

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH, BEERCROCOMBE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Administrative Information

St. James's Church is situated in Beercrocombe, Somerset. It is part of the Seven Sowers Benefice in the Somerset South Deanery and the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the PCC Powers Measure and is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC Members who have served during the year are:

Incumbent: Rev. Joanna Porter

Warden: Mark Humble

Elected Members:

Maureen Longstaff (Treasurer)

Claire Mitchem

Helen Plumbly

Willie Vigus (part year)

Lindsay Welfare

Stephen Parsons (Secretary) (co-opted as a full member of the PCC with voting rights)

Willie Vigus decided not to stand for re-election at the APCM. Many thanks to Willie for his valuable contribution over the years and he will continue to help on an ad hoc basis.

Mark Humble was re-elected as Warden.

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

During the year the Benefice had one ordained Rector, an Assistant Curate, one Lay Reader and a Children and Families Worker. The Benefice is also fortunate in having Rev. Sue Hounsell for our 08h30 BCP Services and very occasional other Services. Thank you to all in the Ministry Team.

NB Since the end of the year Rev. Joanna Porter has resigned and we are now in Vacancy.

Under the current Service Pattern we now have a 10h00 Holy Communion Service, usually once every seven weeks, and an 08h30 BCP Service, usually once a month. We also hold Easter, Harvest and Christmas Services.

The primary objective of the PCC is to promote the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrine and practice of the Church of England. The PCC consults with the Rector on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish and co-operates with the Rector and the rest of the Ministry Team in promoting in the Parish and the wider Benefice the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The ancient Church of St. James's remains the hub of this small, rural community, especially as we have no pub, shop or village hall. We have welcomed several newcomers to the village over the past few years but encouraging Church attendance remains a challenge. However we are fortunate that villagers are often willing to help out in spite of not being regular church-goers.

A completely new Electoral Roll was prepared in 2019 and the next six-yearly full revision is due in 2025, The Electoral Roll is revised annually and with no new members during the year the number of members remained at 16.

The Church always remains open for visitors and private prayer.

We would welcome more monthly Services, from both a spiritual and financial viewpoint, but we understand the constraints of the Ministry Team. A small home group including members from St. James's and St. John's meets bi-weekly to discuss scripture and provide fellowship. Val and Adrian Dale from Beercrocombe often host.

We are fortunate that David Bidgood has been able to play the organ at most of our 10h00 Services and for special occasions such as our Carol Service. David also held an organ recital at the Church in April, organised by Lindsay Welfare, which raised more than £350 for Church funds.

We also enjoy hearing the bells ringing most months although various ailments have depleted the team and we are sometimes restricted to one bell. We also occasionally host visiting bell-ringers. We give thanks to the bell-ringing team.

The interior of the Church is always kept clean and tidy by various volunteers and we thank them and all those who provide such beautiful flowers each month. We now only have two regular Stewards but we continue to cover all Services and we hope that we can persuade more people to volunteer over the coming year. We are grateful to all those who have read on other occasions and especially at our Carol Service.

We also thank Helen Plumbly and Tracy Barnes and Lynne Batchelor, who deliver the Parish Magazines for Beercrocombe. Many thanks also to the Dibble family for again sourcing, erecting and decorating our magnificent Christmas Tree.

During the year we held eight 08h30 BCP Services with an average attendance of seven. We also held eight standard 10h00 Sunday Holy Communion Services with an average attendance of 24. We also had Services on Mothering Sunday with 42 in attendance; Easter Day (46); Harvest Festival (21); and our annual Carol Service (35).

We again had no Service on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

The overall attendance was encouraging and we have seen a modest increase at all Services, including the 08h30 BCP, helped by worshippers from other Parishes, especially when other Churches have

no Service. Conversely our numbers are lower when Services clash, especially on this side of the A358.

Grace Warfield's funeral was held in the Church in January followed by interment in the Churchyard and was attended by more than 75 people with a full Church. Rev. Philip Albrow and Rev. Mary Godin presided. We subsequently learned that Grace had left a generous legacy to the Church in her Will.

The Annual Plant Sale was held on Saturday 4th May at the Church. We had a variety of plants, home-baking and preserves for sale, plus the usual raffle. We raised more than £730, which was well up on last year. Thanks go to all stallholders, contributors, helpers and attendees for making it such a successful day.

The 100 Club continued to be a great success and we raised more than £600 after distributing prize money. Many thanks to Helen Plumbly and Jane Kilgour for the administration.

Helen and Jane also again organised the exchange of garden and other produce in the bus shelter on the village green throughout the summer with donations to the Church.

The Church and grounds remain in good order. Willie Vigus regularly checks the exterior of the Church and he and Neil Jones cleared the gutters, gulleys and drains of debris in September. They also found two brass vases in the water butt, presumably dumped by intruders, which had been donated by Maureen Heap and which are now back in the Church. Neil Jones kept the Churchyard and grounds in excellent condition.

Works recommended in The Quinquennial Survey carried out in September 2023 are in hand or planned. Some of the money from Grace Warfield's legacy will be used to fund any repairs, additions or purchases. The summary stated that the Church was found to be in good order and has been well maintained and cared for since the last Survey.

The Church roof was damaged by a severe storm in December. Ted Stone carried out emergency repairs and replaced several missing tiles.

The organ was tuned in March.

The long overdue Triennial Inspection was carried out in July by Nick Jerrett, Assistant Curate of the Blackdown Benefice. All was in order and any minor issues have been addressed.

Financials

Please see the Appendices for the 2024 Accounts, Income and Expenditure, Statement of Assets and Independent Examiner's Report.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE PCC

Signed: Rector (in Vacancy) Date

Signed: Mark Humble, Warden Date

	<u>St James Church Beercrocombe</u>				
		<u>Accounts 2024</u>			
	<u>Payments</u>				
	Bath & Wells		4164.21		
	Diocese Fees		442.00		
	Clergy Expences		667.92		
	Insurance		538.22		
	Churchyard		876.29		
	Repairs		1131.84		
	Fuel/Water		630.25		
	100 Club Prizes		588.75		
	Sundries		184.46		
	Organist		350.00		
	<u>Total Expenditure</u>		<u>9573.94</u>		
	<u>Receipts</u>				
	Collections		1906.95		
	Covenants		249.30		
	Grants		375.00		
	Gift Aid Tax Return		510.70		
	Magazine Surplus		358.00		
	Investments		1333.54		
	100 Club		1272.00		
	Diocese Fees		1473.00		
	Special Efforts		1158.56		
	<u>Total Income</u>		<u>8637.05</u>		
		<u>Deficit 2024</u>	<u>£936.89</u>		

[illegible]

			<u>ST. JAMES CHURCH, BEERCROCOMBE</u>				<u>2024</u>				
			<u>STATEMENT OF ASSETS</u>								
				General		Fabric					
				Fund		Fund		Bell Fund		Total	
				(unrestrict)		(unrestrict)		(restricted)			
Balance at	Monday, January 01, 2024			30,603.65		65,713.14		1,581.26		97,898.05	
Suplus for the Year				-936.89				4.66		-932.23	
Increase / - decrease in investments				599.40		2,739.07				3,338.47	
	TOTAL			30,266.16		68,452.21		1,585.92		100,304.29	
Assets at	Tuesday, December 31, 2024										
Bank current accounts				4,677.30 *				395.92		5,073.22	
CBF Investment Fund (Income)				26,778.86		22,359.65				49,138.51	
CBF Investment Fund (Acc.)						46,092.56				46,092.56	
Loan from Bell Fund				-1,190.00				1,190.00		0.00	
	TOTAL			30,266.16		68,452.21		1,585.92		100,304.29	
*Includes Restoration account											
ACCOUNTING POLICIES											
The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the receipts and											

payments basis.										
-----------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

