



**ALL SAINTS CHURCH
WEST ALVINGTON**

**ANNUAL REPORT &
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER 2023**

Annual Report
Year ended 31st December 2023

1) Reference and Administrative information

Name: All Saints Church, West Alvington. On 1 September 2015 this church joined with St Edmund King and Martyr, Kingsbridge and St Thomas of Canterbury, Dodbrooke to legally form the United Benefice of Kingsbridge, Dodbrooke and West Alvington. In 2019 the Benefice was given permission to be known as “The Kingsbridge Estuary Churches Mission Community”

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules 2022) and a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Parochial Church Council (PCC) Membership:

Revd Jacqueline (Jax) Tilbury (Priest in charge - appointed 26th September 2023)
Revd M Gorton (Assistant Curate – resigned 18th June 2023)

Ms E Chin
Mrs J Laphorn (Deanery Synod Member)
Mr W J Laphorn (Joint Treasurer)
Mrs K O Lawrence (Deanery Synod Member)
Mrs S M Norsworthy (Vice Chairperson)
Mr K A Steer (Churchwarden and Joint Treasurer)
Mrs J B Walster (Churchwarden and Secretary)
Mr J J W Walster
Mrs P A Wyatt
Mr T P Wyatt

Bankers:

Lloyds The CBF Church of England Deposit Fund
31 Fore Street One Angel Lane
Totnes London
Devon EC4R 3AB
TQ9 5HH

Independent Examiner:

Mr A J Babbage, 63 West Hoe Road, Plymouth, Devon, PL1 3BH

2) Structure, governance and management

The Mission Community was in a Vacancy, but supported very well by our Assistant Curate the Reverend Matt Gorton until he resigned on 18th June. We were then delighted to appoint the Reverend Jacqueline (known as Jax) Tilbury as our Priest in Charge, and her Licensing Service took place at St Edmund King and Martyr Church, Kingsbridge on 26th September by the Bishop of Plymouth, the Right Reverend James Grier.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Priest in charge, the Churchwardens, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll. Members of the congregation are always urged to join the Electoral Roll, and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the Ecclesiastical Parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met five times during the year, with an average level of attendance of 90%.

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The only committee operated by the PCC is a Standing Committee, consisting of The Priest in charge, Churchwardens, Treasurers and Secretary. This is the only committee required by law and has power to transact the business of the PCC between the full meetings, subject to any directions given by the full council.

Achievement and Performance:

3) Worship and Prayer

The Diocesan priorities: Growing in prayer, Making Disciples and Serving the people of Devon with joy have continued to be our aim across the Mission Community and therefore in the life of All Saints. The PCC is keen to offer a breadth of services and has embraced the pattern of Mission Community worship each Sunday in one of our three churches which emerged through the pandemic, whilst continuing with the well supported monthly BCP Matins. This service is led by our Churchwarden/lay leader. We also continue with our BCP Evensongs held monthly in each of the three churches in rotation and which are also lay led. The sense of Mission Community unity is continuing and is very positive as we worship together each week. Celtic Prayer is also offered once a month on Zoom, led by a Licensed Lay Minister from a neighbouring Mission Community.

As a Mission Community we also draw on the richness of worship and prayer of other denominations when we join together in Churches Gathering Kingsbridge services and events.

The PCC is keen to encourage the creativity of lay ministry. Within our services members from All Saints participate along with those from other Mission Community churches in regularly offering the readings and intercessions. The hymnal purchased in 2020 has been a real asset in offering music in church for singing.

Once again, we were able to offer the annual very well supported Memorial service together with hosting a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve Holy Communion and a Christmas Day family Holy Communion service.

We seek to serve the people of Devon with joy and that means being there for our local community in times of joy and sorrow. The whole Parish came together to celebrate the Coronation of their Majesty's King Charles III and Queen Camila. As well as our regular services, we serve the communities of which we are a part in the ministry of Occasional Offices, at the milestones of the journey through life. We have held 8 funerals this year and celebrated one baptism.

4) Deanery Synod

There are two members of the PCC who sit on Synod and regularly offer reports to the PCC. Meetings have continued through the year which has proved to be well attended. As closer links within the deanery develop it is hoped that Synod can be an effective influence for Mission.

5) Mission and outreach work

As in previous years we engage with the local community as best we can. We continue to use the ACNY web page for the Mission Community with links to existing individual pages for each church and a Facebook page to maximise opportunities to engage in outreach and mission through the internet and social media.

The strengthening of links and relationship with the neighbouring Church of England Primary Academy has continued throughout the year with assemblies, services and plays in church and school.

We have paid our Common Fund request in full, contributing to the mission and ministry of our Mission Community and the Diocese

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6) Ecumenical Engagement

As members of the local ecumenical network "Churches Gathering Kingsbridge" the Mission Community churches have continued to participate in events throughout the year.

7) Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. (Duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). The Parochial Church Councils of St Thomas of Canterbury, St Edmund King and Martyr Kingsbridge and All Saints West Alvington fully recognize and accept the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy Statement "Making a Safer Church 2017", and commit to complying with the current Church of England and Diocesan safeguarding policies and practice guidance. Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibilities related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Church is in accordance with the House of Bishops' Safer Recruitment: Practice Guidance 2016. We have a Mission Community Safeguarding Policy Statement which is annually reviewed by the PCC and a Safeguarding Guidelines document. The Mission Community Safeguarding Co-ordinator and Parish Representative ensures that Churchwardens, PCC members and all who need to have the appropriate training.

The Safeguarding Hub continues to be a valuable tool enabling the PCC to see what has been and needs to be done to keep up to date with ongoing Safeguarding requirements. The Hub enables a report to be produced for each PCC meeting outlining any work that needs to be addressed in this area.

8) Volunteers

The members of the PCC would like to thank all the volunteers who work so tirelessly to ensure that our church is a welcoming and open community. There are volunteers who are involved in so many different areas of church life and make possible our outreach initiatives, fundraising initiatives and social gatherings and make so many areas of church life possible. We would like to express our thanks to them all. We are indebted to our churchwardens, who in addition to the breadth of their duties during 2023, worked hard to ensure the safekeeping of the congregation whilst Covid still circulates.

9) Aims, Objectives and Activities

The PCC has the responsibility of promoting, within the Ecclesiastical Parish, the whole Mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical and sustaining our beautiful Grade 1 listed building.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to raise the profile of the church in the community. It maintains an overview of the worship in the parish and encourages congregational involvement in the services, putting faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament. Together with the two other churches in the Mission Community, it offers pastoral care for people living in the parish who are unable to attend due to sickness or age, and the Mission Community Priests take communion to them in their homes.

It was agreed at a PCC meeting that donations equivalent to 10% of church collections (excluding Gift Aid refund) would be awarded annually to various charities

It was a pleasure to hold our Annual Church Fete this year, in the grounds of Bowringsleigh by kind permission of Victoria and Magnus Goodlad. The gross take raised amounted to £2,495.

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10) Financial Review

In 2023 total unrestricted receipts into our PCC General Account amounted to £95,904 (2022: £94,786). Payments from this fund totalled £95,471 (2022: £92,674) producing a net surplus of £433 (2022: £2,112) for the year. Our contributions to the Diocesan Common Fund were paid in full and we continue with the Parish Giving Scheme. Capital costs and any major repair works were financed by funds transferred from the West Alvington Feoffees.

A current account is maintained with Lloyds, through which the main PCC payments and receipts are transacted. The primary reserves are maintained by The CBF Church of England Deposit fund in the following accounts:

- Account number 615093001D
- Account number 615093002D
- Account number 615093003D

Interest earned on the first deposit account is credited to principal. Interest earned on the other deposit accounts is credited to the current account at Lloyds. Under the terms of a Will, the sum of £20,000 held in the third deposit account cannot be used for eighty years from 1997 and the Church is required to maintain the deceased's family graves with the interest arising therefrom. Any surplus may be used for general purposes.

Chairperson.....Jax Tilbury.....

Date.....27th February 2024.....

Independent Examiner's Report to the members of the Parochial Church Council ("The Trustees")

Year ended 31st December 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of All Saints Church, West Alvington.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect;

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this respect in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Alan Babbage
63 West Hoe Road
Plymouth
Devon PL1 3BH