
St Mary's Church

LYDIARD TREGOZE

St Mary's is part of the West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership



Re-enactment marking the 430th anniversary
of Queen Elizabeth I's visit to St Mary's in
September 1592

Annual Report and Financial Statements
of the District Church Council
for the year ending 31 December 2022

ST MARY'S LYDIARD TREGOZE AGM

11.00 am, SUNDAY 19 March 2023

AGENDA

Opening Worship,
God is good, all the time.
All the time God is good.
Reading: Ephesians 3: 14-20. Reader: Revd Lis Arnold
Apologies for absence
Minutes of 2022 and Matters arising.
Reports, with responses as appropriate.
Questions to the Vicar and DCC.
Vestry Meeting.
Including Election of Wardens.
Elections to DCC
AOB Notified to the Vicar beforehand.
Closing Prayer and Hymn 892 Lord for the Years

DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL 2022

Trustees

Vicar of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze: Revd Capt Clive Deverell
Church Wardens: Pat Watson, Jacqueline Kirwan

Elected DCC Members:

Pat Watson
Jacqueline Kirwan
Revd Lis Arnold
Pauline Bowler
Wendy Deverell
Paul Gardner
Lyn Morgan
Peter Roslyk (Part year - Co-opted)

Ex-Officio DCC Members:

Revd Capt Clive Deverell, Vicar of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze
Revd Trevor Day, Associate Minister
Nick Martin (Treasurer)

MINISTER'S REPORT

HOLY TRINITY SHAW AND ST MARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

In a year in which Queen Elizabeth II died, we recall how her words of faith and her influence impacted on so many. It was a real privilege for both Churches to be open so that people could come in and just be or pray. The country's grief was tangible and certainly had an enormous impact. I know whatever I reflect upon, won't cover the thanks I need to give in this report or the feelings we felt in 2022.

Sincere thanks firstly, need to go to Wendy, to Pat and Jacqueline as Wardens, and to Pauline as Deputy Warden and Verger at St Mary's, to the members of the DCC's and for all those like Angela, Janet, Ian and Lyn, who have ensured communications between the various aspects of the daily life of the church, have continued without disruption. I thank Rev Teresa Townsend, and it is important to give thanks for her Ministry amongst us, although we were sad to lose her in April, it was important she stepped forward into her own incumbency in the Anna Benefice. My thanks to Trevor, Lis, Angela, and all who have led services over the past year, in both churches.

We do need to acknowledge, that although in 2022, Teresa and Rachael Wilson both left, we have officially welcomed Peter Rogers as an LLM. It was great to go to Bristol for his licensing. Robert Nicholas has started training as an LLM, Andy Bissex has begun his ordination training and we were joined by Rev Mark Tidey and on an extended placement, Rev Som Okonkwo.

I would also like specific thanks to go to Paul Gardner for completing his task of chairing of the St Mary's Conservation Project Board; to Ed Poole and Janet Cooper-Tydemann for their parts in the Project Board. A remarkable achievement - our thanks to all involved. To Nick Martin and Steve Kershaw for being our Treasurers, Steve Kershaw and Vanessa Parfitt for being our Gift Aid officers.

Both Churches, have played their part in supporting wider Partnership things like "Open the Book" and "Messy Church", and we have sustained and continued with those activities that originated from ourselves - Spotlight and Day Group for Jesus.

I am extremely grateful to Ann Hutchinson who co-ordinates volunteers at St Mary's; to Rebecca Kershaw for her management of not only safeguarding at Holy Trinity Shaw, but also lettings management. My thanks also to Jacqueline who has led Safeguarding and Pastoral Care at St Mary's.

I would like to give thanks for the passion at HTS as we seek to care for the environment, our desire to make HTS sustainable by planning for Solar Panels, and to be a "Warm and Welcome space". It is an important part of our responsibilities towards the planet and the people we serve. My thanks to my family, especially in a year where my own personal circumstances changed considerably.

One thing has been noticeable - post-Covid, people are in need of Jesus, and His Church. We have begun to see small growth in numbers in both Churches and these last words in this report, for our world and our Churches in 2023 - may they inspire us.

"For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, He stretched out His hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people, of whatever faith or none."

- From the Queen's Christmas Message, 2014.

Rev Capt Clive Deverell. Vicar of West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

The country as a whole changed routines as Covid-19 became part of life. With the easing of restrictions regarding social distancing, we were able to dispense with the ropes on alternate pews. We received advice from the Diocese regarding Communion routines, which allowed local decisions. We discussed the giving of Communion, with a majority decision to move to receiving in both kinds, but with intinction rather than the cup, except for the odd Free Church service.

The Strawberry Teas this year were popular, and raised money for the repair of the Stable Room roof, which has yet to receive planning permission. Meanwhile, fundraising will continue in 2023. The three Christmas Carol services with High Tea proved popular again this year, adding to our outreach into the community, as well as raising funds for the church.

At the end of October, Bishop Viv came to visit St Mary's to lead our worship and give thanks for the conservation work. There was also an opportunity for her to visit the Remembrance Garden. We provided the '2 minutes at 2' each afternoon for one month. Thank you to all who led this Act of Worship in the Walled Garden.

We have had a number of baptisms and a few weddings in the church during 2022 and our thanks go to our verger Pauline for her unwavering support with these services.

Thank you to the clergy and lay staff for the variety of services they have led throughout the year, and for the time that Revd. Teresa Townsend was with us before moving to have her own parishes.

With many thanks and blessings to you all.

Pat Watson and Jacqueline Kirwan

TREASURER'S REPORT For the Year ending 31 December 2022

Income

2022 income compared to 2021 was considerably lower, by approximately £9,000. Planned Giving, Plate and Wall-box income was unchanged, Strawberry Teas and Carols by Candlelight improved by £1,000 and we received a welcome £1,100 from the Diocese to assist with fuel costs. Against this, a drop in fees of approximately £4,000, Baptism/Wedding/Funeral contributions of £2,500, Planned Giving and Gift Days of £1,500, Stable Room donations £1,000, reduced tax reclaim on donations of £2,000.

Expenditure

2022 expenditure compared to 2021 was lower by £5,000 of Stable Room maintenance and by reducing the Partnership Share by £5,000 to £24,000, instead of increasing it to £36,000.

Outlook for 2023

The Partnership Share we are asked to pay is £36,000. The Diocese has advised that we should maintain a balance of three months of the Partnership Share amount, ie: £9,000. By holding the Partnership Share in 2022 to £24,000 and £27,000 in 2023, we hope to be able to bring our Reserves up to the recommended level. With current income and expenditure, it is not possible for us to reach the desired £36,000.

We saw steep rises in oil and electricity prices during the year. The electricity amount paid was artificially low, because only 3 electricity bills were received instead of 4 and only a small oil top-up was made in December. Both will hit hard in 2023, with budget set at £8,800, compared to 2022 costs of £5,000. We have no choice but to continue to incur steep fuel costs, as the church must be kept at a certain temperature to preserve the conservation work.

Carols by Candlelight was very successful and Clive is considering whether service plus tea would work at other times of the year.

We installed contactless payment terminals close to the end of the year. It is too early to say how it will impact on service plate and collections, hopefully favourably. It was a very time-consuming project, so many thanks to all who were involved.

Nick Martin, Treasurer

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

There have been no safeguarding issues reported in the last year.

Some people have renewed their DBS registration as required and there are others due soon. The 'Safe to Grow' list for St Mary's has increased during this year due to the addition of the volunteer stewards who have been able to help us open the church more regularly to the many visitors we have had during 2022. This has been co-ordinated by Ann Hutchinson (Safer Recruitment trained for this role) and overseen by the Safeguarding Officer for the Partnership and others on the Conservation Board for the church.

Our thanks to all those that have been involved during the year and to our team of stewards.

Jacqueline Kirwan (Assistant Safeguarding Co-ordinator)

PASTORAL TEAM REPORT

Thank you to all the Team who have continued to keep in contact with members of St Mary's church family throughout 2022. We have welcomed new worshippers to our services as the legacy of the pandemic restrictions have eased during 2022, as many people are returning to a more normal life. Those that have become members have been added to the pastoral team list.

Those in the pastoral team have their photos and contact details on the noticeboard in church so they can be identified by the congregation and visitors. Any one of them can be approached to provide a listening ear for support and prayer, as well as the ministers. The name of the person requesting prayer or to be prayed for, can also be added to the list in the weekly Notice sheet. (Information on how to include a person on the Notice sheet is given there).

A request for prayer can also be sent to the Prayer team - Tish Vass (first contact) or Revd Lis Arnold (deputy) will send a message out to the Ministry Team and to the Prayer Team. Some of those on the Pastoral Team are also part of the Prayer Team and all are aware of the issues of confidentiality. Information will only be shared with consent, unless there are Safeguarding concerns. If such concerns are raised, then details will need to be shared on a 'need to know' basis with the relevant Authorities, and ongoing support given to the individual, as part of helping that person to feel safe and heard.

Jacqueline Kirwan (Pastoral Team Lead)

MUSIC GROUP

The Music Group reformed at the beginning of the year, in time to play for Teresa's leaving service. We have continued to meet throughout the year and led worship on a regular basis, including services at Harvest and Christmas. We have welcomed back old members and gained new members as we have met.

Special thanks to Pat and Mike for hosting practices, and all members who have all attended regularly. We are learning new songs to expand our knowledge and look forward to sharing with you as we continue leading worship in the coming year.

Wendy Deverell

SPOTLIGHT REPORT

Our reflection sessions on Zoom started with the inspiring theme of 'Epiphany' ('moment of revelation'); concentrating on short Bible passages helps bring them alive in a new way. We marvelled at Jesus through the eyes of the wise men as they reached their journey's end, and entered into Isaiah's exhilarating revelation as he 'saw' Christ hundreds of years before. We imagined an ecstatic Simeon suddenly recognising the Messiah in the baby at the Temple, then the 'lightbulb moment' as John the Baptist realised who his cousin was.

Our numbers have grown, with about fifteen attending, some now taking turns to guide our sharing time. After a Lent/Easter break, our summer passages were chosen by individuals - a rich time of sharing what had helped each one personally.

With Covid restrictions largely behind us, we decided to be brave and hold a social at Julian and Susan's home, with a bring-and-share meal (feast!). We relished being able to relax in the garden and get to know each other better. We decided to precede our one-hour sessions, from then on, with an optional 15 minutes' chat.

Our Autumn Series tackled challenging encounters between Jesus and the disciples: settling an argument about who would be greatest in Heaven, or about the cost of following Him. This often raised even more difficult questions! We finished 2022 with an Advent special: the moment when Zechariah, John the Baptist's father, could suddenly speak after nine months' silence.

We welcome newcomers - no preparation is required with the passage shown on screen, so we can all come to it with 'fresh eyes'. Everyone's views are valued and often spark interesting discussion and new insights that help us grow in our daily walk with Christ.

We will miss our dear friend Moya, her kind nature and thoughtfulness.

Lis Arnold, Susan and Julian White

ST MARY'S CHURCH CONSERVATION PROJECT

The Project is now complete, having physically started in December 2018.

With the ending of the Project, the Project Board has transferred into the St Mary's Futures Group which will manage the sustainability & legacy of the Project at St Mary's, responsible to the DCC & Partnership.

This has been a 12-year journey starting in 2010, which included an English Heritage Repair Grant Scheme in 2012 - £80,000, a 2016, £40,000 scheme for the conservation of the 18th century Reredos, and after 3 applications to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, success in December 2016, resulting in a £1,150,000 project with a grant of £750,000 from the Heritage Fund and in excess of £370,000 successfully raised by the church, following receipt of substantial individual donations as well as grants from a range of charities and other organisations including: *The Friends of Lydiard Park, Garfield Weston Foundation, West Swindon & Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership, ChurchCare, All Churches Trust, The Pilgrim Trust, St Andrews Conservation Trust, The Leche Trust, Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust, The Alan Evans Memorial Trust, William & Jane Morris Fund, Idlewild Trust and continued public fund-raising.*

During January 2022 the new interpretation panels, donors panel, WWI display panel & welcome panel have been installed by Parc Signs of St Austell.

Ellis & Co have re-laid the flagstones and path at the gate entrance to the church, flattened the spoil mound, and a reinternment ceremony was held for human bones uncovered. In early March, Ellis & Co re-laid the path between the rear of the house and the church.

Ellis & Co have repaired the existing shed, making it wind & watertight. (The existing shed is of better construction than a possible replacement). This has enabled it to now be used for storage of items from the church and Stable Room.

A major tidying-up day was held in the church, removing all unnecessary materials, by Pat Watson, Jacqueline Kirwan & Pauline Bowler – leaving the church suitably presentable for photographing by the official photographer for the new church guide book. This has been produced and is on sale in the church.

Two ramps for the disabled have been acquired for use in the church and providing access from the rear of the house.

The new heating system is now finally working correctly!

The project has also paid for a Payaz cashless payment machine and accompanying router, and we successfully bid for a cashless payment machine from the Diocese. These should be operational in early 2023.

Filming for the project in conjunction with the symposium took place in March 2022 and is now on the church web site.

The Symposium took place on 7 April 2022, co-hosted by ICON & St Mary's, marking the end of the project, with over 40 guests in attendance.

Ellis & Co quoted for the front roof of the Stable Room, which is failing and will require replacement in due course (this is not part of the project), and a planning application has been submitted. This will take place in the spring of 2023.

Two very successful Heritage Open Days over weekends in September 2022, with over 550 people visiting St Mary's, including the opening of a Book of Condolence for people to pay their respects on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

It also marked the 430th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth I visit to St Mary's in September 1592 which was re-enacted on the second weekend (see attached photos).

Paul Gardner
Chair St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze Conservation Project



LYDIARD TREGOZE BELLRINGERS

A really positive year has seen three of the five learners we taught last year become regulars for Sunday service ringing, meaning we are now regularly ringing all 6 bells, something we were struggling to do coming out of Covid. The other two learners had to take a sabbatical in the latter part of the year, but are planning to re-join the band very soon. After another request for learners late in the year, we were pleased to welcome Andy and Helen Bissex into the band. They are making good progress and should be able to join us for Sunday service ringing in February/March. In total we now have 14 members in the band. We will not be doing any active recruitment for the time being in order to focus on developing all our newer members. Having said that we won't turn anyone away if they express an interest in learning to ring!

My thanks to Michael Moore for supporting me in the teaching process.

Peals, quarter peals and weddings

We rang one peal this year on 6th February (in 2 hours and 51 minutes of continuous ringing) to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the accession of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The band included three ringers from the local band and three friends from the wider branch. Little did we know that we would be ringing for the Queen again on four occasions between 9th-19th September to mark her passing. This ringing included 9 of our local band, plus Trevor Day joined us for a quick ring! During this period we also rang a quarter peal, including 5 members of the local band, and one friend.

We rang two further quarter peals (about 45 minutes of continuous ringing), and were very pleased to be asked to ring one of these in memory of Ron Brock, at the request of Alwyn Brock, and which included her in the band.

We are always happy to ring for the weddings during the year, and hopefully contribute a little something to the overall day.

Ringling in December

We were very pleased to be able to ring for 11 services and 1 wedding during December, including the three Tuesday Carol Services. The strengthened band has certainly meant supporting this amount of ringing in a single month much easier.

Maintenance

During the year we asked the branch to visit and do an inspection of the bells. No major issues were found, but a few minor recommendations were made which we will look to complete when the weather is a little warmer.

Ringling in the Swindon branch

St Mary's Tower is a member of the Swindon branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers. St Mary's usually hosts one ringing session for the Swindon Branch on an annual basis, and this year we hosted the branch Striking competition.

As well as the training we get within our tower, Swindon Branch now has its own teaching centre, based at Christchurch in Old Town, an 8-bell simulator which means that the bells can be rung silently with sound only in the ringing room. Practices have been taking place regularly on Saturday mornings and accommodate a wide range of abilities.

The band would like to thank Clive and the PCC for your continued support.

Jason Carter, Tower Captain.

ST MARY'S CHURCH 2022 VOLUNTEER REPORT

The early months of 2022 showed a hesitant but steady recovery from Covid as school visits resumed and even the most cautious visitors began to venture out more. January – March '22 we opened on Sunday afternoons only, with a steady increase in visitor numbers as the weather got warmer, many wanting to pray, light candles or remember those who died during the pandemic from Covid as well as other illnesses. Visitors were pleasantly surprised and appreciative of the conservation and 'spruce up' of the church.

From Easter onwards, we were able to open Friday afternoons, one Saturday per month and every Sunday afternoon.

School bookings increased during the Summer term, with visits from Peatmoor, Westlea, Tregoe and a very large group from Drove School. These were for both History and RE topics. Visit evaluations were very positive, with comments such as 'excellent materials', 'well-planned visit' and one child saying in the first ten minutes - 'I'm learning so much today already'.



July open weekend for the Polyptych (134 visitors) and the Heritage weekends in September saw numbers returning to, or passing, pre-pandemic levels (545 visitors over the two weekends). We were able to open Friday, Saturday and Sunday on all three weekends.

Mid-August special weekend saw 100 visitors and August Bank Holiday saw the first of our 'family and children's craft events' making autumn leaves, which were then displayed in the church for Harvest. (53 attended that day).



November saw many people visit the church for a range of Remembrance activities, some linked to the Garden of Remembrance. Millbrook School also visited this month, with 65 children plus staff and helpers. (225 visitors during the Remembrance period).



During December, the church was only open on Sunday afternoons until Christmas and then we held 3 special opening days between Christmas and New Year, with almost 200 visitors attending and several activities for Children and Families. Our focus was on the theme of 'stars and travel'.



Website and Video Update

We decided to try and encourage families and children to hear Bible Stories linked to the rich heritage of St Mary's Church and using photographs of stained-glass windows, artifacts, memorials etc., explaining why they are in the church.

Our first video of the Nativity Story was added to the website for the month of December and included several pictures of sheep, shepherds and angels drawn by

young children locally. This was well-received and our 'Stars and Travel' crafts and drawings made in church at the end of December were made into a video, on the website for the month of January, telling the story of the Wise Men following the star. These monthly videos are planned until July when we will review and consider whether we continue. Please look these up and share them with family and friends – they're under the 'Children and Families' section of the website.

<https://www.stmaryslydiardtregoze.org.uk/for-children-and-families/>

Ann Hutchinson

Volunteer and Education Coordinator

