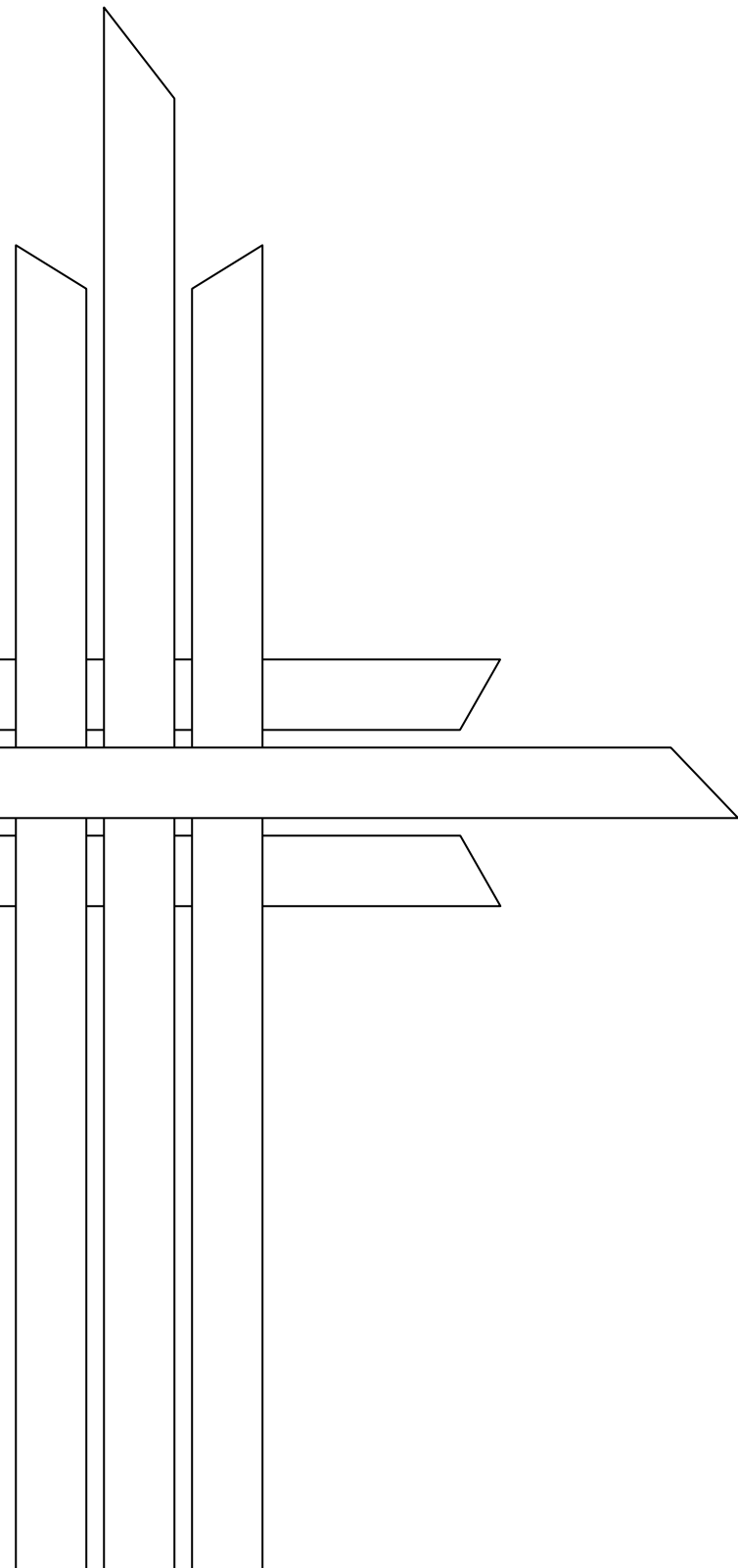


|St Marys|Pickersleigh|

Annual Report

St Mary's Pickersleigh PCC
For the year ended 31 December 2022



Reference and Administrative Information

Name: St Mary's Church, Pickersleigh

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Bankers: Barclays

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145 Madresfield Road
Malvern
WR14 2HD

Structure, governance and management

The members of St Mary's PCC during 2022 were as follows:

Clergy

Revd Lynne Sparkes (*Vicar*)

Church Wardens

Chris Beale

David Sparkes

Deanery Synod Representative

Vacant

PCC members

Beth Thomas

Helen Weir (*PCC Treasurer; PCC secretary; Parish Safeguarding Officer*)

Claire Charley

Katherine Eglington

As this is a record of 2022 during which time Revd Lynne Sparkes and Churchwarden, David Sparkes were still in post, they have kindly completed the aspects of the report over which they had oversight, with additions by the PCC Secretary, Treasurer, Safeguarding Officer, and Electoral Roll Officer.

Foreword

As many of you will know I enjoy gardening, and it has been especially pleasing to have been given the opportunity to transform the garden at 137 Madresfield Road, over the past 7 years from an overgrown wilderness to a garden full of colour, variety and fragrance.

As fellow gardeners will appreciate there are years where some plants thrive, and other years where they struggle – the work and care that the gardener employs remain the same but the conditions, weather, soil and pests change.

As I look back on almost 10 years of ministry at St Mary's, and knowing that I will be leaving in 2023, I can see similarities between parish ministry and gardening. As a church we have tried a number of initiatives to serve our community and to refresh our building. Some of these have thrived, others have failed to thrive, some continue, whilst some have stopped. But all have needed care, attention, and nurturing.

What has been important is that as a community of faith we continue to journey forwards in faith. God never promises us success – all He asks of us is to “walk humbly, act justly, and love mercy”. I hope that sentiment has been evident in the projects that we have undertaken: supporting parents and preschoolers through Pickersleigh Bears; creating a space on the estate where people can meet through our Community Café; helping to reduce food waste through our Community Fridge; sharing the important stories of our faith with the children of Great Malvern Primary School; and providing space for families to come together in our craft workshops.

None of this has been a solo activity but one in which members of the church, the local community, as well as others beyond have participated. As we journey, we benefit from the companionship and friendship of those who journey alongside us. They help us to keep going when times get tough, and can share with us in the good times.

I am grateful to all of those with whom I have journeyed over the past 10 years at St Mary's and to the people of Pickersleigh. May God bless the work that you do in the future as you journey on without me.

Revd Lynne Sparkes

Introduction

St Mary's Pickersleigh became its own parish within the Diocese of Worcester in 2014 - a diocese that believes that the church exists to serve those who are not - or not yet - its members.

The Diocese is currently promoting the idea of Kingdom People: where our churches should be communities in which the Kingdom is our core conversation. These Kingdom values should characterise our churches' lives and so bring good news to the lives of each of our communities.

The Kingdom values are:

1. Deeply rooted in prayer and study of the scriptures
2. Renewed and transformed by regular worship
3. Equipped to witness to the Gospel of love, compassion, justice and freedom
4. Dedicated to helping children, young people and young adults to belong and be nurtured in faith
5. Devoted to growing deeply as disciples, offering our time, talents and money to God
6. Resourced and released to minister to others
7. Ready to engage with and serve our community
8. Committed to making our buildings fit for purpose as a spiritual and community resource

Our annual report has been written with reference to the Kingdom values of the Diocese.

Objectives

The primary objective of the St Mary's PCC, in line with those of Church of England PCCs, is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC cooperates with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church of England, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical.

Achievements and Performance - During the year St Mary's:

- Worked with children and families through hosting Experience Easter and Experience Christmas for pupils of Great Malvern Primary School and ran successful Good Friday and Christmas craft workshops. Welcomed 7 Year 10 boys for work experience at Community Café and Fridge.
- Continued to welcome people to the Community Fridge and Café, putting on an Easter Breakfast at Café and Craft stalls during December. In addition, we held a successful Fish & Chip Quiz evening and Easter Bingo afternoon in aid of the building project.
- Worked ecumenically by hosting the launch of the Deanery Lent course and the World Day of Prayer service in March. Members of the congregation participated in the Deanery walks.
- Regretfully, came to the decision that escalating costs meant that the proposed Building Project could not go ahead - every time the fund-raising target was within reach, the current economic situation meant that costs spiralled out of reach. A decision was therefore made to use the available restricted funds to refurbish the existing building, prioritizing those areas most necessary, but still with the focus on enhancing the building and its grounds for the benefit of the church and the community.
- Held a PCC away day, facilitated by Revd Chris Lily to consider the future of St Mary's and put forward the case for St Mary's continuing to have a Vicar from 2025 with options of how it might fit into the Deanery.
- Sadly received the news of the resignation of Revd Lynne Sparkes with a leaving date of 31st January 2023

Helen Weir, PCC Secretary

Church Attendance

In 2022 the attendance at the 10am Sunday morning service had an average of 14 (14 adults and no children).

Our fresh expression of church, Pickersleigh Bears, had an average attendance of 27 (14 adults and 13 children).

During 2022 6 people were baptised at St Mary's, 2 funerals took place in the building and sadly there were no weddings.

	2020 Before Lockdown I	2020 Between lockdown I & 2	2020 After lockdown 2	2021	2022
Sunday 10am	18	15	18	18	14
Pickersleigh Bears	27	30	29	26	27

In-person attendances at St Mary's

Electoral Roll

At the end of 2021 there were 25 members on the Electoral Roll. At the revision of the Electoral Roll in 2022, 4 people were removed and 3 new members added, bringing the total to 24. During 2022, one further person had been removed from the roll bringing the total at the end of 2022 to 23 members.

	2. Renewed and transformed by regular worship
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Safeguarding

2022 saw some changes to the requirements of the parish regarding Safeguarding. Firstly, a new Social Media policy was drafted and agreed by the PCC and secondly the requirement regarding Safeguarding training for PCC members changed.

Secondly, All PCC members were required to complete at least the Foundation training module and the PSO needed to complete the Leadership module. All necessary training was completed.

The Parish Dashboard, the online record of our compliance with Safeguarding requirements, was reviewed at each PCC meeting and actions taken to ensure as many lights were 'turned green' as possible.


Because St Mary's PCC are trustees of an organization that includes children's work, it is the policy of the Diocese, in line with the Charity Commissioners recommendations that all PCC members need to have an enhanced DBS check, although this cannot be legally enforced.

From the next election of PCC members in 2023, it will be made a condition of membership that all members of the PCC receive an enhanced DBS check and are required to complete the Foundation training module.

There were no Safeguarding issues during the year.

The PCC of St Mary's can therefore state that in the year under review, it has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Helen Weir, Parish Safeguarding Officer


	<p>4. Dedicated to helping children, young people and young adults to belong and be nurtured in faith</p>
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Financial Review

Overall, 2022 was a very positive year largely due to generous congregational giving well above budget and donations from supporters of the Church and the Community Fridge. The PCC are grateful for this support.

- Unrestricted income, which covers the day to day running of the church saw a surplus of £10,346 from an income of £30,738. This included donations of £8,387.
- Donations to support the Community Fridge and Pastoral work in the Parish totalled £10,332. These monies were put into Designated and Restricted funds for use in 2023 onwards.
- Higher interest rates meant that we received £2,528 in bank interest.
- A heating grant of £862 was received from the Diocese.
- The PCC paid its Ministry Share of £12,672 in full.
- The building project started the year with £238,674 available to it. With the decision not to proceed, £40,000 was returned to general funds, grants of £15,000 and £1,000 were repaid to St Andrews and All Saints respectively, and bills paid to the Quantity Surveyors and Architects who had been working on the project. At the end of 2022, the funds available to the building project were £167,137.

Helen Weir, PCC Treasurer

	<p>5. Devoted to growing deeply as disciples, offering our time, talents and money to God</p>
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Reserves Policy


It is the policy of this church to hold in reserve the equivalent of two months' general running costs and an additional one month's salary costs.

As a bronze Eco Church recipient, St Mary's intends to hold a sum in reserve to allow for the installation of solar panels on the south facing roof of the church building. It is anticipated that the cost of this will be approximately £30,000.

The electric heating system in church is showing its age and will need replacement in the next few years. It is anticipated that the cost of this will be in the region of £8,000. The heating in the Jubilee Room is ineffective and also needs replacing, it is estimated that this will cost in the region of £1,500. The lighting in the Jubilee Room and the vestry need to be replaced with low energy LED fittings and this is estimated to cost £500.

This means that St Mary's would need to hold approximately £42,000 in reserve.

The PCC believes that, at present, it holds an amount in reserve sufficient to meet these needs.

 <p>Kingdom People love · compassion · justice · freedom</p>	<p>5. Devoted to growing deeply as disciples, offering our time, talents and money to God</p>
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Fabric


During the year, routine maintenance was carried out on the building. This included trimming the bushes and hedges around the perimeter; removing damaged branches to a cherry tree (thanks to Alastair Cameron for assistance with this); repairs to the roof; replacing the flush mechanisms in both the ladies' and the gents' toilets; clearing the gutters; tidying the cabling for the sound system; and replacing the smoke alarms.

The water meter was replaced at the request of Severn Trent Water Ltd during the year, however this led to a leak in the boundary box (located near the main gate) later on in the year. This was attended to and repaired by Severn Trent.

The main areas of concern with regard to fabric are the roof (leaks) and the fire doors (lack of insulation). These items have been highlighted as requiring attention as part of the refurbishment of St Mary's. Meetings were held with a roofing contractor in the late autumn with anticipation of the work being carried out at the start of 2023. Thanks are due to Helen Weir for progressing this.

The building has been kept clean and tidy throughout the year thanks to the efforts of Chris Beale and our volunteers on the rota, Helen Weir and Sue Henshaw. People who use our building have commented about how they appreciate the fact that it is clean and tidy.

As part of our commitment to having a more positive impact on the environment two bird boxes and one bug hotel were mounted in the grounds.

 <p>Kingdom People love · compassion · justice · freedom</p>	<p>8. Committed to making our buildings fit for purpose as a spiritual and community resource</p>
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Work with Children and Young People

There were three main areas in which St Mary's worked with children and young people during 2022: Pickersleigh Bears; Family Craft workshops; Experience Easter & Christmas.

Pickersleigh Bears is a fresh expression of church aimed at pre-schoolers and their families. It is held weekly during term-time and features play, a healthy snack, singing, prayers and a Bible story. Usually around 14 children and 12 adults attend Pickersleigh Bears. Unfortunately it was not possible to find alternative leaders to run Pickersleigh Bears following the retirement of Revd Lynne and so the last session was held just before Christmas.

Family Craft Workshops are held around the major festivals of the church – Easter; Harvest; Christmas. They give families the opportunity to enjoy making crafts together, with each craft based around the church's festival. The workshop concludes with everyone enjoying a free buffet tea. Typically around 60 people will attend.

Experience Easter and Christmas give us a chance to invite the children from Great Malvern Primary School to visit us and to hear about the significant stories from the Christian faith. The sessions are designed to be interactive and this gives the children a chance to reflect upon what they have heard. Typically 4 classes will visit which means that around 100 children will hear the stories that are important to us and our faith.



One common theme that runs throughout this work is that each activity relies upon a dedicated team of volunteers, both from within St Mary's as well as from outside. Without these volunteers this work would not be possible and so we are very grateful for them and the time that they give.

Community Fridge

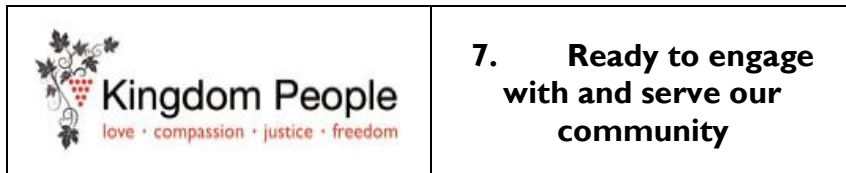
In 2021 we opened our Community Fridge - the idea of a Community Fridge is that it receives good quality surplus food from supermarkets which people can take at no cost. By doing this it allows people to have food that would otherwise have gone to waste.

Everyone is welcome to come and use the Fridge and so it enables all of us, as individuals, to help reduce food waste, which is a significant contributor to climate change: through its production, transportation and disposal.

The Fridge is entirely run by volunteers: some who collect the food from the supermarkets in the evening and others who staff the Fridge when it is open. Without these volunteers it would not be possible to operate the Fridge and we are very grateful for their support.

The main change that occurred with the Fridge was going from being open three mornings every week to only being open on two mornings. There were two reasons for this: a reduction in the number of available volunteers and a reduction in the amount of food available. The latter was noted by Community Fridges and Foodbanks up and down the country.

In 2022 our Fridge was visited almost 4,000 times and saved 10 tonnes of good food from going to waste. Almost 90 people used the Fridge for the first time in 2022. This means that since opening the Fridge has been visited 6,000 times and has saved 15 tonnes of food.



Deanery Synod.

In February, St Mary's hosted the launch of the Deanery Lent course. This course was led by the Revd Doug Chaplin and people from the various churches across the deanery. Breakfast was provided by St Mary's to those attending. It was good for us to be able to offer hospitality to our fellow Christians from across Malvern and Upton Deanery

The results of the Deanery Survey that had been undertaken at the 2021 were published and this showed that work with children and young people was a priority for a number of churches across the Deanery. To help address this, the Spring Synod was an open meeting at which Margaret Pritchard Houston, a Children's Mission Enabler in St Alban's Diocese, explained practical ways in which churches could help welcome children and families.

As the Diocese undertakes its Transformation Programme, churches from the Deanery were involved in the third round of Open Conversations that were held in the Spring. These were followed up by Deanery Conversations in Autumn and Winter that sought to determine better ways of providing future ministry across the Deanery. The Deanery Conversation involving St Mary's was scheduled to take place in November, but was postponed until the start of 2023.