

St. Andrew's Church, Ipplepen
Annual Report
2024 – 2025



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1 Rector's Report

Introduction

Did you realise it is over 10 years since the Beacon Parishes Mission Community was formed back in June 2014? It is 10 years since, in order to more effectively fulfil our Christian calling in our beautiful communities of Ipplepen, Torbryan, Denbury, Broadhempston and Woodland, we have come together as 4 parishes with 5 beautiful church buildings forming a Mission Community. It would seem a good idea at this point in our shared life together to revisit what it means to be a Mission Community and why this is important in helping us fulfil our Christian calling in the place in which we are set. We are nestled in the triangle of rural farming countryside between the towns of Ashburton, Totnes and Newton Abbot with the coastline and sea on one side of us and the Moor on the other. This is our shared place and location.

Mission

First of all, we need to think again about what we mean by the word Mission in a Christian context. We are part of the World Wide Anglican Church. What has widely become known as The Five Marks of Mission have been the Anglican Churches guiding identity worldwide for the last 40 years. Simply put they are to tell, teach, tend, transform and treasure.

1. Tell - To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. Teach - To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. Tend - To respond to human need by loving service
4. Transform - To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
5. Treasure - To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

These five marks of mission are a very good articulation of what we mean by mission and our core goal and purpose as a group of parishes.

Importantly the reason for grouping parishes into mission communities is that the five marks of mission can be fulfilled by the group as a whole and parishes can support one another and together fulfil them for a particular location. Helpfully for the Beacon Parishes Mission Community we have the dedication of our five church buildings which help articulate and inspire these core goals of the five marks of mission.

St John the Baptist Woodland: Mark of Mission - Tell

St John the Baptist was the one who came declaring the message, a prophet who came to prepare the way.

St Andrew's Ipplepen: Mark of Mission - Teach

St Andrew was one of the apostles who particularly encouraged and nurtured faith in others.

St Mary's Denbury: Mark of Mission - Tend

St Mary as mother of our Lord knew much about nurturing and accompanying.

St Peter and St Paul's Broadhempston: Mark of Mission - Transform

St Peter and St Paul were both people who fought for the renewal of unjust structures in society.

Holy Trinity Torbryan: Mark of Mission - Treasure

Creation is God's work. As well as the wonderful location of this church building surrounded by God's creation, the famous icon of the Trinity by Rublev has an open side at the table for us, creation to take its place emphasising how integral creation is to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We can see in the above the potential for each church community in our parishes to take a particular interest and lead on one of the Five Marks of Mission associated with its church dedication and in doing so inspiring and helping us together to fulfil our Christian vocation and calling.

Community

Having considered again what the word Mission means we now turn to the word Community. What does it mean to be a community as the Beacon Parishes? We might consider five key features that all communities share. Communities have shared purposes / goals, frequent interaction, shared resources, shared location and shared characteristics.

1. Shared purposes / goals

We can clearly say that as a Christian community the 5 marks of mission are our shared goals and purposes. The question is how can we best support each other in fulfilling our Christian calling and vocation in these areas? Could for example, each community take a lead in one area?

2. Frequent Interaction

We can see this in our joint services, joint churchwardens' meetings and in our joint communication. The question, however we might pose at this point in our life together is what might frequent interaction look like if we were to develop and give expression to our joint life as a community in a meaningful way?

3. Sharing and pooling of resources

Perhaps the most obvious expression of this is the sharing of a Rector and office administrator. The question would now be what other resources could, and perhaps even should be, usefully shared and pooled? Governance structures is certainly one area we should be considering at this time.

4. Shared location

Now this is perhaps one of the trickiest aspects of the grouping of different historic parishes each with their own communities, church buildings and identity. The question we need to grapple with is what is our shared location? Geographically our group are all villages in the rural triangle between Ashburton, Totnes and Newton Abbot with this area's particular characteristics. We certainly have our rural farming context as our common location.

How else might we develop a sense of shared location? As well as our immediate geography we can look to how dispersed communities such as the Northumbrian Community (whose Celtic prayer liturgy we use) have developed a shared sense of location. In the case of the Northumbrian Community whilst being spread out the community has a focus and spiritual home of Holy Island on the North East coast of England. The worldwide Franciscan community similarly has a focus on Assisi in Italy. Could the Beacon Parishes develop a special relationship with a site of pilgrimage for example?

On the subject of pilgrimage another possibility could be to develop a small pilgrim route e.g. a day's walk that takes in all our 5 churches....The Beacon Parishes Pilgrim Route. This would link us more clearly together by geography. There are other ways we can develop shared location is in the virtual world through our website and social media presence for example. Finally the Beacon Parishes office is of course a shared location where both Alice, our parish administrator, and I work from.

5. Shared characteristics

First and foremost, Christian character formation is what our life as a group of churches and individual disciples is all about. We aim to grow in prayer, discipleship and service. In this we are desiring for ourselves and for the Beacon Parishes as a whole to be demonstrating and be growing in the gifts of God as expressed in Galatians Ch 5 v22-23....love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and self-control. As well as such core Christian Characteristics we might also say we share other characteristics as a group of parishes. For example a love of and value for creation and creativity - nature, art, poetry, music, craft etc.... creativity for us all is key to our life and faith expression.

The Exeter Diocese

We do all of the above as part of the Exeter Diocese and as such we have long had the framework of growing in prayer, making new disciples and serving the people of Devon with Joy as our guiding framework. Bishop Mike, the new Bishop of Exeter, has arrived this year and having settled in has asked there to be a focus on 5 strategic priorities for this current time as churches across Devon.

1. Missional Leadership
2. Missional DNA
3. Vocations
4. Young People
5. Mixed Ecology of Church

(You can read more about his thinking behind these areas on the Exeter Diocese Website).

It will be in this context that we continue to develop as a Beacon Parishes Mission Community into the next 10 years of our life together.

Conclusion

So having reached 10 years as a Mission Community the opportunity now is to discover more fully and live out our calling to both Mission and Community with each other giving life and meaning to being the Beacon Parishes Mission Community. We have 5 wonderful church dedications to inspire us and so a blessing for the next 10 years of our life together:

A Beacon Parishes Blessing

May St John the baptiser inspire us with confidence and courage to tell and proclaim the good news of the gospel;

St Andrew the Apostle inspire us with wit and wisdom to teach and nurture the faith;

St Mary the Mother of our Lord inspire us with care and compassion to tend to those in need;

St Peter and St Paul inspire us with boldness and bravery to fight to transform the injustice in our world;

And may the blessing of the Trinity Father, Son and Holy Spirit give us the vision and values to treasure all of creation.

Amen

2 Churchwardens' Report

The last year has proven again to be a challenge in the wake of the transition from a team of four Churchwardens to two in 2023/24. However, through prioritising roles and as a result of the tireless work provided especially by Sue Hird we have managed to successfully plot our way through another 12 months. We are also fortunate and most grateful to Jane and Geraldine to whom we can turn, if necessary, for advice and support. We are also fortunate from being able to rely on the support of Members of the PCC and others within our congregation to lighten the load of churchwardens' duties. We are hopeful, that the churchwarden team could be supplemented during the forthcoming year with an additional volunteer, so if this appeals, please don't hesitate to make your interest known.

We would also wish to recognise the service of Pauline Emmerson who has admirably taken on the role as Booking Secretary of the Church Hall following the years of devoted service given by Shirley Northwood who took the decision to step down last year.

Diocese of Exeter

2024, although a challenging year for both Church and Nation, has given us plenty to celebrate at Exeter Cathedral.

2024 marked the 30th Anniversary of the ordination of women and quite fittingly, a significant moment in the life of the Diocese took place at the end of March, when Bishop Jackie became the first female bishop to ever lead the Chrism Eucharist at Exeter Cathedral. Our own Rev'd Anne Burden also celebrated her 30th Anniversary as an ordained priest on the 17th April. Anne was one of 1,200 women who were priested by the CofE in 1994. The occasion was marked by services on 16th April and the 21st April at St. Andrew's. Not forgetting also that on Sunday, 29th September 2024 a Mission Community Service was held to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Rev'd Tony Meek's Ordination.

It was a year of change in the Episcopal leadership as acting Bishop Jackie also announced her retirement and we welcomed the Rt. Rev'd Dr Mike Harrison, as the new Bishop of Exeter. Bishop Mike and his wife Rachel came to the diocese in the late autumn of 2024 where his service of enthronement at Exeter Cathedral took place on All Souls Day.

St. Andrew's had the privilege of welcoming Bishop Mike to lead a service on Sunday, 1st December 2024 followed afterwards by a splendid lunch in the Church Hall.

Turning to other notable Church matters over the past 12 months:

Churchyard Extension Area: As reported last year, we approach ever nearer to the time when we shall soon require to utilise the first Phase of the new Churchyard Extension Area for burials. During the past 12 months the Extension area has begun to take shape with the installation of aesthetic Estate fencing. This constitutes Phase I of the extension area enclosing an area of some 22 metres x 29 metres which will provide some 105 full size burial plots and 108 cremation plots which is estimated to provide burial spaces for the next 12-16 years. The conceptual design and layout of Phase I has been approved by the PCC with the next stage being to de-compact the ground along the line of cremated remains plots. Particular thanks and recognition are owed to Charles Quartley for his invaluable contribution in this Project.

Whilst the conceptual layout does indicate a linear approach, the nature of the ground and the likelihood of encountering inevitable limestone outcrops in certain areas will lead to wider separation between graves which will serve to 'break up' the uniformity of the existing design. This will ultimately present opportunities to 'soften' the design layout with the introduction of benches or potentially carefully chosen trees or shrubs to enhance the extension to make it more aesthetically pleasing. On this front, the PCC has welcomed an approach from a local environmental group, 'IpplePlanet' to explore collaborative ideas to enhance the extension area. One proposal currently in discussion is the planting of some five Apple Trees.

The field continues to be let on an annual grazing licence which this year will exclude the Churchyard Extension Area having now been repossessed to allow further preparation for its primary use in due course for burials.

Contactless Payment: Following the welcome introduction in 2022 of 'wifi' in the Church which will future-proof the ability for the Church to be used for community type events; you will be aware that from July 2023 we have been able to install a contactless payment system. In the ever-increasing world of card payment over 'cash' this advancement has proven to be both a safer and a very successful way for people to make donations to the Church.

Common Fund for 2024: The function of the Common Fund is to be the primary source of funding for the provision of ministry across the Diocese. The Common Fund system is intended to apportion, in an equitable and understandable way, the contribution being requested from each parish. The calculation determines the sum attributable to each parish resulting from its declared participant numbers, adjusted by the parish's socio-economic banding, a church buildings allowance and potentially an adjustment for larger churches.

As reported by the Diocese, the final position on the Common Fund for 2023, was that they received 93.9% of the amount requested, down from 95.5% in 2022. This was a shortfall of around £550,000. The forecast for 2024 is showing a continuing fall in the level of contributions being received, with a projected outturn of 92%, a shortfall of £725,000. This could potentially have a bearing on the contribution parishes as ours could have to pay going forward.

Church & Churchyard Work Party: The Work Party continues to meet on the first Saturday of each month to supplement the excellent work that John Lynch does in keeping the churchyard looking so wonderfully maintained. The tasks which are tackled by the Work Party are quite diverse and range from trimming boundary hedges, clearing gutters, maintenance of the cremated remains, unblocking drains, weeding of pathways, improving safety in and around the church etc. Many thanks to all who give up their time and for their hard work which is most appreciated.

Community Engagement:

Coffee & Chat: As many of you will be aware, Coffee & Chat is held in St. Andrew's on the second Saturday of each month. The Event has become very popular in the local community and in March this year marked the second anniversary. Our gratitude goes out to all those who have made this event so successful.

Christmas Tree Festival: The Christmas Tree Festival at St. Andrew's between the 22nd November through to the 6th December proved to be a great success this year in reaching out into the local community. The Event generated immense support and brought many people together from various organisations across the village. Our special thanks go to Pam and Robin Thomas for the hard work that went in to organising this fantastic event.

Other Church Events: We would also like to mention the pleasure it gives for the continuance of the primary school having their special services in church – always great to see the Church full of our young people.

In addition, it is also a great thrill to host 'Unity in Sound' to sing in Church who take full advantage of the acoustics the building provides – always enjoyable evenings which receive the plaudits.

St. Andrew's Outside: The first St. Andrew's Outside Event was held in the Church Field in May 2023 and take place every other month. Centred around a fire-pit circle, these Events combine a subtle religious theme, a relaxed friendly atmosphere, mix of outdoor activities, (suitable for all ages) and refreshments. In particular, we would like to recognise the organisational talents of Lesley Mawson and her team of dedicated helpers which has seen St. Andrew's Outside grow from strength to strength. It is particularly pleasing to see people from the local community and young families with children who don't normally attend regular church services – so, if you haven't attended one of these Events yet, then would suggest you do so.

Finally, our grateful thanks to those who have served St. Andrew's so willingly throughout the last 12 months from welcoming patrons into church; taking part in the services, whether playing music, reading or leading us in prayer; preparing the vestry; arranging flowers; the coffee makers after each service; Hospitality Team and the Pastoral Care Team for the valuable work they do. Last but not least, thanks to

our dedicated team of bell-ringers who are so much appreciated by both church-goers and the local community.

It would also be remiss of me not to thank our Rector, the Rev'd Andrew Down who is the beacon of our Beacon Parishes.

On a final note, out of a very strong field of 11 applicants, 5 of whom were interviewed we were very pleased to appoint Alice Blanchard as the new Beacon Parishes Administrator on the 3rd December 2024. Alice started her new role on 6th January 2025. Grateful thanks also to our former administrator Caren Martin who left for pastures new and to whom we send our best wishes for the future.

Clive Tompkins. On behalf of St. Andrew's Churchwardens

3 Administration and Finance

3.1 Secretary's Report

Since our APCM in 2024 we have had three PCC meetings.

Minutes including APCM minutes are always in church after these meetings for anyone to read.

At PCC we have discussed ongoing problems with the clock which has been re-instated but is running fast so Charles Quartley monitoring this; support for Church Wardens; marriage/blessing of same sex couples; re-hanging of the Shephard plaque on the north wall; septic tank; new carpet at the West end and our latest project – the churchyard extension. We are rapidly running out of space in our present churchyard so work is ongoing to turn part of the field behind the hall into the churchyard extension. Again our thanks go to Charles for taking a lead on this.

We now have a new administrator and our thanks go to Ann Holroyd for her support with this and also all the work she has done relating to Safeguarding (see her report).

As I said in my last report this APCM will be my last and although Zoe Gibbs is happy to carry on as Minute Secretary she does not have the time to do any of the admin work SO we are desperately looking for a new PCC Secretary. It is not onerous – just a case of keeping up with the e-mails and any actions emanating from the minutes.

Again my thanks to the Rector, Wardens and PCC members for their support.

Vanessa Bevan

3.2 PCC Financial Report

The accounts are in the Appendix

A couple of things to note:

1. I was late with the annual Gift Aid and GASDS claims and was only able to complete them in January. There was £1809 to claim and this will be a boost to the 2025 accounts.
2. There was also £340 raised for the British Legion on Remembrance Day, but I was only able to send the funds in January. Again, this will show in the 2025 figures.

Overall, not a bad year and with the future support of the Church Estate Charity to cover insurance costs (approved by the Estate trustees), and to cover additional fabric costs, the PCC is in a relatively comfortable position. The challenge remains battling ever increasing day-to-day costs, but provided income remains steady we should hopefully navigate 2025 without need to dip into the reserves. We shall see.

As far as the Church Hall is concerned, income from rentals continues to cover the costs of running the hall and also supports the PCC in covering the fuel costs of the church office. The bank balance is steady at around £20k. My thanks to Tom for the excellent job he is doing in managing bookings.

Phill Harvey – PCC Treasurer

3.3 Planned Giving

I would once again wish to thank everyone who has contributed financially to our parish funds over the last year. Your generosity is vital to St. Andrew's continuing as a going concern.

Over forty members from our church community are donating to our parish financially through the Parish Giving Scheme, having donated over £290,000 to date including gift aid over the last nine years. Unfortunately member numbers are now decreasing mainly because of deaths, house moves, and cancellations.

Essentially, the scheme enables members to make contributions on a regular basis by Direct Debit, with gift aid also being collected for taxpaying members. Payments can be linked to inflation if desired and can be reduced or cancelled should circumstances change. Costs are paid by the diocese.

I would be very happy to provide details and a simple application form to anyone interested.

Members of the congregation can also make one off donations through contactless giving at other events as well as at services. There is a fixed Giving Station inside the main entrance to our church, and a portable device is available if required. In addition, forms containing access to a QR code are available in many of the pews.

Roger Chamberlain. (St Andrew's PCC Planned Giving Officer)

3.4 Electoral Roll

This year was the one year in every six when a new electoral roll has to be prepared from scratch.

The rules for preparing the roll had also slightly been amended, requiring the PCC to make "reasonable efforts" to ensure that everyone on last year's roll was informed of the production of the new roll. In practice this meant ensuring that everyone on the previous roll who was not a regular church attender had a note either hand delivered or posted to them. Many thanks to Vanessa for her assistance with this task.

Last year there were 79 people on the electoral roll. During the course of the year three people sadly died, and one new person applied to join, so reducing that number to 77 at the point when the new roll was created.

Thirteen people who were on the last roll did not reapply, but I am pleased to report that 64 people did, so we retained 83% of church members.

Another positive feature was that nine new people applied to come onto our roll this year, the biggest influx since 2019, thus making the current total 73 members.

Liz Lamport - Electoral Roll Officer

4 The buildings

4.1 Fabric

The fabric of St. Andrew's Church remains in good condition for the age of the building, with no unexpected problems.

The Quinquennial Inspection (QI) of the church was completed in March 2024 – indeed, the Report makes mention that 'the church is well looked after and in excellent condition.' Most of the requirements of the previous QI have been met, save for some treatment needed on external doors to the turrets and roof void doors – a task which has been targeted by the regular working party. Some small repairs are also needed to the West louvres of the belfry. Other priorities noted in the QI relates to some minor roof repairs ie. North roof, slipped slate; South roof, secure lead flashing to valley gutter; Vestry Roof, replace broken eaves slate.

The Working Party continues to meet on the first Saturday of each month and has gained new enthusiastic members. It has carried out many small repairs to the outside of the church on a regular basis, and maintained the rainwater systems, roofs and gutters as well as helping to look after the churchyard and churchyard hedgerows. We are most grateful to all those who donate their time.

The Shepherd memorial has not yet been reinstated but anticipate the monumental masons who have been engaged will complete the work in the very near future.

At some stage, hopefully, during the quinquennium, subject to funding, we should consider full redecoration of chancel, nave and aisles which was another desirable improvement recommended in the Quinquennial Inspection Report.

Clive Tompkins

4.2 Bells, tower, clock and ringers

The Ipplepen bellringers have enjoyed a full year of ringing during 2024.

We have continued our ringing on each Sunday at Ipplepen when there were services and our regular Wednesday evening practices. On occasions, we were joined by visiting ringers from other ringing towers including Highweek, Broadhempston, and Hayle in Cornwall.

We also rang on practice night at Denbury church twice during the year, followed by a meal at the pub.

We have now seventeen members on our Bellringers WhatsApp group.

During this period, we had three teams of visiting ringers to Ipplepen church, and we rang at one wedding and two funerals.

We also rang the church bells for a number of village events notably the Annual Flower Show.

In November we rang a half-muffled peal for remembrance Sunday and had a full schedule of ringing over the Christmas period.

Andrew Vickery – Tower Captain

As reported last year, in February 2024 the clock was taken away by the Cumbrian Clock Company to investigate the 'sticking gear' issue. They had it up and running at their workshop for several months to ensure it was working correctly, and it re-appeared in February 2025. It is working fine, but running fast by about a minute an hour. It was running correctly at the works [we have videos and timings to show this]. As at March we are waiting for the engineer to visit to put it right in situ. It is worth noting that all of the work over the last two years has been under warranty at no cost to St. Andrew's, and the Cambrian Clock Company are being very supportive in getting out 350+ year old clock running properly. They don't work on many clocks this old.

Many thanks to the ringers who have helped with the process and to Tom Allen of Quay Scaffolding in the village who has been very generous with his support in installing safety rails while we had the trap doors removed.

Charles Quartley

4.3 Churchyard

We are very fortunate to have a very well kept churchyard for everyone to enjoy, due to the hard work put in by John Lynch, who also makes sure the machinery is kept in good order, which we are most grateful for, so many many thanks to him.

The work party on the first Saturday of each month also do a great job cleaning the paths and hedge trimming and checking headstones etc..

There are still a few spaces left (approx 20), with the help of Nick Brock (grave digger) in determining where it is possible to bury if a new grave is to be dug.

Geraldine Dennis

The estate fencing and new gates for the churchyard extension were installed in July and John Lynch is now cutting the grass in the amenity area and the newly fenced area on a regular basis. Part of the old chain link fencing was removed and some lower tree branches removed to open up the wonderful views to the north.

The dedicated cremated remains areas will be created after Easter. The timing of beginning to use the churchyard extension, and also having the area consecrated has yet to be decided.

Charles Quartley

4.4 Church Hall

The hall continues to attract bookings. There are a few regulars, including: Mad4Fitness, Table tennis, yoga, Unity in Sound, Brownies and other monthly events, normally Lunch Club and Memory Cafe.

The ad hoc bookings have died off a little since New Year, but I think that is to be expected. It was quite busy over the Christmas period.

The church makes use of the hall Come Holy Spirit, St. Andrew's Outside and other meetings.

Apart from the fire door being occasionally left open, I think there are no other issues

Pauline Emmerson

5 Our Policies in Action

5.1 Health and Safety

Safety inspections have been carried out on Fire Extinguishers, Gas Boilers, and Portable Appliances Testing (PAT) on all electrical appliances, both in the Church and Church Hall. Calibration and safety certificates have been issued following the inspections and testing.

The annual inspection and testing of the Chandelier fittings and Winch Rope was also carried out in March 2024. Flag raising and lowering is carried out by two persons to ensure that no person is unaccompanied in the tower whilst carrying out this task.

The working party that meets on the first Saturday of each month also attends to safety related tasks that are brought to their attention, with a proviso, that they are within the scope of works, not requiring specialist attention.

A deformity in the concrete footpath between the main Church entrance and west door constituting a 'trip hazard' has been identified and will be repaired by a contractor as soon as practicable.

Clive Tompkins

5.2 Promoting a Safer Church Safeguarding

The safeguarding policy has been reviewed and distributed across the Beacon parishes. It highlights some of the actions that must be taken as further progress is made to make our churches safer places and in all of us being alert to the safety needs of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Alice Blanchard the new Administrator is now the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Verifier and is experienced in safeguarding procedures in her work in education. She has already begun the essential work of updating the DBS system and checks.

The Safeguarding Representatives, with Alice and Hillarie Griggs have all met together. Each Parish now has a file of resources that will assist them, and church wardens and PCCs to comply with the requirements of the Diocese of Exeter and the Government legislation on safeguarding.

The Diocesan Parish Dashboard will enable each of our parishes to view each other's progress and allow the Diocese to monitor, support and advise us.

Training is a key priority and is now mandatory. Those who have completed the basic and foundation levels reassure others that this is straightforward to access and informative.

The work of the Safeguarding Representatives in dealing with concerns is confidential. PCCs can be assured that concerns that have been brought to the attention of the Rector and the local advocate have been dealt with promptly and with the support and approval of the Diocesan Safeguarding team.

The Safeguarding representatives will continue to meet and work together and have agreed that there will be one shared report for PCC and APCM meetings, thus improving communication between each church on safeguarding matters and enabling the sharing of experience and expertise more readily.

The Rector will sign off the reviewed policy at the March 2025 meeting in Ipplepen on behalf of the Ipplepen with Torbryan, Broadhempston, Denbury and Woodland.

Ann Holroyd

5.3 Pastoral Care Team

Our Pastoral Care Team (PCT) is still functioning and playing an important role in the support of some of our congregation. Winnie Bryant rings anyone we are concerned about and I then speak to the Rector and our team of volunteers – Marilyn Ellis, Marilyn Clark, Rev Anne Burden if there are any specific problems and if appropriate, we visit. We send cards at Christmas and Easter and at other appropriate times and keep in touch with some who have moved away from the village. Ann Holroyd gives advice on Safeguarding.

We have regular monthly meetings with the Rector to see how we can improve the service.

If you are concerned about the wellbeing of anyone in the congregation do please get in touch with one of us.

Vanessa Bevan

5.4 Baptism Team

There have been two baptisms since the last annual meeting. Each has been a happy event with Rev Down officiating.

One family chose to have a private ceremony. The other celebration was with the whole church family during a regular communion service where we celebrated an adult baptism. This was a very joyful and special occasion.

Young children attending the services are given baptism booklets and coloured pencils to take home with them.

We invite our baptism families to Mothering Sunday and Crib services as well as dressing of the Easter Garden in church.

Sheila Sheldon

5.5 Hospitality

The Hospitality Team meet regularly during the year to plan events. In April last year the Cheese Wine and Quiz evening was fun and a great success.

The D-Day Anniversary Exhibition organised by Pam Thomas was very much appreciated by all who visited and on the Sunday afternoon we helped with refreshments for the Tea for Two Concert by Marilyn Ellis and Tom Morris.

Refreshments have been provided by our team for many special occasions including Rev Tony Meek's 40th Ordination anniversary, for the Historic Churches Trust and Gift Day incorporated with Coffee and Chat.

The St. Andrew's Day Service on 1st December was followed by a Mission Community Shared lunch which the new Bishop attended and was enjoyed by everyone.

The Christmas Fair organised by Vanessa Bevan and team had to be changed last minute to Sunday 8th December after the Service owing to horrendous storms on the Saturday but thankfully was still successful.

Mulled wine after the Christmas Carol Service with mince pies and shortbread is always popular.

The coffee tea and biscuits served each week by a variety of people on our rota are welcomed by a lot of people and any donations help pay for our Mothering Sunday posies and Christmas tree amongst other things.

We thank everyone for being so supportive and generous in giving of their time in baking, time and donations and organising skills.

Marilyn Clark and Sue Sanders

5.6 Coffee and Chat

As we celebrate our second anniversary I would like to thank the volunteers who host each event, Tom Morris and Charlotte for providing the music and everyone who comes to support (including the lovely dogs).

It is a great opportunity to chat and socialise, while supporting St. Andrew's through your donations.

We would be grateful for more hosts.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Marilyn Ellis

5.7 Flowers

Thank you for the continued support from ladies that do the fortnightly flower rota.

Also a mention to the co-op for all the leftover flowers we receive from them. Sometimes the church is full and they are always very much appreciated.

Good to say this year no money has been spent on flowers.

Also this year no boxes of floral oasis have been bought. The natural arrangements always look lovely.

One block of oasis made primarily of plastics can take thousands of years to break down into microplastics. So we are doing our bit for the environment.

Sue Sanders

6 Reaching Out

6.1 Youth Choir

Sadly, the STA*X youth choir closed in July. Because of scholastic pressures, very few of the girls attended and singing as a choir was becoming unviable. We agreed to take a break with the idea of possibly resuming in September, but this did not materialise, so Marilyn, Tom and I decided to end what has been an enjoyable, and very worthwhile project.

Tom continues to work with a few younger children on a Monday afternoon, but this does not come under the umbrella of Sta*x.

Rehearsals: Junior choir, 45 mins on Mondays 16:15 - 17:00

Jo Innes-Lumsden

6.2 Deanery Synod

There have been three Deanery Synod meetings.

Following the pattern of a guest speaker for the first 30 minutes, all of whom offer much and prove very interesting, thought provoking and sometimes challenging.

The usual business format and agenda for the Deanery then follows on.

All meetings were led by the Reverend Andrew Down, The rural Dean.

(It should be noted as stated that a couple of the key members are suffering challenging personal health issues but continue to fulfil their rolls nevertheless).

Topics discussed this year:-

1. Safeguarding.
2. Discussion on assisted dying.
3. Church of England finances - including stipendiary clergy. The shortfall in recruitment and retention of clergy, all of which are serious problems within the Church of England, and will most likely result in the joining of more parishes!
4. Diocesan representatives have submitted questions to the Diocesan Synod and would like to bring those to the wider Diocese and church communities.

5. Same sex marriage - discussions are still ongoing but these have been pushed back from the General Synod to Diocesan and Deanery level.
6. Discussions are ongoing about Some Deanery s locally that are struggling to pay their common fund, along with long term decline of congregations both adult and children.

The big question being asked is how to address these issues. What can we do?

Overall the deanery funds stand at about £1,738 as of last October but the treasurer was not at the last meeting to give us an update.

All meetings have open discussion time, along with dates for the diary of what is planned and happening in and around all the parishes in the Deanery, and then we close and finish with prayers offered by either the Rural Dean or the guest speaker, or another clergy member.

Susan Hird, Beacon Mission rep. (St. Andrews, Ipplepen)

6.3 Food for Thought Lunch Club

We are beginning to be too popular courtesy of our guests chatting to their friends! Consequently, we have a waiting list and even invite folk from that list to fill late cancelations. We regularly serve 30 people each month, rarely below that number, often over. Practically, 32 is a comfortable maximum.

Our cook is temporarily receiving medical treatment. Luckily we have another excellent cook maintaining the quality cooking until she can return. Support volunteers ably assist to prepare vegetables, serve the meals and guide the children to serve at table.

A growing number of our guests require transport. We have just enough transport volunteers to do but more would be welcome. Their caring service is trusted and valued.

We have continued to have a break in August and keep to the first Wednesday each month, apart from January which can slip to the second week. Since our last report, it has been a joy to have children from Ipplepen School to help to serve at table every month. The choir also came to sing for us in December. We appreciate the effort they have to make adjusting their time-table to be with us and we are most grateful to their teachers for escorting them. We have a rota of volunteers who are happy to lead the Pause for Thought slot between main course and pudding. The rest between courses aids digestion and the speakers never fail to lift our spirits. One of our guests has now joined this rota and more folk, happy to give a short message and make folk smile would be good.

We have been able to purchase plastic table-cloths which has greatly helped to reduce the amount of items to be laundered. We seem to have lost some flexibility with the tables that are available - matching height and width of the different tables to suit are needs. This has been a challenge sometimes, stretching our brains to compute the right set up to with adequate space in case of an emergency. (It would seem that one 4 foot table at the right height is still missing.)

Out of our funds we have donated £150 to HITS. The budgetary skills of our cooks mean that we can maintain £7 as the price of a meal in spite of price increases of ingredients. The meals remain of an excellent standard and our guests greatly value that and enjoy the companionship each month.

Maria Alsop, Rose Chamberlain and Ann Skipworth

7 Appendix – Accounts – Year end 31st December 2024

Parish of Ipplepen and Torbryan						
Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2024						
General Fund Receipts and Payments Account						
	2024		2023			
	£	£	£	£		
RECEIPTS						
Planned Giving						
Regular giving through PGS, envelopes and bankers orders	31,570		28,912			
Income tax recovered thereon	7,845		11,056			
		39,415				39,968
Other Voluntary Giving						
Collections	6,698		5,286			
Gift Day	936		1,973			
Tax Reclaimed on Gift Day and other events	0		493			
Church wall box	482		401			
Social & fund-raising events:	2,296		2,883			
Votive candle stand	353		0			
Floodlighting Income	302		488			
Sundry donations	6,756		350			
		17,823				11,874
Other Ordinary Income						
Fees payable to P C C	12,102		10,486			
Fees from weddings, funerals etc. payable to diocese	(3,766)		(3,225)			
Dividends and interest on investments	4,288		4,236			
Rent receivable	122		0			
Sundry	3,192		667			
		15,938				12,164
Extraordinary Income						
Legacies in wills						
Transfers from Restricted Funds - Messy Church	1,314					
Grants received	1,284		100			
						100
		2,598				
TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR		75,774				64,693
TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR		(74,460)				(69,392)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		1,314				(4,699)
Extraordinary income:						
Fuel Grant from Diocese						100
Net non-recurring fund-raising income:						
Extraordinary expenditure:						
Surplus/(deficit) from extraordinary activities & events		0				100
						0
Surplus/(deficit) from ordinary activities		1,314				(4,799)
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		1,314				(4,699)

Parish of Ipplepen and Torbryan					
Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2024					
General Fund Receipts and Payments Account					
	2024		2023		
	£	£	£	£	
<u>PAYMENTS</u>					
<i>The Ministry</i>					
General ministry expenses including Rector's expenses	2,344		3,421		
		2,344		3,421	
<i>The Church and Services</i>					
Share of PA Costs	5,866		6,080		
Heating, lighting and cleaning, etc.	5,469		5,232		
Upkeep of services	2,719		2,910		
Flowers	0		16		
Churchyard expenses including verger's honoraria	2,482		2,444		
Sexton's honorarium	0		0		
Organists' honoraria	2,150		2,050		
Organ tuning	648		0		
		19,334		18,732	
<i>Other Ordinary Expenditure</i>					
Leasing and expenses of photocopier	858		1,217		
Ipplepen Magazine/Diocesan leaflets/Christians Together	1,286		200		
Minor Church Maintenance	108		0		
Administration, postage, stationery etc.	248		792		
Payments to missions and charities	1,699		1,699		
Payments to missions and charities - restricted funds	741		1,299		
Parochial share payable to diocese	42,791		42,910		
Deanery contribution	0		0		
Payments to restricted funds	1,126		0		
Social and fundraising events	535		14		
Computer Expenses	142		149		
Website	41		11		
Other Shared Expenses recovered	(2,649)		(2,058)		
Sundry expenses	876		1,006		
		47,802		47,239	
<i>Extraordinary Expenditure</i>					
Shephard Plaque		2,531			
Purchase of new mower		979			
Sound system upgrade		1,470			
TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR		74,460		69,392	

Parish of Ipplepen and Torbryan							
Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2024							
Payments to Charities							
	2024		2023				
	Annual Giving	Restricted Donations	Annual Giving	Restricted Donations			
	£	£	£	£			
Annual Giving							
US							
Christian Aid							
Rowcroft	200		200				
Samaritans							
Church Army							
Clergy Orphan Fund							
Marie Curie							
Children's Hospice South West	200		200				
Embrace the Middle East							
Shelterbox	200		200				
Society of Mary & Martha (Sheldon Centre)	100		100				
Alzheimer's Society							
Disaster Emergencies Committee: Nepal Appeal							
Royal British Legion from Remembrance Sunday		20		506			
Stroke Association							
Devon Air Ambulance	199		199				
Medecins Sans Frontieres UK							
EGHO							
Barnabas Fund							
CALM	200		200				
HITS	200		200	20			
The Children's Society				53			
Night Stop	200		200				
Heat Packs	200		200				
Devon Historic Churches Trust		421		190			
Deaf Acadamy							
Torbryan				375			
Churches Conservation Trust				125			
MND Association		300		30			
	<u>1,699</u>	<u>741</u>	<u>1,699</u>	<u>1,299</u>			
Note:							
PCC approved Regular Giving of £1700. For reasons unknown, Devon Air Ambulance take £199,							
instead of the £200 approved, hence the £1 discrepancy.							

Parish of Ipplepen and Torbryan							
Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2024							
Bellringers Receipts and Payments Account							
	2024		2023				
	£	£	£	£			
RECEIPTS							
Visitor donations	80			104			
Ipplepen Community Fund	0			0			
TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR		80				104	
PAYMENTS							
Membership subscriptions	0			0			
Draw prizes & tickets	0			0			
Competition entry fees	0			0			
New Carpet	0			0			
Donation towards Rev Peter	0			0			
Other donation	0			0			
Repairs to bells	0			0			
Sundries	0			58			
New Cupboard	0			0			
TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR		0				(58)	
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		80				46	

Parish of Ipplepen and Torbryan							
Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2024							
STAX Receipts and Payments Account							
	2024		2023				
	£	£	£	£			
RECEIPTS							
Donations received	281			335			
TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR		281				335	
TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR							
STAX expenses	39			17			
		(39)				(17)	
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		242				318	

Parish of Ipplepen and Torbryan						
Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2024						
Fabric Fund Receipts and Payments Account						
	2024		2023			
	£	£	£	£		
RECEIPTS						
Donations						
Transfer from General Fund	1,126					
Donation towards fabric funds	324					
Floodlighting contributions	50					
		1,500				0
Investment Income Received						
Deposit accounts interest	538			138		
Dividends & other investment income	912			1,196		
		1,450				1,334
Extraordinary Income						
Proceeds of insurance claim re storm damage						0
Prior year adjustment						0
Grants						130
Income Tax Recovered						
		0				
TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR		2,950				1,464
PAYMENTS						
Church Repairs and Renewals						
Annual fire inspection	665			112		
Other	73					
Annual inspection of chandelier winch	241			0		
Floodlight Maintenance						
Repairs to sound system						
Window Repairs						
Boiler Service/repairs						
Sound system and wifi upgrade				2,577		
Sundry other repairs & replacements	944			1,039		
		1,923				3,728
Expenditure re Restricted Donations						
Work on tower roof				0		
		0				0
Church Tower Expenses						
Inspection of & work to lightning conductors						
		0				0
Other Expenditure						
Bank charges						
Prior year adjustment						0
Insurance - Building						
		3,912				3,690
TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR		5,835				7,418
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		(2,885)				(5,954)

Parish of Ipplepen and Torbryan					
Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2024					
Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2024					
	General Fund	Restricted General Funds (see analysis)	Restricted Fabric Fund	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets - at cost					
Land - Part of Church Park (field being extension to Churchyard)	150			150	150
Investments - at cost					
Central Board of Finance (Investment Fund)					
Parochial General Fund - 886 shares	750			750	750
Churchyard - 2,506 shares	9,992			9,992	9,992
Churchyard (Diocesan A/C) - 242 shares	270			270	270
Churchyard (re Dr Fry) - 52.01 shares	500			500	500
£18,859 4% Consolidated Stock			0	0	0
1,936 CBF CofE Investment Fund Income Units			12,000	12,000	12,000
Monetary Assets					
NatWest - Current Account	1,739	1,708	840	4,287	8,080
Central Board of Finance - Deposit Account	2,636		4,669	7,305	6,936
Central Board of Income Fund Units (re R Griffiths)	40,000			40,000	40,000
NatWest - Current Account (Choir Fund)				0	0
Owed between funds				0	0
Bellringers Funds		814		814	814
Debtors				0	0
Shared Expenses not recovered	499			499	0
Due to Village Hall					
	56,536	2,522	17,509	76,567	79,492
Funds					
Balance brought forward at 31 December 2023	55,222	3,514	20,394	79,492	79,492
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	1,314	(992)	(2,885)	(2,563)	9,326
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2024	56,536	2,522	17,509	76,567	76,567
Valuation of General Fund Investments					
Parochial General Fund - 886 shares				20,487	20,028
Churchyard - 2,506 shares				57,946	56,649
Churchyard (Diocesan A/C) - 242 shares				5,596	3,770
Churchyard (re Dr Fry) - 52.01 shares				1,203	1,176
CBF Income Fund Units (re R Griffiths)				67,896	66,377
				153,128	148,000
Valuation of Fabric Fund Investments					
1,936 CBF CofE Investment Fund Income Units				44,766	48,198
				44,766	48,198
The attached notes form part of these financial statements.					
Approved by the PCC on _____ and signed on their behalf by Rev. Andrew Down (Rector) and Mr Phill Harvey (PCC Treasurer).					

Parish of Ipplepen and Torbryan

Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis.
2. The following asset is recognised at cost but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: Land at Church Park - a field being intended for a future extension to St Andrew's Churchyard.
3. The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion which relates to their function as PCC members. The only other payments made to PCC members were to reimburse them for expenditure necessarily incurred by them on behalf of the PCC.
4. The general fund is used for the day-to-day running of the church, its services and its charitable & mission activities.
5. The restricted general funds relate to monies held specifically for the following purposes:
 - a. The Val Phillips Memorial Prize Fund: to fund the purchase of prizes for the annual Val Phillips Memorial Competition.
 - b. The choir fund relates to monies held & administered by the choir of St Andrew's Church Ipplepen. These monies are held specifically to finance the activities of the choir.
 - c. The bellringers fund relates to monies held & administered by the bellringing team of St Andrew's Church Ipplepen. These monies are held specifically to finance the activities of the bellringing tower.
 - d. The belleplates fund relates to monies held specifically to finance the activities of the belleplates group, the St Andrew Bell Ringers Extraordinaire.
 - e. The youth initiatives fund relates to monies held specifically to finance activities for young people and children in the church and village and mission community.
 - f. The Million for Mission fund relates to monies held & administered by the parish of Ipplepen & Torbryan on behalf of the mission community of Ipplepen with Torbryan, Denbury & Woodland parishes. These monies were received from the diocese of Exeter following a mission community application for funds towards joint mission activities, including but not limited to the running of Messy Church and various religious education courses.
6. The fabric fund represents accumulated donations and appeals for fabric maintenance and can only be spent for that purpose.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF IPPLEPEN									
I report on the accounts of Ipplepen PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024									
Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner									
The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 act) and that an independent examination is needed									
It is my responsibility to:									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 act - to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and - to state whether particular matters have come to my attention 									
Basis of independent examiner's report									
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 project 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.									
Independent examiner's statement									
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or ✓ (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached. 									
Mr M S Dando									
1 Edgelands Lane, Ipplepen									