

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF LEIGH-ON-MENDIP with DOWNHEAD



## ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31 DECEMBER 2023

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**Priest in Charge:**

The Reverend Anthony Dickson  
Nunney Rectory  
Nunney  
Frome  
BA11 4LZ

**Bankers:**

TSB Bank Plc  
25 Cheap Street  
Frome  
Somerset  
BA11 1BW

National Westminster Bank Plc  
7 High Street  
Wells  
Somerset  
BA5 2AD

**Investments:**

CCLA  
One Angel Lane  
London  
EC4R 3AB

**Independent Examiner:**

Natalie Froud BMus MA ACMA CGMA FFA FIPA  
FISM  
R E Froud & Associates Ltd  
61 Robins Lane  
Frome, Somerset  
BA11 3ET

**Architect:**

Mark Taylor MA (Bld Cons) AABC RIBA  
Mark Taylor Chartered Architect  
The Warren  
Stoke Road  
North Curry, Somerset  
TA3 6HN



## **ST GILES CHURCH, LEIGH-ON-MENDIP and ALL SAINTS, DOWNHEAD**

### **Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ending 31 December 2023**

#### **Aims and Purposes**

St Giles Church, Leigh-on-Mendip with All Saints, Downhead Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Rev Anthony Dickson, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This includes the care of two church buildings.

#### **Objectives and Activities**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at either St Giles' or All Saints and to become part of our parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how services can involve the groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of St Giles' and All Saints.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

#### **Worship and Prayer**

There were 39 parishioners on the Electoral Rolls as at the end of 2023, 28 from Leigh on Mendip and 11 from Downhead. The statistics for Mission Count for 2023 gave the number of people in the worshipping community as 10 for St Giles' and 2 for All Saints.

During 2023, St Giles held an 11.00 a.m. Family Communion service on the first Sunday of each month. All Saints held one Evensong service each month at 6.00 p.m. on the third Sunday. St Giles began a 9.30 a.m. BCP Communion service on the fourth Sunday of the month in February 2024. Both churches were on the rotation for the fifth Sunday combined service which is shared with Stoke St Michael and the churches of the Postlebury Group

During the year there were no baptisms at either church. There was 1 wedding at Downhead and none at Leigh on Mendip. There were 2 funerals at Leigh on Mendip and none at Downhead. One service was conducted at a Crematorium on behalf of a parishioner. There was one burial of ashes in St Giles churchyard, one in the Leigh on Mendip cemetery on behalf of parishioners but none at Downhead.

Two face-to-face meetings of the Worship Committee were held during the year. Both churches continued with face-to-face services throughout 2023, following the COVID Risk Assessments reviewed and adopted in May 22.

#### **Pastoral Care**

The Vicar is available to visit by arrangement. Enquiries relating to occasional offices, i.e. baptisms, weddings and funerals should, in the first instance, be made by telephoning Nunney Rectory or using the Nunney Rectory email address (nunney.rectory@gmail.com). Either the Vicar or the Parish Administrator will try and respond within twenty-four hours.

### **Mission and Evangelism**

Helping those in need is a demonstration of faith and we once again supported the Royal British Legion with a parade of veterans and a service of Remembrance in November, beginning outside the Memorial Hall and moving into St Giles Church.

The parish magazine is distributed monthly and is available on the village websites. The magazine keeps parishioners informed of the important matters affecting the Church together with information on the services for the month ahead.

### **Fund Raising**

Fundraising was limited due to the small size of the PCC. The main fundraising event at St Giles was the Harvest Supper (assisted by FOLC), which made a profit of £581. All Saints Harvest Supper made a profit of £575. The PCC also received a small income from the 'Ride and Stride' (£103).

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Total receipts of ordinary unrestricted funds were £12,725, of which £5,327 was from unrestricted planned voluntary donations and £1,637 was received from HMRC Charities as Gift Aid on unrestricted donations received in 2022. A further £146 of Gift Aid was reclaimed on restricted donations received in 2022. £1,439 was received during the year from the Friends of Leigh Church, who continue to support the running costs of the community facilities in St Giles church and for which we are very grateful. We also received a grant of £500 from Downhead Parish towards the upkeep of the churchyard and a donation of £300 from Leigh on Mendip Bellringers for additional heating costs for their weekly bellringing practices due to an issue with the timer in the ringing chamber.

At the end of the year the number of people giving regularly by standing order to support the work of the church decreased slightly from 18 to 17 but the income from these donations has increased from £5,836 to £5,911 which is greatly appreciated as we try to cover our regular outgoings during these challenging times.

£12,425 was spent on our regular outgoings from unrestricted funds, including the Diocesan Parish Share of £6,014 which was paid in full and largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy. The sum that the churches have to find is allocated according to a formula that is based mainly on the number of regular worshippers and in 2023 the amount paid to the Diocese amounted to just over £546 per regular worshipper. This figure will increase by 15% in 2024 to £630, which is well below the £692 per regular worshipper that the Diocese require to cover all of the costs related to support for the parishes and discussions are being held about the way that these costs will be allocated from 2025 onwards.

The net result for the year was a small surplus of receipts over payments of £300 in unrestricted funds and the balances carried forward at 31 December for unrestricted funds totalled £12,967.

There are also restricted funds totalling £7,401 to be used for the upkeep of the church buildings.

## **Reserves Policy**

It is the PCC's policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds which equates to at least three months' general running expenses in order to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies.

At the end of 2023 this amounts to £2,580 for St Giles' church and £1,033 for All Saints church and the unrestricted funds carried forward to next year are well in excess of these figures.

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

## **VOLUNTEERS**

There are many Volunteers who support both the fabric and the functioning of the church.

**Ecclesiastical** – These are the sidesmen, readers, servers, cleaners, flower arrangers and administrators. These are essential to support the church services. They are key supporters to the church's mission; their numbers are few, more are needed and would be welcomed in any role.

**Friends of Leigh Church** – FOLC have continued actively developing during the year and a close, collaborative relationship between FOLC and the PCC is maintained. FOLC's primary purpose has continued as fundraising for repairs and improvements to the fabric of the church and for development of the community use of the building. grant funded heritage aspects of the church continue to be well received and the searchable records ever popular. The café was operated as a self-service regime and was the venue for coffee mornings and cream teas during the year. Three Trio Paradis concerts were held at St Giles for which FOLC hosted and provided refreshments. FOLC held a Christmas Fair in the Memorial Hall and a Christmas Tree festival in the church in early December.

**The Delivery Team** – The Delivery Team, formed mainly from FOLC and PCC Volunteers again had little activity other than some coordination tasks during 2023.

**Other Volunteers** – There are other Volunteers who take on tasks simply for the reward of helping; they are the gold dust of our support. They are very valuable, they rarely get mentioned, they know who they are, and as always, we thank them. Significant achievements were the refurbishment of the porch noticeboards and rejuvenating of the altar frontal chest.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church representation Rules. The PCC consists of the incumbent (our Vicar), churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those

who attend services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The PCC met 8 times during the year, including the APCM, with an average attendance of 84%. All PCC meetings were face to face and held in the church with a zoom option for those unable to attend. The APCM was also face to face in the church.

### **Administrative Information**

St Giles' Church is situated in Church Walk, Leigh Street, Leigh-on-Mendip. All Saints Church is situated in Park Lane, Downhead. The correspondence address for both churches is currently 11 Bellfield, Leigh on Mendip, Radstock Somerset BA3 5QH The churches are part of the Frome Deanery which is in the Diocese of Bath and Wells within the Church of England.

The surrounding churchyard is closed with maintenance formally transferred to Mendip District Council. The adjacent cemetery to the north of the church is owned and operated by the Parish Council. The PCC are grateful to the Parish Council who provide grass cutting of the closed churchyard.

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2023 until the date of this report was approved are as follows:

Incumbent	Rev Anthony Dickson	Chairman
Wardens	Mr Stephen Britten Ms Paula Freeland	
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Jane Weston Mrs Mary Witts	to 25 April 23 from APCM at 25 Apr 23
Elected Members	Mrs Margaret Loten Mrs Susan Rodford Mrs Justine North Mr Angus Morphet Mrs Mary Witts  Mr David Mattick Mr Chris Ingrem	PCC Treasurer Safeguarding Officer to 8 Jan 23 Safeguarding Officer from 8 Jan 23 Deanery Synod rep to 25 Apr 23 Secretary and Deanery Synod representative from 25 Apr 23 Vice Chair. Secretary to 25 Apr 23
Coopted Member	Mrs Charlie Farrow	from 23 May 23, particularly for Downhead business

Approved by the PCC on 19 Mar 24 and signed on its behalf by

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(Chair of PCC)

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF LEIGH ON MENDIP WITH DOWNHEAD

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF LEIGH ON MENDIP WITH DOWNHEAD

**Year ended 31 December 2023**

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I report on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023, which comprise the statement of financial activities (including receipts and payments account), statement of assets and liabilities, and the related notes.

### **Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner**

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.

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.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- 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 statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.

It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full 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 next statement.

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF LEIGH ON MENDIP WITH DOWNHEAD

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of PAROCHIAL CHURCH  
COUNCIL OF LEIGH ON MENDIP WITH DOWNHEAD *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2023

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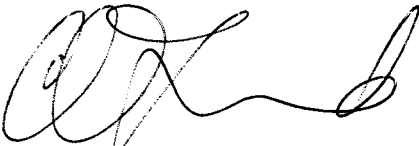
## Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records 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.



Natalie Froud BMus MA ACMA CGMA FFA FIPA FISM MSWW

R. E. Froud & Associates Ltd  
61 Robins Lane  
Frome  
Somerset  
BA11 3ET

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF LEIGH ON MENDIP WITH DOWNHEAD

## Receipts and Payments Account

31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
<b>Receipts</b>						
Voluntary income	2 (a)	9,708	-	2,007	11,715	12,067
Activities for generating funds	2 (b)	1,509	-	-	1,509	882
Investment income	2 (c)	518	-	-	518	198
Church activities	2 (d)	990	-	-	990	46
Other incoming resources		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>12,725</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,007</b>	<b>14,732</b>	<b>13,193</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Church Activities	3	12,176	-	2,977	15,153	15,370
Costs of generating funds		249	-	-	249	-
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>12,425</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>15,402</b>	<b>15,370</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) of receipts over payments</b>		<b>300</b>		<b>(970)</b>	<b>(670)</b>	<b>(2,177)</b>
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January	4	12,667	-	8,372	21,039	23,216
<b>Cash at bank and in hand at 31 December</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12,967</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,402</b>	<b>20,369</b>	<b>21,039</b>




# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF LEIGH ON MENDIP WITH DOWNHEAD

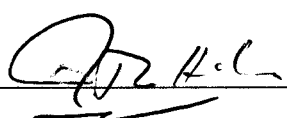
## Statement of Assets and Liabilities

31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Current Assets:						
Debtors		-	-	-	-	-
Short Term deposits						
St Giles, LoM		7,143	-	5,000	12,143	10,994
All Saints, Downhead		2,592	-	1,400	3,992	5,637
Cash at bank and in hand						
St Giles, LoM		1,768	-	967	2,735	2,776
All Saints, Downhead		1,464	-	35	1,499	1,632
		<u>12,967</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,402</u>	<u>20,369</u>	<u>21,039</u>
Current Liabilities:						
Creditors, less than one year		-	-	-	-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b><u>12,967</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>7,402</u></b>	<b><u>20,369</u></b>	<b><u>21,039</u></b>
Represented by:						
Parish Funds						
Unrestricted	4				12,967	12,667
Designated	4				-	-
Restricted	4				7,402	8,372
Total Parish funds					<u>20,369</u>	<u>21,039</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

  
Chairman

  
Vice-Chairman

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF LEIGH ON MENDIP WITH DOWNHEAD

## Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 December 2023

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### 1. Accounting policies

#### **Basis of financial statements**

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the receipts and payments basis this year.

Last year's accounts contained some adjustments for the previous year's accounting method which has resulted in some year-on-year variation in the amount of gift aid recovered and governance costs.

#### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

Designated funds are general funds set aside by the PCC for use in the future. Project funds are designated for particular projects for administration purposes only. Designated funds remain unrestricted and the PCC will move any surplus to other general funds.

Restricted funds comprise of donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor as listed in section 4 of these notes.

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF LEIGH ON MENDIP WITH DOWNHEAD

## Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2023

### 2. Receipts

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2023	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022
<b>a) Voluntary income</b>						
Planned giving	5,327	584	5,911	5,252	584	5,836
Collections at services	1,099	-	1,099	1,087	-	1,087
Sundry donations	1,645	777	2,422	1,478	719	2,197
Gift Aid recovered	1,637	146	1,783	1,520	146	1,666
Legacies received	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	-	500	500	400	881	1,281
	<b>9,708</b>	<b>2,007</b>	<b>11,715</b>	<b>9,737</b>	<b>2,330</b>	<b>12,067</b>
<b>b) Activities for generating funds</b>						
LOM Summer Fair	-	-	-	288	-	288
Somerset Churches Ride & Stride	103	-	103	-	-	-
LOM Harvest Suppers	781	-	781	-	-	-
All Saints Harvest Sales	625	-	625	594	-	594
	<b>1,509</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,509</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>882</b>
<b>c) Investment income</b>						
Bank and CBF interest	518	-	518	185	13	198
	<b>518</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>198</b>
<b>d) Church activities</b>						
Fees for weddings and funerals	990	-	990	46	-	46
	<b>990</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>12,725</b>	<b>2,007</b>	<b>14,732</b>	<b>10,850</b>	<b>2,343</b>	<b>13,193</b>

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF LEIGH ON MENDIP WITH DOWNHEAD

## Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2023

### 3. Payments

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2023	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022
<b>Church Activities</b>								
Mission Giving and donations:				-				-
St Luke's Hospital	10	-	-	10	10	-	-	10
	10	-	-	10	10	-	-	10
Diocesan Parish Share	6,014	-	-	6,014	5,896	-	-	5,896
Clergy costs	285	-	-	285	324	-	-	324
Church running costs	3,792	-	2,077	5,869	2,202	-	5,449	7,651
Church utility bills	1,227	-	-	1,227	1,291	-	-	1,291
Major repairs to church building	650	-	900	1,550	-	-	-	-
New building work	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Governance costs	198	-	-	198	198	-	-	198
	12,166	-	2,977	15,143	9,911	-	5,449	15,360
<b>TOTAL</b>	12,176	-	2,977	15,153	9,921	-	5,449	15,370

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF LEIGH ON MENDIP WITH DOWNHEAD

## Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2023

### 4. Funds

The movement in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Bal b/f</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Bal c/f</b>
General	12,667	12,725	12,425	-	12,967
<b>Designated funds - St Giles</b>					
NONE	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
St Giles, LoM - Fabric Fund	716	1,257	2,255	1,000	718
St Giles, LoM - Major Repairs	6,248	-	-	(1,000)	5,248
All Saints, Downhead	1,408	750	722	-	1,436
	<b>8,372</b>	<b>2,007</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,402</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>21,039</b>	<b>14,732</b>	<b>15,402</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,369</b>

- a) The restricted funds in the St Giles Church Fabric Fund and those for All Saints, Downhead relate to planned giving pledges, donations and legacies restricted to the upkeep of the church and are used for general running expenses, routine repairs and maintenance.

## **St Giles Church, Leigh on Mendip**

### **Church Warden's Report 2023-24**

#### **General**

- As agreed in previous years, services have been focussed as a 'Family Communion' on one Sunday a month. This has been beneficial in that it has placed less pressure on support (servers, sidesmen, cafe support). As last year, there has been a small but welcome increase in congregations on occasion. In January it was decided to return to two services a month with a Sunday BCP Holy Communion.
- The Church has been open daily for private worship and for use of the self service cafe and sitting space.

#### **Maintenance and repairs**

- Following last years' review of the 2021 Quinquennial Survey and the preparation and tendering of a schedule of work, members of the PCC met with FOLC to discuss the way forward.
- In summary, the works set out in the schedule are stone masonry, window and drain repairs with a small number of additional repairs such as the ringing tower window. Quotations were sought from three contractors at the end of 2022, the lowest of which was £104,510.00, Minerva Stone Conservation. These were held for a three month period only and architects fees and potentially structural engineer fees also need to be added. The costs are therefore likely to be in excess of this figure.
- After further review with the church architect, it is planned to revise the schedule of work to be more flexible in respect of the parapets, to allow for repair without taking down, as far as possible.
- It was agreed that a Faculty for all of the works should be applied for and the aim should be to undertake the works as a whole in a single programme of work rather than piecemeal.
- There is approximately £10k of funding raised by FOLC and they will continue with opportunities for fund raising. The PCC will therefore need to make grant applications. It was agreed that the best way forward for this would be to commission the grant work from a professional.
- The architect has recommended that the lowest two tenderers are requested to confirm their revised prices going forward (with the amendment regarding the parapets).
- Work needs to progress in respect of these matter during 2024.
- Whilst the Quinquennial identifies the need for ongoing maintenance and repair works, as noted above, grant funding and further fund raising is required in order to progress works. Hence no new building repair work has been progressed in the last year.

- The refurbishment of the glazed noticeboard by the churchyard wall in front of the church has been commenced by volunteer.
- Annual maintenance/inspection of the roof alarm was carried out by Ace Defence Limited in August £776.88. A faulty detector was also replaced in September at a cost of £330.00.
- Annual inspection of the lightning conductor was carried out by Dawsons Steeplejacks Limited, £66.00.
- The annual check of the fire extinguishers was carried out by Chubb Fire and Security in December, £98.91.
- At various stages during the year cleaning of the church was carried out by volunteers. Also a very successful and well attended Spring clean of the church and church yard was undertaken by volunteers coordinated by FOLC and the Village Rangers.

### **Insurance**

- A Risk Management Report following a desktop survey assessment was received from Ecclesiastical Insurance in August and key matters raised have been actioned.
- Parish Plus Insurance, Ecclesiastical Insurance Group for 2023-4 from 1 November 2023- 31 October 2024

### **Contents**

- There were no significant additions to the contents of the church in 2023-24.
- As identified by the previous Church Warden, there is a need to overhaul the Inventory document and this should be programmed for 2023-4 if possible.

### **Churchyard**

- Following ongoing approaches to Mendip District Council, (now Somerset Council) in previous years, with regard to the management of the closed churchyard and formal confirmation of the extent of their responsibilities and planned works, the matter is still to be pursued.

**Paula Freeland  
Church Warden  
April 2024**

## **All Saints Church, Downhead**

### **Church Warden's Report 2023 - 2024**

#### **GENERAL**

The last Quinquennial Inspection was completed by the church architect, Mark Taylor, on 22 November 2023. The main points highlighted by the quinquennial report was the problem the village is having with the Church roof. Progress is slow and is taking us longer than planned, however we are now moving forward and the architect did say, for the most part, the Church is in "good condition."

#### **INSURANCE**

Insurance cover on the church is with Ecclesiastical Insurance Group through the Bath and Wells group scheme and was renewed in November.

2023/24 PREMIUM £604.93

#### **MAINTENANCE**

The inspection and maintenance of fire extinguishers was carried out by Chubb Fire & Security Ltd in April 2023.

COST £70.92

The lightning conductor was last tested by Dawson Steeplejacks in September 2023 and passed its inspection.

COST £66.00

The electric and wiring was tested and passed by NMA Electrical in November 2023

COST £300.00

#### **CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE**

Maintenance and mowing continue to be done by Mark Toombs, who does a first-class job and the hedges were trimmed in May by Combe Garden Maintenance at a cost of £150.00.

TOTAL COST £770.00

#### **LAND ADJACENT TO CHURCHYARD**

Success was achieved for the land adjoining All Saints Downhead, which is now back in ownership of the Church. As documented in the official Land Registry Title, "The Church Commissioners are a party to the instrument and have applied their seal to it"

This has been a long-running dispute and we are pleased to have this important area back in the ownership of our Church

The log book is confirmed as being up to date and the inventory has been checked and signed by the Churchwardens and the Priest in Charge.

**STEPHEN BRITTEN**  
**March 2024**



**St Giles LEIGH ON MENDIP with All Saints, DOWNHEAD**

**Electoral Roll Report for APCM – April 2024**

The Electoral Rolls were revised by Mary Witts.

No names were removed.

2 names were added, 1 in Leigh on Mendip and 1 in Downhead.

New Totals: Leigh on Mendip: 29      Downhead: 11

**New Total for 2024-2025: 40**

Next year is the year in which we form a fresh Electoral Roll.

**Mary Witts  
Electoral Roll Officer  
April 2024**

## **Leigh on Mendip and Downhead**

### **Parish Safeguarding Officer Report for APCM 30.4.24**

I have been PSGO for 2 years now, and have been gradually getting to grips with the Parish Dashboard over this year

I am very grateful to Claire Edwards for her ongoing hard work with the SG admin, especially with ensuring the DBS paperwork and SG training is kept up to date. Claire and I meet regularly to ensure everything is in order.

#### **Action Plan**

I have supplied each PCC meeting with an Action Plan, containing information and requirements to ensure we are up to date with Safeguarding. The Dashboard allows us to quickly and easily see how update we are with the SG requirements

I find the Dashboard very frustrating, and it has been a somewhat of a trial getting to grips with its requirements. It seems that as quickly as I complete one section, another one opens up and there are yet more requirements!

#### **SG training**

During this year there has been some debate about the necessity for all Bell Ringers to complete SG training and DBS checks. As a PCC it was noted that it is a Diocesan recommendation that ringers complete these, but not essential, and since there are currently no children or vulnerable adults attending the ringing PCC decided that only the Tower Captain must complete these. However all Ringers need to be mindful of this and should a child or vulnerable adult join their band this will have to reviewed.

There has also been discussion around an advisory member of the PCC and their need for DBS checks and SG training, and the PCC have decided these are not required.

Members of the congregation from Leigh on Mendip and Downhead have worked hard getting up to date with SG training and DBS checks, and at the end of 2023 all have now completed their training and checks.

Thankyou to everyone for your ongoing commitment to keeping our young and vulnerable people safe when they come in contact with our Churches.

**Justine North**  
**Parish Safeguarding Officer**  
**10.3.24**

CC  
Claire Edwards, SG Admin.

## Frome Deanery Synod Report 2023

The Synod met for four meetings during 2023. The first in February followed by March, June and October, the venues being Holy Trinity, Frome and St Philip and St James, Norton St Philip.

Each meeting begins with a period of Dwelling in the Word & Prayer.

### **February: At the first meeting:-**

An update was given of the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group (DMPG) by Andrew Alden, Frome Pioneer. He and his wife Elizabeth have been working in Frome for two years their main task to meet young adults 16 to 25 years old. Two years ago, there were no young people in that age bracket worshipping in any of the Frome churches. Andrew & Elizabeth started worshipping outside spending time to build up enough trust for the young people to ask a question. Looking for GOD moments and working with organisations that engage with young adults. As a result they have started 'Parks pop up' building on the work of the HOPE coffee van, meeting in parks around Frome where young people were meeting. Other projects include setting up a book club and involving the young people in creating the 'Giants Garden' a garden where they can meet and socialise and grow food.

The main item of the evening was to watch a PowerPoint presentation "Redeployment of Clergy," setting out the need to reduce the number of clergy in the Deanery by one, this was followed by discussion in groups around the following questions:

We are a Deanery family, sharing together:

How do you view change?

What is the worst thing that could happen?

How are we already being a Transforming Christian presence in our community?

Think of One thing to celebrate. Think of One thing that needs resourcing.

### **March: At the second extra meeting:-**

Caroline Walker presented the proposed restructure of the Frome Deanery by the DMPG to accommodate the requirement to reduce the clergy number by one, the decisions being guided by the questionnaires returned from all the PCC's in the Deanery.

Hardington Vale + Buckland Dinham

Beckington benefice (Beckington, Berkley, Lullington & Orchardleigh, Rodden) + Woodlands

Postlebury + Stoke St Michael and Leigh on Mendip (remain unchanged)

Holy Trinity, Frome (remain unchanged)

Christchurch & St Mary's, Frome (remain unchanged)

St Johns, Frome

Mells, Chantry, Whatley & Great Elm – House for Duty – Priest in Charge.

St Mary's securing the house attached to the church building to rent from the Diocese ... vision for monastic, community space, lay led...

Frome Town churches with 3 priests – but moving towards sharing the pastoral oversight of the town as shared not delineated by church parish boundaries ... and investigating how they can share resources ... and with a vision for church growth and mission.

The document to be discussed by PCC's and their response to returned for the next Deanery Synod.

### **June: At the third meeting:-**

A presentation was given by Lydia Chancellor on her work looking into the potential post for a Deanery Co-ordinator for children and young adult work across the Deanery. Lydia has conducted an extensive research project into what is being done, and what the future needs are, for children and youth work in the Deanery. The objectives are to find out what are the requirements needed, what's already happening, and to build a vision of the future.

An update on the implementing of the agreed Frome Deanery Proposal Timeline was given. A leaflet showing the parish reorganisation and further questions on how to implement them was issued and parishes asked to respond.

### **October: At the fourth meeting:-**

An update on the implementing of the agreed Frome Deanery Proposal Timeline was given.

All parishes had accepted the proposals and the paperwork has been signed by the Bishop and sent to the Chancellor.

Caroline Walker as Rural Dean and Lois Bushell as Lay Dean reported on the meeting they had attended with Bishop Michael in which he gave his Vision for the Bath and Wells Diocese. The Four STAKES of this vision are:-

- Valuing the people and resources we already have
- New ways of doing things
- Shared local ministry
- Deepening and growing in faith

The DMPG will be working through these objectives and asking PCC's for their ideas, opinions, responses.

**Jane Evans,  
Deanery Synod Representative for Stoke St Michael.  
11th March 2024**