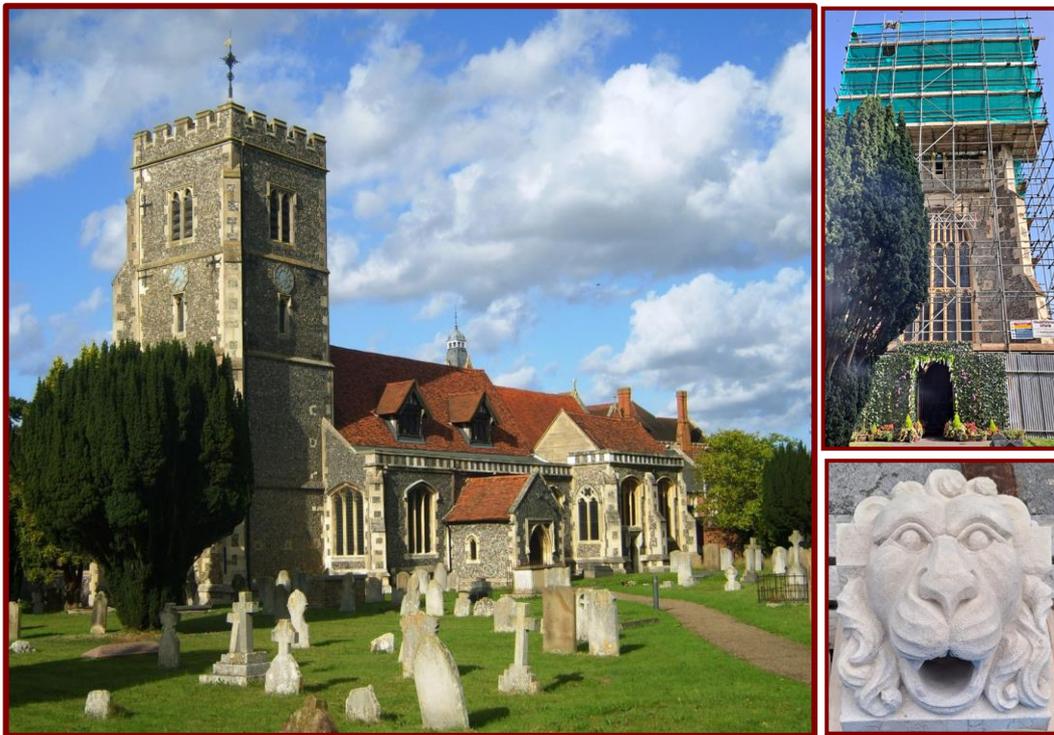


St Mary the Virgin, Beddington

Annual Report

31 December 2021



Putting faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

**Registered with the Charity Commission as
“Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish
of St Mary the Virgin, Beddington”
with Charity number 1131167**

The Parish Church

St Mary the Virgin, Beddington
in the Deanery of Sutton,
Archdeaconry of Reigate
and Diocese of Southwark

Address

St Mary the Virgin
Church Road
Wallington, Surrey,
SM6 7NH

Incumbent

The Reverend Andrew Fenby

Correspondence address

The Rectory
18 Bloxworth Close
Wallington, Surrey
SM6 7NL

Bankers

Santander plc
Bootle
Merseyside
L30 4GB

CCLA Investment
Management Ltd
80 Cheapside
London
EC2V 6BZ

Independent Examiner

Mr Robert Cunningham, ADA
64 Widmore Road
Bromley, Kent
BR1 3BD

This is the form of annual report and financial statements required by the
Charities Act 1993 and
the *Church Accounting Regulations 2006*,
together with the *Statement of Recommended Practice 2005*
published by the Charity Commission.



*Gracious Father, we pray for your Church.
Fill it with your truth, keep it in your peace
and unite it in your love,
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen*

St Mary's is a Church of England (Anglican) Church serving the Parish of Beddington. We are in the Reigate Episcopal area of the Diocese of Southwark, and within Sutton Deanery.

Aims and purposes

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Rector, the Reverend Andrew Fenby, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Our aim is to proclaim God's greatness in all that we do as a community and as individuals and to rejoice in God's saving love for the world revealed in Jesus Christ.

At St Mary's we welcome people of all ages, backgrounds and experiences. We embrace the diversity of God's children and give thanks for all that we can learn about God from each other as we walk together on our journeys of faith.

We believe that God calls us to love not to judge. He meets each of us where we are in our lives and we hope to model His unconditional welcome in our worshipping community.

We are committed to opening our arms to all God's people regardless of, for example. age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital or family status, ethnicity, race, colour, nationality, cultural origin, religion, disability, experience of mental distress, HIV status, caring responsibility, class, education, employment status, political belief or criminal conviction.



Structure, Governance and Management

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a registered charity of which all members are trustees.

It comprises lay persons, elected at the Annual Parish Meeting, who together with the incumbent, licensed clergy, the churchwardens, ex officio and co-opted members (if any), are responsible for the initiation, conduct and development of the Church's work within the parish, and outside, whereby the whole mission of the Church is promoted.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

In accordance with the requirements for disclosure, the Parochial Church Council members who have served during the reporting year (1 January – 31 December 2021) include:

Ex-officio members:

Incumbent: Fr Andrew Fenby (Chair)

Churchwardens: Mandy Larkum) From
Judy Page) APCM 2021

Reader: Jenifer Davison

Southwark Pastoral Auxiliaries: Maud Adams

Deanery Synod Representatives: Linda Wood

Elected members:

Paul Bransome
Gill Caddick
Alison Hargreaves
Ann Lusmore
Sophie Longmoor
Christine Morgan
Jeanette O'Neil
Edward Stawiarski
Behrang Taheri
Jennifer Read

Richard Pocock) To APCM 2021

Francesca Markland) From APCM 2021

Standing Committee

The PCC Standing Committee has the power to transact the business of the PCC between PCC meetings. Ratification of any Standing Committee decision is made at the next PCC meeting. Members of the Standing Committee comprised:

Andrew Fenby
Judy Page
Christine Morgan
Jennifer Read
Mandy Larkum) From APCM 2021
Alison Hargreaves) To APCM 2021

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community. We are an inclusive, friendly church and welcome people of all ages, backgrounds and experiences. We embrace the diversity of God's children and give thanks for all that we can learn of God from each other as we walk together on our journeys of faith.

The PCC held six meetings in the year, all via Zoom. Other matters arose between these meetings which required PCC consultation/approval and this took place via email on a further three occasions.

- **Worship:** Reviewing our worship practices is a regular item on the PCC Agenda. Through the Worship Committee, the PCC maintained an overview of worship throughout the parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.
- **Safeguarding:** St Mary's is committed to following the Southwark Diocesan Policy as contained in 'A Safe Church'. The Rector, churchwardens, officers and PCC take their responsibilities seriously to protect and safeguard the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and agree that we must **always** report any abuse or any suspected abuse. We ensure that all adults working with children are DBS checked and checks are updated when required. We have followed correct procedures in accordance with the diocesan regulations over the last year and have consulted the Diocesan Safeguarding Team when required. We aim to provide an environment which is welcoming and respectful and enables safeguarding concerns to be raised and responded to sensitively and appropriately.
- **Parish Support Fund ('PSF'):** Our pledge for 2022 was determined following PCC consultation on 14 September 2021. Prior to the consultation, the Finance Committee had discussed the impact of the pandemic on our own finances. It had seemed likely that our income in 2021, taking into account the associated decrease in expenditure, would drop by around £26,000. Together with our financial commitment to the National Heritage Lottery Fund work, we concluded a pledge of £41,000 for 2022 (remaining unchanged from 2021) would be achievable.
- **Legalities:** The PCC ensured that legal requirements had been met within the year in respect of buildings and Employer's Public Liability insurance cover; safety certificates being issued to cover our gas and electrical installations; servicing of our fire extinguishers; and licences for use of copyright music and films.
- **Policies and Procedures:** Our comprehensive set of policies and procedures are reviewed annually.
- **GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation):** General Data Protection is adhered to and reviewed annually. Information can be found on our website.
- **The Tower Coffee Shop:** The Tower Coffee Shop continued to be a success during the first half of 2021. It shut during Easter and it took a few weeks to open up again because of a volunteer shortage. A decision was made to open it three days a week on a regular basis (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) until more volunteers could be recruited. This has been a slow process. It has been well used during 2021, especially as a quiet place to sit and enjoy refreshments



Achievements in another challenging year

National Lottery Heritage Fund



Work began on the structural repairs to the tower which saw it enveloped in a web of scaffolding. Despite some interruptions with lockdowns, our contractors were on site from the end of September and into early 2022.

One hiccup was the discovery of rotted wooden rafters on the tower roof which had to be replaced. This was unforeseen and only discovered when the roofing was being removed. It meant we had to use money from our contingency but this still kept us within our budget.

In readiness for the replacement of the rainwater pipes down the entire height of the tower, a new gargoyle was carved by our stonemasons using a clay impression of the remaining gargoyle on the south face of the tower. This is now in place and it is magnificent!

We employed a Heritage Fund Activity Fund Co-ordinator, Dr Philippa Mesiano, to co-ordinate the community engagement activities. This enabled us to start planning the activities which were part of the NLHF requirements linked to their grant. One of the first projects was to be a Light and Sound Show scheduled for 2022 and approaches were made to the BRIT School asking whether they would like their students to develop a concept for this. We were delighted that they agreed!

Grants from additional charities have been sought to help us fund our required contribution to the NLHF grant. We have been fortunate to have received £3,600 from the **All Churches Trust**, £1,500 from **Surrey Churches** and £5,000 from the **Garfield Weston Foundation**. Applications to other charities will be made.

Worship and Services

Having experienced the most extraordinary year in 2020, we had every hope that 2021 would be less taxing. It was not to be.

The year started with St Mary's yet again closed for in-person worship. Although it was now legally possible for churches to open, a majority in the country were closed - at the request of local governments and in response to high levels of COVID-19 infections in many areas. Worship in our parish continued with online recorded services and morning prayer on internet video (Zoom). These arrangements continued for the first quarter of the year but by Easter we were able to celebrate a eucharist in-person in church. For the remainder of the year we were engaged in the process of slowly reopening, subject to a variety of restrictions: for most of 2021 it was necessary to limit the number who could attend services and for many we asked those who wished to attend to prebook. By the end of 2021 however we were able to offer a range of services - eucharist, evensong, baptisms, weddings and funerals - and the choir was once again taking a full rôle in leading our worship. Unlike 2020 we were, however, able to open for some Christmas services - Christmas Carols, Midnight mass and Christmas morning. When we were able to open, attendance was numerically roughly one third to a half of pre-pandemic levels. We were delighted that four couples with strong connections to St Mary's were able to celebrate their weddings at St Mary's in 2021. In addition, 17 services of baptism were carried out and five funeral services were conducted in church.

Keeping the church safe for services

The churchwardens continued to maintain the care of the church during 2021, following the Church of England Risk Assessments and the restrictions imposed. During closure in 2021 a member of the PCC came in regularly to ensure the safety of the church. Some members of our congregation were supportive in clearing paths, running the taps to keep the water system clear, etc and, of course, the Rector also kept a check. All the safety checks have been done during the year and our certificates were kept up to date. Masks, hand gel etc continued to be made available for all to use.

Sunday Club



Sunday Club joined in fellowship on the church's website page with online stories and craft ideas. Also added to the website was a shadow puppet play of the Easter story which 12 children created and recorded for Holy Week. Members also added their voices to the hymns recorded for the online services. Later in the year Sunday Club started to meet during the 9.30 Eucharist and enjoyed sharing their learning with the congregation.

Mondays @ St Mary's

Before the Covid pandemic our open group met on Monday evenings in the Carew Chapel. With the onset of lockdown and after learning how to access Zoom, Monday's @ St Mary's made the transition to on-line meetings and has remained on-line ever since. The group meets to read and study the Bible, share and discuss ideas raised and pray for the world and the parish via the office of Compline. Meeting via Zoom enables members of the group who regularly spend time away from Beddington, in such places as South Africa and Ireland, to still be able to participate in sessions and stay connected.

Vocation

Alison Hargreaves has continued with her Reader Ministry training at St Augustine's college during 2021 (after obtaining her Bishops Certificate in 2020). This is a two-year course of theological training. Due to the pandemic, study in the first half of 2021 was done remotely via zoom. However, in September in-person study resumed at Southwark and in West Malling (St Augustine's college sites).

Pastoral Care

Contact with members of the congregation and parish was continued through phone calls and home communion visits (when permitted) during 2021. As the pastoral care group has to be re-designated, each person involved during the year was assigned people to ring and talk to. Those on our Prayer List were prayed for during Morning Prayer and at the Wednesday morning Eucharist.

Social Activities and Fundraising

While our worship is important to us, we also like to gather in social settings during normal times. In 2021 activities were on hold and the Centre was still not available for hire. The choir used the Centre to store their gowns and carry out socially-distanced practice sessions. Refreshments after the Sunday morning service were provided from the Tower Coffee Shop. Some people missed the gathering in the Centre, but a fair number of people stopped for a coffee under the tower who would not otherwise have joined us in the Centre because of its more confined space.

Church based social events were halted. Our ever popular Diversity Film Nights could not go ahead neither could the Frost Fair. This was a disappointment to many. Sutton Amateur Dramatic Company, who normally use the Centre for auditions and rehearsals, and the church for a summer performance, could not do this. They are looking forward to 2022 and their new summer production.

It goes without saying that the cancellation of these important inclusive social events has impacted on our income during the year.

Men's Group

The Men's group stayed strong as we came out of lockdown, still going out on the first Saturday of the month for breakfasts, and mid-month for evening meals.

A couple of new members were added to our number which is good news, especially after the loss of a long-standing member in the year, RIP Derek.

Country walk featured later in the year, with the obvious pub lunch after.

Can you see a link going through this report?
Food!

Members of the Men's Group intend to carry on into the new year where it left off - more food and drinks, and more walks when the weather gets a bit warmer.



Performance

Attendance

Seating in church continued with social distancing and lists kept of those who booked their attendance. Although 30 places were allocated, a family of 4/5 could take up one place. We were always full up. Attendance has been assessed, as in 2020, with the lists kept. Systems within the church were followed safely and, as people became more confident, they have returned slowly. This is no different to any other church in the area.

Electoral Roll

There were 102 people on the Electoral Roll, 54 of whom were not resident in the parish.

Confirmations

We had one confirmation at our Dedication Festival service on 3 October 2021.

Deanery Synod

St Mary's can elect three lay members to sit on the Deanery Synod. Representation on the synod provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. The Deanery Synod meetings are the formal gatherings which focus on the mission and ministry in our area (the London Borough of Sutton) and are times when through presentations, discussion and debate the parishes can share information, work together and support each other in issues that matter to the worshipping community. The Diocese is keen to encourage the development of deanery leadership teams, to provide more opportunities for local lay leaders to work in partnership with each other and with clergy to develop local initiatives for their communities and support the Diocesan growth objectives. In 2021 there were three meetings one of which, the first in March, was on-line due to covid.

The main topics for discussion were: The Church during Lockdown, and Becoming an Eco Church. Deanery Synod members also were involved in electing members for both the Diocesan and General Synods. Full details of the meetings can be found in the separate **Deanery Synod Report**.

Music and Choirs

January 2021 began in a depressingly similar fashion to the way 2020 had ended; choir rehearsals were still being held online and music for the online services was being recorded through the goodwill of choir members (and their parents in the case of the trebles) recording their individual lines of music and sending them via email to be edited and compiled into coherent pieces of harmony. We all longed to be able to get together and have a jolly good sing!



However, it was not until the summer that we were finally able to socially distance ourselves for choir practice outside the west door, piano and all. Practice finally moved into church, again strictly distanced, and choir robes were brought down from the choir vestry which was too small to safely distance. The choir director became very adept at running up and down the circular staircase in the tower to collect and return music at the beginning and end of each rehearsal and service. Thankfully, as the parish centre was not available for hire, space was found to house the choir

robes there and, later, the flower team kindly donated a cupboard they no longer needed in which, moved to the Carew Chapel, we could store some of the music currently in use.

In September we held a recruitment day in an attempt to boost numbers which had dwindled during lock-down. As a result we gained three new trebles whom we were very pleased to welcome. We were sad to say goodbye to some of our 'regulars' who, for various reasons, have not been able to continue to sing with us and we thank them for their years of service and wish them well.

During the year, a legacy from a benefactor enabled us to purchase a set of scores of Fauré's *Requiem*. We decided that performing it as part of a service would be an appropriate way of remembering not only our benefactor but also the many who had lost their lives since the beginning of lock down and whose loss had not been able to be mourned in the usual way. We invited singers from other churches to join us and on 31st October 40 choristers sang at the service entitled *For Those We Have Loved and Lost*. It was a very memorable and moving occasion for singers and congregation alike.

The Advent and Christmas Carol services were, as always, a lot of hard work but, thanks to everyone's diligence and the guidance of the Lord we were able to get through, assisted by David Moore's exemplary accompaniments, inspiring voluntaries and ever-resourceful improvisations. His assistance throughout the year has been invaluable. Thank you too to Andrew for his continued support. It means a lot.

Tower Bellringers

Due to Covid lockdowns and restrictions, tower bell ringing wasn't possible for a major part of the year. However the ringers still communicated via WhatsApp and Zoom. We held our AGM via zoom and elected Russell King as our new tower captain.

When the church reopened for services, it took time because of restrictions for more than one bell to be chimed for the 9.30am service. Once restrictions eased three or four bells were rung.

Thursday night practices resumed in September and we realised that due to covid and peoples life changes and choices that we did not have the number of ringers that we had before covid and the remaining band would take time to regain its strength and stamina for tower bell ringing.

Unfortunately all ringing stopped again in October when the scaffolding was erected for building work on the tower. As a result the bells were silent for a second Christmas and New Year. Ringing resumed in January 2022. It is hoped to plan a recruitment drive later in 2022. There are ten bells and only six capable ringers.

Outreach and Communications

St Mary's Helping Hands WhatsApp Group

This group was created when we went into lock down in 2020 as a way of offering support to people during this time. It has continued to link members of the congregation and the wider community and offers a useful communication stream between the church and the community. The site is monitored to ensure a safe environment (only people over 18 are invited to join).

St Mary's Quiz Sessions

A fortnightly quiz session was set up during 2020 and continued through 2021. The group benefits from keeping in touch and keeping up morale. The sessions are light-hearted and popular with lots of fun, encouraging our well-being. All are welcome.

St Mary's Book Club

This was started up towards the end of 2021 and meets weekly on a Tuesday evening on zoom. Members have taken turns in choosing books from different genres, alternating between books concerning aspects of faith and books that have themes of inclusion and diversity. This is open to everyone and is a fun and inclusive group – there is no pressure to join in discussions if people simply want to read and listen to the thoughts of others. Good fun.

Quiet @St Mary's

After not being able to open during the pandemic, Quiet @St Mary's reopened in September 2021 and in conjunction with the Tower Coffee Shop, provided opportunities on the third Thursday of the month for people to experience the peace and beauty of St Mary's. There were various activities to enable peace and quiet arranged around the church and the opportunity to walk the St Mary's canvas labyrinth, located in the Centre. It



was wonderful to welcome people back and meet new faces. We were especially blessed to welcome back the wheelchair bound students from Sherwood Park special needs school and their teachers and carers. They always seem to enjoy the peace that being pushed around the labyrinth brings them. The Quiet @ St Mary's team look forward to providing more opportunities for quiet and walking the labyrinth on the third Thursday of each month in 2022.

Schools

Links with the local schools have been maintained – Carew Academy, Sherwood Park, Beddington Infants, Beddington Primary School, Wallington County Grammar School and The Link. Christmas services were booked up during the last week of term but had to be cancelled at the last minute because of Covid restrictions. Hopefully, 2022 will be a better one both for Easter and Christmas.

Social Media

Our website www.stmarysbeddington.org.uk, St Mary's Facebook and The Tower Coffee Shop Facebook pages were regularly updated with services, events and other relevant information. These are all valuable links in engaging with the wider community. 2022 will see an updated website which will be more user friendly. This work is being done inhouse so will be cost free. A Twitter account was also set up

The Parish Magazine

A decision was made to stop publishing the Parish Magazine online. This will be re-assessed and a more up-to-date form of giving news and information will be incorporated into the new website.

Mission and Charitable Giving

A regular annual donation of £1,200 was made to the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. We will continue to give 20% of profits from our fund-raising social activities to the Diocese of Southwark's Zimbabwe Link Fund, however our ability to generate funds was again severely limited. Other charities supported when possible, financially or in kind, include The Children's Society, Crisis and Croydon Nightwatch. We are a Fair Trade church.



Ecumenical relationships

The church is a member of Churches Together in Beddington and Wallington (CTBW).

Thanks

As with most other churches, St Mary's would cease to be the place it is if not for the tireless effort of all our volunteers - flower arrangers, sidespeople, servers, coffee and tea makers, helpers in children's ministry and at diversity events, church cleaners, and volunteers running The Tower Coffee Shop. It is good to have you all back and remember, no matter what is offered, every bit of help is received with our most grateful thanks.

Fabric/Churchwardens' Report

The Archdeacon's annual visitation took place on 28 April with the Assistant Area Dean, Nicholas Peacock, attending. The Articles of Enquiry were submitted.

The end of year accounts show that the cost of regular repairs and maintenance to the fabric and contents of the building, together with the upkeep of the churchyards, amounted to £6,537. In addition to this, running costs covering insurance, electricity, gas and water amounted to £13,469.

The fabric of the building is in general good condition, and we have now completed the major works on the West Tower which were highlighted in our Quinquennial Report. The money for this was awarded to us through the National Heritage Lottery Fund. Our next Quinquennial will take place in 2023 with DAC permission.

Further details of works carried out during the year can be found in the separate **Churchwardens' Report**.

Financial review

Reserves Policy

The PCC's reserves policy, in accordance with diocesan guidelines, is to maintain a balance on free reserves of three months running costs plus an additional one month's salary costs to cover unforeseen emergencies and smooth out fluctuations in cash flow. The Designated Funds for Building Maintenance and Organ Repairs hold reserves at £1,132 and £15,440 respectively. The reduction in the Building Maintenance Fund was due to the reserves being transferred to our current account to protect our cash flow when settling substantial invoices associated with the tower structural works prior to reimbursement from the NLHF. The Designated Funds are considered both prudent and essential. The cost of routine and modest building maintenance is met from our available unrestricted funds, but we are mindful that with a building of the age and importance of St Mary's, the likelihood of exceptional and extensive repair is ever present and forward planning is needed.

It is our policy to invest the short-term investment fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund.

The PCC is responsible for all parish finance, its management and control, and has appointed a treasurer to supervise this area. In preparing the financial statements the PCC, through the Treasurer, is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Follow applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is appropriate to presume that the Charity will not remain in operation.

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £143,842 of which £45,705 was unrestricted planned voluntary donations.

Treasurer's Report

Year ending 31 December 2021

The Financial Statements have been examined by Robert Cunningham our Independent Examiner.

Total funds at year end 2021 amounted to £55,716 of which £2,752 were in restricted funds. Total funds at year end 2020 were £74,778.

Total income was up by £43,190.

Total expenditure decreased by £1,958. A large portion of expenditure, £68,757, was incurred on the repair and restoration of the Tower. However, £38,468 was received from the National Heritage Lottery Fund and £9,899 was reclaimed as VAT.

A very generous legacy of £20,000 was received as well as a £5,000 donation from the Garfield Weston Trust

Tax recoverable on Gift Aid was down by £10,863 due to a delay in claims being made as a result of a change in the Treasurer. These claims are being brought up to date in 2022.

Stewardship income from 2020 wasn't banked until early 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions, so the 2021 figures effectively accounts for two years' worth of this income.

Fees for weddings and funerals that took place in late 2019 and early 2020 were not included in those year's accounts as the information was not available at the time. These fees were finally accounted for in 2021 which is why this income stream is up by £3,121.

Church hall lettings were down by a further £926.

The Tower Coffee Shop income was up by £8,960 reflecting the fewer Covid-19 restrictions in place during 2021. As expected therefore the costs of running the coffee shop were also up by £2,794.

Signed
The Reverend Andrew Fenby
Rector and PCC Chair
on behalf of the Parochial Church Council

Date