

The Parish Church of St Mary's Atherington

**Annual Report and Financial statements
of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31st December 2022**



**Rector: Reverend Gary Owen
Focal Minister: Reverend Tracey Doyle**

Bankers: *Lloyds Bank plc - Barnstaple*

**Independent examiner: *David Chappell*
*15 Yelland Road, Barnstaple, EX31 3BX***

Website: www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org

The Parochial Church Council is an Excepted Charity

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Atherington

Annual report For the year ended 31st December 2022

Aim and Purposes

St Mary's Atherington Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Rev Gary Owen, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church building.

Objectives and Activities

St Mary's Atherington is part of the Two Rivers Mission Community, an area of 56 square miles between Barnstaple, Bideford, Torrington and Atherington. The Mission Community aims to build a Christian community in each village, which will worship, pray, grow and reach out with the Gospel. We recognise that we exist to serve and bless the whole parish and to grow and make visible the kingdom of God. Our building and churchyard are valuable community resources and we value the support of parishioners in maintaining and utilising these for the benefit of the community.

Achievement and Performance

At present there are 18 on the electoral roll, 14 who live in the parish. 2 were added and none removed. The average Sunday attendance was 7. The number of participants was 10.

In addition to the normal weekly Sunday Services held in the Church during the year, we successfully held several services with a different format, designed to attract a wider audience from across the community. These included an open-air thanksgiving service for the Queens Platinum Jubilee, a Teddy-Bears picnic for Baptism Families, a Pet service to which villages brought their pets, celebrating the joy that they give, a Harvest Festival to give thanks for the bounty that we enjoy which also included an auction of produce, enabling a substantial donation to be made to the local Food Bank, an Armistice Day Service which is always held at the village War Memorial in the Churchyard at 11:00 on the 11th November each year and finally our traditional Nativity Service on Christmas Eve with participation by villagers of all ages acting out the Nativity. Attendance at this service was over 100 and we truly believe that this and attendance at all of these special services represents the appreciation the villagers hold for their church.

For information about achievements and performance as part of the Two Rivers Mission Community see appendix 1.

Deanery Synod

Rev Tracey Doyle is the rural dean and chair of the deanery synod. Mr Derek Birch is the lay vice-chair of the deanery synod. The synod met three times during the year and heard presentations about parish nursing (February) and rural mission (September). A meeting in June facilitated discussion about the joys and challenges of church life and faith. The possibility of holding a festival of faith was discussed but insufficient support meant it could not proceed.

The deanery chapter of clergy normally meets every month on Zoom for mutual support and sharing of information.

Church Fabric

Following the sale of the Church Hall in May it is intended that the facilities lost when the Hall was sold will be rebuilt and installed in the Church. These facilities include, Heating, a Refreshment area and a Toilet. In addition the PCC would like to update the lighting to better display the fine heritage features in the Church. The last Architect's review in 2019 indicated that substantial repairs to the lead roof of the Tower would likely be required by the time of the next review in 2024. The PCC have also decided that a refurbishment of the Vestry is necessary. It is anticipated that the cost of the above will be covered by the proceeds from the sale of the Church Hall

Financial Review

As mentioned above the Church Hall was sold in May and the surplus arising amounted to £116,941.36. This has been allocated to a Building Development Fund. Despite making small surpluses on General Fund (£607.10) and Church Hall Fund (£254.48), the overall result was impacted by repairs to the Vestry costing £2,250 and work on exterior drains costing £2,330. These together resulted in a deficit in on the Fabric Fund. Overall, the PCC achieved a surplus on the year of £112,716.94. Following the sale of the Church Hall the deficit on the Church Hall Fund, which had accrued over a number of years was transferred to the General Fund. At 31st December 2022, Total Funds amounted to £121,567.55. The PCC is pleased to confirm that it was able to pay its Parish Share to the Diocese in full during the year

The PCC would like to thank everyone who contributed to church finances. Regular donations by the Parish Giving Scheme or standing order are particularly appreciated as they provide a regular income regardless of whether the building is open for worship and enable the PCC to manage a budget effectively.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

The safeguarding officer is Mr Derek Birch.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The council comprises the incumbent, licensed clergy, churchwardens, readers appointed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, those elected to the deanery synod and other members elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the electoral roll.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish and for all financial matters.

A new legally constituted Joint Council came into existence on 1st January 2021. The focal minister of each church and up to two elected representatives from each PCC will represent each PCC on the council. The PCC has delegated various responsibilities to the Joint Council in accordance with the Joint Council Scheme.

Administrative information

The church is situated in the centre of the village of Atherington. The parish is in the Deanery of Torrington, Archdeaconry of Barnstaple and Diocese of Exeter. The correspondence address is The

Rectory, High Bickington, UMBERLEIGH, EX37 9AY. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules 2020) and a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served since 1st January 2021 until the date this report was approved were:

Ex officio

The incumbent	Rev Gary Owen	Chair
Licensed clergy	Rev Tracey Doyle	
Curate (and parish nurse)	Rev Julia Halpin	
Focal minister	Rev Tracey Doyle	
Deanery synod rep	Mrs Catherine Milton	
Church wardens	Mrs Margaret Maidlow	

Elected

Mrs Margaret Maidlow	Secretary
Mr David Large	Treasurer
Mrs Jane Kneil	
Mrs Liz Shawcross	
Mrs Rebecca Large	
Mrs Angharad White	

Approved by the PCC on date and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Rev. Gary Owen

.....
Rev. Tracey Doyle

ATHERINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

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Chair

Rev. Tracey Doyle

Secretary

Margaret Maidlow

Treasurer

David Large

ATHERINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT****FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022****GENERAL ACCOUNT**

	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
	£	£	£	£
<u>INCOME</u>				
Collections	1286.00		1535.00	
Planned giving	1224.56		1215.94	
Gift Aid	306.14		304.00	
Donations	782.00		77.50	
Funeral and Wedding Fees	1194.00		2323.00	
Deposit Interest	51.98		0.00	
Other	0.00		40.88	
Refund on Team Expenses	500.00			
Fund Raising	396.70		940.00	
Income on General Activities		5741.38		6436.32
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
Common Fund	788.00		736.00	
Team Expenses	1140.00		1140.00	
Electricity	113.20		122.37	
Electrical check	50.40		108.00	
Examiners Fees	0.00		0.00	
Sundry Consumables	0.00		0.00	
Insurance	2263.14		1612.17	
CCI Licence	0.00		87.00	
Deanery expenses	20.00		0.00	
Legal fees	0.00		400.00	
Diocesan Funeral and Wedding Fees	289.00		497.00	
Other	287.65		0.00	
Fund Raising Expenses	56.00		0.00	
Charitable Giving	0.00		0.00	
Expenditure on General Activities		5007.39		4702.54
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	£	733.99	£	1733.78

ATHERINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCILINCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTFOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022CHURCHYARD FUND

	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
	£	£	£	£
<u>INCOME</u>				
Parish Grant	500.00		1000.00	
Fees for Memorials & Headstones	79.00		144.00	
Donations	0.00		2000.00	
Smart money for Boundary Wall	9379.43		0.00	
Transferred from Specified Fund 31/12/21	3000.00		0.00	
		12958.43		3144.00
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
Repairs to Boundary Wall	12379.63		0.00	
Diocesan Fees for Memorials & Headstones	0.00		27.00	
Grass Cutting	1085.00		960.00	
		13464.63		987.00
<u>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</u>	£	-506.20	£	2157.00

CHURCH HALL ACCOUNT - DEFICIT COVERED BY GENERAL FUNDINCOME

Hall hire	0.00		0.00	
Insurance Claim for Storm Damage to Hall	1225.00		0.00	
		1225.00		0.00
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
Electricity	145.52		160.00	
Hall Repairs	825.00		359.41	
Insurance	0.00		805.00	
		970.52		1324.41
<u>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</u>	£	254.48	£	-1324.41

ATHERINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCILINCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTFOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

<u>FABRIC FUND</u>	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
	£	£	£	£
<u>INCOME</u>				
Fund raising	0.00		0.00	
		0.00		0.00
Repairs	4580.00		300.00	
		4580.00		300.00
(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		£ -4580.00		£ -300.00
BUILDING DEVELOPMENT FUND				
Net fees paid to Diocese by Solicitors		117661.36		0.00
Preliminary Auction Fees paid in advance	400.00			
Cost of EPC Certificate	320.00	720.00		0.00
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		116941.36		0.00
TOTALS ALL FUNDS		£ 112843.63		£ 2266.37

ATHERINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT SUMMARY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

<u>GENERAL FUND</u>		Surplus/ Deficit
Surplus at 1 January 2022	18179.36	
Surplus for the year to date	733.99	733.99
Surplus at 31 December 2022 pre Hall	<u>18913.35</u>	
Less Deficit transferred from Church Hall Hall Fund (see below)	<u>-13925.02</u>	
Surplus at 31 December 2022	4988.33	
 <u>CHURCHYARD FUND</u>		
Surplus at 1 January 2022	1383.00	
Deficit for the year to date	<u>-506.20</u>	-506.20
Surplus at 31st December 2022	876.80	
 <u>CHURCH HALL FUND</u>		
Deficit at 1 January 2022	-14179.50	
Surplus for the year to date	<u>254.48</u>	254.48
Deficit at 31st December 2022	<u>-13925.02</u>	
Transferred to and covered by General Fund the General fund	<u>13925.02</u>	0.00
 <u>FABRIC FUND</u>		
Surplus at 1 January 2022	3467.75	
Deficit for the year to date	<u>-4580.00</u>	-4580.00
Deficit at 31st December 2022	-1112.25	
 <u>BUILDING DEVELOPMENT</u>		
Surplus for the year to date	116941.36	116941.36
 <u>TOTAL FUNDS</u>		
	<u>£ 121694.24</u>	<u>£ 112843.63</u>

ATHERINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCILBALANCE SHEET

Balance on 1st January 2022	8850.61	
Overall Surplus for the year	<u>112843.63</u>	<u>121694.24</u>
Balance at 31st December 2022	£	<u>121694.24</u>

Represented by**Held at Bank**

Lloyds Bank Current Account on 31st December 2022	6036.56
Lloyds Bank Deposit Account on 31st December 2022	115051.98
Cash held at 31st December 2022	605.70

	<u>£</u>	<u>121694.24</u>
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NOTE TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT**St Mary's Regeneration Team (SMART)**

SMART Is a Sub-committee of the PCC, set up to organise and raise funds from the community to support the maintenance and enhancement of the buildings and fabric of the Church.

During the year SMART has raised funds for maintenance of the Church and paid some of the funds over to the PCC to assist with the repairs to the Boundary wall. At the 31st December 2022 It retains the balance of its Funds in its own Bank Account. The accounts for SMART for the period have not yet been made available to the PCC and so they have not been incorporated in these Financial Statements. The PCC is seeking to gather the necessary information as soon as possible.



Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of	St Marys Parochial Church Council, Atherington		
On accounts for the year ended	31 st December 2022	Charity no (if any)	An Excepted Charity
	Set out on pages 1 - 5		

Respective responsibilities of 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 this 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

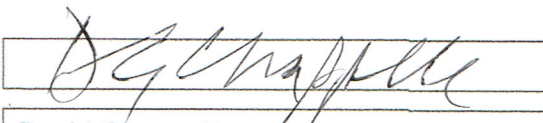
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:  Date: 2/3/2023

Name: David Chappell

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address: 15 Yelland Road, Fremington, Barnstaple, EX31 3BX

Appendix 1
Two Rivers Mission Community Annual Report 2022

2022 has been a year of consolidation and growth. On Sunday 9th January Bishop Jackie led a mission community service in Tawstock to launch our mission action plan, and commission our new joint council and focal ministers. As the year has progressed, we've worked hard on building the mission and ministry of the church in each parish, as well as strengthening our collective work as a mission community. The removal of the last covid restrictions and increased confidence of people to mix has helped tremendously.

Sundays are the main focus of our lives together as Christians. Seven churches have met weekly and two others twice per month. Sunday services give us chance to worship together, pray, grow as disciples, and plan outreach. Importantly they are also a time for fellowship as Christians and mutual support. We normally follow the lectionary readings from Advent to Trinity Sunday, to focus on life of Jesus and then take a more flexible approach for the remainder of the year. At the beginning of the year, we preached a series looking at our Mission Community values of love, faith, Word and Spirit, generosity and joy. During the season of Trinity, we preached sermon series on the biblical books of Colossians and Esther, and a short series on Psalms quoted by Jesus. Seven of our churches now hold a monthly family service, including a new café church service in Yarnscombe which makes use of the warmth and facilities of the village hall. Festivals and 'special' services are used as an opportunity to invite people to church and agricultural festivals are important in many parishes.

Opportunities for adults to grow as disciples have been provided by homegroups, with 6 running during the year. An Autumn weekend away at Lee Abbey proved inspiring for the 15 adults and 2 children who attended. In the Autumn two church members commenced the Diocesan Foundations in Christian ministry course.

Our commitment to helping children respond to the gospel and grow as disciples as part of the church has been worked out in a number of ways. The out of school club in High Bickington and youth group in Newton Tracey continued and a new youth group and kids club launched in Beaford in May and September respectively. We still have no provision for pre-school children, but our parish nurse is a regular visitor to most local toddler groups and a Christmas visit to church was enjoyed by the toddler groups in Beaford and St Giles. There is scope for more work with this important group, especially as we baptise 10 – 15 babies or young children each year.

We are blessed with a good working relationship with our four local primary schools; with collective worship conducted weekly in High Bickington and approximately twice per half term in the others. Open the Book collective worship runs in High Bickington and has recently restarted in HNTPS. All the schools make use of the clergy and churches for RE lessons when appropriate topics allow.

Evangelism, sharing the good news of Jesus and inviting people to enter a relationship with God through him remains a priority for us. We encourage church members to share the Gospel with friends and neighbours and to invite them to church services and events where they can learn more and experience Christian community. We ran two Alpha courses in the Autumn, one in Beaford and one in Tawstock, with around a dozen guests in total.

Our churches have continued to help members care for each other, largely through informal relationships and through the pastoral care offered by ministers. Care for the wider community has been expressed through coffee mornings and other opportunities to gather, and increasingly as the cost of living has risen, the provision of free meals, food banks and warm spaces. St Giles church are operating a much valued pastoral care team, which offers friendship to those who need it.

Julia, our parish nurse, and now deacon, provides more specialist pastoral care, visiting the sick and housebound, accompanying parishioners to medical appointments and offering support on medical issues. She visits toddler groups and offers baby weighing and general advice. Julia has begun to officiate at funerals for those she has been supporting through end of life care.

During the year we conducted 14 baptisms, 15 weddings and 34 funerals across the mission community. 22 weddings are booked so far for 2023. These pastoral offices are a wonderful opportunity to share God's love and the good news of Jesus with people at both the high and low points of life.

During the year Rob Pearce was appointed as focal minister for Beaford and joined the Leadership team. As the church in Beaford has grown and church members stepped further into ministry, Rev Gary has been able to step back a little. He has begun to work with the parish of Huntshaw to see if progress can be made in re-establishing a regular worshipping community there.

We seek to play an active part in the life of the Diocese and wider church. Rev Tracey has served throughout the year as rural dean and other church members have served as deanery synod officers. We have provided a placement for a licenced lay minister trainee, who in turn blessed us with her enthusiasm and ideas.

We are delighted that a new curate has been appointed to join us in July 2023. We failed to appoint a new team vicar during 2022 and this has put a certain amount of pressure on the clergy. We continue to pray that someone will join us in 2023.

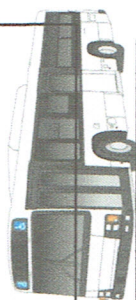
All our churches have maintained their common fund payments throughout the year – a wonderful achievement. Our common fund request will increase in 2023 due to our increasing participant numbers. This is only fair, not least because we remain heavily subsidised by the Diocese. Church members giving regularly and generously (ideally by direct debit or the parish giving scheme) helps ensure that we can meet our bills. Churches have worked hard to maintain their buildings and to improve them to better serve the mission of the church and local community.

As a mission community we are blessed with many people who play their part in making the mission and ministry of our parishes possible. We thank our focal ministers, wardens, PCC members and all who contribute their gifts of time, talent and money to our churches. Retired clergy have been invaluable in ensuring that priestly ministry has been available in each parish. Janette has provided invaluable administrative support. We are what we are because of you all.

We do not know what will occur during the year ahead, but we look forward to joining in with God as he fulfils his promise to build his church and kingdom. "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

Appendix 2 Mission Action Plan

We are called by God to build a Christian community in each village, which will worship, pray, grow and reach out with the Gospel..



The Bus and Crew

Local Leadership Teams (LLTs) in each parish chaired by a focal minister to oversee ministry in each parish

Mission Council Leadership Team (MCLT) made up of rector, focal ministers and specialist ministers to set Mission community vision. A working party of the Joint Council

Form a Joint Council to provide legal oversight of the Mission Community. This will replace the Mission Community Council

Rector to act as chair of the MCLT and train and support focal ministers and local ministry teams. Sundays spent moving around the parishes.

Which route do we need to take? What are the stops along the way?

Authentic, attractive, all-age Christian communities doing life together
Meeting together more than just on a Sunday
Focused on local community—personal relationships, inculturation

People being converted to Christ, growing as disciples and equipped to live as whole life disciples, intentionally working to build God's kingdom.
Our communities and the wider world being transformed by the love of God, through Jesus in the power or the Spirit.

Parish nursing; ana chaplaincy, practical action in local communities; support of Christian mission agencies

	Connect	Hear and respond	Grow	Lead
Under 5				
Primary				
Youth				
Adults				
All-age				

Finances, administration and buildings directed towards these goals.

Joint Council

Better administration; sharing of skills for faculties, finances, grant applications etc

Each church paying its way. Realistic planned giving.

All buildings fit for purpose and well maintained. Teams for ongoing maintenance

Generous giving of parishes to God's work elsewhere

Values

Love
Faith
Word and Spirit
Generosity
Joy

What does the destination look like?

Authentic, attractive, all-age Christian communities, doing life together.

People being converted to Christ, growing as disciples and equipped to live as whole life disciples, intentionally working to build God's kingdom.

Our communities and the wider world being transformed by the love of God, through Jesus in the power or the Spirit.

Finances, administration and buildings directed towards these goals.

