



## **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  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

Team Rector:  
The Reverend Carol Green

Team Vicar:  
The Reverend David Willkie

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

## **Annual Report**

### **for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

#### **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, Evening Worship and Holy Communion, with a consistent average attendance of about nine to the services. The format of the evening service has changed to a more informal form of worship from the traditional Evensong and this is potentially leading to more support. The number of worshipers increased significantly at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. A feature of our services is joyful singing whether that be the acapella congregational singing or the support from Good Company Singers at Christmas and Harvest.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. There was one Baptism and one Funeral of a longstanding church member, but there were no Marriages 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.

We welcomed the new Team Vicar, Rev'd David Wilkie this year and also the installation of the Team Rector Rev'd Carol Green for the Haldon Team took place at St Mary's in October.

At present there are 34 parishioners on the Electoral Roll having been revised in March/April 2024.

##### ***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. The PCC and Fabric Officer are starting to work through the other recommendations which include repairs to the tower pointing. Quotes for repairs to clock are being sought, the cost of which is supported in part by a kind donation from a village resident.

Church cleaning takes place regularly now on the morning of the first Wednesday in each month and this is keeping the church tidy and clean.

### ***Mission and Evangelism and Other Activities***

Ideford has a thriving Messy Church, which met three times in 2024 with uplifting craft and story sessions with lots of local families. At Harvest there was a Thank You service for the church helpers which included a Messy Church beforehand, all of which was well attended.

Members of the Church ran a Lent Study Group which is open to all from the Haldon Team and also holds 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 and representation at the Ideford Vintage Fayre. As in previous years, donations for the local foodbank in Teignmouth (HIITS) are collected throughout the year and particularly through the Harvest gifts. The Church also participates in the Devon Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride event.

### **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 expresses their thanks to these people. 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, a £100 grant from Devon Churchyard Wildflower Initiative was spent on flowering bulbs and a raised bed constructed for a biblical herb garden which is yet to be planted.

### **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 2024**

These objectives were set out for 2024 as required in developing the wider Haldon Mission Community plans covering Fabric, Outreach and Discipleship. Progress made is reported overleaf:

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Fabric	Undertaking the quinquennial report and planning work identified	QI carried out in 2022. Report received in 2023. A plan is being developed and quotes sought for tower repointing in a phased manner.
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	St Mary's is working in conjunction with Ideford's Wildlife Wardens, Sustainable Ideford and Teignbridge District Council. Together they have planted wildflower seeds in a small area of the Churchyard, extended the hedgerow along the boundary, a £100 grant from Devon Churchyard Wildflower Initiative was spent on flowering bulbs and a raised bed constructed for a biblical herb garden which is yet to be planted.

#### **Team Ideford**

**Team Vicar**  
**PCC Team**

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

#### **Rev'd David Wilkie**

Libby Ellison  
Vicki Gardner  
Jane Hill  
Tom Hill  
Nicki Horseman  
Vanessa Morby  
Liz Rice  
Christine Cole  
David Aylmore  
Sue Harvey  
Alan Wooderson