



**ST EDMUND KING & MARTYR
CHURCH
KINGSBRIDGE**

**ANNUAL REPORT &
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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

Annual Report
Year ended 31st December 2023

1) Reference and Administrative information

Name: St Edmund King and Martyr Church, Kingsbridge. On 1 September 2015 this church joined with All Saints Church, West Alvington 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)

Mr T Bingham (Resigned 6 August 2023)
Mrs M Halliday
Mrs P Mills
Mrs S Norsworthy (Appointed 16th June 2023)
Mr K A Steer (Churchwarden, Treasurer and Vice Chairman)

Remunerated official

Ms S Morgan (Secretary)

Bankers:

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

CCLA – COIF Charity Funds Parish Trust Funds
One Angel Lane Finance Department
London Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd
EC4V 4ET The Old Deanery
The Cloisters
Exeter
EX1 1HS

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 Churchwarden, 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.

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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 93%.

The only committee operated by the PCC is a Standing Committee, consisting of The Priest in charge, the Churchwarden/Treasurer 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 St Edmund's. 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. 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. As the Civic church, the PCC has sought to grasp opportunities to offer the worship space for special services for community and civic occasions during the year.

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 St Edmund's participate along with those from other Mission Community churches in regularly offering the readings. The hymnal purchased following a legacy has been a real asset in offering music in church for singing.

Once again, we were able to offer, to our Mission Community and the wider community, the traditional Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and also a newly created Crib service on the Saturday before Christmas.

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. We continue to engage with representatives from various groups including the DAC and the Kingsbridge Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, to look at the possibility of working in partnership with the community for the good of the community in the use of the main body of the church, whilst closely liaising with our Church Architect. A detailed Statement of Significance has already been prepared.

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 4 funerals this year.

4) Deanery Synod

One member of the PCC sits 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. Work continues with our ACNY web page for the Mission Community with links to 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 PCC was keen to continue to offer the church grounds with seating, as a peaceful green oasis for those who work in or visit the town.

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 the Churchwarden, PCC members and all who need to have the appropriate training. The Rector, until her retirement, and Assistant Curate kept up to date with the level of training necessary in their roles.

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, both from St Edmund's and those from the other Mission Community churches, 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 churchwarden, who in addition to the breadth of his 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.

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10) Financial Review

In 2023 total unrestricted receipts into our PCC General Account amounted to £27,493 (2022: £12,406). Payments from this fund totalled £134,086 (2022: £34,352) producing a net deficit of £106,593 (2022: Deficit £21,946) for the year. After transfers from restricted funds a deficit of £103,092 was incurred (2022: £52,117 surplus).

Our contributions to the Diocesan Common Fund were paid in full and we continue with the Parish Giving Scheme.

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

Date.....29 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 St Edmund King & Martyr Church, Kingsbridge.

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