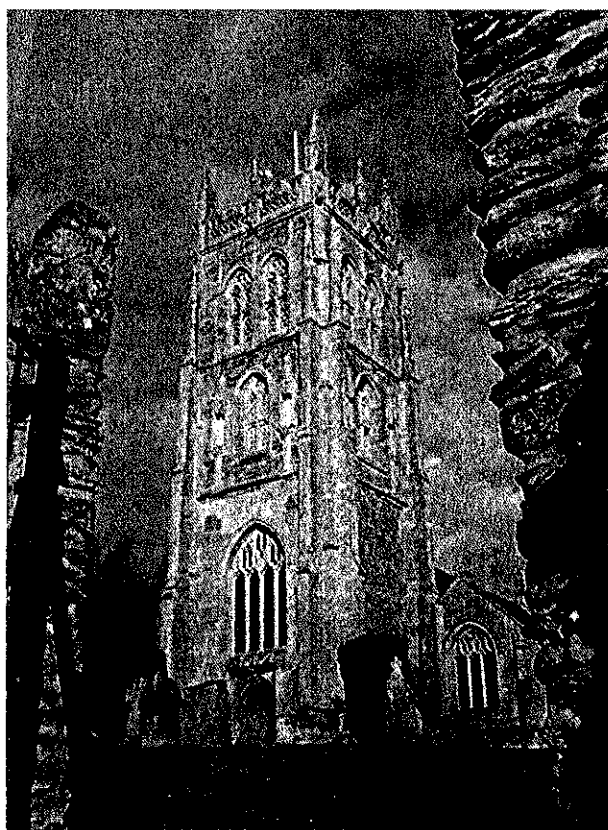


**Church of
St. Mary the Virgin
Kingston St. Mary**



**Annual Reports and Financial Statements of the
Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31st December 2024**

**Church of
St. Mary the Virgin
Kingston St. Mary**

Rector – Rev'd. Jim Cox

PCC Treasurer

Mr. J Earp

Tall Trees

Cheddon Road

Taunton, TA2 7QT

Independent Examiner

Mr M Shaw

2 Waterleaze

Taunton

Correspondence Address:

The Benefice Office, The Vicarage, Kingston St. Mary,

Taunton, Somerset. TA2 8HW

Bankers:

National Westminster Bank plc

49 North Street, Taunton

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Kingston St Mary has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in the promotion, within the ecclesiastical parish, of the whole mission of the church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the responsibility for the maintenance of the Church of St Mary the Virgin, its services and the surrounding graveyard.

Administration

St Mary's Church is situated in Church Lane, Kingston St Mary. TA2 8HW. The Benefice Office, which serves all four Parishes, is located at the Vicarage, Kingston St Mary. TA2 8HW. Telephone 01823 451257.

MEMBERS OF THE PCC

Members are either elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), or are ex-officio, in accordance with the Church Representation rules.

The following served as members of the PCC during 2024:

Ex-officio

Rector Rev'd Jim Cox

Churchwardens Mrs Jan Holmes
 (vacancy)

Representatives on the Deanery Synod (2 permitted)

Mrs Julia Hammett
Mrs Barbara Stokes

Elected members	Mrs Dorothy Earp	Secretary, re-elected 2024
	Mrs Lucy Hay	retired and re-elected 2023
	Mrs Rosalie Hughes	retired and re-elected 2023
	Mrs Margaret Way	Vice Chair elected 2023
	Mr. John Earp	Treasurer - Ex Officio

Committees

The Standing Committee is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings subject to any direction given by the PCC

Members: Rector – Rev'd Jim Cox
 Mrs Jan Holmes
 Mrs Margaret Way
 Mrs Dorothy Earp

KINGSTON ST MARY PARISH CHURCH
Annual Meeting of Parishioners in Kingston St Mary church

1st June 2025 at 11.00am
Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Acceptance of the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 21st April 2024
3. Election of two churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

at 11.00am on Sunday 1st June 2025
Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Attendance list
3. Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 21st April 2024
4. Election of parochial representatives of the laity to
 - a) The Deanery Synod (TWO positions allocated to our parish)
 - b) The Parochial Church Council
5. Appointment of an independent examiner of the accounts of the PCC
6. To receive the reports as printed in the report pack:

Rector	pg 7
Churchwardens	pg 8
Finance	back pages
PCC Secretary	pg 9
Electoral Roll	pg 9
Safeguarding	pg 10
Deanery Synod	pg 10
Other reports	pg 11-16
7. Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults – to adopt the Benefice Safeguarding policy
(Full copy of Safeguarding policy pages 16-18)
8. Any other questions
9. Other reports
10. Closing prayer

KINGSTON ST MARY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners on Sunday 21st April 2024 in St Mary's church, Kingston St Mary

Present: Rev Jim Cox, Margaret Way (Chair), Rosalie Hughes, Julia Hammett, Jan Holmes, Joan Leahy, John Leahy, Alison Palmer, David Way, Lucy Hay, Rhoda White, Ralph Willoughby-Foster, Anne Bull

Apologies: John Earp, Dorothy Earp, Carla Griffith, Carol Carter, Barbara Stokes

1. Margaret welcomed everyone to the meeting and Jim gave a prayer.
2. The minutes of the last meeting held on 30th April 2023 were approved unanimously
3. **Election of Churchwardens**

There was only one nomination for Churchwarden. Jan Holmes was proposed by Dorothy Earp and seconded by Margaret. Jan was elected unanimously and thanked for all her hard work in 2023

KINGSTON ST MARY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Council held on Sunday 21st April 2024, following morning service

1. Margaret welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Present:** Rev Jim Cox, Margaret Way (Chair), Rosalie Hughes, Julia Hammett, Jan Holmes, Joan Leahy, John Leahy, David Way, Lucy Hay, Rhoda White, Ralph Willoughby-Foster, Anne Bull, Alison Palmer (left early)
Apologies: Dorothy Earp, John Earp, Barbara Stokes, Carla Griffith, Carol Carter.

3. The minutes of the meeting on 30th April 2023 were approved unanimously

4. Election of Deanery Synod

Nominee	Proposer	Secunder
Barbara Stokes	Lucy Hay	Margaret Way
Julia Hammett	Jan Holmes	Lucy Hay

Parochial Church Council

Nominee	Proposer	Secunder
Dorothy Earp	Margaret Way	Jan Holmes

5. Appointment of an independent Examiner. Mike Shaw has agreed to continue in this role. He is much appreciated and a letter of thanks will be sent to him.

6. Reports

6.1 Clergy report: Margaret thanked Jim for his report. He was asked if he had any comments to make on his appointment to Rector of the Benefice. He replied that he had been concerned that there would be a lot more driving, but he was managing to cycle most of the time. He is also still hoping for a 0.5 position to assist his workload.

6.2 Churchwardens Report: Jan was thanked for her report. Since then, the chancel window has been repaired and replaced and pointing and repairs have been ongoing on the tower.

6.3 Treasurers Report. John was thanked in his absence for his hard work. He has asked that any questions could be put to him via Dorothy.

6.4 Secretary's report: Dorothy was thanked in her absence for her hard work during the year.

6.5 Electoral Roll: This now stands at 45 at December 2023. Many thanks to Lesley and now Margaret who is the new Electoral Roll officer

6.6 Safeguarding: All members of the PCC are now up to date with safeguarding training. Thanks to Lucy for organising this.

6.7 Jim's deanery report was accepted with thanks.

Jim gave a special vote of thanks to Dorothy who has kept a steady flow of organists to play at our services, with barely a service having to manage without. More volunteers are always welcome for bell ringing, flower arranging, and cleaning and the choir but those who come are all appreciated. The Men's group is popular with a number of non-churchgoers as well as regular members of the congregation.

7. The Safeguarding policy was proposed by Jan and seconded by Julia

8. Other questions: David Way asked if the Vision Day experience could be used. It was pointed out that it was used during Rev Jim's appointment and an Appendix will be written commenting on the Vision Day.

Huge thanks were expressed to both John and Dorothy Earp for the effort they have put in as Secretary and Treasurer.

Plans are afoot for the church's 800 year anniversary in 2025, to include many members of the village community

There is due to be a change in the Parish share which is highly likely to leave us worse off financially. There was some discussion as to how we counter this, and more consultation will take place.

The meeting closed at 12.15

APCM REPORTS FOR 2024/2025

RECTOR'S REPORT

Personnel

This was the year we had final confirmation that the diocese was not going to provide any extra clerical cover for the benefice. Unfortunately, this coincided with Jane Eastell moving away and Maureen Doble having a tricky year with mobility.

As a result, the benefice has been trying out different models of how to cover Sunday services in a way that is both sustaining and possible. We have drawn heavily on the godly generosity of Alastair Wallace and Munna Mitra but may have come up with a plan for the latter part of 2025 which can be run by a single rector with the on-going essential support of the Readers, Rosie and Peter (with Ruth Cook as regular guest).

At the same time, we have had a much-appreciated offer of money from the Mary Joslin Trust to pay for a family worker for two years. So far, a candidate has not emerged, but the search is on-going.

It was also the year we tragically lost John Earp, the benefice treasurer, who died very suddenly and unexpectedly. Apart from the very sad personal loss of his death, there has been some extra work for churchwardens and Michele in the office.

Needless to say, the sterling work of the churchwardens and benefice secretary has, again, been enormous and has ensured the continued viability of the four churches. And the musical talent of our various organists is hugely appreciated.

Bishop Ruth is leaving again to an appointment in the Liverpool diocese.

Community

Modest contact continues with the four Primary Schools and the Rugby Club. We offer communion at home with a number of individuals. The Bereavement Group has completed a full year plus a bit. It is not well attended but seems to be appreciated. We continue our gentle contact with Baptism families and Wedding couples.

A rather random and welcome contact has come from the Romanian Orthodox Church who are looking for premises and have begun an experimental period of using Cheddon Church.

Spirituality

The Meditation Group seems to be (surprisingly?) popular. We like the pattern of a series of 4-week sessions. We've now had two of these and a third is planned for the summer. Other groups are on-going: zoom morning prayer, Lent and Advent Groups.

Not forgotten

Since the last round of APCMs, we have had a lot of funerals for people from our villages. Some of those are people closely associated with the churches. Sadly and unexpectedly, we lost our Treasurer John Earp early in 2025 and along with him we also lost:

Hazel Adams, Alan Cook, Esme and Bob Padgham, Margery Gillett, Myra Alexander, Roger Osmond.

Jim Cox

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING DEC 2024

2024 was Rev Jim's first full year as the rector for the South Quantock Benefice. It was also decided that we would not be retaining our O.5. Under these circumstances Jim has worked very hard to cover as many services as possible with the help of a team of lay people and the wonderful organisational skills of Michele in the office. At Kingston we have had visiting clergy on the third Sunday of each month and are indebted to them for their services, especially Rev Alastair Wallace and Rev Munna Mitra. To all these people we offer our sincere thanks and gratitude.

Special services were held at Easter, for the Friends, Harvest, Remembrance and all the Christmas services. They were all very well attended with refreshments supplied by a willing hard-working team. Evensong on the fourth Sunday of each month continues to be a very popular service well supported with additional regular choristers from West Monkton and St. Andrews

2024 saw the final requirements from the last Quinquennial completed. In January the stained glass window from the north side of the altar was removed for repair and duly returned 7 weeks later at the end of February. The outstanding work on the church tower was completed during April. The PCC are very grateful for the support given to us by the Friends to enable these works to be completed.

The PCC took the decision not to repair the floor in the Tetton corner but to leave that until a decision has been taken on the re-ordering plan for the church as this is certain to include work in this area.

In June after a lot of little problems with the sound system we brought in the original installer to assess the situation. As a result of his visit and with the generosity of the Friends, we bought a reconditioned control box to replace the faulty box and a new set of microphones with rechargeable batteries. Since then, the system has worked very well.

As part of the upkeep of the building there were visits to service the heating, replace the gas meter, service the clock and service the bells which entailed some work on the 2nd clapper. The organ and piano were both tuned, and the fire extinguishers checked. We also had to engage the "mole man" again. The gutters were cleaned, and the roof inspected.

In July we had a first visit from an architect to discuss possible plans for reordering the church and a 3-D survey was done in Dec to enable plans to be drawn up.

Once the heating was turned back on again in the autumn it became clear that there was a problem, the organ loft was getting very hot, but the body of the church was failing to warm up. This problem got progressively worse towards the end of the year.

The church grounds continue to be well maintained and a continual source of compliments from visitors.

As we enter 2025 and our 800 years celebration, we are rightly proud of our church and its heritage; with the financial help of the Friends the fabric of the church is well maintained. However, on a day to day basis to keep the church alive and active there is an army of volunteers; the choir, the sacristan, the bell ringers, those who read in the services, the refreshment teams, the flower arrangers, the cleaners, those that lock and unlock the church and the PCC who pull all these things together. Without your input and continued support the church in Kingston would struggle, so thank you one and all.

The required checks including the safeguarding audit have been carried out and the terrier and the inventory are up to date

Jan Holmes

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2024

The committee had 8 scheduled meetings during the year and the Standing committee now meets 2 weeks prior to each main PCC meeting to produce an agenda and have preliminary discussions on relevant issues. Membership remains at 8 which includes the Rector, Church warden and 2 Deanery Synod members with the Treasurer being ex officio.

The committee is actively seeking to appoint at least one new member for the coming year.

The PCC has the responsibility for all aspects of the running of the church:—

- To provide regular worship opportunities for the community
- To support those with particular needs
- To maintain the church building and churchyard
- To be a focal point in village life
- To ensure it plays a part in the wider Church of England family

Our meetings cover a wide variety of issues based on the above points and this year have included

- discussions on the changes to the method for assessing our Parish Share
- considering plans for the re ordering of the church building
- making arrangements for a community celebration of the 800 years anniversary of the church in Kingston

Dorothy Earp, PCC Secretary

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER REPORT Year Ending December 2024

The number listed on the Electoral Roll stood at 44.

One name was removed after the end of December 2023, but before the publication of the revised Electoral Roll in April 2024.

One new name was added to the roll at the APCM in April 2024.

A completely new Electoral Roll is produced every 6th year and this falls in 2025. Names are not rolled-over, and new applications are required from everyone who wishes to be on the NEW Electoral Roll.

A new Electoral Roll will be published at the APCM in May 2025

At the close of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting additional names may be added to the roll, for which application forms can be obtained from me or from the Benefice Office.

*Margaret Way
Electoral Roll Officer*

SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2024

We are pleased to report that we have not had to deal with any safeguarding cases in the Benefice during 2024.

PCC members have been working hard at completing the required training. Bell ringers are now also starting to complete the Foundations safeguarding training. Whilst it is a requirement for PCC members and certain other members of the church to complete this training as well as Foundations safeguarding training every three years, anybody can access the various training courses through the Church of England training portal.

The Parish Dashboards and Hub continue to be used and updated. The dashboard allows us to generate a Parish Action Plan for PCCs to discuss at meetings, ensuring compliance with safeguarding responsibilities. The hub has a useful feature that provides reminders when DBS certificate checks need renewal or when someone's training needs to be re-done. Both of these tasks must be completed every three years.

If anyone has any queries or concerns, they wish to discuss with us relating to safeguarding, please get in touch with your Parish Safeguarding Officer, clergy or contact the Diocesan team in Wells. Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility.

(A full copy of the Benefice Safeguarding policy is attached)

Lucy Hay and Samm Barge - Benefice Safeguarding Officers

DEANERY / DEANERY SYNOD

I have stepped down as Area Dean this year. The deanery has just entered a five-year period as the new diocesan funding strategy impacts upon the life of the parishes and the deployment of clergy. The idea is that the diocese allocates posts solely on ability to pay rather than need. It is a sign that we are moving away from a "Post Office" model of delivering to every obscure corner to one where we deliver only to the big population centres.

Parishes are expected to fund the posts they request (calculated, somewhat implausibly as being about £72k per year). The instinct of the diocese is to add together lots of small parishes to make up the required figure rather than pairing rich and poor together. Bishop's Hull, St Michael's and Creech are the most vulnerable and are most likely to be grafted on to a neighbour and lose a priest as a result. SQB is vulnerable but may be fine for a little while yet. But it is a tense and divisive time in the deanery as resources are allocated.

The deanery reflective services continue 6 times a year in various churches. This is now headed up by Ruth Cook who is doing a very good job.

Deanery Synod met for its three meetings, looking at youth provision and end-of-life care.

Jim Cox

BAPTISM FOLLOW-UP VOLUNTEERS MINISTRY. January 2024 – December 2024.

Our role on behalf of the church is to improve contact and follow -up with families bringing their children for baptism.

We have attended the baptisms during the past year welcoming families and guests to the service introducing ourselves as a representative of the church.

We then make a phone call to the family approx. 4 weeks after the baptism to ask general questions about how the baptism day went and highlight upcoming events and services at the church.

This phone call is a one-off, assuring families have our details should they need to contact us again.

Sometimes the church is packed with godparents and sponsors and at other times a small intimate service for the immediate family. When there is an organist requested the singing fills the church and so far, the feedback from families we have met, is that it is a very special day they will never forget.

Important links are made then with baptism family events in the benefice in the future and with those children who go on to attend the local primary schools with Rev Jim Cox.

*Loretta McHugh, Julia Hammett & Sue Anderson
Baptism 'helpers'.*

CHURCH CLEANING AND CATERING

Once again, I would like to give my sincere thanks to those who willingly give their time to ensure that our church is clean and inviting to all who enter the doors whether congregation or community, as well as those who may pass by and decide to have a look at our beautiful parish church.

I am lucky to be able to call on volunteers, on a monthly basis, to Hoover and wash the floors and, over the past year, to clean the outside lavatory in the absence of our regular cleaner. Thankfully, we now have a very good replacement, so the task is less onerous.

However, I am still looking for volunteers to clean the church in January and September and I would be most grateful if I could fill the gaps in the rota.

Serving coffee and biscuits after our 10am morning worship is much appreciated and an excellent way of making sure that all who attend the services are given a warm welcome and a chance to meet everyone. I would like to thank Carole Carter and Ann Bull for taking over following my years unplanned absence! It is a great commitment for them, and again, I would like to find volunteers to step in if they are unable to attend or to give them an occasional break. The store cupboard is regularly replenished, the only thing required every service is milk!

The new monthly rota for cleaning will be on the church board, please let me know if changes are needed.

Please contact Barbara Stokes on 01823 762417 or barbarastokes@tiscali.co.uk

MEN'S GROUP

It's been another good year with a variety of activities. Pub-walks and barbecues continue to be popular, and we have extended our skill-set with croquet, indoor bowls and golf and heard some entertaining presentations. Grateful thanks to all who enable such a varied and interesting programme.

Rev Jim Cox

MUSIC REPORT

The choir has continued to provide the lead for music at the 2 sung Communion Services held each month in Kingston and also for the increasingly popular Choral Evensong on the 4th Sunday of the month. Whilst we are still a small group for the morning services, we are very grateful to members of West Monkton and St Andrews choirs and others who join us regularly for Evensong.

Organists would seem to be "a dying breed" but we are indebted to Tim Zilkha who has played the organ and supported the choir for the majority of our services this year. Tim also ensures both the organ and piano are maintained on a regular basis. With occasional input from other local organists, we have kept up the musical tradition in our church and hope to continue to do so for many years to come.

Dorothy Earp

REPORT TO THE PCC OF THE BELLS OF THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN

Our membership has remained steady (although we are always pleased to welcome new members) and we have kept busy over the past year ringing for Easter, weddings, funerals, Harvest, Remembrance & some Christmas services together with regular practice night and Sunday service ringing. We have also had a steady stream of visitors, showing the quality of the bells. We enjoyed a Christmas dinner (in January!) at The Lethbridge Arms in Bishop's Lydeard.

This year John Lock, at the age of 95, was named a member emeritus by the Bath & Wells Association for Change Ringers in recognition of his long service to bell ringing. To celebrate the award, John climbed the steep steps to the tower and rang several complicated sequences – a feat especially impressive given the heavy weight of St Mary's bells. He has enjoyed ringing since the age of 10 in August 1939. He maintained his interest in ringing and took over the captaincy of Kingston St Mary in the 1980's. John was very involved in the major overhaul of Kingston St Mary's church bells in 2019.

Next year brings more exciting opportunities with lots of events to ring for to celebrate St Mary's 800 anniversary and just maybe we'll be able to enter a team in the Branch ringing competition!

Tamsin Rayson

On behalf of our band members.

21/4/2025

KINGSTON ST MARY FLOWERS

We had a good display of lilies in the church at Easter, donated in memory of loved ones. We also had nice displays for the Patronal festival in August and for Harvest and decorated the church with greenery and candles for Christmas. There are a number of great volunteers who contribute to this, but we could always do with some more to do an occasional arrangement. We do now have some artificial flowers which can be used when there are gaps in the rota.

There will be a flower festival in August to celebrate the church's 800 years which will involve many different groups from the village and hopefully this will generate more interest in keeping up our floral input.

Rosalie Hughes

rosaliehughes@hotmail.co.uk tel :01823 541633

BOOK REVIEWS

Peter Wright and I continue to add reviews to the benefice website. The purpose behind this initiative is that we know most people do not have the time – nor sometimes the inclination – to read religious books and we hope to save you the bother – or possibly inspire you to look further.

So, I do encourage you to have a look, as a variety of interesting topics are covered, and they give a brief insight to some of the latest thinking taking place in the church today.

Rev Jim Cox

RIPPLE EFFECT

In May we had an excellent talk by Michael Brown lately of Brown and Forrest smokery about his days in Afghanistan working with Unicef in 1972/3 before the Russian invasion. It was fascinating to hear about the people and their way of life before their world was turned upside down by the Taliban. The talk was much enjoyed and well attended. We also sold bulbs and a few other things at the Carol service in Kingston and have raised some modest sums.

Ripple Effect send frequent updates of their work emphasising that a little help can soon spread as those who receive help undertake to share their knowledge with their neighbours. This increases their productivity and creates a ripple effect across the community, improving irrigation schemes, planting trees and learning how to grow different fruits and vegetables.

We have been invited to talk to West Monkton Mothers Union in June and hope to involve them in some fundraising for the charity. We would ask everyone to remember Ripple Effect in our prayers and watch out for their reports of what they are doing.

Rosalie Hughes and Lucy Hay

BIBLE STUDY GROUP – 2024 REPORT FOR ACPM

The Bible Study Group meets regularly on a Wednesday evening at the Benefice Office. Our topics for study have continued to vary during the year as has the style of study – but always an informal setting so that everyone feels welcomed and relaxed. No previous knowledge is required, and the home group helps those just starting to explore the bible for the first time as well as those who regularly read and study the bible. During Lent we followed the Pilgrim course 'The Commandments' unpacking the basic message and teaching of the Christian faith and also showing us how to pray and how to live more like Jesus. A very reflective and conversational course.

Over the summer we studied "The Bible Course", a journey of discovery about how Bible characters, stories, and themes are connected, from Genesis to Revelation.

In addition to the Wednesday Bible Study Group, in November there were a series of 'Prayerful Stillness and Meditation' sessions on 1) Stillness with a sentence from the Bible 2) Stillness and Bible story 3) Stillness and music 4) Stillness and contemplation. There was also an Advent Home Group held at the benefice office on Tuesday afternoons during Advent.

Bible Study Group activities are shared through the 'Weekly News, Services and Events' sheet and are open to all. If you are interested, please do come along and join us - and there is no commitment to be there for every session; just come and join us when you can. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Steve Barge – Group member

LITTLE SEEDLINGS BABY AND TODDLER GROUP:

Little Seedlings continues well, with around 7 core families who attend most weeks and others who come when they can. Attendance is influenced by many factors such as patterns of children's naps at various points, parents returning to work etc. At least two Mums have factored in attending our group when they make arrangements to go back to work. Most families that attend have a TA2 postcode, but we know that the group is advertised widely through channels such as social media and through health visitor recommendations.

Several of our original Seedlings babies have now started school! We've had new siblings born in 2024 who now attend thus keeping our numbers up. Our session time has been slightly adjusted so that parents can leave at 2.30 to do the school run and the children get a full 1.5 hours to play. One element that the attendees most appreciate is the chance to come in the school holidays – we encourage siblings under 8 to come along and provide extra activities, such as planting and simple cooking. We only close on bank holidays and if there are other holidays/ illness or if the hall is unavailable.

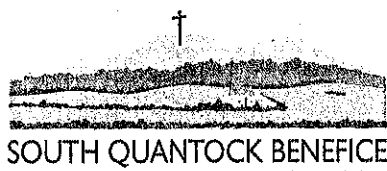
I have attended another group on a Thursday and shared ideas with the leader there. I also plan to visit at least two other local groups. Twice yearly meetings with Rev Jim have been scheduled and informal catch ups with Julia happen from time to time. Both Corrine and myself have updated our safeguarding training. Risk assessments have been updated and parents informed of important points. We did have a problem with mice in our hall storage cupboard in December, but appropriate advice was taken and steps put into place to avoid any danger to children from mouse droppings. Thanks to The Mary Joslin Trust for agreeing to purchase some extra plastic boxes.

One parent has commented that there is "lots of space to play and explore!" In the summer of 2024, we used the patio area outside the hall for a short period each session and the children enjoyed water and ice play, games and other activities. Rev Jim visited in December 2024 for our annual Knitivity, and we will promote the Easter session on April 12th to our families as we had a good return last year.

I believe that Little Seedlings continues to provide a valuable outreach experience for local families. Our families know that they are welcome whatever their circumstances and this message is supported through verbal interactions, posters and messaging on social media. The families are also great at supporting each other and creating bonds of friendship.

Thank you as ever to you all for your support and a special thank you as ever to the wonderful Corrine McMylor for her positivity and volunteer support.

Emma Booker



South Quantock Benefice Safeguarding Policy.

(The United Benefice of West Monkton with Kingston St Mary, Cheddon Fitzpaine and Broomfield Parishes, Somerset.)

Our Mission: to know, share and spread the love of God.

Introduction

Christian communities should be places where all are welcomed and feel safe.

All people have the right to:

- be treated with respect and dignity
- have their privacy respected
- be able to lead as independent a life as possible
- be able to choose how to lead their life
- have the protection of the law
- have their rights upheld regardless of their ethnicity, gender, sexuality, impairment or disability, age, religion or cultural background
- be able to use their chosen language or method of communication
- be heard.

The commitment of the Benefice

We are committed to the care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all people, and especially with regard to the safeguarding and protection of all vulnerable people (a child, young person or vulnerable adult). We will seek to foster a safe, caring community which provides an environment where there is a culture of informed vigilance regarding the dangers of abuse, and where victims of abuse can report or disclose abuse and find support. We will strive to promote best practice that contributes to the prevention of abuse and we are committed to the national church guidance as laid out in "[Promoting a safer church](#)"

The responsibility of the Benefice

The welfare of any vulnerable person is always the primary concern and we will act promptly whenever a concern is raised about a vulnerable person or about the behaviour of any adult in a position of trust or authority. We are also committed to the support of those who have been abused and to listening to the voices of survivors, who can help the church learn lessons from the past. Any allegation, disclosure or statement, something seen, or something heard must be recorded and acted upon. Complaints can be taken from alleged victims and third parties.

Areas of responsibility

This Benefice accepts that, through its workers and volunteers, it is responsible for vulnerable people during church activities when in a church building, on church property and other premises being used by the church, and also when in contact with people via social and other media or when home visiting. Responsibility extends to travel between places, when it is organized by the church. However, the church is not responsible for private arrangements.

Whole church responsibility

The safeguarding and protection of vulnerable people is everyone's responsibility, not just parents or those who have formal leadership or caring responsibilities. Procedures and formal processes alone, though essential, will not protect children and adults. The community, including all its members, needs to be aware of the dangers and be prepared to report concerns and take action if necessary.

Recruitment

We will carefully select all those with any responsibility for vulnerable people within the church in line with safer recruitment principles, including taking up references and the use of criminal records checks (DBS). All blemished DBS checks will be referred to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor for advice. A clear DBS form does not guarantee the appointment of a volunteer; and a blemished DBS is not an automatic disqualification. All confidential data is kept locked in the benefice office.

It is the policy of this Benefice that if they reach the criteria:

- all those who regularly work with vulnerable people including those who work on a rota, should have enhanced DBS checks;

- those who work only occasionally will be asked to apply for a DBS check;

- those who manage or supervise people who work with vulnerable groups will be required to be DBS plus Barred List checked.

All those recruited must maintain training in line with diocesan guidance.

Our policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders is in line with the diocesan policy. A copy of this is available at <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/diocese/safeguarding/safe-recruitment>

Who to contact

Benefice safeguarding officers:

Mrs Lucy Hay 01823 451 204 safeguardingsqb@gmail.com

Rector: The Rev'd Jim Cox. 01823 802790 (07967 817337) jimcox11@gmail.com

Diocesan Safeguarding Team: Ben Goodhind / Safeguarding Manager 01749 588917;

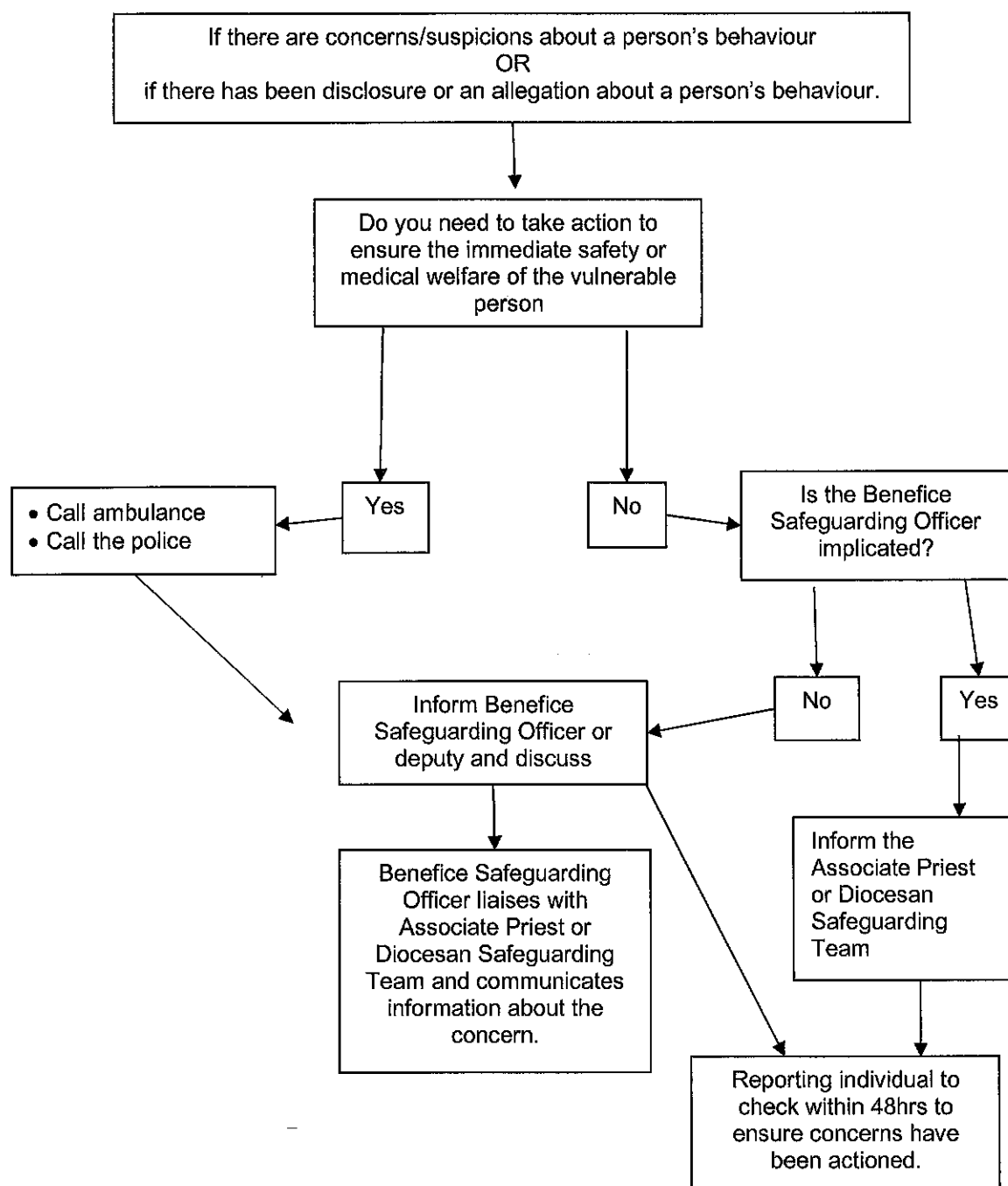
Email: safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org

Emergency calls or concerns:- the Diocese of Bath and Wells has partnered with thirtyone:eight to offer out of hours safeguarding support. They operate from 17:00 to 09:00, Monday to Friday, 07:00 to midnight on Saturdays and Sundays, bank holidays and other absences. During these times you are advised to call 0303 003 1111 for any emergency safeguarding queries. Please note this is not manned 24-hours a day, but if you leave a message you will receive a call back as soon as practicable.

The Church of England, in all aspects of its life, is committed to and will promote the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It fully accepts and endorses the Children Act 1989 & 2004 & The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. This Benefice agrees to follow the Practice Guidance from the House of Bishops on safeguarding matters, and to adopt the Diocese of Bath and Wells Safeguarding Policies (found at <http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/diocese/safeguarding/>)

Concerned about a child or vulnerable adult?

If you are concerned for the immediate safety of a vulnerable person or they are afraid to return home, you must contact the Police (999) or Children Social Care (0300 123 2224) without delay.



Remember to involve the person at risk throughout the process wherever possible and gain consent for any referrals to social care if the person has capacity

It is the responsibility of the diocese to report to the Charity Commission of a safeguarding Serious Incident;
(and of the churchwardens or incumbent of a non-safeguarding Serious Incident).



**The South Quantock Benefice
Comprising the Parochial Church Councils of
Broomfield, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Kingston St Mary, and
West Monkton**

**Annual Report and Audited Financial
Statements of the Parochial Church Council
of
The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Kingston
St Mary.**

For the year ended 31 December 2024

**The South Quantock Benefice Comprising the Parochial Church Councils of Broomfield,
Cheddon Fitzpaine, Kingston St Mary, and West Monkton**

**Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council of The
Church of St Mary the Virgin, Kingston St Mary.**

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council of The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Kingston St Mary
For the year ended 31 December 2024
Trustees' Annual Report

Structure & Governance

The PCC is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission. The election of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation rules.

Aim and Purposes

The PCC is responsible for co-operating with the Rector in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and Activities

We are committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at the Church of St Mary the Virgin and to become part of our parish community. We have considered guidance on public benefit, including the supplementary guidance for charities on the advancement of religion. Our objective is to enable all people to access worship and prayer, to study the Gospels and to develop their knowledge and trust in our Saviour.

To support this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the church and the Benefice Office.

The Trustees (the PCC) confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's General Guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing the Charity's Aims and Objectives and in planning future activities.

Administration

St Mary's Church is situated in Church Lane, Kingston St Mary. TA2 8HW. The Benefice Office, which serves all four Parishes, is located at the Vicarage, Kingston St Mary. TA2 8HW. Telephone 01823 451257.

Membership of the PCC

Members are either elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), or are ex-officio, in accordance with the Church Representation rules. The following served as members of the PCC during 2023:

Rector Rev'd Jim Cox

Churchwardens Mrs Jan Holmes

Representatives on the Deanery Synod (2 permitted)

Mrs Julia Hammett
Mrs Barbara Stokes

Elected members	Mrs Dorothy Earp	Secretary
	Mrs Lucy Hay	
	Mrs Rosalie Hughes	
	Mrs Margaret Way	Vice Chair
	Mr. John Earp	Treasurer - Ex Officio

Committees

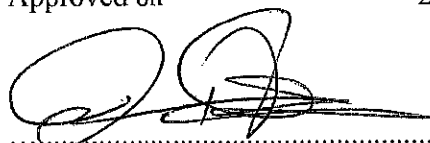
The Standing Committee is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings subject to any direction given by the PCC.

Members: Rev'd Jim Cox
Mrs Jan Holmes
Mrs Margaret Way
Mrs Dorothy Earp

Electoral Roll

The number on the Electoral Roll stands at 44. The number of regular worshippers is 31 the average number at services is 25 (based on the 10:00 am service).

Approved on 2025 and signed by the Chair



Rev'd Jim Cox

22.5.2025

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of The Church of St Mary the Virgin,
Kingston St Mary**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council (the Council) for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of the report

As members of the Council, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Council's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Council as required by section 130 of the Act;
or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this respect in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



M Shaw
2 Waterleaze, Taunton

Date 21 May 2025

The Parochial Church Council of The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Kingston St Mary
Receipts and Payments Account For The Year Ended 31 December 2024

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Benefice</u> <u>Fund*</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u> <u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£
<u>Receipts</u>				
Donations	17,015	0.0	17,015	16,257
Grants	0.0	0.0	0	1,125
Church Activities	3,971	18,403	22,374	20,676
Other Income	57,746	1,852	59,598	32,190
Investment Income	12,752	0.0	12,752	11,242
Legacy	0.0	12,804	12,804	12,866
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Receipts	91,484	33,059	124,543	94,356
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Payments</u>				
Church Activities	14,866	9,936	24,802	20,189
Parish Share	18,771	0.0	18,771	17,065
Church Running Exp	14,340	17,643	31,983	34,265
Benefice Office Costs	0.0	1,854	1,854	1,853
Salaries & Exp	341	18,027	18,368	19,530
Major Capital Expenditure	31,099	0.0	31,099	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Payments	79,417	47,460	126,877	92,902
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net (Payments)/Receipts for the year	12,067	(14,401)	(2,334)	1,454
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash at Bank at 31 December, Brought forward			51,653	50,199
			<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash at Bank at 31 December, Carried forward			49,319	51,653
			<hr/>	<hr/>

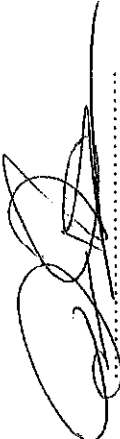
* Denotes Restricted funds

The Parochial Church Council of The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Kingston St Mary
Statement of Assets and Liabilities - For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted funds</u>		<u>Picture*</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Benefice*</u>	<u>Fabric*</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>
	£	£	£	£	£	2024	2023
						£	£
<u>Cash Funds</u>							
NatWest Current Account	2,445	-	-	2,512	-	4,957	6,886
Deposit Fund	41,458	-	-	-	-	41,458	41,116
Fees Account	2,904	-	-	-	-	2,904	3,651
Cash in Hand	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
Total Cash Funds	46,807	-	-	2,512	-	49,319	51,653
<u>Assets</u>							
Investment at Cost	210,000	-	-	-	-	210,000	210,000
Investment Land (Conservative Estimate)	-	-	-	-	37,500	37,500	37,500
Fees owed from other Parishes	-	4,396	-	-	-	4,396	3,971
<u>Liabilities</u>							
Fees owed to other Parishes & Diocese	0.0	-	-	-	-	0.0	0.0

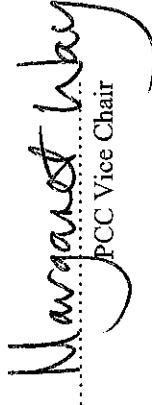
As at 31 December 2024 the Stock Exchange Securities shown above had a market value of £284,160 (2023: £273,997).

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on **22-5-2025**



 Rev J D Cox, Chair

On behalf of the Board of Trustees



 PCC Vice Chair

The Parochial Church Council of The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Kingston St Mary

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31 December 2024

The accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis and in accordance with Charity Commission guidance.

Neither the Trustees, nor any person connected with them, have received any remuneration. Expenses claimed are paid at cost.

The Endowment Fund represents the land at Lodes Lane shown as a conservative estimate based on Greenslade Taylor Hunt advice. The balance at 31 December 2024 was £37,500 (2023: £37,500).

The Restricted Funds are represented by:

The **Benefice Fund**, which is managed under the direction of the rector by the Kingston PCC in support of all four churches in the benefice. It aims to break even over the year with the four churches contributing in the ratio of 40,40,10,10 (Kingston, West Monkton, Cheddon, Broomfield).

The **Picture Fund** arises from the sale in 1996 of a painting. Application has been made to the Diocese to transfer the Fund to a Fabric Fund and is pending. Balance at 31 December 2024 £2,445 (2023: £2,445).

Cash Deposits are held by the CBF Church of England Funds

Investments as at 31st December 2024 were as follows:

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Shares/Units</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
	£	No.	£
The Church of England Global Equity Income Fund	70,000	38,206.76	122,850.02
Church of England UK Equity Fund	70,000	46,385.14	92,658.96
M & G Charifund	70,000	4,662.524	68,651.00
TOTAL	210,000		284,159.98