

## **The Parish of St Mary's Church, Rattery, Devon**

Address for correspondence

Mrs Linda Jopson  
PCC General Secretary  
Ashbourne Farm  
Rattery  
South Brent TQ10 9JZ

### **ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Of the Parochial Church Council**

**For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

Team Vicar:

Reverend Prebendary Professor Gina Radford

Bankers:

Lloyds Bank, Totnes

Independent Examiner:

Ian Fraser  
Rupp & Fraser  
7 St. Paul's Road  
Newton Abbot  
TQ12 2HP

Web site:

[www.stpetrocsandstmarys.org.uk](http://www.stpetrocsandstmarys.org.uk)

The Parochial Church Council is an Excepted Charity

## **The Parochial Church Council of St Mary's church, Rattery, Devon**

Part of the Dart and Avon Mission Community

### **Aims and purpose**

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) is aware of its responsibilities of promotion of the whole mission of the church within its locale, of caring appropriately for the Grade I listed building and the intangible heritage it represents, and of ensuring integrity and value for money in its financial dealings.

The parish is part of the Dart and Avon Mission Community in which Rev Preb'd Professor Gina Radford is Team Vicar with special responsibility for South Brent and Rattery. Since June 2021 we have been without a Team Rector and Gina has been covering the whole Mission Community during the vacancy. She is officially on duty on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday each week, but does amend her timetable to fit in with funerals and weddings particularly. She lives at the Vicarage in South Brent.

### **Objectives and Activities.**

The PCC is committed to enabling the rural community of Rattery to worship, but also to feel 'ownership' of the church at the centre of this rural community. Mindful of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion, we seek new ways to engage the community. This is achieved through services attuned to traditional festivals, especially those with an agricultural link, through keeping the church unlocked during part of the week (the church is open as frequently as possible for the core hours 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. though we cannot open it all week due to lack of volunteers to do this) – through pastoral services and through public engagement with fund-raising and social events. One of our Churchwardens and a small working party have dedicated themselves to devising a long-term solution to the degrading fabric of the Church and in particular its rare form of wall decoration Sgraffito.

Their emerging plans recognize that the size of the task we face will require an application to be made, in due course, to the Heritage Lottery fund for a sizeable grant. Securing such financial assistance will require the "Renaissance Project" to both address the major damp problem in the building whilst at the same time recognizing that the use of the space inside St. Mary's must be made more available to both the people of the Parish and the wider community of the South Hams in which Rattery is located. These plans also full reflect advice from the Church's Architects and informal observations from the Diocesan Architectural Committee. The ideas currently under development will be subject, in 2023 to a widespread consultation exercise within the Parish.

In addition to consideration of the Church's fabric challenges we have also put together a Churchyard management and biodiversity enhancement programme which in due

course could enable St. Mary's to develop participation in a Social Prescribing programme.

Whilst these plans are being developed regular maintenance of the building's facilities continue to be undertaken on an as of need basis. This activity is greatly assisted by generous support from village based fundraising activities which make contributions to the Fabric Fund.

With modern communications playing an increasingly important role in Church life the building has now been equipped with full fibre broadband which for example will enable those holding weddings to stream the event on a global basis should they so wish.

## **Achievements and Performance**

### **Worship and Prayer**

PCC is committed to holding worship regularly but as seems appropriate to the community. We discuss and review services and service patterns for forthcoming seasons to re-assess what we do rather than assuming that what happened last year at the same time should be repeated. Our current service pattern is two services a month, with occasional extra services for special occasions and festivals (see below), and we encourage members to join with St Petroc's and other churches in the Mission Community either in person or virtually for the other 2 weeks.

Our regular congregation are not great in number (6 – 15) but are enormously supportive and adaptable, having become accustomed to a variety of service leaders, liturgies and styles of preaching. Our services most usually follow the Common Worship pattern, with occasional BCP Holy Communion. We are led by clergy, Licensed Lay Minister or lay-persons (Church Wardens and others). Members of the congregation read scripture and lead intercessions, and all-age worship is often a chance for many to get involved in various imaginative ways (see below).

We have a Pastoral care team jointly with St Petroc's. Home Communion is offered to house-bound individuals and is conducted at two of the Care Homes in South Brent on a monthly basis. Home visiting is also undertaken on a monthly basis for those not well or house-bound. Posters on noticeboards around the church inform and encourage members of the community to seek pastoral visits for themselves or those they know.

We have 21 parishioners on our electoral role. One of our 2 committed volunteer organists retired at the end of 2022, and we are enormously grateful to both of them for all their dedication and support. Our bells can be set to chime, and two members of our congregation frequently play the chimes for our regular Sunday and occasional pastoral services. We reintroduced coffee after services during 2022, and this is very popular, with almost everyone staying to chat. We see this as an important part of our fellowship, and a wonderful way to welcome those visitors and new people who come to the service.

**Families & all-age worship** We hold various Family services during the year, including at Harvest and Christingle. We have also held a Bug Hunt in the churchyard which proved very popular as the children explored the insect life that lives there.

**Baptisms.** There have been two baptisms during the year

**Weddings.** We had 3 weddings during the year, which were joyful occasions,

**Funerals.** We had one Memorial service but no funerals or burial of ashes this year.

Life events services are seen very much as part of our mission, and the church members work hard to make sure the church looks and is as inviting and welcoming as possible.

Our services are promoted via the weekly pew sheet, our website, Facebook, hand bills, notices at the lych gate and inside church, and via the established village news email.

A combined SPARX for South Brent and Rattery children continues. St Mary's PCC are kept apprised of South Brent's youth outreach (Youth bus etc).

This Christmas saw us together with St Petroc's, hold a wonderful Christmas service and nativity at Pennywell farm. This was a very special event, and attracted many people who don't otherwise come to church. There were so many people that we had to run the performance twice! The piglets and lambs stole the show, but the children did a wonderful nativity play and the Brent Singers led our carols. We also held village carol singing in the churchyard which was well attended by people who do not regularly come to church.

We held a wonderful Flower festival in the church which was very well attended, and a testament to our amazing group of flower arrangers.

A well supported Harvest Supper was held in the Village Hall, and was very much appreciated as an opportunity for the community to meet together.

### **Prayer Group**

Members attend the weekly Wednesday Morning Prayer at St. Petroc's and the virtual Morning Prayer on Fridays, as well as the weekly Thought for the Week virtual discussion group.

A group of adult members (6 - 7) meet every first Wednesday of the month as a house group. This New Way of Being Church involves prayer, scripture reading and sharing.

### **Deanery Synod**

One member of PCC sits on the Deanery Synod with an occasional deputy.

## **Church Fabric**

PCC remain committed to keeping the church unlocked during the day; this is especially aided by our volunteer key-holder. The entries in the visitors' book confirm how much appreciated this is. We have taken steps to obtain second-hand replacement wooden altar candlesticks and a wooden altar cross thus the main brassware, including the processional cross and church wardens' staves are locked in the vestry during the day.

Addressing the longer-term fabric challenges are the subject of the "Renaissance Project" to which reference has already been made.

## **Financial Review**

For the year ending 31 December 2022 the total balance of funds stands at £27,121, which is a deficit for the year of £614. This is an improvement on year ending December 2021 which showed a deficit of £3014.

Of the total balance the unrestricted General Fund stands at £22,542 and the Restricted Funds £4579.

Although church running expenses have increased by 12% compared to 2021 there has been a pleasing increase of 60% to income received due to donations, fundraising and fees received for weddings.

A grant of £244 was received towards to Conservator's report on the West door.

Fundraising this year included the flower festival, plant sale, quiz and harvest supper which raised a grand total of £2,239. Thanks to go to our local pub and village hall for events held which made much needed contributions to the Fabric fund.

## **Reserves Policy**

PCC is aware that it is prudent to maintain a level of 'special contingency funding'.

## **The implications to church finances of the building project**

It is again appropriate to discuss the financial implications of the building project under a separate heading. As described above, the monitoring data generated at this stage will be used to inform the planned work and to underpin applications for grant funding for the building works themselves. Our architects have experience in applying for such funding and will assist us with this facet as part of their appointment. Provided the diagnostic data is complete, the subsequent remedial work will be likely to attract major funding by awarding bodies. PCC will seek additional advice from other PCCs in the area who have already completed successful building projects, especially with respect to accounting methods, to ensure we are in accordance with advice from the Diocesan Board of Finance.

## **Sustainability**

We are starting to consider our use of resources in order that our worship and building become more sustainable. These will also be aspects that the PCC will think about carefully as the building project progresses.

## **Safeguarding**

Our PCC safeguarding representative is a member of the Mission Community Safeguarding Group. PCC continues to monitor training requirements and also to promote personal responsibility, helping to ensure that situations which might cause problems are avoided (such as children in church with a single adult, or lone working in the church during the week).

## **Volunteers**

St Mary's continues to be so well supported by volunteers who clean, arrange flowers, maintain the churchyard, hold the key, provide refreshments and play the organ, as well as those who take part in services (readers and intercessors). There are also those who take active part in fund-raising for the church. Inevitably much of the volunteer work has been affected by coronavirus. However, our amazing group of volunteers have continued to support the church as and when it has been possible. The PCC is so grateful for their tireless work to support the church.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC comprises the Vicar, Reader, Church Wardens, Deanery Synod representatives and other members elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The PCC met 6 times during the year. The Ministry Team of the Mission Community meet monthly to plan services, and there are regular meetings of the Church Wardens from across the MC.

## **Administrative Information**

The Church is situated in the centre of Rattery village. There is no church office. Correspondence may be addressed to Mrs Linda Jopson, PCC General Secretary, Ashbourne Farm, Rattery, South Brent, TQ109JZ

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2006) and a Charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2022 until the date this report was approved were:

Team vicar / Chair:      Revd Preb'd Prof Gina Radford

Licensed Lay Minister: Mrs Pam Saunders

Church Wardens:         Dr John Dean

                                  Rt Hon Michael Jack, CBE

Assistant Church         Mr Rob Needham  
Warden

General Secretary:      Mrs Linda Jopson

Deanery Synod rep:     Mr Rob Needham

Treasurer-bookkeeper: Mrs Elaine Barrington

Elected members:      Mr Arnold Barrow

                                  Mrs Sally Nolan (resigned during the year)

Approved by the PCC on .....and signed on its behalf by:

.....

.....

Revd Preb'd Prof Gina Radford (Chair)

Dr John Dean (Vice Chair)