



The Parish of St Mary's Church, Ideford

*Address:
Ideford Church,
Church Road,
Ideford
TQ13 0BA*

Annual Report

of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended
31st December 2023

Team Rector:
The Reverend Carol Green

Team Vicar:
The Reverend Jane Frost / Vacancy

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Church, Ideford

Annual Report

for the year ended 31st December 2023

Aim and Purpose

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Team Vicar in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, as well as the Church itself.

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 family. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish family albeit in small numbers, through:

- Worship and prayer:
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Mission and outreach work including new families through the successful Messy Church initiative
- Providing a continued Christian presence in the community

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The Church is open daily for the use of anyone and everyone in the community and is kindly locked and unlocked by people from the village. Typically, there are two services a month, Evensong and Holy Communion, with a consistent average attendance of about 10 to the morning service but this number increased significantly at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. The Christmas services were particularly well attended. As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. There were no Baptisms but one Marriage and two Funerals during the year. In the absence of clergy availability, some occasions, such as Christmas Morning and Remembrance Sunday, are marked by lay led events and are well attended.

Revd. Jane Frost left the post of Team Vicar during the year and subsequently the Church has been operating with a vacancy and various clergy have taken services.

At present there are 33 parishioners on the Electoral Roll having been revised in March/April 2023.

Deanery Synod

One member of the PCC sits on the Kenn Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with a link with the churches around us, and also with the Diocese as a whole.

Church Fabric

The Church is a Grade II listed building and thanks to Teignbridge District Council the churchyard continues to be well maintained. The Quinquennial Inspection of the Church carried out in 2023 confirmed that overall, the fabric of the Church is in good order with only one area identified as needing urgent attention and that this has been addressed.

Mission and Evangelism and Other Activities

Ideford has a thriving Messy Church, which met twice in 2023 at Easter and Christmas for uplifting craft and story sessions with lots of local families. The aim is to meet more frequently in 2024 now that there is a new Team Vicar supporting us. Members of the Church ran a Lent Study Group and also host a fortnightly Bible Study Group.

The Church is present in the community in a number of different ways. Some of the events are for fundraising but all are aimed at having a social benefit. Activities this year have included a Festive Supper, sales of homemade jam and Advent Windows. As in previous years, donations for the local foodbank in Teignmouth (HIITS) are collected throughout the year and particularly at Harvest. The Church has worked with the other village organizations (Village Hall and Millennium Green) to organize a Christmas Craft Fayre and it participated in and benefitted from the Ideford Vintage Fayre. Display boards which illustrate the history of the Church but also promote its current presence were taken to events such as the Fete and the Ideford Vintage Fayre.

Financial Review and Statements – see separate document

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). Requisite training during 2023 has been undertaken by PCC members with the exception of the Churchwarden which is not possible with the absence of a Churchwarden. A separate report for the Haldon Mission Community is also available.

Volunteers

There is a good level of support within the village for maintaining the Church, with more than 30 people giving their time and talents in many ways, including opening and closing the Church daily, providing flowers and decorations, bellringing, winding the clock, playing the organ, verging, cleaning, maintaining the fabric of the Church and the churchyard and fundraising. The PCC express their thanks to these people and did so directly through the Church Christmas Cards. Also the Parish Newsletter for Ideford, Luton and Ashcombe is compiled and distributed by volunteers. As a small community, there is much overlap of participants between village organizations and Church members play a significant part in the life of the village. This year the Church has continued working with Sustainable Ideford in 'greening' the Church with planted wildflower seeds in a small area of the Churchyard. The village Wildlife Wardens have extended the hedgerow along the boundary, and the Church is considering further how these types of activity can be expanded.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met four times during the year. Despite the lack of a Churchwarden, the PCC has continued to operate in a collegiate and supportive manner. The work is spread amongst all these voluntary members and brings to the fore their individual talents.

Review of Objectives for 2023

These objectives were set out for 2023 as required in developing the wider Haldon Mission Community plans covering Fabric, Outreach and Discipleship. Progress made is reported overleaf:

Objective	Description	Progress
Fabric	Undertaking the quinquennial report and planning work identified	QI carried out in 2022. Report received in 2023.
Outreach	Supporting Messy Church	New helpers from amongst the PCC and congregation have supported this year's Messy Church sessions
Imagination	Greening of the Church	A representative from God's Acre has visited and given advice on the churchyard. A plan has been developed to identify areas to increase biodiversity such as island of long grass and mini wildflower meadows. St Mary's is working in conjunction with Ideford's Wildlife Wardens and Teignbridge District Council.

Objectives for 2024 (to be discussed and updated)

In terms of setting targets for 2023 as required in developing the wider Haldon Mission Community plans, these are:

- Fabric – producing and implementing a plan for work identified in the quinquennial report
- Outreach – supporting Messy Church
- Imagination – the 'Greening' of the Church

Team Ideford

Team Vicar
PCC Team

Vacancy
Libby Ellison
Vicki Gardner
Jane Hill
Tom Hill
Nicki Horseman
Vanessa Morby
Liz Rice
Robert Gillett
David Aylmore
Sue Harvey
Alan Wooderson

Treasurer (not on PCC)
Fabric Officer (not on PCC)
Safeguarding Officer (not on PCC)
Verger (not on PCC)