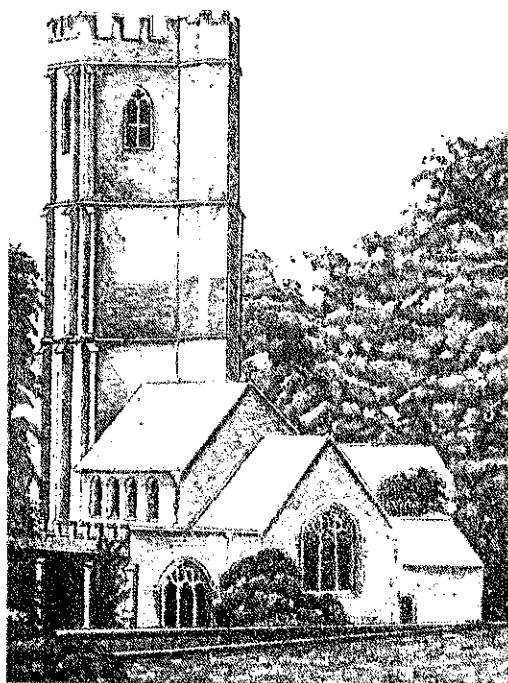


Church of St Augustine's West Monkton



ANNUAL REPORTS and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st DECEMBER 2024

Church of St. Augustine West Monkton

Rector – Rev'd. Jim Cox

PCC Treasurer

Mr David Cooke

Independent Examiner

Mr John Leddy
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Manor Gardens
Kewstoke
Weston super Mare
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Bankers:

Lloyds TSB Bank plc
31 Fore Street
Taunton
TA1 1HN

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024

BACKGROUND

St Augustine's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic and ecumenical.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules and to serve for a term of 3 years. During the year the following served as members of the PCC.

Rector	Rev Jim Cox	
Churchwarden	Mrs Sally Hillman	(from May 2022)
	Mrs Pearl Jeanes	(from May 2022)
Treasurer	Mr David Cooke	(from April 2017)
Representative on The Deanery Synod	Ms Margaret Cavill	(from May 2023)
	Mr John Roynon	(re-elected May 2023)
Elected Member	Mrs Kate Ayres	(from May 2023)
	Mr Steve Barge	(from May 2022)
	Mr Carol Hicks	(from April 2018)
	Ms Margaret Cavill	(from April 2023)
	Mr Peter Wright	(from May 2022)
	Mrs Susan Cleave	(from May 2022)
	Mrs Loretta McHugh	(from May 2023)
	Mrs Pat Wright	(from May 2023)
	Mrs Anne Roynon	(From May 2023)
	Mrs Trisha Cavill	(co-opted in 2024)
Secretary	Mrs Susan Cleave	
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Sally Hillman	

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

CHURCH OF ST AUGUSTINE, WEST MONKTON

At the Parish Church on Sunday 27th April 2025

VESTRY MEETING

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last year's meeting (28th April 2024)
3. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Approval of the Minutes of last year's meeting
2. Presentation of Electoral Roll (report as at 31.12.2024 on pg 8)
3. Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2024 (Finance reports at the back- begin on pg 27)
4. Appointment of Independent Examiner
5. Clergy report (pg 9)
6. Churchwarden's Report (pg 10)
7. Fabric Report and Presentation of Inventory (pg 11)
8. Safeguarding Report (pg 13) - adopt the benefice safeguarding policy and approval of benefice safeguarding officers (copy of policy attached at the end of the reports, pg 24-26)
9. PCC Report Secretarial Report (pg 13)
10. Elections to the PCC
11. Elections to Deanery Synod

REPORTS ATTACHED AS NOTED BELOW

Deanery Synod (pg 14)	Bellringers (pg 14)
Eco church (pg 15)	Fairtrade (pg 15)
Mens Group (pg 15)	Choir (pg 16)
Bible Study (16)	Baptism volunteers (pg 17)
Book Reviews (pg 17)	100 Club (pg 17)
Social Activities (pg 18)	Cuppa & Chat (pg 18)
Worship Group (pg 19)	Church website (pg 19)
Fundraising (pg 19)	Mother's Union (pg 21)
Ripple Effect (pg 22)	Little Seedlings (pg 23)

Accounts & Treasurers reports (begin pg 27)

ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH, WEST MONKTON

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 28th April 2024 after the morning service.

In the Chair – Rev. Jim Cox

Present –

Churchwardens – Pearl Jeanes, Sally Hillman

PCC members:

Sue Cleave (Secretary), Kate Ayres, Carol Hicks, Peter & Pat Wright, Anne Roynon, Marion Baker, Loretta McHugh

Treasurer – Dave Cooke

Deanery Synod members – Margaret Cavill, John Roynon

Present congregation members:

Rosie Brown, Richard & Janet Smith, Christine Bevan, Paul Mantyk, Jamie Coram, Hazel Adams, Di & Henry Besley, Mary Grinter and Jen Hicks

Apologies:

PCC members: - Steve Barge.

Congregation: - Samm Barge, Trish & Norman Cavill, Alan & Ruth Cook, Tom & Pam Glide, and Tiggy Reeves and Stuart Pullen

Vestry Meeting

Pearl Jeanes and Rev Jim Cox welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Election of Churchwardens-

Pearl Jeanes and Sally Hillman were re-elected for a further year. Thanks were conveyed to both of them for their hard work during 2023. As there were no other nominations both were duly elected unopposed. The Rev Jim explained that if anyone wanted to assist as a Deputy Church Warden this could be an option. Please speak to the churchwarden team.

The minutes of the last year's meeting held in 23rd April 2023 (January to December 2022) were agreed unanimously and signed by Rev Jim Cox.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held Sunday 28th April

Rev Jim chaired the meeting with Pearl. The Annual Report had been circulated prior to the meeting with all relevant reports for 2023.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last APCM dated 23rd April 2023 were approved.

Proposed: Rosie Brown. Seconded: Kate Ayres – **Agreed and signed.**

2. Electoral Roll

Sally presented the Electoral. Overall, a total of 54, with 3 additions and 2 removed (through death). Of these 28 live within the parish and 26 outside of the parish.

3. Treasurer's report and Annual Statement. – presented by David Cooke

The Parish Share has increased by 15% increasing costs from £24k to £28k per annum. And there are additional costs to support the Benefice Office. During 2023, there has been a great deal of fundraising throughout the church, and the monies raised have helped with the Valencia grant to fund the Lady Chapel Roof.

Dave explained in his Report that it is likely in 2024, the finances will be funding further improvements including the re-ordering, and cost of the new heating system. It was generally felt that it is not really a good idea to build up a large surplus. Rev Jim, Pearl and Sally thanked Dave for his sterling work managing and looking after the finances.

4. Appointment of Independent Examiner

It was agreed by all in attendance that Mr John Leddy should continue to act as the Independent Examiner and that the accounts have been accepted by the PCC and signed off. Sue to write to Mr Leddy and thank him for his continued services going forward.

5. Clergy Report

There were no questions about the clergy report, concerns expressed about the 0.5 post. Rev Jim said he would speak more on this at the end of the meeting.

6. Churchwardens report

Sally on behalf of herself and Pearl, thanked everyone for their support throughout the last year

7. Fabric report

The fabric report is self explanatory. Currently the Lady Chapel roof has been repaired and the new audio system is now in place. Pearl explained that a faculty has been submitted for the re-ordering of the church which involves replacing the gas boiler and re-alignment of some radiators, removing all the pews at the back of the church and two on both sides at the front and upgrading the server area. She explained that both Trish Cavill who is doing grants for us, and herself will be in church next week for anyone who wishes to discuss this.

8. Safeguarding

Safeguarding continues to be discussed at each PCC meeting. The South Quantock Benefice Safeguarding policy and the Bath & Wells Policy statement on the recruitment of Ex-Offenders have been reviewed and adopted and remains unchanged. It is important that the document is followed and with any issues that might arise to follow the flow chart in the policy. The PCC approved the policy at their March meeting. This policy was proposed by Rosie and seconded by Kate.

9. PCC Secretarial Report

Sue Cleave (Secretary) stated that bi-monthly meetings continue to be held at the BACH. Prior to each meeting the agenda and associated reports are sent out to PCC members to

read through. The secretary supports the PCC with other letters that need to be sent out on its behalf.

10. Elections to the PCC

Marion Baker has decided to step down after serving for a large number of years and our thanks go to Marion for all her service. At this time no nominations had been received to replace her. However the PCC is well attended and supported.

11. Elections to Deanery Synod

John Roynon and Margaret Cavill elected last year for a period of 3 years. John and Margaret had nothing to add to the Deanery report.

12. Reports as published in the Report were reviewed.

Social Activities have been very successful during 2023 raising a good amount of money. Activities continue to be successful so far this year, and the recent Wedding Dress display through the Ages was a brilliant success raising around £1500 over the 2 days and involving many people from the wider community. Kate thanked everyone who helped out with this event. Pearl said that, as this was raised via donations we will be able to claim Gift Aid as well. A number of planned activities will continue this year 2024.

Cuppa and chat - Rosie confirmed that her meet ups will commence again during August in Cheddon churchyard on Tuesday afternoon between 2-4pm.

Mother's Union – The group continues to meet once a month. If anyone is interested in joining speak to Hazel Adams.

Belfry – Jim thanked Pearl for this clear report.

Choir - all going well - Mary Grinter was thanked, she has made a big difference to the choir with running choir practices and supporting them.

Fair Trade - Well worth doing this after services as proceeds do go to a good cause.

Pause for Thought Board - Kate was thanked for her excellent weekly thoughts, which are appreciated throughout the community, and people report that they often go out of their way to view the board. This week's seems particularly appropriate – 'We are all drops - and together we make an ocean'.

100 Club – Thanks to Kate this continues to raise £4000 a year for the upkeep of the church.

Baptism follow ups. Loretta thanked. This is an important follow up with families and the children who go on to attend the local church school.

Worship Team – Loretta expressed her thanks for this group. She said that it has been noticed that quite a few of the congregation enjoy the slightly shorter service. As a group we have all learnt a lot and now that the new type of service is established it was felt that the team will not be meeting so frequently.

Website - this is a new initiative this year which has had a Big impact. Jamie thanked for all his work in improving publicity. It's a very good way of making our events known and provides lots of information.

Bathpool Pioneer – This post was funded centrally and has been terminated.

Additional feedback from Rev Jim: -

- Jim thanked Pearl and Sally for all their on-going support and for meeting up with him on a regular basis as a means of discussing issues and this has proved to be very useful and will continue.
- Jim expressed thanks - to Dave Cooke for doing a great job keeping the finances in order.
- Jim expressed appreciation of the worship team who have co-ordinated and run the additional services. The new initiative of the web site, and the exceptional hard work of the social activities committee who continue to do large amounts of fund raising.
- Jim explained that the Diocese is changing the way it organises its funding following a Consultation which ends today. Now Benefices will be expected to be meet the cost of their clergy, about £56K which together we do just about meet.
- Loretta asked about the 0.5 post and although it is recognised that there are parishes including our Benefice who would benefit from it – it comes down to money and if we can't finance it – to the tune of a further £35K - it is unlikely that we will be allocated it.
- However Jim says he feels very optimistic for the future and is happy to serve our parishes.
- Pearl thanked Jim for all he is doing in the Benefice.

Wells Cathedral Parish Pass - Sally reminded everyone that if they are on the electoral role and wish to visit the Cathedral they can apply for a form – to receive a pass. It is quite expensive (£14) to enter the cathedral now. The form has to be signed by Churchwardens or the Rector.

Since dates for next year's meetings have already been set and circulated no further PCC meeting was held.

Close of meeting - Jim led the Grace - the meeting finished at 12 noon.

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT FOR APCM 2025

Electoral Roll report for APCM 2025- the year 1st January to 31st December 2024

The Electoral Roll, as of 31 December 2024, shows 52 members. Three names were added and four names removed as they have died. Of this number 28 are resident in the parish and 24 are non-residents.

Sally Hillman Churchwarden/Electoral role officer

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.

Hazel Adams, Alan Cook, Esme and Bob Padgam, Margery Gillett, Myra Alexander, Roger Osmond, John Earp.

Rev Jim Cox

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT:- Jan 2024 – Dec 2024

The Inventory / Terrier (NADFAS Church record – Record of Church Furnishings) and the logbook are both up to date.

We continue to hold a Holy Communion 10am service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays with a Morning worship service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. We have updated the Morning Worship service. There is a Holy Communion Prayer book service at 8.30am on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays. The 10am Holy Communion service on the 5th Sunday rotates through the four churches of the Benefice. During the year we have held special services to celebrate Plough Sunday, Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Carol Service, Christmas Eve Crib Service and Christmas morning Holy Communion. These festivals were well attended. There are regularly 34 communicants for the 10am Communion services.

The 2024 Parish Update form (noting 41 Church regular worshippers) and the Annual Statistics for Mission 2024 were submitted. This includes numbers of attendees at specific services (Easter and Christmas) together with the number of Baptisms (10), weddings (1) and funeral/ interments (9) during 2023.

Christmas links with WM Primary School

During Advent the congregation took part in hosting a “Posada” to recreate the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to the stable in Bethlehem. Two classes at West Monkton school took part in their own “Posada”. Year 4 school children held a Christingle service in church and year 6 children held their own “Carols by candlelight” service. Both services were well attended.

Misc

- The Website www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk and Facebook group continue to grow.
- A St Georges flag has been purchased and flown with the Union flag on appropriate days.
- A Portrait of the King was applied for and received in June 2024. We are waiting a decision as to its final location.
- A Smaller wooden cross has been constructed for the pilgrimage walk on Good Friday – narrower width which makes it easy to get in the car for transporting.
- We signed up to “Easyfundraising” to receive some funds from buying goods online and became part of the Parish giving scheme to make regular donations easier.
- The **Pay Az machine** has been replaced and works fine. It is a very valuable resource together with the handheld sum up machine which allows payments to be made outside at social events.
- No Health and Safety or Safeguarding issues have been reported.

Thanks

Pearl and I are still learning as we come to the end of three years as your Church wardens – **“Every day is still a school day!”** There are many people we would like to thank for their support and encouragement and for all the good work they continue to do. Kate: for her weekly thought-provoking messages at the end of the driveway and artwork in church and at social events. Brian: for keeping meticulous records regarding burial plots and to John for his support inside the church.

Thank you to the PCC members for all your hard work. Thanks to Ian Gouge and Mary Grinter, our organists and to the Choir, Bellringers, Communion Assistants, prayer leaders, sides people and readers. Thank you to the activities committee who have baked and cooked for all our social events. To the ladies and gentlemen who come and clean the church, to the flower arrangers who decorate, to Henry and the Churchyard working party members who keep the grounds looking splendid. Everyone does something for which we are all very grateful.

Special thanks must go to Jamie and Paul, for being our “experts” in the audio system and web site. With Bethan Turner, they have increased our publicity on social media. Thank you, Tricia and the “Turquoise Cardigan Club” who beaver away applying for grants.

Additionally, we send our thanks to members of the local community for all that they do to support the church; Mark Besley for trumpet playing on Remembrance Sunday, Open Garden hosts, BBQ chefs, Christmas Fayre stall volunteers, "Coffee & More" Guest speakers, Wedding Dress Festival team and donors, Christmas Tree festival entrants, raffle prize donors, Acorn Innovations, Yvette Staelens & the Voice of the People Choir, Wiveliscombe Town Band, Colin Ayres, Graham Hillman, Mark & Mary Thomas, Mike & Tess Spurr, Annie & Leon Suddaby, Conor Harding, West Monkton Parish Council and West Monkton Village News.

Finally, thank you to Rev Jim, and to Peter Wright and Rosie Brown, for your support and of course Michele in the Benefice Office who continues to explain things to us!

It is a great team and community so a very big thank you everyone. It makes our job as Churchwardens so much easier! A recent Pause for Thought board read **"individually we are one drop, together we are an ocean"**

*Pearl Jeanes and Sally Hillman
January 2025*

FABRIC REPORT FOR APCM

Lady Chapel Roof

The new stainless steel roof was completed by Ben Bruce in February with grant support from Valencia. There was also an essential repair to one of the merlons (castellations) which disintegrated during the build. Further work identified in the Quinquennial Report was also completed by Ben Bruce, copper wire laid along the north roof to enable continuous moss clearance and the roof hatch was accessed, and no urgent roof work identified. Two lead repairs were also completed - one on the lower north roof and one on the tower roof.

Audio System

This was replaced by Chris Shaw from Alive Systems who installed the original system. It provides a much improved sound and reception, particularly for those people with hearing difficulties. A grant towards this purchase was received from The Benefact Trust.

Re-ordering

A faculty for reordering was submitted in April and a preliminary DAC Delegation visit was carried out in June. The Re-ordering request was to –

- Remove the rear/west end pews across the north and south aisles. Also to remove two rows at the front also across north and south aisles. This request was retain the ecumenical space at the East end of the church whilst also improving accessibility. and creating a multipurpose/community space at the West end.
- A new boiler and heating system – the boiler approx 30 years old
- A servery upgrade
- A replacement vestment box.

The Delegation agreed in principal to the church requests but required further work to develop them. The DAC approved a replacement gas boiler and due to the aging heating system the Delegation agreed that this be detached from the main faculty. This Heating faculty which included new radiators was granted in September.

Heating

The boiler failed to restart in October. An appeal for funds was started and with a welcome £10k grant from the Parish Council, and many more donations large and small we were able to place an order for the new gas boiler which was installed in December. It is planned that the new radiators and new two pipe system will be installed in March 2025.

East Nave Chancel wall and South Roof merlons

The List B faculty has been granted to repoint the East Nave/Chancel wall both north and south side, and to reconstruct a number of merlons on the south roof which are in poor condition. It is planned to proceed with this urgent work during March 2025.

Noticeboard

The notice board outside the West Door was no longer watertight – it was replaced with a much more visible new notice board (illuminated with solar lights) just inside the churchyard.

Defibrillator machine

This is now in position on the toilet wall facing the church. The Parish funded the installation, whilst the church has responsibility to maintain it.

Churchyard Shed

The shed in the churchyard was replaced, complete with a small patio area at the front.

Fabric maintenance

- **Incumbent's board** - This has now been inscribed with Jim Cox's name.
- **Lightning conductor** – The lightning conductor had been incomplete due to the disconnection of the old disintegrating flagpole. A new lightning conductor has been installed which encompasses the new flagpole. The new system is now passed satisfactory.
- **A Quinquennial Electrics** inspection has been carried out.
- **Pay Az machine** – this has been replaced and works fine. It is a very valuable resource together with the handheld sum up machine which allows payments to be made outside at social events.
- **Roof Alarm** – this had become very expensive to maintain. The only lead roof remaining is on the north roof so the contract was cancelled, and a camera was donated and is in situ so that movement can be monitored locally.
- **Church drive** – Pot holes continue to be repaired periodically and the hedges cut/ maintained by Mark Thomas and his staff.

Churchyards

The Community Churchyard team continue throughout the year to achieve regular maintenance of the churchyards which include the following tasks. This is not an exhaustive list.

- Monthly clearance and regular weeding and tidying of all the churchyards. (Whilst the Council cut the grass in the old churchyards they do not clear it.)
- Stone walls and paths weeded/cleared regularly.
- Memorial stones checked regularly with a "topple test" and rectified as required.
- The size of the large Cherry tree on the north side of the church was reduced in May.
- The decaying roof over the stocks was replaced.
- The hedge adjacent to the footpath beside the Old Rectory on the north side of the churchyard was substantially reduced in width and height.
- The reseeded area at the top of the old churchyard is now thriving.
- The daffodil bulbs planted last year flowered creating a colourful Spring scene.
- The broken rain drain across the entry to the newer car park was filled in for safety reasons.
- The church toilet has been repainted inside and out.

Thank you

Together we have achieved a huge amount this last year and we are moving steadily forwards. I would like to record our special thanks to Jamie Coram and Colin Ayres for their expertise and guidance with the re-ordering and heating projects and especially to Jamie for organizing the replacement of the churchyard shed. And last but by no means least our grateful thanks to Henry Besley and his amazing team of helpers who make such a huge difference in the churchyards and surrounding areas and keep them looking so well kept and maintained.

Pearl Jeanes, March 2025

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.

Lucy Hay and Samm Barge - Benefice Safeguarding Officers

Lucy Hay and Samm Barge - Benefice Safeguarding Officers

PCC SECRETARY REPORT:

During the year 1st January to 31st December 2024 a total of 6 meetings were held of the West Monkton PCC. All meetings continue to be held in the meeting room at Brittons Ash Community Hall (BACH), giving us a more formal setting.

The PCC meeting dates are fixed for the year, and held bi-monthly chaired by Pearl Jeanes. Agendas are well structured and together with the relevant reports are sent out in advance of the meeting, allowing PCC members time to read the documents beforehand. **Safeguarding** and **Health and Safety** continue to be standing items on the agenda. All PCC members are up to date with any relevant training required, as part of Safeguarding. There will be further training to be completed in the year ahead for PCC members, who are re-appointed at the APCM.

The annual accounts for the year 2024 were presented and approved by the PCC, at the last meeting held on 24th March 2025.

As PCC Secretary I am reporting that I will be standing down following the APCM, however I hope to remain as a member of the PCC if I am voted on.

For information I have been Secretary for 4 years and during this time I hope that I have helped to keep some order to the proceedings. Initially, I served under Andrew Davidson and Hazel Adams who were joint churchwardens, and latterly Pearl and Sally who make a very good team and do a wonderful job serving the church at West Monkton.

Sue Cleave – PCC Secretary
14.03.2025

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

BELFRY REPORT

West Monkton has a stable team of ringers and there is good attendance on our weekly home practice nights and for Sunday service ringing. We continue to try to support Broomfield for special services ringing several times a year, and Cheddon's monthly service when our manpower allows ringing in both towers at a similar time.

We continue to attract new learners, mostly of an older age group and it takes time to work towards proficiency. Their enthusiasm for the challenge is good to see and always rewarding to teach. We value being able to teach on the lighter Broomfield ring for special techniques and to spare our neighbours ears locally!

Tower outings have been well organised by Andy and we have again enjoyed four trips out to local towers this year. Our outings offer the valuable opportunity to spend some social time together sharing stories of the challenges the different towers present, and much more. We are fortunate to be joined by friends from other towers, some with more experience, so that all in all, these days are very much appreciated team building events.

Belfry

The belfry is in good order. Paul and Rob are in charge of quarterly inspections and maintenance checks during the year and have picked up on only minor issues. Several ropes are showing signs of wear, but so far are manageable.

Clock

The clock has worked well this year. My continued thanks to Andy and Paul, who between them maintain the clock time, as always the clock loses in the winter and gains in the summer. It needs adjustment twice a week at least, and these adjustments normally take place during ringers practice/service ringing.

Pearl Jeanes , March 2025

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

ECO CHURCH / ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

In previous years we looked at how as a church we can work towards achieving an Eco Church award and we hope to renew our efforts to try and achieve a Bronze award in the future. Despite not progressing an Eco Church award in 2024 we have continued to be busy looking at how as a church we can be more sustainable and care for the wonderfully diverse habitat and environment we have in our churchyard; this has included:

- Our churchyard working group that meets monthly and in keeping the church grounds tidy have also maintained wild areas for butterflies and other habitats as well as planting new areas of wild flower grass.
- Reviewing the findings from the 2023 botanical survey for the churchyard undertaken by the Somerset Botany Group which shows just what a diverse churchyard we have.
- Installation of the new, and far more efficient, boiler and radiators

All of this will help us move towards achieving a future Eco Church award:

What is Eco Church?

The Church of England has developed 5 marks of Mission, one of which is "To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth"

Eco Church is a scheme run by the Christian organisation "A Rocha" and open for all churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the Gospels are good news for God's earth.

A Rocha have developed a survey and supporting resources designed to equip churches to express their care for God's world in their worship and teaching; in how to look after buildings and land; in how to engage with your local community and in global campaigns, and in the personal lifestyles of the whole congregation.

As churches become more environmentally aware and actively care for creation they can achieve prestigious Eco Church Awards at Bronze, Silver or Gold level.

Eco Church's vision is for churches of all denominations to care for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully.

Steve Barge Eco Church representative

REPORT ON FAIRTRADE SALES: -

Regrettably we have not been able to hold many Fairtrade sales at West Monkton over the past year due in part to the non-availability of stock and also to the organizer being away and having a period of ill-health. The total therefore was £133.62.

Thank you.

John Roynon March 2025

CHOIR / MUSIC REPORT 2024 Jan to 31st Dec 2024

The choir has continued to support the congregation during the services at West Monkton during the year and have regular practices every fortnight in church.

Our choir practices are led by our wonderful Organist Mary who helps us greatly; we have recently learnt some new hymns and Mary is always very encouraging.

We are lucky enough to have several Organists to play for our services so we would like to thank Mary, Ian Sam and Ruth for all the support they give.

A couple of the choir members regularly sing at Evensong once a month in Kingston St Mary Church.

In addition to our robes, we now have both red and white chords to accompany the green and purple ones that we use to match the Alter Frontals as the Church year progresses.

Thanks are also added to Rosie for helping with music for our worship and in creating a new hymn book. Rosie's help has been invaluable!

We would as always be delighted if more people would like to join us to sing Hymns of Praise in our lovely parish church of West Monkton.

*Anne Roynon, 14.03.2025
Choir member*

BIBLE STUDY HOME GROUP

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
Home Bible Study representative*

100 CLUB REPORT 2025

The 100 Club rumbles steadily along providing a consistent £4,000+ to add to the church coffers year on year. I continue to be extremely grateful to the loyal Friends of St Augustine's Church for their support and have managed to give out prizes of over £100/£50 monthly throughout the past year.

We have sadly lost some stalwart members this year and give thanks for their commitment to the church through this means of giving but are ever on the lookout to welcome new members and welcome your help in achieving this.

Kate Ayres
21.03.2025

BAPTISM FOLLOW-UP VOLUNTEERS MINISTRY. JANUARY 2024 – DECEMBER 2024

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

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

I 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, ensuring families have our details should they need to contact us again.

The baptisms at West Monkton have taken place at noon on a Sunday by Rev Jim.

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 I 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 West Monkton Church School with Rev Jim Cox .

Loretta McHugh.
Baptism 'helper' .

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

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES report for 2025 APCM (1 Jan - 31 Dec 2024)

The events this year have been successful and increased the visibility of the Church within the community and have included:

- January: Yvette Staelens and the Voice of the people choir
- March: Bus trip to Buckfast Abbey
- April: Wedding dresses through the decades
- June: Open Gardens
- July: Brass Band – Brass on the Grass with Wiveliscombe Town band
- August: BBQ
- October: "Somerset Art weeks" a three-week exhibition of art works under the title of "Flux and Flow".
- November: Christmas Fayre
- December: Christmas Tree festival

Coffee mornings were held on the first Saturday of the month and proved to be good community events. Our thanks to all our guest speakers:

- January - Carol Hicks - Housing Officer
- February – "Countdown" activity
- March – Helen Newstead – WM School Head
- April - Brian Hill - "Killed by satellite - the demise of the Seagoing Radio Officer"
- May - Deb Stodgell and Jackie Aldridge "The life and work of a celebrant"
- June - Paul + Jamie – crossword activity
- July - Pearl Jeanes - presentation about the Church bells
- August - Richard Smith - Early days in the Police (50's + 60's)
- September – John Pether "My Father's internment during WW1"
- October – as part of SAW
- November – Jaqui Besley and Harry's E-rib adventure around the coast of the UK
- December – as part of the Christmas Tree festival

We have publicised the events through the church website www.westmonktonchurch.co.uk and on Facebook and the old-fashioned leaflet drop (2000 around Monkton Heathfield for the Christmas Fayre!) We are grateful to Jamie Coram for maintaining the website and Facebook account and to Bethan Turner for her social media output increasing publicity, within the community, for the church and its events.

Thank you to members of the activities committee for your time and commitment (and shoe leather) arranging these events, and for providing the lunches after the Plough Sunday and Harvest services. But more importantly thank you to everyone who has attended and helped us raise more than **£9000** this year. Thank you, Kate Ayres, for organising the 100 Club which brings in much needed funds each year.

Additionally, we send our thanks to members of the local community for all that they do to support the church; Open Garden hosts, BBQ chefs, Christmas Fayre stall volunteers, "Coffee & More" Guest speakers, Wedding Dress Festival team and donors, Christmas Tree festival entrants, raffle prize donors, Acorn Innovations, Yvette Staelens & the Voice of the People Choir and Wiveliscombe Town Band.

Sally Hillman and Pearl Jeanes
Feb 2025

WORSHIP TEAM

This is the second year that the Morning Worship Services have been running and so the Worship Group have only met a few times. Meeting particularly to check up on how these non-eucharistic services are going and to then look at tweaking the service provided. We also got involved in planning the production of the new songbook which was recently dedicated thanks to the families of Betty Stone, Thelma Hawkins and Hazel Adams.

We are grateful to Ruth Cook who has joined the team of Peter Wright and Rosie Brown to lead services along with the help from Kate Ayres and friends.

Rosie Brown, Reader

WEST MONKTON CHURCH WEBSITE

Our website and Facebook profile has continued to grow throughout the year and has provided an invaluable link for our church community and further afield.

People know we are here, who we are and what's going on. Information, promotion and fundraising all being shared across our platforms as well as receiving comments, questions and feedback via these streams.

Our website continues to achieve performance rankings above 90% from our web host for a religious category and our Facebook followers have grown to 132. It doesn't sound much but when put into perspective of St James Church over 500 followers and Taunton Minster 1300. These are large town churches with much larger congregations and resources at hand. We are not too shabby!

Jamie Coram, March 2025

FUNDRAISING REPORT FOR APCM 2025

Report for the year 1 Jan 2024 to 31 Dec 2024

Following grants in 2023 from Valencia Communities for the repair of the Lady Chapel Roof and the Benefact Trust for the new sound system, during 2024 we focussed our attention wholly on the re-ordering project, which is comprehensive and ambitious. Currently the project costs are running at about £100,000.00.

We work closely with the PCC and the Church Wardens, and the other volunteers involved in the re-ordering. Our ideas have gone through plenty of iterations, finessing the details of the project; at this point we are confident that it has been well thought through. We can't do any work on the church building without a Faculty, and the application for the re-ordering project was submitted early in 2024. A Diocesan Delegation Visit followed in June 2024; our ideas were greeted with enthusiasm by the Diocesan Advisory Committee members. During the June visit we asked if the heating works could be separated out from the rest of the Faculty as we were aiming to have the work done before the winter. The boiler Faculty was granted in September: just as well it was because...

grant application to the Worshipful Company of In October 2024, just at the end of the SAW exhibition, the boiler finally gave up. There was some very urgent fundraising. Private donors were approached, and a grant sought from West Monkton Parish Council. The grant from the Parish

Council enabled us to commission the new boiler. The SAW event itself raised over £1600.00 for re-ordering.

The rest of the project is still 'live' and the volunteers continue to seek advice from experts and craftsmen. In summary, the aim is to remove the pews from the rear of the church between the cross aisle and the west door, plus two rows from the front of the church. Thereby creating at the rear the fully accessible community space, whilst the removal of pews from the front will allow the installation of a folding ramp for wheelchair and dda access. The space created in the front will allow room for choral and orchestral concerts.

The pews sit on pew platforms, and these will have to be removed, and the floor levelled. It is opportune to install underfloor heating for the community space, before levelling the floor and tiling it. Pews and floor boards will be sold, or repurposed for use in the Served area, and in the creation of a new Vestment Box.

The Served will be brought up to date, more equipment added to facilitate provision of drinks, light lunches etc.

A new Vestment Box will be created from unused pew parts, to sit across the back of the choir stalls separating them from the Lady Chapel. A proposal for a screen above the vestment box will provide suitable accommodation for the rescued two panels of the Gray Windows. Other glass panels will complete the screen. The re-installment of the Gray Window Panels is a specialist part of the project, and we would expect to make a Glassmakers or other specialist provider. We have spoken to the glass restorers who initially assessed the panels, they confirm the panels are very fragile and need careful conservation.

Each of the elements of the re-ordering project comes at a price. As quotes are obtained and assessed, the project spreadsheet is updated. We have received a number of quotes for each of the elements of the re-ordering, which gives confidence in the accuracy of the spreadsheet. We have a grant applying team in place (The Turquoise Cardigan Club). Our aim is to upkeep a steady stream of grant applications to the funders listed in the CofE Cornerstone Directory. Each grant giver has its own requirements e.g. how much funds must already be in place, time period for completion of the work, interval between applications, and if a Faculty has been granted. Could you help? The Turquoise Cardigan Club welcomes new members.

During the year 2024 over 30 grant applications and letters were submitted. The grants we were awarded in 2024 are as follows.

Replacement boiler	£10,000.00	West Monkton Parish Council Sabina Sutherland Charitable
Re-ordering	£2,000.00	Trust
Re-ordering	£1,200.00	Leonard Laity Stoate Trust

Private donations are encouraged and gratefully received; legacy advice can be provided. If members of the public wish to donate specifically to one part of the project (e.g. the Vestment Box or the wheelchair ramp), please contact the Churchwardens (Pearl 07989 745131, or Sally 07949 794843).

Thanks to David for support with all the applications and to the other members of the Turquoise Cardigan Club for mutual encouragement.

Tricia Cavill, 26.3.2025

WEST MONKTON MU 2025

The West Monkton Mothers' Union continues to survive; we still meet on the second Monday of the month in the Benefice Office at Kingston St Mary.

In January we started the year with a Communion Service and Renewal of our Mothers' Union Vows

In February we were given a very interesting talk by Peter Wright on how he becoming a Lay Preacher.

At our March meeting we had a discussion amongst ourselves on the subject of Mothering Sunday, its history, and customs associated with it including Mother's Day in America, it's founder (Anna Maria Jarvis) on how she started Mother's Day clubs in the towns, to improve the health, welfare and sanitary conditions. These clubs raised money to buy medicines and hire women to work with families in homes where the mother had TB or other health conditions. We also had a quiz on how many mothers in the Bible we could name.

In April Robin Lodge (The Vicar of St Andrews) gave us a talk and slide show with music on Transports of Delight in which we were treated to a glimpse of Public Transport in the life of the Nation. Trains, Buses Trolleybuses, Trams and Boats all featured. The programmer also featured little ditties to accompany the talk ending with a quote by Henry William Baker (1821- 1877)

"Thou spread'st a table in my sight;

Thy unction grace bestoweth:

And O what transport of delight

From thy pure chalice floweth! "

For our **May** meeting we were at Hazel's house and we talked about how we all became Mothers' Union members and what it means to each of us.

In June our speaker was the Rev Elizabeth Shearcroft, Vicar of All Saints Halcon

Elizabeth spoke about her life and her work at Halcon with all its difficulties and rewards and how with a little patience she has been able to build a positive rapport. with the community.

For **July** we again met at Hazel's for our annual Afternoon Tea with prayer and chat and excellent refreshments from Sandy.

Hazel and I attended a meeting of the Staple grove MU.

August No Meeting

In September we had our annual lunch, this time at The Maypole Thurloxtton.

In October we had a discussion amongst ourselves on the topic of Social Justice and what it means.

We talked at length of some of the issues around Social Justice and its impact on our society.

We also spoke about the 5 Objectives of the Mothers' Union and how these may help us in promoting Justice for all. We then had an activity where we wrote down the word MOTHERS' UNION and tried to think of all that the MU do starting, with that letter.

Our **November** meeting was a very interesting talk by Brian Hill on how they conduct Remembrance services on submarines.

In **December** we ended the year with a sad heart as we lost our very dear friend Hazel, she will be greatly missed.

Although Hazel wasn't with us, we carried on as I'm sure she would have wanted and had Prayers Carols and traditional mince pies.

We also were asked to take part in the Christmas tree Festival.

All our meetings end with the Grace

I would like to thank all who have given their time to come and speak to us during last year, for Sandy for her lovely refreshments and Michele for the use of the Benefice Office.

*Anne Roynon
March 2025*

RIPPLE EFFECT (formerly Send A Cow – South Quantock Benefice Charity)

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 Mother's 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 of Kingston St. Mary

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

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/promoting-a-safer-church-policy-notes.pdf>

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:

Kingston St Mary & Broomfield Mrs Lucy Hay 01823 451 204 safeguardingsqb@gmail.com

West Monkton / Cheddon vacancy – contact Rev Jim Cox as below

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

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

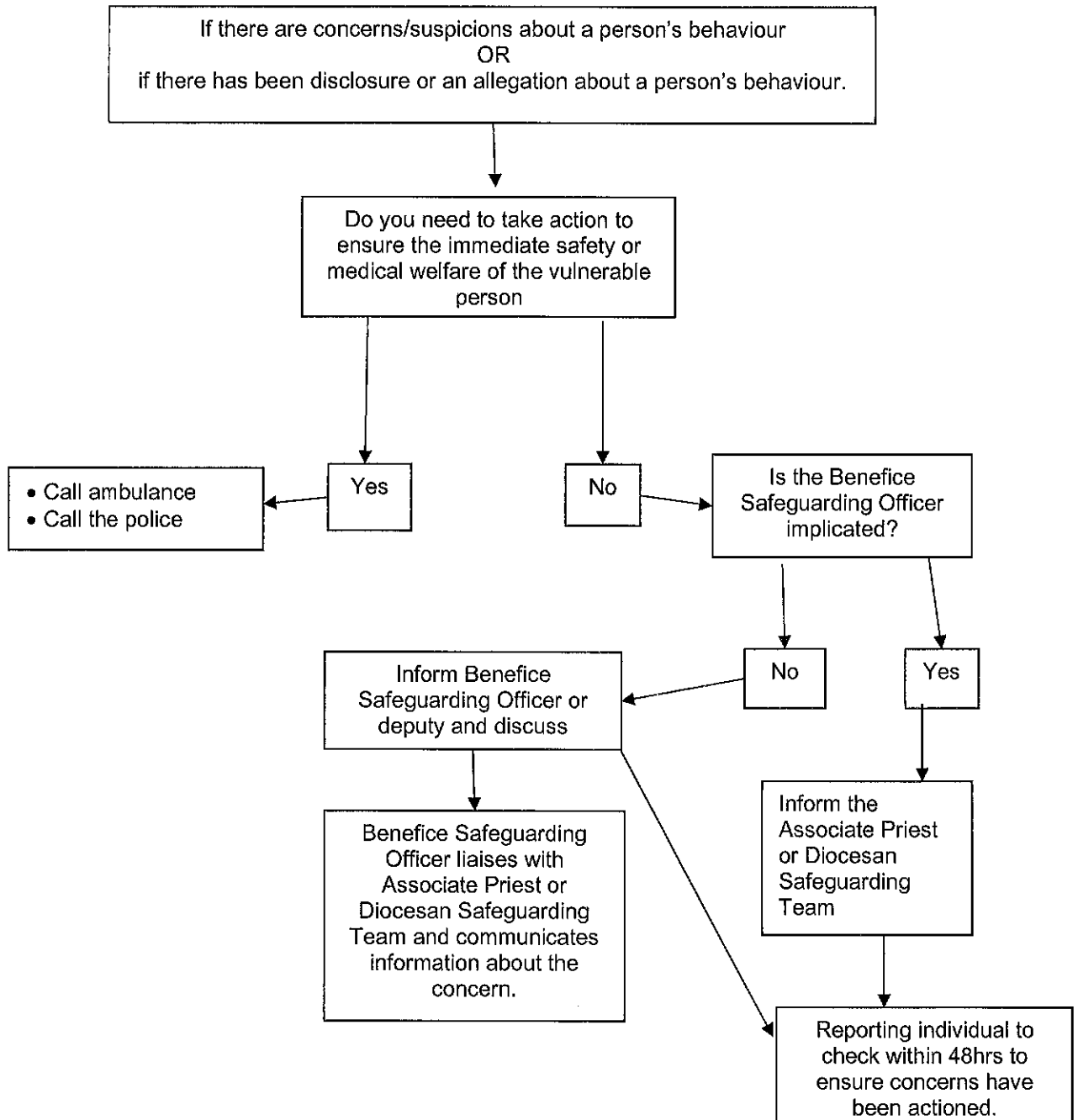
Email: safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org

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).



St Augustine's Church, West Monkton
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024

West Monkton's Receipts & Payments Account
for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	General fund	Designated fund	Restricted fund	2024	2023
Receipts		£	£	£	£	£
Donations and Legacies:						
Planned giving		11,780	-	110	11,890	12,126
Collections, donations & other giving		11,716	5,000	22,611	39,327	12,502
Income tax recovered		5,096	-	-	5,096	3,961
Legacies		-	-	-	-	-
Other Trading activities						
Magazine/Bookstall sales/Hall Lettings etc		-	-	-	-	-
Income from other Properties		-	-	-	-	-
Annual Fete/events		13,037	4,391	-	17,428	13,879
Receipts from Investments:						
Interest & dividends		1,303	135	1,177	2,615	1,957
Receipts from Charitable activities:						
Parochial fees		4,331	-	-	4,331	5,800
Other Receipts						
Insurance claims		-	-	-	-	-
Sale proceeds from fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-
Loans received		-	-	-	-	-
Other		23	-	-	23	-
Total Receipts		47,286	9,526	23,898	80,710	50,225

Payments

Charitable activities:

Donations/Grants to charities	(500)	-	-	(500)	(816)
Mission & Evangelism	-	-	-	-	-
Parish Share	(27,677)	-	-	(27,677)	(23,995)
Clergy expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Church running expenses	(4,936)	-	(2,157)	(7,093)	(9,480)
Churchyard maintenance	-	-	(2,627)	(2,627)	(1,143)
Cost of raising funds	(1,088)	(2,746)	(67)	(3,901)	(1,376)

Support costs	(2,647)	-	-	(2,647)	(2,066)
Administration costs (inc. staff costs)	(714)	-	-	(714)	(580)
Governance Costs	(100)	-	-	(100)	(100)
Other	(1,646)	-	-	(1,646)	(1,663)

Major expenditure

Repairs to church buildings	-	-	(45,347)	(45,347)	(2,596)
Repairs to other property	-	-	-	-	-
Capital purchases/additions	-	-	-	-	-
Loan repayments	-	-	-	-	-

Total payments	(39,308)	(2,746)	(50,198)	(92,252)	(43,815)
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Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over payments	7,978	6,780	(26,300)	(11,542)	6,410
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<i>Transfers between funds</i>	-	-	-	-	-
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	7,978	6,780	(26,300)	(11,542)	6,410
<i>Cash at bank and in hand at 1 Jan (Actual Balance)</i>	34,283	10,403	18,778	63,464	57,054

<i>Cash at bank and in hand at 31 Dec (Actual Balance)</i>	42,261	17,183	(7,522)	51,922	63,464
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Statement of assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>Cash and Investment Funds</u>	£	£
Bank Current Accounts	6029	9889
Churchyard Current Accounts		
CCLA Deposit Account - CB3019643	4	4
CCLA Deposit Fabrics - CB3019646 - Designated	2671	2536
CCLA Deposit Fabric Fund - CB3019645	23442	32256
CCLA Deposit Burial Ground - CB3019647 - Restricted	19775	18778
	51921	63463
CCLA 42.02 Shares re Churchyard - CB3019644 - Restricted	972	950
	52893	64413
General Account	8977	11592
Fabric Account	12095	22547
Churchyard Account 42.02 shares (note 2 below)	950	950
Churchyard Account	11096	10546
Churchyard Legacy Account (note 3 below)	19775	18778
	52893	64413

NOTES :

West Monkton Parochial Church Council receives income from two investments controlled by the Bath & Wells Board of Finance as custodian trustees as follows:

1. Funds held in account CB3019647 representing the legacy left in the will of Mr JP Barnicott who died in 1989. The will provides that the money should be held by the BOARD upon trust to pay the income to the PCC of West Monkton Church for the maintenance of the Church and churchyard parish office so long as my grave and that of my Sister Dorothy Kathleen Barnicott are kept in good order and repair and on breach of this condition then both capital and income for the general purposes of the Board.

2. 42.02 shares held in account CB3019644 by the CCLA, these are revalued every six months but are included in the cash accounts, hence why the assets are higher in the statement of assets and liabilities than the total displayed in the cashbook. These shares pay interest which is credited to the bank account and allocated to the Churchyard.

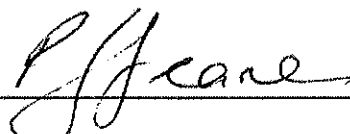
1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments Basis.

2. The following assets are recognized but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: Movable church furnishings held by the Church Wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.

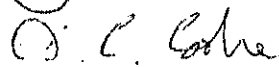
3. The Churchyard Legacy account allows the income therefrom to finance churchyard expenditure as required but the capital is only to be used in exceptional circumstances as determined by the Rector and Churchwardens.

Approved by the PCC on 24/03/25 and signed on their behalf by:

Ms Pearl Jeanes (PCC Chair)



Mr David Cooke (PCC Treasurer)



Treasurer's Report – APCM 2025

2024 Summary

2024 presented financial challenges to the church, with both planned and unplanned projects requiring funding. The most significant upgrade during the year was for a replacement boiler and related works costing £21.5K, mostly funded by grants and generous donations from Parishioners. The much-needed audio replacement went ahead at a cost of £9.5K, partially funded by a £2.7K grant, and the Lady Chapel roof repairs were completed at a cost to the church of £7.4K, the rest being funded by a Valencia grant.

Planned giving was down marginally from 2023, though donations and grants were significantly higher at £39K, compared to £12.5K the previous year. Fundraising events were also ahead at £17.4K (2023 £13.8K) primarily due to the Somerset Art Weeks (SAW) event, which raised £4.3K and the Wedding Dress Festival raising £1.2K.

Overall income at £80.7K was £30.5K higher than in 2023, expenditure at £92.2K was £48.4K higher, and for the year the church made a loss of £11.5K.

Parish Share

The method of calculating the Parish Share has changed, which means that rather than churches contributing to the Diocese based on the previous calculation method, a church or Benefice will be required to self-fund their clergy. Transitional arrangements have been put in place so that the Parish Share applied to churches will increase over a five-year period, with the aim that they should ultimately cover the clergy costs. This has presented an issue for West Monkton, since the Diocese apportions the overall cost to churches in the Benefice based on a variety of factors, including local population. With the significant increase in housing within the West Monkton Benefice the projected Benefice Share at the end of the transition period will be £43.2K, compared to £27.6K for 2024, an increase of 56%. In the six years prior to 2024, the church had an average income of £40.3K, overall expenditure £43K and Parish Share £24.3K, hence a levy of £43.2K would exceed our typical income for the year. This is clearly unsustainable and meeting the demand implies that the church would be technically bankrupt in 3-4 years. The PCC took the decision to reduce what they would contribute to the Diocese for 2025 and will be paying £26.6K for the current year (against a request to pay £30.8K).

Parish Giving Scheme

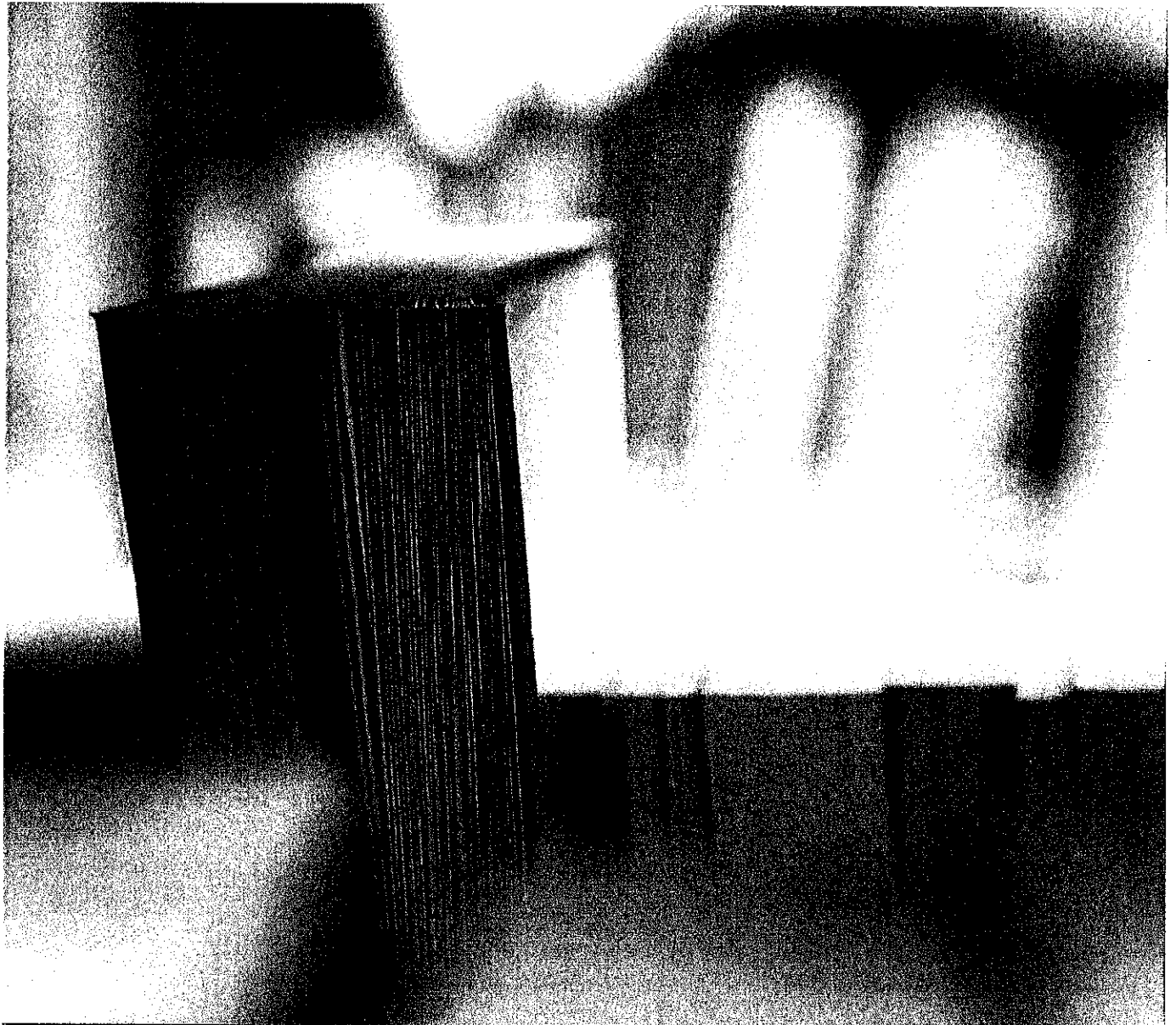
The church signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme for parishioners to make regular or one-off donations to the church. The scheme is particularly beneficial to the church as it manages gift aid claims automatically and monthly, with gift aid coming into the bank account typically two weeks after a donation is made. This improves cashflow as well as reducing the regulatory burden of the end of year gift aid claim. To sign up to the Parish Giving Scheme please go to <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/my-pgs/>. Please be aware to only complete the gift aid declaration if you are currently a taxpayer, and anyone with a standing order should cancel it once signed up to the scheme to avoid donating twice.

Dave Cooke
West Monkton PCC Treasurer

Appendix: Breakdown of Accounts

The following table provides a breakdown of each item in the accounts.

Income	
Planned Giving	Regular covenants usually paid by standing order
Collections	Collections at services, one off donations, cash box monies, grants
Income Tax Recovered	Tax refunded where donors have completed gift aid forms, plus tax recovered under GASDS
Annual Fete/events	100 Club donations and fundraising events such as the Christmas Fayre
Interest & Dividends	Interest received on investments
Parochial Fees	Fees from the diocese for weddings and funerals
Expenditure	
Donations/Grants	Donations to other organisations including the Royal British Legion
Parish Share	Our contribution towards the diocese costs for the year
Church Running Expenses	General expenses (such as candles, communion wine, organist fees, heating and lighting costs), regular maintenance (including PAT testing, servicing fire extinguishers, architect's fees, lightning conductor testing, general minor repairs, alarm subscriptions and maintenance, boiler servicing and Quinquennial reports)
Churchyard Maintenance	Grass cutting, tree surgery, minor hardware purchases, shed upgrades
Support Costs	Contribution towards the benefice office
Administration Costs	Honorarium to treasurer, clergy costs, bellringer fees
Governance Costs	Payment made to the independent examiner
Other	Insurance costs
Repairs to Church Buildings	Fees in respect of church works such as roof and stonework repairs, and heating system upgrades



Independent Examination of the West Monkton Parochial Church Council 2024 Annual Accounts

Prepared by John Leddy

17 February 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE WEST MONKTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2024 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE WEST MONKTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2024 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE WEST MONKTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2024 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Introduction

1. This report has been prepared by John Leddy on behalf of the Members of the West Monkton Parochial Church Council (PCC) who are the sponsor, and to whom any queries should be addressed.

Background

2. The village of West Monkton lies to the east and north-east of Taunton and includes the geographical sub-divisions of Bathpool and Monkton Heathfield. It comprises the older village of West Monkton itself which primarily surrounds the parish church of St Augustine and the residential areas of Bathpool and Monkton Heathfield, both of which have seen a growth in housing and are currently being further developed for residential and light industrial use.

3. St Augustine's church dates primarily from the 13th century with later additions and has a fine tall Somerset Tower. It features a barrel roof to the chancel, a clerestory, and some notable brass. There are eight bells in the tower with an active band of bellringers. There is also a small but loyal choir and regular organist.

4. The West Monkton PCC oversee St Augustine's church which presently has a church membership of about 52 and the parish is rated Category C for the purposes of the Parish Share of the Common Fund.

5. West Monkton PCC is currently part of The South Quantock Benefice with Kingston St Mary, Broomfield and Cheddon Fitzpaine. The Benefice was formed in 2010 when the existing Benefice of Kingston St Mary, Broomfield and Cheddon Fitzpaine united with West Monkton. The Benefice has its office in Kingston St Mary.

Aim

6. John Leddy is to conduct the Independent Examination (IE) of the West Monkton PCC accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024.

Approach

7. Eligibility to examine the accounts and conduct an IE was confirmed.

8. The West Monkton PCC Annual Accounts for the period 1st January to 31st December 2024 were examined in accordance with Charity Commission (CC) guidance, details are at Annex A¹. Additional investigations were conducted where necessary and supporting documentation for the operation of the funds requested if required.

9. As part of the examination discussions were held with the PCC Treasurer to ascertain answers to the CC Directions.

Findings

10. Examination of the annual report confirmed that the gross income of the West Monkton PCC did not exceed £1 million² and the aggregate value of assets (before deduction of liabilities) did not

¹ Section E of the guidance explains the role, duties and 13 specific directions of an independent examiner in examining the accounts of a charity.

² Charities Act 2011 Chapter 3 Section 144(1).

exceed £3.26 million. In addition to the upper threshold, the Gross Income was above the £25,000³ lower threshold set for an IE rather, than Audit, to be carried out. Fund Balances are:

Table 1 – West Monkton PCC Account Balances

Serial	Fund	Gross Income (£)	Gross Assets (£)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1	West Monkton PCC	£80,710	£52,893

11. The Gross Income of the Charity is below £250,000 which means that the accounts could be prepared on a Receipts and Payment basis. On inspection of the Charity accounts the West Monkton PCC have elected to prepare their Accounts using this method.

12. **Points from Last Year's Review.** Last year's IE Report was reviewed. On inspection of that Report no material observations were documented; therefore, no points remain outstanding.

13. **Additional Observations.** The Independent Examiners report is a statement to confirm that the Charity is operating within the accounting and governance tolerances set by the CC. After conducting the IE no further observations were made.

Conclusion

14. The West Monkton PCC has received an unqualified report which can be found at Enclosure 1.

Annex:

A. The Charity Commission's Directions on the IE of Charity Accounts.

Enclosure:

1. IE Report for 1 Jan to 31 Dec 24 – The West Monkton PCC.

³ Charities Act 2011 Chapter 3 Section 145(1).

THE CHARITY COMMISSIONS DIRECTIONS ON INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF CHARITY ACCOUNTS

1. The Charity Commission produce an examiners' guide to IE of Charity Accounts. It is specifically written for Independent Examiners and explains their role and duties in examining the accounts of a charity. In accordance with Section E of the guidance the 13 specific directions and how they were addressed are as follows:

- a. **Examination and accounting thresholds.** The annual report for the period 1 Jan – 31 Dec 24 was examined to confirm IE thresholds⁴ had not been breached.
- b. **Conflicts of Interest.** The examiner was not influenced or perceived to be influenced in any way as he did not have any close personal relationships with the PCC Members, was not a major donor to the PCC, did not have any control of funds and was not involved in the day to day running of the PCC.
- c. **Documentation.** Working papers were examined and evident. All procedures carried out and any matters arising to support conclusions reached or statements provided in the report have been documented.
- d. **Understanding the charity.** Detailed briefs and free access to all charity documentation ensured a full understanding of the charity's constitution, organisation, accounting systems, activities and nature of its assets, liabilities, incoming resources and application of resources.
- e. **Accounting records.** The charity accounting records have been subject to a review and appear complete and consistent with statutory requirements.
- f. **Comparison with accounting records.** A comparison of the charity's accounts with the accounting records in sufficient detail was carried out which provides a reasonable basis to decide that the accounts are consistent.
- g. **Accruals Basis Checks.** As the Accounts of the West Monkton PCC are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis this section is not relevant.
- h. **Accounting policies, estimates and judgements.** Review the accounting policies adopted and consider their consistency with the SORP and their appropriateness to the activities of the charity.
- i. **Financial circumstances and Going Concern.** The examiner checked whether the Trustees have considered the financial circumstances of the Charity at the end of the reporting period and have assessed the Charities position as a going concern when approving the Accounts.
- j. **Form and Content of the Accounts.** The examiner carried out procedures as considered necessary to provide a reasonable basis on which to conclude whether or not the accounts have been properly prepared. The examiner checked that they can lawfully prepare Receipts and Payments Accounts, that all accounting statements are present, and the funds of the Charity can be correctly identified.

⁴ Gross income greater than £0.025 and not to exceed £0.25M for receipts and payments, gross income not to exceed £1.0M and the aggregate value of assets should not exceed £3.26M otherwise a full audit is required.

k. **Analytical Review.** The examiner carried out an analytical review of the current accounts to identify if any entries required further explanation or evidence. The 2024 Accounts were compared with the 2023 Accounts to see if any material changes could be identified.

l. **Compare the Trustees Annual Report with the Accounts.** The West Monkton PCC Annual Report was compared with the accounts to check for any material inconsistencies.

m. **Examiner's report.** The IE report can be found at Enclosures 1.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WEST MONKTON PCC

I report on the accounts of the West Monkton PCC for the 12 months ended 31st December 2024, which are set on pages 1 to 2.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the West Monkton PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The members of the PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an IE is needed. The Charity is preparing Receipts and Payments Accounts and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA).

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for Independent Examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Charities Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the CC under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Charities Act; and
- 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 Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of 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 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 unqualified 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:

- a. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the West Monkton PCC as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- b. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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

John Leddy FCMA CGMA CPFA
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Weston super Mare
BS23 9XU



John Leddy
17th February 2025