

Annual Reports for 2023

Aim and Purpose

St. Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Vicar, Revd. Dale Gingrich, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the oversight of the Parish Rooms situated next to the vicarage. The Parish Rooms have a separate committee but its accounts fall completely within the Parish Accounts.

Membership

The PCC is a charity registered with the charity commission. Members of the PCC are trustees, either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following have served as members of the PCC:

Vicar: The Reverend Dale Gingrich

Wardens: Ms Jan Ogilvy
Mrs Barbara Walklate

Deanery Synod Representatives and therefore ex officio members of the PCC

Ms Jan Ogilvy, Mrs Jax Hegarty

Council Members

PCC Secretary

Vacant

PCC Treasurer

Mrs Lynn Brodey

Mrs Sue Barbour

Mrs. Catherine Berry (resigned due to leaving the area)

Mr Jon Carlton

Mr Steve Craggs

Mrs Liz Farmer

Mr John Hirons

Mrs. Sue Perkin-Ball (Minute Secretary)

Co-opted

Mrs Lynn Brodey

Standing Committee

This committee is required by law and has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings subject to any direction given by the Council. The PCC has decided that the membership shall be the Vicar, two Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary to the PCC (vacant) and one ordinary PCC member.

On behalf of the PCC:

The Revd. Dale Gingrich (Chair)..... Date

Review of the Year – Bloxham St Mary's Vicar's Report 2022

'Being a Christ-like Church for the Sake of God's World' becomes 'Come and See.'

The year of our Lord 2022 has brought many changes, challenges and cares into our life at Bloxham St Mary's as we have moved through the lingering effects of a pandemic, engaging and re-engaging with both the new and familiar aspects of our life together. In the last few years I was able to summarise our shared ministry and mission using a framework provided by the Diocese of Oxford that encouraged us to be contemplative, compassionate and courageous in our sharing of the good news of Jesus Christ. This year we have adopted 'Come and See' as our emphasis in the Diocese. This biblically based, short and concise title for a whole programme of initiatives is rooted in Jesus' invitation to the first disciples, who then shared those same words of welcome and hospitality for others to encounter Jesus and experience first-hand the extraordinary gift of knowing God in the flesh. (John 1:39-51)

We have had the freedom to come without as many precautions and restrictions in our gatherings for worship, prayer, song and study though the transition has taken some time and we have still kept in place some of the methods for meeting on internet platforms that became necessary during the lockdown. Worship on Sundays continued uninterrupted throughout the year with a gradual reintroduction of midweek services offered along with those available on-line. More baptisms were able to be celebrated, though with the children being a year or two older than in our pre-pandemic practice. Fifteen children and one adult were baptized along with one thanksgiving for the gift of a child this year. Four weddings were celebrated without any restriction on numbers of guests who could attend, with bells ringing, people singing and families rejoicing in being able to be together. The seventeen funerals in church or at the crematorium no longer had to be live-streamed because of attendance restrictions. By the looks of things when people came, everything seemed back to normal, though not everything was the same as before. We have been through some difficult times and pray we are a stronger community because we have endured. We were blessed that so many could come and see they were welcome and encounter God in worship and thanksgiving.

We have been frustrated by not being able to resume some of the aspects of our life together. People are more reluctant to volunteer which has meant we haven't been able to provide Messy Church and Bumps & Babies like we did before the pandemic. We have had to be creative in making do with fewer servers and chalice assistants at our main acts of worship on Sundays. Our great appreciation goes to our servers Jon Carlton, John Hiron, John Marshall and Ro Watts who enhance our worship in many and various ways, plus the dedication of Mervyn Jones for serving at 8am BCP services. We express our gratitude to Susan Hinde, Lindsay Mills, Sue Sabbagh and Pat Smith who have been chalice assistants but have resigned from that ministry in the past year, whilst we continue to give thanks for Judy Marshall, Barbara Walklate and Ro Watts for their ministry as chalice bearers. Full instruction and support are available to anyone who might feel called to participate in this ministry at St Mary's.

We are exploring ways of offering ways for Christian education and faith formation for all ages and backgrounds of people in our community. The local schools are able to hold services, concerts and other programmes in the church and we anticipate the benefits of the Building Our Future project enabling even more diverse and flexible utilization of the amazing asset we have been given in the church building and the churchyard that surrounds it. A whole crew work behind the scenes to keep the churchyard looking so inviting, helping us to be aware of our role as an Eco-Church working with Bloxham Bio-diversity and the Great Big Green Week to raise awareness so we all care for God's gift of creation. There is much to Come and See that is good, positive and encouraging as we engage with the community and world around us. May we continue to be blessed and be a blessing to those in our care and keeping, giving thanks for our churchwardens, Jan Ogilvy & Barbara Walklate, the retired clergy Michael Campling Brian Fairbank, Hazel Scarr, John & Olwen Smith, and Christine Turner, plus all those people you'll find who have written reports describing their sphere of witness and service in this Church. God has begun a great work within us and will see it to completion.

The Revd Dale Gingrich

Safeguarding

2022 has been another year in which Safeguarding has continued to embed itself into St. Mary's. Within the parish we have a very high level of trained personnel; we are making good use of the Parish Dashboard for Safeguarding which is a wonderful guide and tool and we are happily at level two (of three). We acknowledged Safeguarding Sunday last November in a quiet and understated way. I would like to thank everyone for their support of my endeavours with a special thank you to Diana Thompson for processing a considerable number of DBS checks during the year. There is still much to be accomplished but if we all work together we can get the job done.

Liz Farmer (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Fabric, Goods & Ornaments

This year has been a very quiet one on the fabric front with most of the issues being caused by the dry weather followed by heavy rain which led to some water ingress. We sought the advice of P.R. Alcock & Son who also thought it due to the sudden change in conditions.

The other main issue has been the continued disruption and petty vandalism caused by a small group of students from the Warriner School. At the time of writing the issue is being addressed by the Church Wardens and the Head of the Warriner. We are very concerned that the students seem to have a complete lack of understanding and respect for sacred places and spaces. Sadly, as I write, to avoid further vandalism inside the church, the Church is being locked at 3.00pm.

In addition to the disturbance caused by the students during services in the North Porch a large number of the floor tiles were removed and strewn in the Churchyard, happily due to the quick action by Dale in picking them up and the skill of David Gordon they have now been re-laid and the floor once more secured.

The church building and the Parish Rooms (which are co-owned with the Oxford Diocese) continue to be the principal property assets of St Mary's Church, Bloxham. Their value is recorded in the PCC accounts. The Church's property, contents and ornaments continue to be insured with Ecclesiastical Insurance and are maintained with appropriate care and attention. The vestry alarm which was causing concern last year has been deemed unnecessary - all valuables being stored in the safe. The Lightning Conductor underwent its Annual Certification.

In view of the current energy crisis the PCC decided to reduce the external church lighting and spire lighting. In consultation with David Andrews we reduced the time of the spire lighting. DA advised that we shouldn't turn the lighting off completely because of the risk of water ingress and to do so might cause permanent damage and require a completely new set of lights - obviously incurring considerable expense.

Can I again acknowledge the continued support and dedication of the Fabric Committee especially David Gordon who will be taking the lead from the APCM and who once again were responsible for the sighting and erection of the two 'constructions' for the Christmas crib figures. We are also indebted to Trevor Shepherd and Team for his work in the Churchyard - see separate report.

We look forward to more extensive changes due the activities of BOF in next year's report.

John Hiron

Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod continues to work hard in support of our Churches, providing regulation information and financial organisation. We are pleased to be able to share with everyone that the Parish Share will not be increased this year which is a relief as we negotiate increasing prices everywhere else.

In the last year a Deanery Website has been set up to enhance communication between our churches and they are keen for us all to use it to spread good news and events to all.

The last Teaching Day at St Francis in Banbury was on February 4th. Days like this are very informative and well organised. They usually deal with a couple of subjects or several parts of one

subject and are organised so that people can join the whole morning or just one hour of it. The welcome at St Francis is excellent.

Janet Ogilvy

Electoral Roll

During last year there were 84 people on the roll which will be updated prior to the APCM

Foundation Governors, Bloxham Primary School

This has been another challenging year for the staff and Governors of Bloxham Primary School. A new Head Teacher took up her post in September 2021. It soon became apparent that she was not really coping. This caused unrest and distress among the staff. She resigned at the end of April and left the school at the end of May. As she declined to take part in the subsequent enquiry by the Local Education Authority we were unable to find out exactly what went wrong. An Interim Head Teacher was appointed from June until the end of December.

There were inevitably staff resignations at the end of the 2022 academic year which gave an opportunity for some restructuring of the staff. A new curriculum was also introduced. A recruitment panel was appointed by the Governors: Ian Broome, the Chair of Governors, the Vice Chair and a Foundation Governor, supported by the Oxfordshire LA Advisor and the Diocesan Advisor. The post was advertised in July and interviews took place in September. Two of the four short listed candidates withdrew before the interviews. The two remaining candidates spent a day in school carrying out various tasks including leading Collective Worship, interacting with staff. One candidate was let go at the end of that day. The next day the remaining candidate gave a presentation and was then interviewed by the panel. It was unanimously decided that she should be offered the post, the decision was ratified by the Full Governing Body. Mrs Sarah Marshall, an experienced Head Teacher who has been working in Warwickshire, started mid-December after a handover period with the Interim Head.

In October the school had the long expected OFSTED inspection over two days.

The school was graded as Requiring Improvement. Although disappointing there were no big surprises in the report and with a few exceptions it was a fair appraisal of the school. The turbulence of the past was acknowledged, with 3 Head teachers in 18 months, a fourth due shortly, leading to lack of trust which has affected the team.

Personal development, behaviour and attitude of the children were graded as Good and the provision for children with Special Needs and Safeguarding were graded as Good.

The governors did not escape criticism with lack of oversight by both leaders and governors being a problem.

This has been a very challenging time for governors. The governing body had not met in person for over 18 months during Covid and there were several new governors. Ian Broome was appointed Chair of Governors from September 2022 and in the first year there were unprecedented problems in school.

An external review of the Governing Body took place in February 2022. It was recommended that the Governing Body was reduced in number from 17. After lengthy discussion it was agreed that the number of Foundation Governors should remain at 3 and other categories of governors reduced. The number of Governors was reduced to 12. A training session for governors took place in school in January.

The first whole school church service since Christmas 2019 was held at Easter and nativity plays were held in church before Christmas.

Claire Swan who teaches one day a week was appointed as Faith Leader from September. She resigned as a Foundation Governor in November.

My term of office came to an end in December. I had been a governor for 16 years and felt it was time for someone else to take over. It has been a huge privilege to serve the school in that capacity

and one I have enjoyed very much. I am very pleased to still be welcomed into school as a volunteer.

Diana Thompson

Reports on the Worship

Bloxham Church Music

CHOIR

What a pleasure it has been to oversee the music in St Mary's Bloxham during 2022/23.

We are very happy to have several new additions: Vikki, Sophie and Liz (Wood) Hope you all stick around.

We have had a few members temporarily side-lined, and hope that Roger, Marian and Christine will soon be back with us on a regular basis. You are missed!

Many thanks to David Odell on his sterling work on sorting out all the choir paraphernalia in anticipation of the BOF works. Much appreciated.

Everyone seems to be happy to be back in the choir stalls. I am considering moving the organ console back to its original position in the nave.

MUSIC GROUP

First of all, many thanks for those who have been involved with Music Group this year, it couldn't happen without you!

I have introduced a new book as a core for our song list going forward which I hope will be productive.

We may need to invest in a couple more microphones if singer numbers grow any more, or a small mixer to add additional mics

Looking forward to having new audio visual so that we don't have to use the hymn book so much at cafe church!

David Ball

Servers & Chalice Bearers

See Review of the Year

Youth & Children's Ministries

Bloxham Boys' Brigade – Faith in Young People

Annual Review 2022

Membership as at 31 December:

Anchors (5-8)	11 (14)
Juniors (7-11)	11 (11)
Company (11-14)	4 (5)
Seniors (14-18)	3 (3)
Officers	9 (7)
Adult helpers	4 (5)

Total	42 (45)
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Competitions

BB national competitions were re-established after the Covid19 Hiatus. Teams from 1st Bloxham entered the Juniors International Team Games, Company Top Teams, and Company Masterteams.

We are delighted to report that one of our teams was placed 1st in the UK in the Company Top Team

competition, putting Bloxham firmly on the map! A picture that was coloured in by one of our Juniors was picked to form part of a special Boys' Brigade card presented to our patron, HRH The Queen, to mark her Platinum Jubilee.

Community

During the past 12 months several young people have gained valuable leadership experience by assisting our leaders in delivering our activities.

Camping

There was no Camp in 2022 but there are plans for a weekend camp for Juniors, Company and Seniors in June 2023.

Awards

Over 30 boys received awards for service and achievement at our 14th annual awards evening which was held at The Warriner School in July 2021. Our guest was Mrs Jennifer Childs the former captain of the 1st Deddington company.

Church

In addition, to our weekly devotions, leaders and members of Bloxham BB participated in Church services organised by St Mary's Church and Bloxham Baptist Church.

Leadership

We were delighted to welcome 4 new leaders in the group including Craig Frazer who joined us from the 3rd Inverness company and Max Hart who on turning 18 became an officer cadet.

Nick Westbury

Bumps & Babies

Bumps and Babies struggled through ²⁰2022 with fewer volunteers than was the optimum number. We had less visitors than in earlier years-maybe only 2 or 3 babies-possibly due to the after effects of Covid. Sometimes there were no visitors.

We volunteers met several times to discuss the situation-how to recruit more volunteers, and to attract more visitors.

Finally, a new volunteer came along who could update our posters and create a Facebook page for the group. Once this was done, we decided to relaunch the group in January 2023, and even invested in some new sensory toys

However, more volunteers left after Christmas and we were not able to carry on.

Sadly, we have had to suspend Bumps and Babies until we have at least 4 more volunteers.

Margaret Craggs

Messy Church

See Review of the Year

Other Reports

Bells

We started having regular practices again in October 2022. We have managed to ring all eight bells every Sunday aided by Colin & Simon Lee from Adderbury who come every Sunday.

Our three learners are making good progress and ring every Sunday. Last Sunday, when Colin & Simon could not turn up, we rang all eight bells with a Bloxham band!

I put a "Ring for the King" advert in the January Broadsheet, and four people wrote to me to say they would like to learn to ring. I have given them all a lesson, so things are looking promising for the future.

Alan Griffin

Building Our Future

The teams working on Building Our Future have continued to progress the project, though the obstacles presented by the economy in a post-Covid/Ukraine War world have once again extended project timelines.

We are now at a position where detailed design work for the "West End Works" (i.e. toilets, vestry and kitchen behind decorative screens) has been completed and we have selected a preferred building contractor. Having raised nearly £300,000 for this phase of the project (both in cash donations and successful grant applications) we were faced with very significant cost escalations compared with initial estimates. Even with some de-scoping of the specification, the cost is likely to exceed £390,000. So, a further phase of Fundraising (led by Richard Jones, who has taken over from Sir Tony Baldry as fundraising lead) has taken (and is taking) place. We have engaged some professional help and met with the DAC (Diocesan Planning Authority) to remove barriers to us being able to start construction. We have (March 2023) received PCC approval to enter into building contracts allowing construction work to start in April 2023. Although a huge amount remains to be done, this is a great step forward in making our long-planned improvements to the church a reality. Although the West End works have been the main focus of attention, we have recently received approval for a proof of concept to reduce the length of a pew and make it movable, an important part of making more flexible use of the space the church has to offer. A formal application to the DAC for works to allow livestreaming of services from within the church has also just been granted and work on this will begin in the coming months.

We thank the band of heroic volunteers, and the PCC, who have stuck with us as we continue the work make BOF a reality and make St Mary's a truly welcoming village focus for worshippers and anyone who wishes to use and enjoy our building.

Vicar in Sponsored Motorglider Flight

On the evening of the Bloxham Fun Day (11th June) Rev Dale Gingrich and Jon Carlton headed for Sherington Airfield where (with the help of some gliding club colleagues) Dale was safely strapped into Jon's Grob109 motorglider. The intrepid duo took off and, in perfect flying conditions, carried out a short trip around the local area before heading towards Bloxham and St Mary's church. At precisely 6pm, the motorglider (keeping strictly to permissible minimum altitude) approached the church spire and performed a few low-level circuits around the tower before returning to base. The occupants of the aircraft could clearly see the Hook Norton Brass Band and participants in the church garden party as they circled the tower. The flight had been well publicised and was noticed by a number of Bloxham residents. Once the aircraft had landed safely, Dale appeared none the worse for his ordeal (in fact he may even have enjoyed it!). Importantly, the sponsored flight raised over £1700 to add to the funds which FoSM are collecting for the BOF project.

Jon Carlton - Joint Project-Lead

Church Flowers

We have a dedicated team of people providing flower arrangements for the church throughout the year. Positive feedback from members of the congregation and many visitors shows how much the team's work is appreciated. The team enjoys the opportunity to come together to decorate the church for the major festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas. We would like to thank Dan and Jenny Roberts for the beautiful flowers they kindly grow each year to help decorate the church for Harvest festival and Christmastide. Following many years of dedicated service Catherine Berry and Kate Phipps stepped down from the flower team this year. We would like to thank them for their hard work and commitment to the team. Thank you to members of the Flower Team for their dedication and service to the church over the past year. We are always pleased to welcome new people. If anyone is interested in joining, please do contact Lesley or Becky.

Lesley Mills and Becky Horton.

Churchyard

St Mary's Churchyard Report 2022

Work maintaining and improving the Churchyard continued through 2022 on Wednesday mornings carried out by the volunteer team comprising Trevor Shepherd, Andrew Whiffin, Chris Field and Graham Higgins. During the year Paul Emery joined the group and further assistance was provided by David Carr, Peter Bolt, David Odell and Sharon and Sarah (The Baker Girls).

The concept of maintaining areas of the Churchyard in different ways continued in 2022.

Grass Lawn areas were mown regularly; grass areas with tombs, headstones and graves were mown and strimmed regularly. Sparse areas beneath trees were cut less frequently and wild areas were left untouched through the year with the exception of maintaining mown trail paths to give access to see the wild flowers growing there. In 2022 we again left another small area in the middle of the Churchyard to go wild. In areas where spring flowers were growing - mowing was left until the end of April. As part of No Mow May - two areas of grass were left uncut for a month.

In autumn, the Churchyard was again featured as part of the Great Big Green Week with an evening session of moth trapping and an invitation for people to collect free 2020 leaf mould.

When not cutting grass, we continued to level out sunken graves with available soil and sow grass seed. The molehills are also a useful source of soil for levelling. Grass growing over path edges was trimmed back and this was laid over sunken areas. Displaced or uneven paving stones were levelled and some leaning headstones were straightened up and secured. Stones and fallen twigs and branches are picked up all year round. Other work that goes on throughout the year is removing ivy growing on walls and on memorials, digging out self-sown tree roots and removing weeds growing through the paths. We continued to collect fallen leaves in the autumn and winter to create heaps to produce leaf mould. All of the 2020 leaves have gone, taken during TGBGW. We have 3 large piles of 2021 leaves which will be available for collection in Autumn 2023. The remainder of the arisings from the Churchyard are placed into brown wheeled bins and collected by Cherwell District Council for recycling into compost, much of it being grass cuttings, hedge and tree prunings and fallen twigs and small branches which come from the many trees in the Churchyard.

In 2022 Cherwell District Council introduced charges for brown bins and certificates were purchased for the 9 bins that we use in the Churchyard.

The display of seasonal flowers starting with snowdrops in January followed by primroses, daffodils, tulips, bluebells etc. is always worth a visit to the Churchyard whether walking or to just sit and relax/reflect in a mostly quiet place.

We can always do with more help in the Churchyard, especially during the Summer, so if you would like to join the volunteers either on a regular basis, or occasionally, then please get in touch.

For any matters relating to the Churchyard please contact Trevor Shepherd on 01295 720640 or email a.trevor.shepherd@btinternet.com.

Trevor Shepherd

Eco Church

Eco Church is an award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the Gospel is good news for God's earth.

It is administered through a detailed on-line survey of a church's activities, covering the following areas:

Worship and Teaching

Management of Church Buildings

Land

Community and Global Engagement

Lifestyle.

This survey covers a very broad spectrum ranging across the songs we sing, the food we serve, the energy we use, the ethics of our investments, the wildlife that finds a home on our land, the water

that flushes our loos; and so on. In the Lifestyle category these challenges are extended to our own personal lives and behaviours.

You get points for your responses to the survey. When you reach the first threshold you would get a bronze award - which can then be improved to a silver or gold.

I have now completed our survey - and it just requires a final review before I submit it. Based on this we should receive a bronze award.

Our weakest category is "Lifestyle" - so the major focus of our next phase of Eco Church will be to broaden our approach for this so that we can then work towards a silver award at some stage.

Neil Hegarty

Friends of St. Mary's. Bloxham

2022 saw the Friends' 20th birthday, marked by a celebratory dinner at Tudor Hall School in October, and was another productive year of fundraising.

Since our founding in 2002 the Friends have, thanks to the generosity of our supporters, raised over £330,000, made grants to the PCC of over £225,000 and have funded spire repairs, windows restoration and protection, as well as a new sound system and a major contribution to the new heating system. We continue to build up funds for the imminent new WCs and kitchen facilities at the West End of the church building, as part of our commitment to the "Building our Future" project and its aim of making improvements to the building so that it can be used by more people, more of the time.

At 31 December 2022 reserves were £17,525. 2022 accounts are yet to be finalised but indicate an annual surplus of over £13,500 in the year, before grants. In 2022 we made a grant to St Mary's PCC of £4,500 as a contribution to maintenance and insurance costs related to the church building and have committed to providing a grant at this level (increased from £2,500 previously) each year.

Fundraising events in the year included a sponsored glider flight, fundraising at Bloxham Fun Day and a Christmas Quiz at the Warriner School.

The Friends continue to benefit from a committed and enthusiastic Committee, a stable and loyal membership base, and from the generosity of members of our 200 Club. The 200 Club had another very strong year, generating, net, just over £7,500.

2023 is a Christmas Tree Festival year. The event is due to take place 1-3 December. Planning starts with a kick off meeting on 1 March. We will be making adjustments to our format to accommodate the installation of kitchen and WCs in the church earlier in the year!

Many thanks to all our members and supporters, for all that you've helped us achieve for the church building and our community over the last two decades!

Ian Myson, Chair – Friends of St Mary's, Bloxham

Mothers Union

Mothers Union in Bloxham continues to thrive alongside three other branches in our part of the Oxford Diocese, two in Bicester and Bodicote. The enrolment of two of three pre COVID new members finally took place last year, additionally, at the same service we were able to welcome into membership two members from elsewhere who had moved to the area. Unfortunately, we still have one enrolment outstanding when that member is returns to better health. There are two Diocesan members who regularly attend our meetings, both making valuable contributions to the life of the branch and in January we were delighted to welcome back a past member bringing our membership to nineteen.

'Transformation Now' continues to be the Mothers Union theme and we have been pleased to welcome local speakers from Good News for All (previously known as Gideons), Standing in the Gap, (an early intervention organisation working with pre-school and primary school children),

Transforming Lives for Good (helping struggling children find hope and a future) and a Street Pastor who regularly serves in Banbury. These have all been very appropriate within that theme. Whilst the

demographic of the membership precludes many of us from actively supporting such organisations we nevertheless can support through prayer.

At Mothering Sunday and Christmas, we have continued to provide cards to send to Bullingdon Prison, for Mothering Sunday they are all blank for prisoners to send to their mothers but at Christmas many are for the prisoners to receive. These continue to be much appreciated and whilst thanks go to all who helped write them a special note should be made of the 60 cards written by one of the oldest members.

On a less positive note, fundraising during the past year has been less fruitful. A good amount was raised but the main fundraising event, Tea and Cake in June, was only attended by members which meant that nearly all monies raised were given by those who had worked to provide the refreshments. We were very thankful that our support for Away From It All holidays, the MU charity which gives the opportunity of a break to those experiencing difficulties and stress in family life, could continue. We are hoping to find an alternative fundraising plan for this year, which faces the additional issue of the critical financial circumstances many are experiencing.

New blood is needed for our branch committee, as with so many organisations, and we are exploring ways of devolving some responsibilities to members without committee membership being required. Support for the branch meetings is excellent and the fellowship is tangible. Although members can't always be practically involved in initiatives they are certainly supported in prayer and our 2023 programme offers new stimulation and challenge as well as our continued involvement with Clewer Initiative on Modern Slavery, marking of Thy Kingdom Come prayer time between Ascension and Pentecost and the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence. Together we join our actions with prayer for the work of Mothers Union Worldwide.

Pat Smith, Branch Leader

Parish Breakfast

Our second Sunday get-togethers continue to be well attended - we usually have about 30 lovely, friendly people eating, drinking coffee and chatting. They are also incredibly generous in supporting our chosen charities. Recently we've been raising money for local food banks and, on a particularly successful Sunday, for the Turkish/Syrian Earthquake Appeal. We really appreciate all your support. If anyone would like to have a go at hosting Breakfast (we occasionally disappear at the same time!) just come and have a chat.

Thank you for making it all worthwhile.

Pat Angel and Liz Gordon

St. Mary's Parish Rooms

The results for 2022 continued to show the effects of the Covid restrictions on lettings income when some groups remained cautious. Both St Mary's Thursday Club and the Bridge Club usually meet weekly providing a major contribution to income, but both delayed their return. During the year Bloxham Parish Council moved their twice monthly meetings to the Jubilee Hall, partly to maintain social distancing measures, and the Garden Club closed due to lack of support. Fortunately, there were no unexpected costs regarding the maintenance of the building. However, in 2023 the refurbishment of the exterior of the building should be considered.

Reverend Dale Gingrich, Liz Farmer, Becky Horton and Jan Ogilvy – Parish Rooms Committee

Pat Angel

Soup Saturday

Soup Saturday is a Church outreach event, launched in January 2000 and normally held in the Parish Rooms on the first Saturday of each month from September until May.

Until the Pandemic, between thirty and forty people were attending each session, enjoying the variety of homemade soups and desserts as well as the social interaction. It restarted in March 2022 after a gap of two years but unfortunately the summer break was extended until November as several of the regular helpers had Covid or were away in September and October.

The charge of £4 per person, increased in November from £3, covers the costs incurred on the day, and an annual donation of £60 towards heating and lighting in the Parish Rooms. Any surplus builds up over the course of the year and is donated to various local charities.

Fewer people attended in December because of illness and the sessions in both January and February were cancelled because of a shortage of helpers. However, because there were still some funds remaining in the Soup Saturday A/C, we were able to donate £107 to Katharine House Hospice at the end of the year and £120 to "Driving for Ukraine", a local charity delivering humanitarian aid to the Polish/Ukrainian border.

Many thanks to all who have helped during the last year, providing delicious home-cooked food as well as setting and clearing tables, serving, washing up etc. Soup Saturday would not have been possible without them - Susan Jones, Catherine Berry, Elizabeth Jones, Grace Guo, Jan Ogilvy, Helen Auld, Hannah Auld, Bee Myson and John Marshall.

Finally, thank you to everyone who comes to Soup Saturday and makes it such an enjoyable occasion.

Judy Marshall

St. Mary's Thursday Club

St Marys Thursday club has 11 members, 10 living in Bloxham and 1 lady living in Milcombe.

We have a waiting list of 2 people.

Unfortunately, we have been given notice from the minibus which transports our members to the club and Bee Myson (trustee on the committee) is seeking out alternatives.

Our activities continue to be fun with bingo, board games, armchair exercises and Oxford Museum visit bringing items for reminiscing. Our members also love singing and listening to music.

Our volunteers help out on a rota basis and help set up the parish rooms, provide a listening ear, make cups of tea and wash up.

We continue to celebrate members' birthdays with a small gift and a cake and every week. We all enjoy each other's company.

Outside caterers provided a delicious cold finger buffet at Christmas and alternate years the club participates in the Christmas Tree Festival.

The club provides a safe, warm and relaxing environment with lots of fun and laughter.

Lynn Johnson, Coordinator, SMTC.

Tea & Toast

Our Tea and Toast Family have enjoyed another very happy year in the Parish Rooms. Thanks to all our helpers we have been able cover our duties well and swap with each other when holidays or grandchildren beckon.

Our breakfast together is much appreciated by our older members. However, of late we haven't seen any children. Some of our younger members have grown up and are moving on to other things and mothers are returning to work themselves. We will be readvertising soon to make sure that we are reaching out to families new to the area but for now we move into Spring as we are.

Jan Ogilvy

Financial documentation and reports

See separate documents.

Lynn Brodey

St Mary's Church Bloxham

Annual Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2022

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Balance Sheet

Notes to the financial statements

LEB
12-Mar-23

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE P.C.C.
OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, BLOXHAM**

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 & 2, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, and you consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Regulations, that section 144(2) of the Act does not apply and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under Section 145 of The Act, to follow procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under Section 145(5) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance 2006 edition. The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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In connection with my examination of the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2022, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - A. to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Act, and
 - B. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and 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.

EXAMINER

A.I.L. Wells FCA
A.I.L. WELLS

Date

13/5/2023

St Mary's Church Bloxham

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Statement of financial activities

2021 £		Note	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Incoming resources						
170,762	Voluntary income	3	63,836		74,966	138,802
40	Activities for generating funds	3	414		1,755	2,169
13,636	Church activities	3	8,918	3,200		12,118
330	Investment income	3	113		301	414
515	Other incoming resources	3	407	-	13,999	14,406
<u>185,283</u>	Total incoming resources		<u>73,688</u>	<u>3,200</u>	<u>91,021</u>	<u>167,909</u>
Resources expended						
61,172	Church activities	4	54,564		3,292	57,856
21,770	Running Exps Incl Governance Costs	4	18,925	2,519	771	22,215
119,020	Major Capital Expenditure	4	455	1,506	26,460	28,421
<u>201,962</u>	Total resources expended		<u>73,944</u>	<u>4,025</u>	<u>30,523</u>	<u>108,492</u>
(16,679)	Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		(256)	(825)	60,498	59,417
-	Transfers between funds		(1)	1	-	-
(16,679)	Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains/(losses)		(257)	(824)	60,498	59,417
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
691	Gains/(losses) on investment assets	7	-	-	(376)	(376)
<u>(15,988)</u>	Net movement in funds		<u>(257)</u>	<u>(824)</u>	<u>60,122</u>	<u>59,041</u>
335,586	Total funds brought forward from previous year		205,222	9,071	105,305	319,598
<u>319,598</u>	Total funds carried forward		<u>204,965</u>	<u>8,247</u>	<u>165,427</u>	<u>378,639</u>
For Information Only						
	Take out Value of Parish Rooms		(167,778)			
	True value of general funds available to use		<u>37,187</u>			

St Mary's Church Bloxham

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2022

2021 £		Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Fixed assets						
167,778	Tangible assets (Parish Rooms)	6	167,778	-	-	167,778
4,474	Investments	7	-	-	4,098	4,098
<u>172,252</u>	Total fixed assets		<u>167,778</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,098</u>	<u>171,876</u>
Current assets						
9,600	Debtors (Incl Gift Aid Due)		3,317	-	2,531	5,848
141,046	Cash in hand and at bank	10	33,870	8,247	160,742	202,859
<u>150,646</u>	Total current assets		<u>37,187</u>	<u>8,247</u>	<u>163,273</u>	<u>208,707</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Accruals)						
(3,300)			-	-	(1,944)	(1,944)
<u>147,346</u>	Net current assets		<u>37,187</u>	<u>8,247</u>	<u>161,329</u>	<u>206,763</u>
<u>319,598</u>	Net assets		<u>204,965</u>	<u>8,247</u>	<u>165,427</u>	<u>378,639</u>
Funds of the church						
Unrestricted funds						
205,222	General fund		204,965	-	-	204,965
9,071	Designated fund	9	-	8,247	-	8,247
<u>214,293</u>			<u>204,965</u>	<u>8,247</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>213,212</u>
105,305	Restricted funds	8	-	-	165,427	165,427
<u>319,598</u>	Total funds of the church		<u>204,965</u>	<u>8,247</u>	<u>165,427</u>	<u>378,639</u>
For Information Only						
	Take out Value of Parish Rooms		(167,778)			
	True value of general funds available to use		<u>37,187</u>			

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

Rev'd Dale Gingrich

Lynn Brodey

15th March 2023

Chairman

Treasurer

St Mary's Church Bloxham

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Notes to the accounts

1 Basis of preparation

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102).

The Accounts are drawn up under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of investment assets at market value. The Accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. These Accounts do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

2 Accounting policies

Funds

Unrestricted funds are general funds available for the general objectives of the church.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the PCC for particular purposes.

Restricted funds can only be used for the purposes for which they have been given, within the objectives of the church. The cost of raising and administering such funds is charged against those specific funds. The aim and use of each fund is explained later in the Notes.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA (Statement of Financial Accounts) when the church becomes legally entitled to the income and when the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty.

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving is recognised only when received. Grants & legacies are recognised as soon as the PCC becomes aware of its legal entitlement and the amount due is quantifiable with reasonable certainty.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is accounted for when the gift is received, not when the tax refund is received.

When incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising income) the incoming resources and the related resources expended are accounted for gross in the SOFA.

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the church or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for use by the church are included in the SOFA as incoming resources when receivable.

Rental income from letting the Parish Rooms is accounted for when it falls due.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable and includes any recoverable tax.

Realised gains are accounted for on assets held for the church's own use and are taken into account at the time of sale.

Resources expended

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis & is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay for goods or services.

All costs have been directly attributed to the various categories within the SOFA.

Any general support costs have been allocated across activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources based on an allocation of actual costs.

As the PCC is not registered for VAT, all expenditure is shown inclusive of VAT.

Governance costs include the cost of the preparation of the Annual Accounts, the cost of PCC meetings and the legal cost of advice on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants and charitable giving are accounted for when paid over or when awarded, if the award creates a binding obligation on the PCC, provided that there are no conditions to be met relating to the grant which remain in the control of the church.

Parish Share is accounted for when paid except that any Parish Share unpaid at the end of the financial year is provided for in the accounts as a constructive obligation, although not a liability, and is included in the balance sheet as a liability.

Investments

Investments are shown on 31 December at market value.

Both realised and unrealised gains are shown under 'other recognised gains/(losses)' section of the SOFA.

St Mary's Church Bloxham

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Notes to the accounts

2021		2022			
Total funds	3 Analysis of Incoming Resources	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds
£		£	£	£	£
	Voluntary Income				
35,382	Tax - efficient planned giving (excl. tax)	33,714	-	2,195	35,909
2,143	Collections at Services incl White Envelopes	3,922	-	-	3,922
4,101	Service Collections & Donations in aid of other Charities	310	-	-	310
1,285	Spire Lighting Donations	1,305	-	-	1,305
49,604	All other Giving & Voluntary Income	7,618	-	19,644	27,262
17,888	Gift Aid Tax Recovered / Due	10,680	-	3,327	14,007
52,420	* Grants Received (see analysis below)	6,265	-	49,800	56,065
8,139	Legacies	23	-	-	23
<u>170,762</u>		<u>63,836</u>		<u>74,966</u>	<u>138,803</u>
	Activities for generating funds				
40	Fund Raising Activities (Table Sale/Bike Ride/BOF Fundraising)	414	-	1,500	1,914
	Church Heritage Tours (in aid of BOF)	-	-	255	255
<u>40</u>		<u>414</u>		<u>1,755</u>	<u>2,169</u>
	Church Activities				
9,624	Fees - weddings, funerals etc	8,918	-	-	8,918
	Hiring out Church Facilities	-	-	-	-
4,012	Parish Rooms	-	3,200	-	3,200
<u>13,636</u>		<u>8,918</u>	<u>3,200</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,118</u>
	Investment Income				
330	Bank/HMRC Interest/Dividends etc	113	-	301	414
<u>330</u>		<u>113</u>		<u>301</u>	<u>414</u>
	Other incoming resources				
18	Income from Mission Activities (Tea&Toast/Bumps&Babies)	407		50	457
	Income from Mission Activities (Parish Breakfast/Soup Saturday)	-		602	602
495	Others (Incl Bell Ringing & Flower Fund)	-	-	260	260
	DCMS Scheme (VAT Rebate on BOF Capital Works-Heating Stage)	-	-	13,087	13,087
2	Other general	-	-	-	-
<u>515</u>		<u>407</u>		<u>13,999</u>	<u>14,406</u>
<u>185,282</u>	TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>73,689</u>	<u>3,200</u>	<u>91,021</u>	<u>167,910</u>

* Sources of Grant Funding

The Friends of St Mary's raises funds for the beautification, preservation and restoration of the church
The organisation is a registered charity, not under the control of the PCC

Grants received by the PCC during the course of the year:

The Friends of St Mary's (Annual Grant)	£ 4,500
Oxford Diocesan DB (Energy Grant)	£ 1,765
Benefact Trust (All Churches Trust) (BOF Grant)	£ 4,500
J&R Howard Charitable Trust (BOF Grant)	£ 2,000
TBH Brunner Charitable Trust (BOF Grant for Medieval Rood Screen)	£ 1,500
Ormande Charitable Trust (BOF Grant)	£ 800
National Lottery Heritage Fund (BOF Heritage Grant)	£ 10,000
Garfield Weston Foundation (BOF Grant)	£ 20,000
Bloxham Feoffees (BOF Grant)	10,000
Banbury Charities (BOF Grant)	1,000
	<u>£ 56,065</u>

St Mary's Church Bloxham

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Notes to the accounts

2021	Total funds	2022			Total funds
		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	
£	£	£	£	£	£
4	4 Analysis of resources expended				
	Church activities				
929	* Mission Giving & Donations (see analysis below)	800	-	602	1,402
4,101	Service Collections/Donations paid to other Charities	310	-	-	310
51,882	Parish Share	51,975	-	-	51,975
4,160	Organists & Music Director Fees / Ministry Exps	1,479	-	2,691	4,170
<u>61,172</u>		<u>54,564</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,292</u>	<u>57,857</u>
	Church Running Expenses (Incl Governance)				
299	Mission & Evangelism Costs	516	4	56	576
2,714	General Maint Repairs/Contracts + Churchyard	584	-	561	1,146
7,255	Insurance	7,398	-	-	7,398
540	Organ, Choir / Church Music	484	-	-	484
734	Church requisites	603	-	154	757
737	Printing, Stationery, Postage, Web, Books	672	-	-	672
1,786	Photocopier Rental / Exps (incl Benefice allocation)	2,497	-	-	2,497
578	Miscellaneous (inc BT contract)	620	-	-	620
4,879	Utility Bills - Heating, Lighting & Water	5,551	-	-	5,551
2,249	Parish Rooms	-	2,516	-	2,516
<u>21,770</u>		<u>18,925</u>	<u>2,519</u>	<u>771</u>	<u>22,215</u>
	Major Capital Expenditure				
-		-	-	-	-
3,630	Fabric costs	455	1,506	780	2,741
78,298	Building our Future Project (BOF - Healing Stage)	-	-	-	-
37,093	Building our Future Project (BOF)	-	-	25,680	25,680
<u>119,020</u>		<u>455</u>	<u>1,506</u>	<u>26,460</u>	<u>28,421</u>
<u>201,962</u>	TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>73,944</u>	<u>4,025</u>	<u>30,524</u>	<u>108,493</u>

* Mission Giving & Donations Analysis:

From the PCC:

DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal	200.00
Christian Aid	200.00
St Mary's Thursday Club	200.00
Bloxham Boys Brigade	200.00

From Soup Saturday:

Driving to Ukraine	107.90
Katharine House Hospice	118.70
Bumps & Babies (for new toys)	50.00

From Parish Breakfast:

Farming Community Network	65.00
The Royal British Legion	45.00
Banbury Food Bank	60.00
BYHP	95.00
MU (Away from it All Charity)	60.00

£ 1,401.60

5 Trustee remuneration and expenses

No members of the PCC received any remuneration for their work on the PCC. The clergy, who is an ex officio member receives a stipend but is not remunerated for his service on the PCC.

6 Tangible fixed assets

Total		Freehold
£		Land & Buildings
£		£
167,778	64.53% equity share in the Parish Rooms	167,778
<u>167,778</u>	At 31 December 2022	<u>167,778</u>

St Mary's Church Bloxham

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Notes to the accounts

7 Investments

	Value at 31 December 2021 £	Value at 31 December 2022 £	Gain/(Loss) £
The Bellringers Fund - CCLA	4,222	3,832	(390)
Listed on London Stock Exchange -Lloyds TSB (Bells)	252	266	13
	<u>4,474</u>	<u>4,098</u>	<u>(376)</u>

8 Restricted funds

	Fund balances brought forward £	Transfers & Incoming resources £	Resources expended / transferred £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £
Children's Ministry/Outreach	6	50	(56)	0	0
Bell Fund	3492	160	0	0	3,652
Bell Fund (Investments)	4474	0	0	-376	4,098
Ministry fund	2,691	0	(2,691)	0	0
BOF (Incl 2022 Gift Aid not yet rec'd)	92,167	90,109	(25,680)	0	156,596
Parish Breakfast	0	325	(325)	0	0
Churchyard	561	0	(561)	0	0
Fabric Fund	780	0	(780)	0	0
Flowers	1,134	100	(154)	0	1,080
Soup Saturday	0	277	(277)	0	0
	<u>105,305</u>	<u>91,021</u>	<u>(30,524)</u>	<u>(376)</u>	<u>165,427</u>

9 Designated funds

	Fund balances brought forward £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended or transferred £	Gains and losses	Fund balances carried forward £
BOF (Building our Future) Project	0	0	0		0
Parish Rooms	6,522	3,200	(2,516)		7,207
Fabric Fund	2,500	0	(1,506)		994
Children's Ministry/Outreach	0	50	(4)		46
Soup Saturday	49	0	(49)		0
	<u>9,071</u>	<u>3,250</u>	<u>(4,074)</u>		<u>8,247</u>

10 Cash funds and location

	Unrestricted fund	Designated fund	Restricted fund	Total
General Funds	33,870			33,870
Bell fund			3,652	3,652
Soup Saturday			-	-
Ministry fund			-	-
Children's Ministry/Outreach		46		46
Fabric fund		994		994
Building Our Future (BOF)			156,010	156,010
Flower fund			1,080	1,080
Churchyard			-	-
Parish rooms *		7,207		7,207
	<u>33,870</u>	<u>8,247</u>	<u>160,742</u>	<u>202,859</u>

* Not under direct control of the PCC Treasurer

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1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - A. to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Act, and
 - B. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and 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.

EXAMINER

A.I.L. Wells FCA

A.I.L. WELLS

Date

13/5/2023