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# St Mary's Church

LYDIARD TREGOZE

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



**Heritage Open Days 2023**

**Councillor Jim Robbins, Mannington and Western Ward, Leader of Swindon Borough Council, opens the St John Polyptych on Friday 08 September 2023**

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**Annual Report and Financial Statements  
of the District Church Council  
for the year ending 31 December 2023**

# ST MARY'S LYDIARD TREGOZE AGM

## 11.00 am, SUNDAY 17 March 2024

### AGENDA

Opening Worship,

God is good, all the time.

**All the time God is good.**

Scripture verses, read by the Wardens:

Isaiah 43:19, Hebrews 13:8 and Philippians 4:6-7.

Apologies for absence

Minutes of 2023 and Matters arising.

Reports, with responses as appropriate.

Questions to the Vicar and DCC.

Vestry Meeting.

Including Election of Wardens.

Elections to DCC

(Secretary, Treasurer and Safeguarding)

Adoption of Safeguarding and other Policies from the Church of England

AOB (Notified to the Vicar beforehand)

Closing Prayer and Hymn 892 Lord for the years

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### DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL 2023

#### 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  
Andy Bissex (part year)  
Pauline Bowler  
Wendy Deverell  
Paul Gardner  
Peter Roslyk

#### Ex-Officio DCC Members:

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

## **MINISTER'S REPORT**

### **HOLY TRINITY SHAW AND ST MARY'S ANNUAL REPORT**

In a year in which King Charles III had his Coronation, we recall the important role that the Church had on that day and the special part that the anointing had. It was a real privilege for both Churches to share in that joy and our prayers continue to be with him and his family.

Sincere thanks firstly, need to go to Linda, Wendy, Pat and Jacqueline as Wardens, and Pauline as Deputy Warden and Verger at St Mary's, 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.

My particular thanks to those who lead Messy Church, Open the Book, especially Heather Benn, she inspires and encourages so many. Both Churches, have played their part in supporting "Open the Book" and "Messy Church" we have sustained and continued with those activities that originated from ourselves, "Spotlight" and "Day Group for Jesus" ("DG4J"), and my thanks to those who lead them.

My thanks to Trevor, Lis, Angela, Peter Rogers and all who have led services over the past year, in both churches.

We do need to acknowledge, in 2023, Andy Bissex has continued on his ordination training and left to go on extended placement. We have officially welcomed Robert Nicholas as an LLM - it was great that so many went to Bristol for his licensing. All four Wardens began Exploring Christianity, and we welcomed Nitin Shinde, an Ordinand from Christ Church, who is with us until the summer of 2025.

We have continued to be blessed by Rev Mark Tidey, and on an extended placement, Rev Som Okonkwo, although both have been more involved at Toothill.

I would also like specific thanks to go to the Futures Group at St Mary's, Robert Bednarski, Michael Grey and Ann Hutchison, who with myself build on the work of Paul Gardner and the St Mary's Conservation Project Board.

To Nick and Mary Martin and Steve Kershaw for being our Treasurers, Steve Kershaw and Vanessa Parfitt for being our Gift Aid officers.

I am extremely grateful to Ann Hutchison 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, having now installed Solar Panels, and the expansion of the number of sessions of "Welcome Space", it is an important part of our responsibilities towards the planet and the people we serve. To see the numbers in "Welcome Space" and its growth is a real blessing.

My thanks to my family, especially in a year where my own personal circumstances changed considerably.

Grief has been tangible for myself, and several others in 2023, we mourn the loss particularly of Val Hemmens, Mavis Mclaughlin and Joan Rumming each of them brought so much to the Churches.

We give thanks for their lives and continued inspiration.

We face a new beginning from the summer of 2024. As we become Church of England only, I remind us all of the breadth, we already have, I am sure you will agree, we must endeavour to retain that difference, whilst also giving space for

others outside the Church of England like Mark Taylor to preach. An ethos we will make every effort to enshrine in the future.

Our efforts must be focused on how are we going to build the Kingdom of God in West Swindon, in so doing we will need to work together more and understand each other more.

God is doing something: look at the vocational growth, look at the changes in demographics, in our congregations. There is more to be done; let us pray, study and reach out to our communities together.

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

## **CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT**

The beginning of the year started with a challenge for the role of Church Warden for Pat following her accident in the icy conditions resulting in a fractured ankle. The St Mary's Team rallied round with support and taking on extra duties for a couple of months.

The church family agreed to continue receiving communion by intinction as we had moved away from other changes made to the service routine during the Covid era.

We continued to have success with the Strawberry Teas, particularly as we have been able to accept card payments since the summer. Money raised this year went towards the Stable Room roof repair, which was also supported by the Target 300 Appeal to sponsor a tile. The roof repair has now been completed, thanks to all who contributed to this success.

This was the year of the Coronation for King Charles III on the 6<sup>th</sup> May; we used some of the Order of Service agreed nationally for our service on the 7<sup>th</sup> May. We had a few baptisms, and weddings during 2023. We said goodbye in a moving memorial service for the life of Joan Rummig who was associated with St Mary's all her life including Church Warden among her many roles.

Thank you to the clergy and the growing number of lay ministers for the variety of services they have led throughout the year. Heartfelt thanks to Pauline for her assistance with the Warden and Verger duties. We also want to take this opportunity to thank all those in the congregation who have supported us throughout the year.

With many thanks and blessings to you all,

**Pat Watson and Jacqueline Kirwan**

## **TREASURER'S REPORT For the Year ending 31 December 2023**

In 2023, **total income** (excluding payments direct to the Building Fund) was £45,667 and **expenditure** £46,682. This reflected an **operating loss** of £1,015 during the year.

**Exceptional expenditure:** Parking charge of £702 from Swindon Borough Council. Such a charge has not previously been received and if levied again next year will be disputed.

**Exceptional income items:** Energy grant of £2,473 gratefully received from the Diocese as energy costs (oil and electricity) continue to rise. This year we paid £7,904 compared to £3,965 in 2022.

**The tithe** of £3,000 (5 x £600) has remained the same for the last few years

Some income is raised directly for Harvest/Christmas charities and as a result, £1,256 was paid in **charitable donations** compared to £922 in 2022

**Contactless system income** was £1,772 and costs for internet, wireless and charges for the systems £465.

Part of various income streams (collections, teas, donations, contactless) a total of £2,711 was transferred to the Building Fund

In the papers attached, a provisional budget for 2024 has been shown. This will be revised to reflect the changes in the partnership and consistency with presentation of accounts for HTS

**Prepared by Nick and Mary Martin**

## **SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

There has been one report filed in 2023. This was sent in following an incident in church on 8<sup>th</sup> October. A male individual came into church with the congregation as they were arriving for a service, with the intent to stop the bells ringing. He was persuaded to leave, but not before he had entered the bell tower and sprayed yellow paint on the wall of the tower steps. Thank you to the members of the congregation who assisted the wardens with this incident. Reparation has been made by the individual by providing paint remover to restore the wall.

There has been the continuation of DBS registrations as required for some volunteer roles in the church, for stewarding, and for other activities across the Partnership that members of our congregation are involved with. This has been in collaboration with Ann Hutchinson, lead for recruitment of our stewards, and overseen by the Safeguarding officer for the Partnership.

Thank you to all stewards who have been involved during the year in welcoming visitors to St Mary's.

**Jacqueline Kirwan (Assistant Safeguarding Co-ordinator)**

## **PASTORAL TEAM REPORT**

Thank you to all those in the Team who have continued to keep in contact with members of St Mary's church family throughout 2023. We have welcomed some new worshippers to the church during the year, and these people have been added to our pastoral lists. The Pastoral list was changed to some degree to include these new members and to reallocate those on the list for Andy Bissex who has moved on for his placement as part of his Ministry Training.

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 in this way is given there).

A request for prayer can also be sent to the Prayer Team. Tish Vass (first contact) or Revd Lis Arnold (deputy) who will send a message out to the Ministry Team and to the Prayer Team. This facility has not been used much during 2023. Some of the Pastoral Team members 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, so ongoing support can be given to the individual, to help them feel safe and heard.

**Jacqueline Kirwan (Pastoral Team Lead)**

## **MUSIC GROUP**

The Music Group have met regularly over the last twelve months and have enjoyed the privilege of leading worship at a variety of services. The members have worked hard at learning new worship songs and introducing them into services, as well as rehearsing and playing old favourites. The group has continued to expand, and we have welcomed new members again this year. We are thankful to Pat and Mike who continue to allow us to meet and practice in their home. In the coming year we will continue to learn new songs, and look forward to worshipping together with you.

**Wendy Deverell**

## **SPOTLIGHT REPORT**

SPOTLIGHT continues to be appreciated and enjoyed.

We have had 2 blocks of sessions in 2023. We suspended SPOTLIGHT during Lent to make way for the "Failure" Lent course on line.

The sessions are well attended with an average of 10-12 people. The group has people from across the Partnership and beyond.

The choice of Scripture and facilitating of each session is shared.

We prefer a random selection of scripture as this makes for more variety and does not lock us into a theme.

The group enjoys the confidential ethos which enables us to express our thoughts, insights and doubts.

This may build confidence and deepen faith. We also relate to one another on a deeper level.

Everyone is welcome.

**Revd Lis Arnold, Susan and Julian White**

## **ST MARY'S CHURCH CONSERVATION PROJECT**

At the end of October 2023, Ellis & Co completed the re-roofing of the Stable Room and renewing the guttering to the Stable Room .

This was the last piece of work completed under St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze Conservation Project .

Over the last 13 years, the Project has raised & funded £1.3 million of works to St Mary's Church.,

**Paul Gardner**  
**Chair St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze Conservation Project**

## **LYDIARD TREGOZE BELLRINGERS**

We have had another very successful year in 2023, and our band has grown again; we have been joined by two lapsed ringers and 4 absolute beginners, 2 of whom responded to the nationwide initiative "Ring for the King" to take up ringing and ring for the Coronation in May.

We rang for 6 weddings during the summer with some of our previous recruits earning their first wedding ringing money and each time we could field a totally local band.

There were 4 quarter peals rung during the year which included a first quarter for one of our recruits; we hope there will be many more in 2024.

We have welcomed several visiting bands to ring, we hosted the Swindon branch AGM and service.

Our practice nights continue to be very well attended and with the help of a couple of regular visitors from other towers coming we are able to give our recruits the support and practice they need to make progress as well as supporting our visitors in their learning journey.

Sunday service ringing is also well attended 10-12 ringers now being the norm!

**Jenny Moore.**

## ST MARY'S CHURCH 2023 VOLUNTEER REPORT

2023 was the first year since the Conservation Project that we had openings and visits as planned without Covid closures and restrictions.

### Visitor Opening

The church was open every Sunday afternoon. Friday afternoons from March-November, monthly Saturday morning from March to November and also several 'special' openings during school holidays, bank holiday weekends, National Heritage weekends, Ride and Stride etc

These often included additional art/craft activities for children. See photo of the Stained Glass window artwork. This gave children and adults the opportunity to learn the Bible story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.



Altogether we had **3015 visitors in 2023**, including some privately arranged tours.

We also introduced the stained-glass window bookmarks (see in the pews) for visitors to take away and a new activity sheet for children to complete as they visited the church. Thanks mainly to Robert B.

Many visitors come in to light a candle and sit reflectively in a pew or in the prayer space. This is quietly facilitated, often with a meaningful conversation.

### Conservation Cleaning Day



In August we held a Conservation Cleaning Day with several volunteers. We were able to clean articles and artifacts around the church as well as windows and floors. It was lovely to welcome a couple of volunteers from the local community to join us for this and see the joy and pride they had in working in such a beautiful environment.

Pat and Pauline provided us with a lovely lunch. We plan to repeat this regularly and have had a few more enquiries to help both inside and outside the church.





## School Visits



In addition to schools visiting for Carol Services, end of year services etc we had 297 children and 46 adult helpers visit as part of the school history and RE programmes. It was a joy to share their enthusiasm. Feedback was excellent with many commenting on the interesting objects, how the church is used and the Christian faith.

Many made stained-glass window bookmarks to take away – see photo



## School Videos and work with Tregoze Primary School

Over the last year we have worked with Tregoze Primary School through a couple of Art Projects, 'The Good Samaritan' the 'Christmas Nativity Story'. For these the children drew and painted pictures to illustrate each story and characters. The drawings with added narrative read by children from the school made short videos – follow links below or see the church website under the 'children and families' section. The Nativity also includes year 3 and year 4 classes singing 'Away in a Manger'. Altogether about 75+ children participated in the video production. Both videos were played in school as part of their assembly programme and also sent out to parents of the whole school.



Their paintings of the Samaritan Story were displayed in church during July (above).

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

## Volunteer training and social events

Early summer saw about a dozen volunteers attend Lydiard House for a fascinating historic talk by Frances Bevan on the St John family. We mainly focused on paintings and several artifacts around the house. Afterwards we discussed the visit and got to know each other better over a delicious Strawberry Tea.

December saw the volunteers attend a Carol Service and most participated in reading a selection of poems and scripture passages. Bells ringing before the service were appreciated as was the very welcome afternoon tea in the conference centre.

## Into 2024

Plans to extend opening hours, add further events for children and families, host an art event and further develop relationships with local schools are in place for 2024. Thank you for your support in all of this. It's always appreciated.

**Ann Hutchinson**

**Volunteer and Education Coordinator**