
St Mary's Church

LYDIARD TREGOZE

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



New Displays in St Mary's

**Annual Report and Financial Statements
of the District Church Council
for the year ending 31 December 2021**

**ST MARY'S LYDIARD TREGOZE
AGM AGENDA, 10.50 am, SUNDAY 06 MARCH 2022**

Opening worship,

God is good, all the time.

All the time God is good.

Bible Reading Psalm 66. Reader: Revd Teresa Townsend

Apologies for absence

Minutes of 2021 AGM and Matters arising.

Reports, with responses as appropriate.

In 2021, with church closures and Covid restrictions, there has been little activity from the regular church groups (Flower Group, Music and Ukulele Groups, Prayer Group, Junior Church, and Wednesday Home Group) and reports are restricted to the Ministers' Report, the Churchwardens' Report, the Treasurer's Report, the Building Conservation Project Report, the Pastoral and Safeguarding Reports, and the Lydiard Tregoze Bell Ringers Report,

Questions to the Ministry team and DCC.

Vestry Meeting.

Including Election of Wardens.

Elections to DCC.

AOB

Closing Prayer

DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL 2021

Trustees

Wardens: Pat Watson, Jacqueline Kirwan

Elected DCC Members:

Pat Watson

Jacqueline Kirwan

Revd Lis Arnold

Pauline Bowler

Andy Bissex

Wendy Deverell

Paul Gardner

Lyn Morgan

Alison Lewis (Minutes Secretary) part year

Ex-Officio DCC Members:

Revd Capt Clive Deverell, Team Minister

Revd Trevor Day, Associate Minister

Revd Teresa Townsend, Assistant Curate

Nick Martin (Treasurer)

MINISTERS' REPORT

One big **Thank you!**

There has been continued uncertainty over the past year, particularly in relation to the pandemic and the future of the Partnership. However, on both counts, with a new Methodist Superintendent and vaccines, progress seems to have been made. We continue to pray it will continue. Sincere thanks go to Pat and Jacqueline as Wardens, and Pauline as Deputy Warden and Verger. Thanks also to the members of the DCC and for all those who have ensured continuing communications between the various aspects of the daily life of the church, including the Pastoral team, and Ian and Lyn.

I would like specific thanks to go to Paul Gardner, for his continued chairing of the Conservation Project Board, to Nick Martin for being our Treasurer and to Vanessa Parfitt for being our Gift Aid Officer.

I thank Teresa, Trevor, Lis and all who have led services over the past year, both in church, and online, when the church has had to close. Thank you everyone for your understanding when we have been limited to the At Home and online Zoom services. These have been an excellent resource throughout the year.

Thanks go to those involved in ensuring the Risk Assessments have been completed and the church ready for worship and visitors. I wish to thank Ann Hutchinson for her role as Volunteer Coordinator for St Mary's. Thanks to my family, and yourselves for supporting me as I work with and understand the condition I now have.

My thanks also go to those who stepped down - Alison, who was the DCC Minutes Secretary (when she left this year it left an enormous hole, yet to be filled) - Ed and Mary as they stepped away from Messy Church - Paula as she stepped away from leading the Music Group. Thank you to the four of them, for their passion and commitment, most of all for using the gifts God gave them for building His Kingdom.

My final thanks this year go to those who in difficult times started something new, so for SPOTLIGHT - thank you Lis, Susan and Julian. This SPOTLIGHT group has enabled people to meet online, learn and grow in their faith.

I pray that we too might continue to reflect on how we might use the gifts God has given us in the future.

Clive Deverell

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

What a busy year, despite the disruption from the pandemic still with us, but with similar Covid restriction rules in place to keep people safe.

During this year we have seen the majority of the Conservation work completed, and our thanks go to all the teams involved with this work. The Strawberry Teas resumed, and together with other donations, raised some much-needed funds towards the kitchen replacement in the Stable Room.

Thank you to the Clergy and Lay Staff who have become well practised with Zoom for the on-line services and meetings during this last year. It has also been good to resume services in church for most of the year, using the recommended Church of England Guidelines to manage the Sunday services and Occasional Offices safely. We especially want to thank Revd Teresa Townsend for all her input and admin expertise and wish her well for the future as she moves on to her new parishes.

With many thanks and blessings to you all.

Pat Watson and Jacqueline Kirwan

TREASURER'S REPORT For the Year ending 31 December 2021

The financial climate continues to be challenging, fuel and insurance bills continue to rise. Considerable efforts are made to ensure that income is maximised so that essential maintenance, partnership contributions and charitable giving can be met.

It was a good year for weddings and as a result, Income from fees and collections for weddings was higher than budget by £4,483. Carols by Candlelight was well attended and in total £790 was raised. In all, income was £50,938 against a budget of £45,000.

The church maintained its tithe payments to the five charities it supports, a total cost of £3,000 as budgeted. Payments to the Partnership increased from £26,000 to £29,000 as budgeted. Fuel oil costs were £2,548 against a budget of £1,548. Costs of renovations to the Stable Room were £5,400. Although monies had been budgeted for the Stable Room and not spent in 2020, the budget had not been carried forward. Electricity bills were recorded as £100 against a budget of £2,000. This was a result of a credit balance that had built up in prior years and not reflective of actual usage. In all, expenditure was £47,712 against a budget of £41,010.

The outlook for next year has a lower forecast for weddings, baptisms and funerals fees at £2,000 against this year's £4,029. The contribution to the Partnership is budgeted to rise from £29,000 to £36,000. Electricity costs have been budgeted at £1,500 and usage is being monitored monthly to provide a better view of total year costs. It is hoped that the Covid situation will continue to improve and allow more fundraising events, such as teas and candlelight carols to take place to create additional income.

Nick Martin

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

There have been no safeguarding issues reported in the last year. There has been a change in national legislation regarding DBS checks, which now need to be renewed every 3 years rather than 5 years. With this reduced time frame there are some members of our church that will need to renew sooner than had been anticipated. However, once these have been renewed the system now allows for us to sign up for the DBS Update service within 30 days of the renewal, which will save further administration in the future. This is a task for us to work through during 2022.

There are certain roles within the church that require DBS and others that do not, these are included in new guidance on 'Safer Recruitment & People Management' published in June 2021. It will be this document that will help us to manage all those that play a vital role in the life of this church.

Thank you,

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 this last challenging year. The team have recently started to meet face to face, which led to a discussion and a change to the Prayer Chain. If there is a request for prayer, this will go to Tish Vass (first contact), or Revd Lis Arnold (deputy), who will send out a message to all on the Prayer Team, and the ministry team.

The Pastoral Team, with the help of the Revd Teresa Townsend have each had their photograph taken and along with their individual contact details are up on the noticeboard in the church and stable room. This will help the congregation and visitors identify who they can approach for a listening ear, 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 notice sheet. (Information on how to include a person on the Notices sheet is given there).

Most of the people on the Pastoral Team are part of the Prayer Team, and all are aware of the issues of confidentiality - information will only be shared with consent. If there are safeguarding concerns, however, the situation will be reported to the relevant authorities and ongoing support given to the individual, as part of helping a person to feel safe and heard.

Jacqueline Kirwan (Pastoral Team Lead)

SPOTLIGHT REPORT

The first series began in April 2021 and ran for 6 sessions of one hour duration, on Zoom. The text focused on Jesus's Post Resurrection appearances.

The second series started in September, ran for 4 sessions and was devoted to the Psalms.

An average of 12 people attended, from across the Partnership and beyond.

The emphasis is on the devotional and spiritual impact of the text, using the Lectio Divina approach. It was valuable to be together to share insights and to encourage one another in our journey with God.

We continue into 2022.

Lis Arnold, Susan and Julian White

ST MARY'S CHURCH BUILDING & NLHF CONSERVATION REPORT

Further work to the commissioning of the heating and lighting was completed by January 2021.

Despite the impact of the Coronavirus out-break and subsequent, the conservation work continued throughout 2020 & 2021.

The church reopened for services from Palm Sunday, 27 March 2021.

Following further fundraising by the congregation and public, the conservation cleaning by Holywell Glass of the 15th century stained glass of the Virgin Mary and Christ Child was undertaken, the head of Christ has been revealed and the stained glass has been attributed to John Thornton of Coventry. This attribution also applies to all the stained glass in the north Aisle.



Following the update of Government guidelines, the church opened to the public from 23 July 2021. The conserved wall paintings, Tudor barrelled ceiling and decorated corbels, polychromy and South Porch will be on view to all.

“You will be able to stand in the doorway of the South Porch as pilgrims did and look across to the wall paintings on the north wall of the Nave, which include Thomas Becket, St Christopher and a newly discovered 13th century patterned wall painting. You will see the newly discovered niche in which there was a statute of St Christopher. When opening this niche, Jane has discovered part of a stone head, which was most probably part of the St Christopher statue. Then turn around and look at the conserved Christ the Crown of Thorns wall painting in which the representation of Christ has been described as unique.”

The new display cabinets, bookcase and interpretation panel cabinets were installed in the third quarter of 2021.

Two successful Heritage open day weekends in September 2021, with nearly 400 people visiting St Marys.

The project works at the end of 2021 are virtually complete, except for installation of the actual interpretation panels, welcome panel and donors board, which will take place in January 2022. (The interpretation panels and polyptych model are shown on the cover of this document).

Paul Gardner
Chair St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze Conservation Project

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS REPORT

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 ringing for the Swindon branch on an annual basis.

Another strange year, but the latter half has felt a little bit more normal. We started the year in lockdown with no ringing at all, service ringing was allowed from the end of May and for a couple of months we rang 3 or 4 bells on a Sunday morning. Practices were allowed to resume in late July and at that point our band was down to 4 core members.

Peals, quarter peals and weddings

No peals or quarter peals have been rung this year but we were very pleased to ring for the 8 weddings.

A peal is planned for 6th Feb to mark the Queen's diamond jubilee - listen out.

Recruitment, retention, training and publicity

At the end of July, we posted in the West Swindon Facebook group that we were about to start teaching a new group of ringers if anyone was interested. There was an immediate response, the result being we now have 5 learners and one lapsed ringer amongst our numbers. Some of the learners have now started to join us on Sundays, the others will follow soon and some weeks we have been able to ring all 6 bells.

Our thanks go to Jason and Michael for the teaching and the rest of the band for their support, as our learners progress with their ringing journey.

As well as the training we get within our tower, Swindon Branch now has its own teaching centre - the North Wilts Ringing Centre, based at Christchurch in Old Town. We have an 8-bell simulator, which means that the bells can be rung silently, with sound only in the ringing room. These sessions have been taking place on Saturday mornings, a couple of times a month and cover a wide range of methods and cater for all abilities.

Jenny Moore