the year with no bells and finished with a glorious, refurbished ring. The bells were returned and lined up in the church ready for a blessing on 11th November. Polly Payne decorated each of the headstocks with the most beautiful matching posies of flowers and red streamers. Bishop Debbie, acting Bishop of Winchester, blessed the bells after the Gateway 360 service on the following Sunday and during the following week the bells were rehung.

By 4th December they were ready for a celebration peal organised by Adam Greenley who had helped us launch the appeal and had advised throughout. There are still a few very minor issues to be sorted but the ringers are now able to ring as normal.

Five new villagers are learning to ring, mostly being instructed by ringers from the Winchester and District Bell Ringers, and we have welcomed one newcomer to Twyford who is an experienced ringer. These new ringers will boost our numbers

considerably, and hopefully, the new ringers will be confident to ring for the Coronation.

Without the amazing generosity of many Twyfordians, several grants and help from the bell-ringing community, we would not have achieved our dream. Huge thanks are due to Juliet Hawkes whose foresight and tenacity steered this project throughout.

We now have a ring of bells to last at least this century as well as a stronger band of ringers.

Angela Forder Stent

4.2. Brass Cleaners

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

4.3. Church Cleaning

The cleaning teams have had their number swelled by some excellent new volunteers, which is wonderful - there is always room for more! The arrangement to clean the church once a fortnight only, has worked well and we are continuing like that for the foreseeable future.

Very many thanks to everyone who volunteers, and not forgetting the amazing Amanda who cleans the church rooms regularly.

Trish Mardon and Maggie Lippiett

4.4. Church Music

This past year has seen the small Church choir continue to support weekly worship by leading the hymns and responses in the Mass of St Thomas during the services. We become a larger Ad Hoc choir for the Christmas Carol Service when once again we were confidently led by Vicky Feldwick in raising the roof with familiar carols.

The days of weekly choir practices and singing anthems at the major services in the Church calendar are now sadly a thing of the past, but at least music is still alive in St Mary's.

Concerts and recitals have become part of the music taking part in our beautiful building. These have been received well, even though the attendance has been disappointing on the odd occasion. Some notable examples of these events are the Winchester College Quirister concert in November, Jon Pickard's Harp-Guitar concert, also in November, and the Mary Gautier concert. Several other events are already in the pipeline for 2023.

Annie Hibberd

5. Finance

5.1. Freewill Offering Scheme

We are very fortunate that so many support our Church with promised giving which makes it much easier to budget. Once again, the accounts show that we have paid our Common Mission Fund (Parish share) and been able to afford the maintenance

of the building, but this has been possible through income from legacies, and we still have a deficit for the year.

In 2022 we lost six regular givers, not through ceasing to care for our Church, but through moving from the area or death. We have fifty-seven standing orders for regular giving, and I am grateful to those who consider them regularly with eight increasing their giving this year.

I remind everyone of the significant change which allows us to claim gift aid – 25% - on any donation made at a service of £30 or less. There is a card reader available although the treasurer or one of several authorised operators needs to be present. We need more people to download the app and be trained in the simple procedure to operate the reader! We know that so many of our regular congregation give through the FWO scheme, but we hope maybe more could give at services.

I, and all who care for our Church, thank everyone who helps to support all our services, responsibilities and activities. I would be pleased to explain the confidential freewill offering scheme and I encourage everyone to help us increase our income so we can continue to afford all we do now and not be limited but be bold in supporting any inspiration to extend what we can do in the Parish.

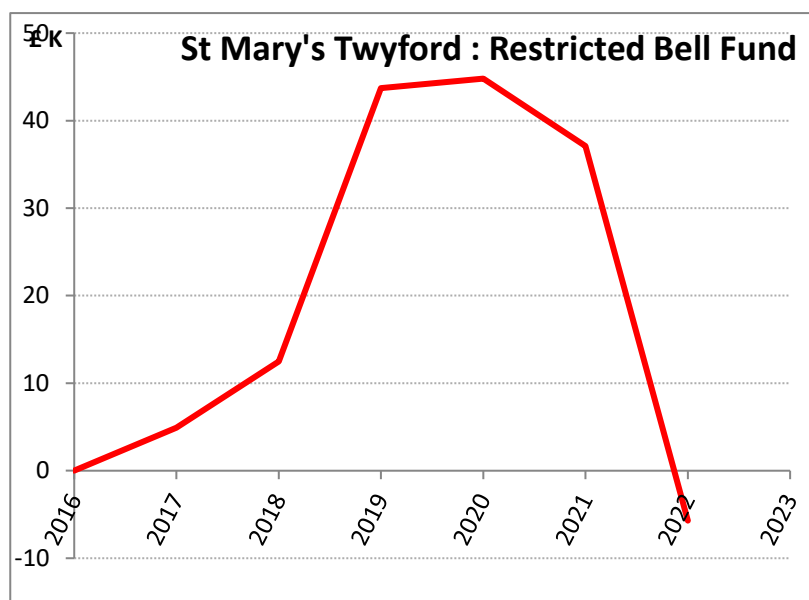
Sheila Lees 01962 713164 (sheila.lees@btinternet.com)

5.2. Treasurer's Report

Well, 2022 was an exciting year financially; we spent over £55k of bell appeal money (in addition to almost £30k spent in 2021). But the day-to-day running of the church would have made a loss of nearly £5k were it not for a generous legacy.

Let's look at the Bell Fund first:

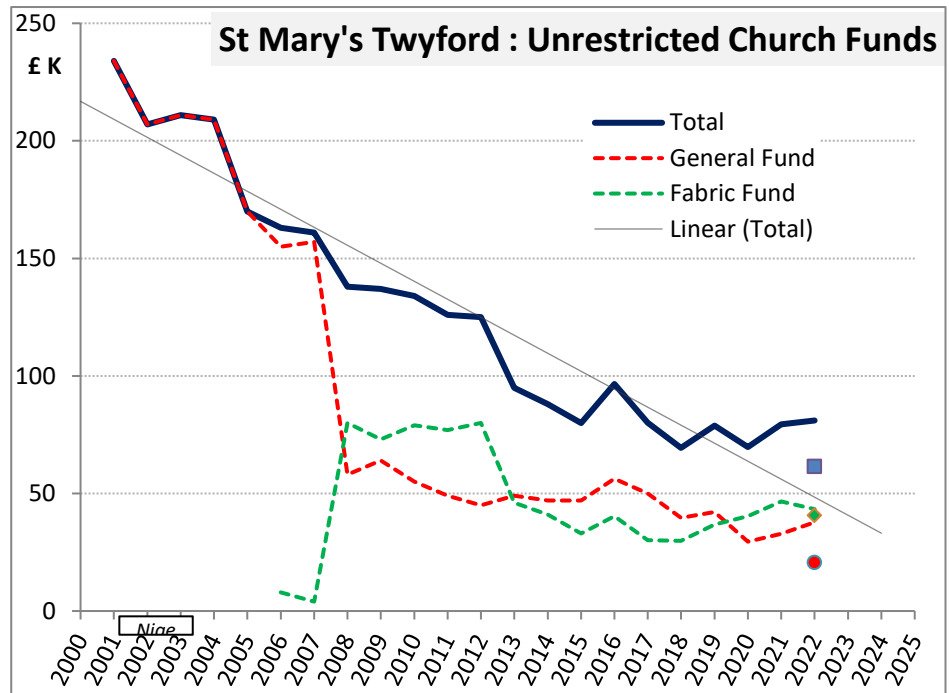
Four years after starting the Appeal we were in a position where we could commit to removing all the bells, casting three new ones to replace the most worn, refurbishing the rest, procuring new headstocks and reinstalling them in a refurbished tower. We ended 2022 with the fund showing a deficit of almost



£6k, but don't worry as we have been offered grants, payable after completion and inspection, which will more than make up this deficit. There should be enough to complete outstanding work on the clock and the (fixed) service bell and perhaps a few finishing touches as well. Thanks are due to the many people who have contributed time and money so generously to restore our peal.

The story is less happy with our unrestricted monies – the General and Fabric Funds. Here is the familiar chart:

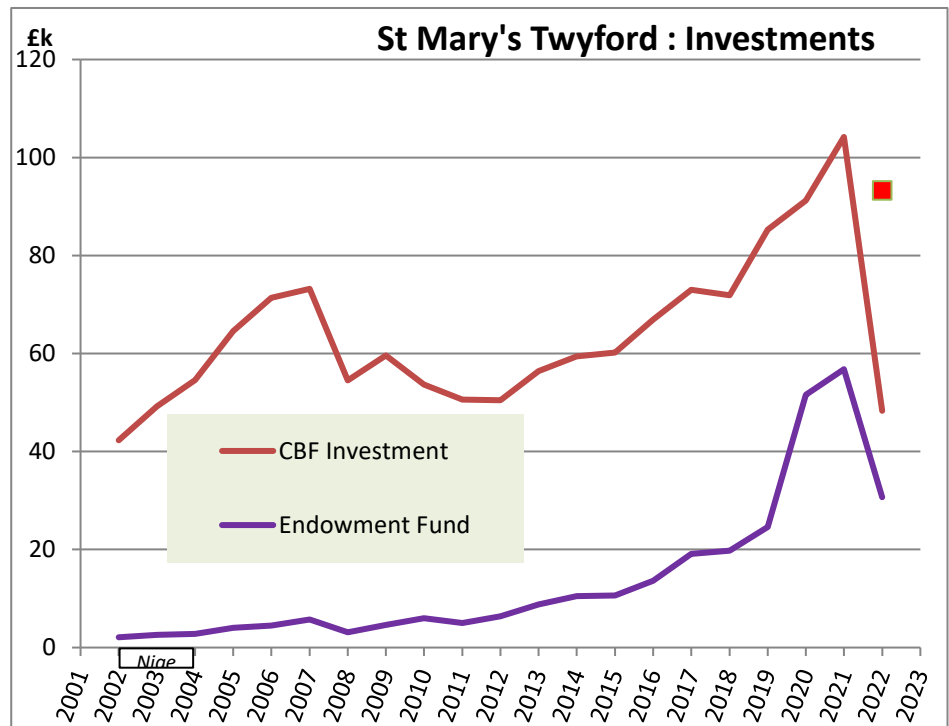
At first glance, it looks pretty good. There is a small increase of £1.7k in the total, but this is due to two exceptional items. We received generous legacies of



£2.5k to the Fabric Fund, £15.6k to the General Fund, and £1.6k was transferred from the now-closed 'Other' Fund. The three markers show how we would have fared without these additions - £17.8k down on the previous year.

Another factor in this was a loss in our investments. Our surplus money is in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund Income Shares, which had risen over the years to £104k at the end of 2021.

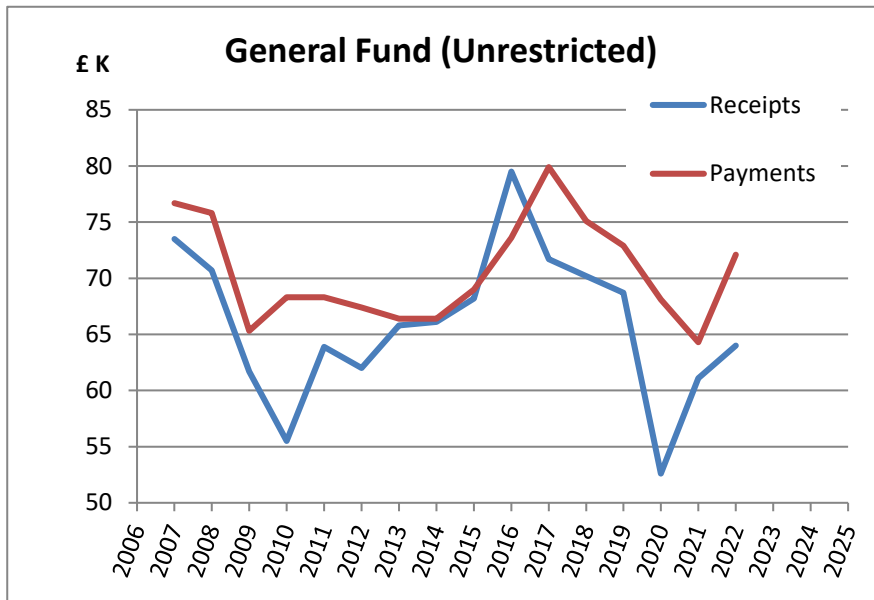
Perhaps fortuitously, we withdrew £45k in the first half of 2022 to cover an anticipated cash flow shortage when the bells were expected back in May (because they were not returned until November, the actual deficit was much smaller). The remaining shares



were worth £10.9k less at the year-end. The red square marker on the Investments plot shows where the CBF funds would be with £45k added back.

Our Endowment Fund comprises shares in the Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust. Having increased 25-fold in the last two decades, they dropped sharply in 2022, losing nearly half their value. This is not an immediate concern since we only receive dividends, and so the capital value is largely academic.

My biggest concern remains, as always, the gap between receipt and payments in the regular business of the church – the General Fund. This graph excludes the legacy and transfer windfalls. Last year I expressed the hope that the red and blue lines would approach more closely but they have fallen further apart, and I can



see no way to avoid this steady haemorrhage of our money. Our outgoings are effectively fixed, and income is not rising. Indeed, the temporary bonus of a legacy means the loss of another regular contribution.

We generated some additional income from the new series of concerts, despite considerable set-up costs, with the potential for more in 2023. They also brought significant new footfall to our wonderful sacred space.

I would like to thank all contributors to the Freewill Offering Scheme and the Parish Giving Scheme for helping to keep St Mary’s afloat. Sheila Lees works hard to keep track of the FWO and Gift Aid. Please talk to her if you can give something each month, or if you feel you could manage a little more.

I am most grateful to Jeff Mardon for taking on the important role of Independent Examiner of the PCC finances after many years of sterling service from Mike Watson. It is no small task to learn how the system works, how to drive the accounting software and to scrutinise enough of the year’s records to determine whether the financial controls and reporting are in good order. It has been a pleasure to work with him.

Nigel Close, PCC Treasurer

5.3. Finance Advisory Group

The Finance Advisory Group (FINAG) again met once to discuss various aspects of the finances. It proposed a Budget for the PCC to approve and reviewed the Reserves Policy. 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

5.4. Independent Examiner's Report

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH, TWYFORD

This report is on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended **31 December 2022**. 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 to be reached.

Signed.....*J.R. Mardon*.....

Date 2nd Feb. 2023

Mr J R Mardon. BSc

Bourne Close, Bourne Lane, Twyford, Winchester, SO21 1NX

Accounts for the Year 2022

The accounts for 2022 are shown on the following pages. The Section that follows them, 'Notes to the Financial Statements,' forms part of these accounts.

Receipts	General Unrestricted	Fabric Designated	Bell Restricted	Chancel Restricted	Churchyard Restricted	Grasscut Restricted
Freewill Offering (FWO)	35,669					
Loose plate collections	1,862					
Electronic donation	287					
Giving through church boxes	100					189
Donations appeals etc	1,427		7,595		100	3,059
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	9,295		3,568			1,264
Legacies	15,369	2,500				
Recurring grants					80	
Non-recurring one-off grants	1,385		13,532	500		
Fund-raising	5,279		1,232			
Dividends	2,170					
Bank and building society interest	3					
Fees for weddings and funerals	4,244					
Bookstall sales - fund raising	50					
Church room lettings - objectives						
Church room lettings - fund raising	250					
Magazine income - advertising	1,090					
Parish magazine sales	2,450					
Insurance claims						
Surplus - sale of fixed assets			247			
Contributions from benefice						
Total	80,930	2,500	26,174	500	180	4,511
Payments						
Costs of fetes & other events	-2,570					
Charitable Giving						
Common Mission Fund (parish share)	-53,215					
Organist fees	-2,035					
Clerical Registry	-49					
Honoraria	-450					
Working expenses of incumbent						
Office costs	-2,477					
Parish training and mission	-150					
Messy Church	-4					
Church running - insurance	-4,498					
Organ / piano tuning & maintenance						
Church maintenance	-660		-33			
Supplies	-2,025		-69			
Upkeep of churchyard					-242	
Grasscutting						-5,115
Church running - electric	-1,518					
Church running - gas	-1,238					
Church running - water	-92					
Magazine expenses	-1,040					
Bookstall costs						
Governance costs	-29					
Church major repairs		-359	-68,846			
Church decorating						
Total	-72,051	-359	-68,949		-242	-5,115
	24,124	22,500	45,000			
	-22,500	-22,500	-45,000			
RESULT	£10,503	£2,141	-£42,775	£500	-£62	-£604
<i>Excluding legacies</i>	-£4,866	-£359				

Music Restricted	Other Restricted	Endowmnt Endowment	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020	TOTAL 2019	TOTAL 2018
			35,669	39,897	35,938	37,055	40,200
			1,862	1,639	1,061	4,114	4,068
			287	445	339	-	-
			289	129	203	258	479
			12,180	18,249	3,449	28,427	11,305
			14,128	10,109	7,855	15,487	12,328
			17,869	1,000	1,000	-	500
			80	80	80	80	80
113			15,530	3,355	-	2,337	3,725
			6,511	2,273	419	5,745	3,625
			2,170	2,794	2,757	2,613	2,550
			3	0	3	4	2
			4,244	4,864	2,511	3,928	5,076
			50	20	-	-	-
			0	0	100	-	130
			250	20	75	100	185
			1,090	0	-	3,125	390
			2,450	351	1,669	1,970	1,992
			0	0	-	-	-
			247	4,000	-	917	-
			0	0	26	-	283
113			114,909	89,225	57,486	106,160	86,919
			-2,570	-343	-	609	721
			0	0	-	20	20
			-53,215	-51,711	57,652	57,614	59,304
			-2,035	-1,450	750	1,850	1,675
			-49	-104	299	632	262
			-450	-480	300	540	384
			0	-40	-	-	1,532
			-2,477	-27	937	583	48
			-150	-440	42	985	542
			-4	0	14	148	157
			-4,498	-4,334	4,289	4,142	3,997
-596			-596	-678	611	853	991
			-693	-2,528	790	1,444	1,134
			-2,095	-529	566	1,017	1,226
			-242	-144	-	-	-
			-5,115	-3,955	4,400	4,110	3,460
			-1,518	-1,442	1,394	1,144	961
			-1,238	-297	798	1,252	1,409
			-92	-66	57	93	100
			-1,040	-1,363	185	1,080	1,130
			0	0	23	64	162
			-29	0	-	185	97
			-69,206	-29,758	1,265	2,717	8,971
			0	0	-	-	-
-596			-147,312	-99,691	74,372	81,083	88,283
			91,624	187	-	-	5,000
	-1,624		-91,624	-187	-	-	5,000
			-	-	-	-	-
-£483	-£1,624	£0	-£32,404	-£10,466	-£16,886	£25,077	-£1,364

Fund	Balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Balances carried forward
General - General fund	32,753	80,930	-72,051	1,624	-5,452	37,805
Fabric - Fabric Fund	46,638	2,500	-359	0	-5,452	43,327
Grass - Grasscutting Fund	6,894	4,511	-5,115	0	0	6,290
Bell - Bell Appeal Fund	37,071	26,174	-68,949	0	0	-5,704
Chancel - Chancel Fund	776	500	0	0	0	1,276
Music - Music Fund	2,298	113	-596	0	0	1,815
Vicars - Vicar's Fund	623	0	0	0	0	623
Churchyd - Churchyard Fund	1,828	180	-242	0	0	1,766
Other - Other Fund	1,624	0	0	-1,624	0	0
Endowment - Endowment Fund	56,844	0	0	0	-26,125	30,719
Totals	187,349	114,909	-147,312	0	-37,028	117,917
<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	24,170	24,170	0	0	48,340	104,244
6450 : Scottish Mortgage Inv Trust	0	0	0	30,719	30,719	56,844
Total	24,170	24,170	0	30,719	79,059	161,088
Current assets						
6501 : Bank current account 73311324	13,038	19,157	6,517	0	38,711	25,919
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	0	0	0	0	0	79
Total	13,634	19,157	6,517	0	39,308	26,594
Liabilities						
6699 : Agency collections	0	0	-450	0	-450	-333
Total			-450		-450	-333
Net total assets	37,805	43,327	6,067	30,719	117,917	187,349
<i>There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown</i>						

5.5. Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ending 31st December 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICY

This financial statement has been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 on the Receipts and Payments (R & P) basis. R & P deals with receipts when the money actually 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 V4.59 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 that 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. In addition to our GENERAL Fund, which is Unrestricted, we have:

Designated FABRIC Fund: 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. The PCC meeting on 16 th February 2022 agreed that the money in this fund had been wrongly categorised and could be transferred to the General Fund, closing the 'Other' Fund.
<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 the Listed Places of Worship scheme for repayment of VAT of £13,532 for the Bell Fund and £113 for Music. Emmanuel College made a one-off grant of £500 towards projection equipment in St Mary's.

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 any Vicar's expenses and clergy from the Clerical Registry on behalf of the whole benefice and then claims from the other parishes in an agreed proportion. Twyford pays its proportion of the costs of the Benefice Office in Colden Common (recorded under code 2110 Office Costs). The high cost for 2022 covers transactions in 2020 and 2021 including new printer cartridges at £750.

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.

8 MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church has ceased, and its small cash reserve has been transferred to the General Fund.

9 RESERVES

Current PCC policy is to maintain a Working Capital reserve in 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. £45,000 was transferred from these investments to the current account in 2022 to cover a projected temporary cash-flow problem during the bell refurbishment. It is intended to re-invest appropriately when the Bell project is completed.

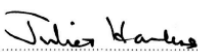
The revaluation of the CoE Investment Fund and the shares comprising the Endowment Fund are shown in the Fund Movement Summary under Gains and Losses.

11 BANK CURRENT ACCOUNT

The total shown in the SOAL for our main account (£38,711) includes unreconciled payments of ten cheques (totalling £1,204) which had not been presented and one dividend of £62 which had not been received at year-end. The actual bank balance on 31st December was therefore £39,854.

Nigel Close, PCC Treasurer

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

..... (signed)

15/12/23..... (date)

6. Minutes of the Annual Parish Church Meeting 2022

Held in church on Sunday 24th April at 3.00pm

Vestry meeting

1. Welcome

Damon welcomed twenty-eight people to the meeting; he opened with a reading from Ephesians 4:11-16, *“He has given some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip God’s people for work in his service, for the building up of the body of Christ,”* and prayer.

2. Election of Churchwardens

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

The meeting unanimously accepted Nigel Close’s offer to continue as an assistant Churchwarden.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for absence were received from Ian and Jenny Streat, Chris and Graham Hill, Annie Hibberd, Cathy and Chris Pope, Elaine Biddle, Andrew Brooks, Judith Lathlean, and Judith Lea.

2. Minutes of the APCM held on the 16th May 2021 at 6.30pm

No amendments to the Minutes were suggested. Their adoption as a true record was agreed upon unanimously and 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

We’ve survived the pandemic but carry on praying and keeping safe. We’ve survived the Diocesan reorganisation and are hopefully stronger. Thank you to those who have gone beyond in their work and those who have not complained about the burden. Damon was happy to report that we have managed to look after our flock, our environment, and to find different ways to worship along the way, building bridges and foundations with festivals, with remembrance and by thinking on our feet.

He recognised the high level of support for Foodbanks, Christian Aid, toys for refugees, Christmas hampers and gifts throughout the year. He reported that Friday Morning Prayer continues on Zoom, Messy Church in Owslebury has led to a family coming forward for baptism, the Choir in Colden common goes from strength to strength and the relationship with the church school in Twyford has

deepened, shown by a vibrant Easter school Service, the distribution of bibles, and great joy at several school events.

The 'new normal' is still uncertain, making it hard to set goals but God will show us what is and isn't important and the next steps are exciting. At the licensing service this year, God spoke to Damon to 'call back the troops.' As part of this, he is asking a group of young parents, resident locally but worshipping in the city, to help him develop a monthly Sunday afternoon families group in St. Mary's church.

b. The Churchwarden's Report

Juliet hoped she had painted a full picture in her written report. There is now almost a full range of services, although the loss of Val and Michael to the team is very significant. Events are scaling up post-pandemic and the churchyard continues to develop. The last Quinquennial Report from our Architect, due to retire shortly, reveals no unforeseen surprises. Initiatives for the coming year include the church rooms heating, using the church space more imaginatively, with luck welcoming back the bells in time for the Royal Jubilee, and installing swift boxes before the birds return for the season.

Damon thanked Juliet for her tireless commitment, and the contribution she has made to the success of the Bells Project.

c. Electoral Roll Officer's Report

George Medd, Electoral Roll Officer, reported that there are eighty-eight members on the Roll, down from ninety-two.

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. Ron Pont, Deanery Synod representative noted, in addition to his Report, that Damon is now on Diocesan Synod. Our Safeguarding lead, Vanessa Eales, was thanked for her work.

e. Treasurer's Report

Nigel introduced a deficit report but noted that at £3,000 for the year this was better than anticipated. The Bell Fund total is high but is now being spent against commitments, though it is hoped that once completed there will be sufficient money from grants to cover the cost. He thanked Sheila Lees for once again handling the Freewill Offering scheme which constitutes 80% of income. For the first time, a significant element of service donation has been by card so please could more Sidespeople consider training to operate these? Questions were invited and Sheila Lees reminded the congregation that service donations up to £30 all have Gift Aid reclaimed on them.

5. Adoption of the Accounts

A motion to adopt the approved Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 was proposed by Michael Biddle, seconded by Sheila Lees and passed unanimously. A vote of thanks was given to Nigel and Sheila Lees.

6. Elections

PCC Members

Andrew Brooks and Nigel Close were proposed by George Medd, seconded by Maggie Lippiett and unanimously re-elected to the PCC.

7. Appointments

Independent Examiner

Mike Watson, the Independent Examiner of our Accounts, has decided to retire. A formal letter of thanks and a gift is to be sent to him.

The Treasurer described the formal process for the appointment of an Independent Examiner, who provides not a full audit but an opinion that the accounts and the accounting process are reasonable, and this is reflected in the published figures. Jeff Mardon, previously a senior executive in a global construction company, and currently Finance Member/Director at Hockley Golf Club has been successfully approached to replace Mike Watson and this proposal is fully supported by the PCC. Mr Mardon's appointment was proposed by Mary Timms, seconded by Ron Pont and agreed with one abstention (from the Treasurer).

8. Any Other Business

Maggie Lippiett asked to report on the success of the all-age worship at Easter: 80 adults and 26 children took part in a dramatised version of the Gospel. Although dependent on publicity on TIS and posters, it is abundantly clear that at Festival times, involving children can be successful. The noticeboard at school needs to be updated with church events and perhaps Damon's 'families group' could make sure their monthly meetings are also advertised at the school.

Ron Pont reported that in advance of a significant birthday in August, he was giving notice on leading the Third Sunday Service. It had started as an all-age service but was less so now and with confirmation from Damon that the families group was taking off, he felt he could step down. Damon led the congregation in thanking Ron for his commitment to the ministry team.

Damon was thanked for all his hard work, and the meeting concluded.

Ros Medd, PCC Secretary