

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Reports for the Year 2023 of the
St Weonards Benefice In
The Ross and Archenfield Deanery
Comprising the parishes of
Garway, Hentland with Hoarwithy
Orcop, St Weonards
Tretire with Michaelchurch and Pencoyd**



Foreword Revd Sheila Anthony

Rural Dean Ross and Archenfield

It has been a real pleasure to get to know some of you this last year. I am delighted, as I know you are, that we will be welcoming Angie Kateley into the Benefice on 1 July – it will be a joyous occasion for everyone. I am sure that your future ministry together will be an encouraging and exciting journey.

Having met so many of you, I have no doubt that you will all be very supportive of Angie. Naturally, she will need space to settle in and work out what is best for her and the Benefice, including times of services, dates of meetings, etc. This will take time on all sides because you have been without an incumbent for so long.

I want to take this opportunity to thank every one of you who work so hard in the ministry of this benefice: churchwardens, PCC and church family for your continued faithfulness and enthusiasm. Thank you to those who lead worship and to all those who take care of the church buildings and churchyards, making them all look so beautiful. Despite being without an incumbent, your hospitality, energy and tireless commitment is inspirational.

Heavenly Father: Let your glory shine, your power fall and your kingdom come in these parishes.



ST MICHAELS CHURCH GARWAY

Annual Report - St Michaels, Garway

Services.

There have been no regular services at Garway church for 2023/24.

Though we got together as a Benefice service and combined Advent service for the 1st Sunday in December. This was well attended, and it was good to see lots of new faces.

A special Service was held in June, requested by The Grand Priory of England - Knights Templar group. This was an approved service by Bishop Richard, where new members of the group took vows and were sworn in.

From the registers, there was one wedding and one funeral.

Health of the church

The church as a place of pilgrimage is thriving, due to the Knights Templar connections and the "Teas and Tours" that are organised by the Friends of Garway Church.

There have been regular joint meetings with the Friends and PCC and we are working towards more regular services and how to grow the church in faith.

Friends of Garway Church.

The friends continue to be a valuable asset to the life of the church. Dealing with not only the general maintenance of the Church building and grounds.

They organise the flower and grass cutting rotas, and cleaning rota.

They are also committed to improving the Church environment, making it a welcoming and peaceful experience to worshipers and visitors.

Fabric

Our ancient church is inevitably in need of significant repair. The PCC and the FoGC have been working hard to obtain grants and funding for work to begin on replacing lost and damaged tiles to the tower roof and extensive

repointing of the stonework. A faculty list B application has been completed and is awaiting approval from the Bishop's office. Quotes from accredited builders have been obtained for the building repairs. This work is dictated by the presence of bats and with the hibernation period now over, it is hoped that work will begin in the autumn.

I would like once again to give wholehearted thanks to the work that The Friends do to ensure that St Michael's can go on being a special place for people to come to. The church is a place where our community can come together, to gather in friendship, to enjoy its special atmosphere of peace and calm, and of course to worship.

Report for the Parochial Church Council of **Hentland with Hoarwithy 2023**

This parish has two churches and is part of the St Weonards benefice group which is within the Deanery of Ross and Archenfield in the Diocese of Hereford.

St. Dubricius Church is the parish church situated in the hamlet of Hentland and St. Catherine's Church is situated in the centre of Hoarwithy village.

There are 36 members on the Church Electoral Roll which includes 6 who live outside the parish.

Present Administrative information

Vicar- The position has been vacant all year. The good news is that on July 1st 2024 Revd. Angie Kateley will be inducted and welcomed as our Priest in Charge for the benefice at St. Weonards church.

Churchwardens: Mrs Valerie Lilwall (Hentland), Mr Philip Watkins (Hentland), Mr. Jeffrey Goulding (Hoarwithy), Mr. Peter Pember MBE (Hoarwithy).

Two Deanery Synod Representatives: Mr. Peter Pember and Mr. Vincent Mercer.

Treasurer: Mrs Sarah Goulding

Gift Aid Officer: Mr. Peter Pember

Mrs. Valerie Lilwall (safeguarding co-ordinator).

The following are the elected members on the PCC: Mrs. Antonia Cuthbert, Mrs, Sarah Goulding, Mr. Vincent Mercer, Mrs Julia Pember (electoral roll officer), Mrs Hilary Ross (PCC secretary), Mrs Josephine Symonds, Mr Robin Symonds, Mrs Danielle Watkins.

Independent Financial Examiner: Mr Paul Baker - Bankers: Lloyds- Ross-on-Wye.

There were five standard PCC meetings during the year plus benefice meetings.

We are very grateful to Revd. Mark Johnson who stepped in during the Interregnum

to chair our PCC meetings and guide us on church business.

In May the Ross and Archenfield Parish Self-Assessment Viability questionnaire which asked questions on what experiences as a church are like at the current times was completed and returned by each church separately.

The PCC have agreed to support the Lifelink Chaplaincy for Ross and Archenfield Deanery which will involve working with John Kyrle High school, young people, and families.

In September a local hArt group used Hoarwithy church again as a venue for displaying and selling their arts and crafts during Herefordshire hArt week, plus a weekend in November and December. The Friends of Hoarwithy provided Pop up Café refreshments at the events which was a tremendous financial success and the money raised was donated to the Hoarwithy Church Restoration fund. Grateful thanks and appreciation from the churchwardens and the PCC.

Cedar Rise, the PCC bungalow next to Hoarwithy church continues to be occupied by a Ukrainian refugee family.

Churchwarden's report for the Church of Saint Dubricius, Hentland

For the year ended 31st December 2023

During the year there were ten monthly services of Holy Communion, the Harvest Festival, the Pax service of Evensong (BCP) and the Carol Service. There was a total of 140 communicants. There was one funeral of June Partridge; one renewal of vows- Angie and Steve Evans; one combined funeral and internment of ashes - Leonora Macleod and an internment of ashes of Roger and June Partridge.

The services were taken in the main by Revd Ben Bentham, Tiffany was guest preacher at the Pax Service, at which 23 attended. The Carol Service was attended by 54 adults and 7 children. Harvest Service was attended by 27 which was conducted by the Church Wardens.

Robin Symonds handed over the role of Churchwarden to Val Lilwall and Philip Watkins at the APCM on 19th April 2023. The PCC recorded grateful thanks to Robin for his 19 years of stalwart service which has been very much appreciated by the community.

We have not progressed as yet with the lychgate and this needs to progress fairly quickly. As the specification deemed by the architect to be what is required is over and beyond our budget and the capabilities of many craftsmen.

Music for a Summers Evening by the Music and Amicable Society took place on Saturday 15th July with a wonderful array of canapes being served during the

interval. Some 54 people attended, the music was an absolute delight with 7 musicians playing and a soloist performing.

We welcomed David Gallichon and Kevin Holmes on 23rd September. A good-sized audience attended (c.46) to listen to a talk about the restoration of the organ and the demonstration of its newly-recovered voice.

On October 8th Fran Phillips led the Hoarwithy singers at a concert held at Hentland, titled 'Across the Pond'. The concert took place at 3pm followed by light refreshments. It was very well attended and a lovely accolade to Fran as this was her farewell concert.

Annual Safeguarding Report for the Parishes of Hentland with Hoarwithy PCC 2023/2024

There have been no matters of safeguarding in the two parishes that have been brought to my attention since the last APCM. An action plan for the parish has been updated.

Anyone who carries out a church officer role, is expected to undertake safeguarding training to a defined level dependent on the nature of that role. The vast majority of people at a parish level are only required to undertake, basic (C0) and foundation (C1) levels of safeguarding training. In addition, all PCC members need to undertake a DBS check, of which the majority of members have completed.

Every PCC should adopt a "Promoting a Safe Church" policy and display a notice to this effect in a prominent place in the church, this we did in April 2019 so are compliant.

Recruitment and trustee eligibility declaration process for PCC Members
Anybody serving on the PCC (Parochial Church Council) must be re-elected back into that position on a yearly basis. All elected members must also fill out and sign a PCC Member Trustee Eligibility Declaration Form.

Parish Safeguarding Handbook The National Parish Safeguarding Handbook is the first port of call for information on all aspects of safeguarding in a parish. The most up to date version is available to download as per this link [Layout 1 \(churchofengland.org\)](https://www.churchofengland.org) . This is a very useful document and is essential for all to read.

As far as safeguarding on a local level is concerned, I have had no reports that anyone requires support. As ever if anyone has any concerns, please do contact me.

Val Lilwall

Safeguarding Officer, Hentland with Hoarwithy PCC

Churchwardens report

St Catherine's Hoarwithy 2023

We continued the pattern of Holy Communion on the second Sunday of the month with the exception of Easter, Remembrance Sunday, Christmas and All Saints Sunday when it was our turn to host the Benefice Service which now moves around so that all the churches in the Benefice can enjoy each other's company. During the year we had 228 communicants and a further 16 who did not take communion.

We were able to send produce and a donation of £89.66 to Ross Community Larder from our Harvest Communion and our Community Carol Event which was enjoyed by a total of 73 young and old raised £222.44 for "We are Farming Minds"

Our thanks go to Bishops Richard Jackson, Anthony Priddis, David Thompson, Michael Westall, The Dean Sarah Brown, Archdeacon Derek Chedzey, Revd Gavin Douglas OBE, Revd Tiffany Jackson and Revd. Preb. Nicholas Lowton without whose help our services could not happen. Also, thanks to Mr Simon Peberdy our regular organist and Mr James Gould and Mr David Phillips along with the Hoarwithy singers for the music and those who read and take the intercessions.

We are also grateful to Revd. Mark Johnson for taking Occasional Offices and Chairing our PCC meetings.

Sadly, Daphne Wyatt a former member of the PCC and long-time supporter of the church and always prepared to give guided talks to visitors died on 28th December 2023. We were delighted her daughter Jane had a Memorial Service for her in St. Catherine's on 12th April 2024. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Our monthly meeting of churchwardens in the benefice has enabled us to have a very good working relationship and improved our knowledge of the job in hand.

The church is always beautifully decorated thanks to those who provide flowers and those who help with a deep clean and with refreshments.

We regularly Zoom the services for those who cannot come.

We did not have any Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals but there were four burials of ashes with no church service.

Hoarwithy Singers meet every Monday, with occasional holidays between terms and have a wide-ranging repertoire of both sacred and secular items which continues to expand. Their contribution to Archenfield Arts was much appreciated. The Concert "Across the Pond" at St. Dubricius Hentland marked the retirement of Revd. Frances Phillips, whose idea it was to start the singers and showed how

much effort she and the singers put in. She was presented with a painting of Garway Hill and a book of poems "I am the seed that grew the tree".

The Singers enthusiasm continues, now under the Baton of Jayne and Antonia.

Our thanks to Octavo for "Mid-Summer Madness" and Ross Folk Singers whose concerts were much appreciated.

hArt and our Popup Café were well attended at both the Autumn and Winter events.

We are thankful to those who have stalls at the Village Market in aid of the church and Jeff and Sarah from the Camp Site.

Due to the condition of the church footpath the Archdeacon and Diocesan Advisory Committee visited the church and after much discussion agreed to an interim Faculty to cover the surface with a sand base overlaid with rubber matting which has made a huge difference pending a more permanent solution. We decided that the overgrown scrub on the righthand side needed removing and for safety have put in a chestnut wicker fence for the time being which could give us a useful space for seating for the popup Café.

The Hoarwithy Vision is progressing well and our pre-application for disabled access via Cedar Rise was well received with some amendments needed which we are now working on. We have appointed Hannah Vernon and Sarah Ricketts to help with fundraising and have been awarded development grants of £10,000.00 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, £1,000.00 from Herefordshire Historic Churches Fund and £4000.00 towards amplification, hearing loop, TV screen and ancillary video equipment.

Revd Sean Semple has been elected Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf, welcome to Revd Sheila Anthony our new Rural Dean and Revd Angie Kateley, who is being licensed as our Priest in Charge on 1st July - we wish them every blessing in their new callings.

St John The Baptist, Orcop
Annual Report
For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

2023 was a challenging year, being the second year navigated by the PCC in the absence of an incumbent priest.

Notwithstanding these challenges, we were able to hold five monthly communion services, normally scheduled for 11am on the second Sunday of the month. This was thanks to the kind offices of Bishop Anthony Priddis and the Revd. Crispen Pemberton, who took these services in rotation.

There were no weddings, baptisms or funerals during the year. Benefice Communion services were held at Orcop in March and September, with congregations of 24 and 20 respectively.

The average attendance at the five Orcop communion services was 13 (up from 10 last year)..

There were no services on Easter Sunday or Christmas Day,

There were two alternative expressions of faith, conducted in the absence of an incumbent - Firstly, a poetry and cello recital in April and, secondly, "Community Carols" in December, which attracted a congregation of over 50, many of whom were seldom seen in church previously.

In large part due to the diligence of our Churchwarden, the year's outcome was positive under the circumstances.

The OWL Good Neighbour Scheme was able to resume operations, after the disruption wrought by Covid.

A number of fund-raising events were held during 2023, which, as well as raising much-needed funds, provided valuable opportunities for community outreach. These included the annual fête and churchyard bingo.

A report on the quinquennial inspection conducted by Arnold Bartosch in August 2022, was eventually received early in 2023.

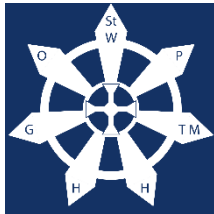
The French Drain is working well and the PCC is now considering the reinstatement and refurbishment of the settled pews. The quinquennial electrical inspection has been completed and improvements have been made to the lighting system.

There was a serious failure of the northern dry-stone wall to the churchyard in mid-2023. Thanks to the generosity of Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust, The Benefact Trust and Lasletts, it was possible to engage specialist contractors to undertake the necessary repairs, which were completed to a high standard by the year end.

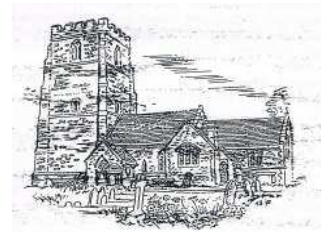
After the long interregnum, we look forward to welcoming our new vicar, the Revd. Angela, in July 2024. The PCC stands ready to assist as necessary as she settles into her challenging new role.

ORCOP PCC

April 2024



The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St. Weonards 2023 Report & Accounts



St Weonards benefice website: www.stw.org.uk

Aim and purposes

St. Weonards Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting, the mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church and churchyard at St Weonards.

Objectives and activities

The primary object of the PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC is committed to enabling people to worship at our church, and to become part of our parish community. Our services and worship seek to put the Christian faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning activities we consider the Diocesan focus: encouraging people to live out their faith by sharing God's love in our community and the world through:

- worshipping God and praying for His help and guidance;
- caring and serving people in all life's situations;
- recognising and responding to those in need;
- inspiring and learning through each other's strengths and gifts;
- working to safeguard the integrity of creation

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of St. Weonards Church.

Achievements and performance

Context

St Weonards benefice was suspended from 15 May 2021 for a period of two years, to allow the Ross & Archenfield Deanery leadership team to develop a deanery pastoral plan. In July 2022, the Bishop and the Archdeacon decided that, although the Rural Deanery had not completed the Deanery Plan, the post of Priest-in-Charge of the St Weonards Benefice should be advertised.

After an open meeting, the Churchwardens' Council began the process of drafting Benefice and Parish Profiles, and a Statement of Needs, to be circulated to aspiring candidates for the post. The Churchwardens are very grateful to the Archdeacon for his ongoing advice, to the PCC's and members of the congregations for their contributions and photographs. The outcome was a document which accurately and honestly reflected the diversity of our communities, and our shared ideas about the way forward.

Developing Vocations

Our All-Age service leader, Alex Herbert Mynors, has continued her second year of ordination training through the part-time course offered by the Cuddesdon-Gloucester-Hereford partnership, which has involved weekly lectures in Ludlow on a Wednesday evening, and twice-termly weekend residential courses at Cuddesdon Theological College near Oxford.

Worship and prayer

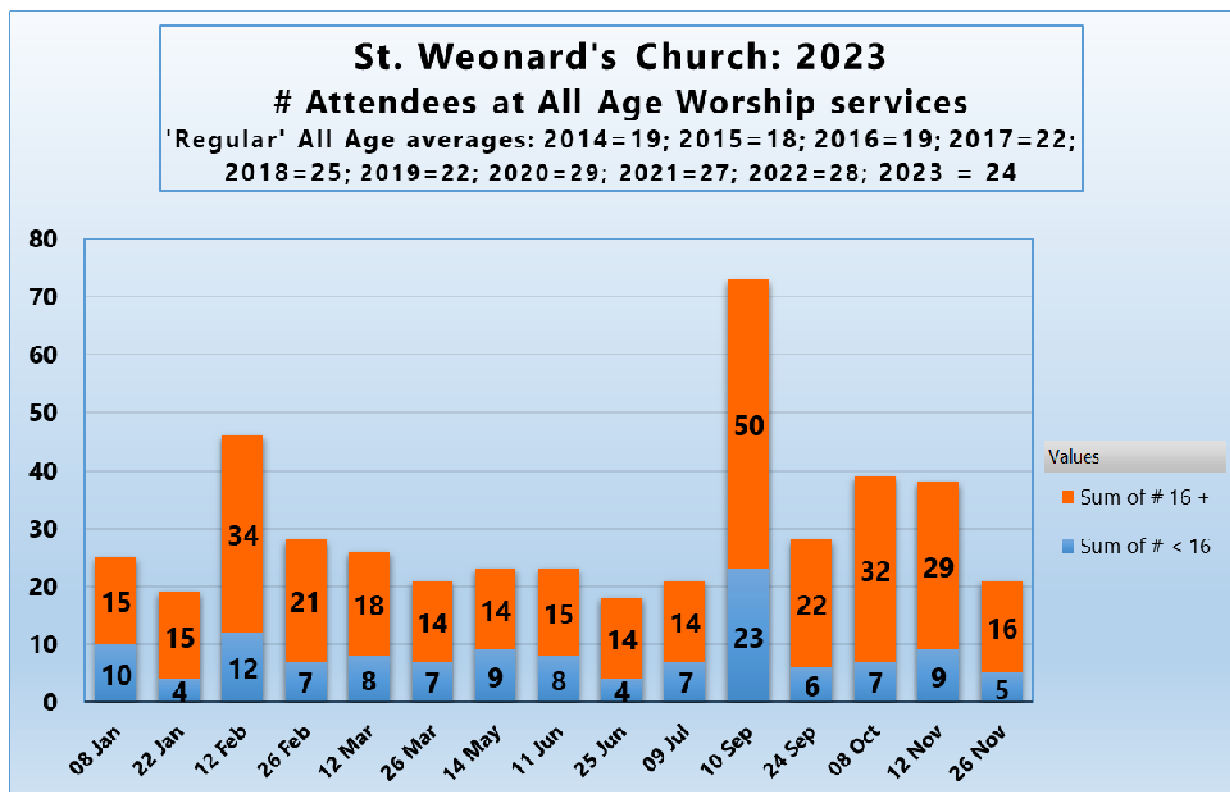
We have continued to hold lay-led All-Age Worship services at 10.00am on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. We were delighted to welcome worshippers from across the benefice and beyond. Attendance peaked on 10 September for a baptism and communion (50 adults + 23 children and young people). Average attendance across the year the year dipped slightly to 24 (17 adults + 7 children and young people). We have streamed some of our All-Age services live via Zoom, although it has been difficult to achieve good



quality audio when converting the signal from the church's 1980s/90s' analogue equipment to digital output (we plan to upgrade the church's audio-visual systems in 2024).

Seven of our All-Age services were with Communion, and the PCC is particularly grateful to visiting officiants at all our services during the interregnum, who in 2023 included Assistant Bishop David Thomson (eight times!); Revd Judy Dinnen; Revd Sarah Cawdell; Archdeacon Derek Chedzey; Revd Preb Rob North; Revd Dr Frances Phillips; Revd Preb Dr Mark Johnson; and our recently-appointed Rural Dean, Revd Sheila Anthony.

An important aspect of these occasions is the opportunity to enjoy fellowship after the services with delicious refreshments provided by members of the congregation.



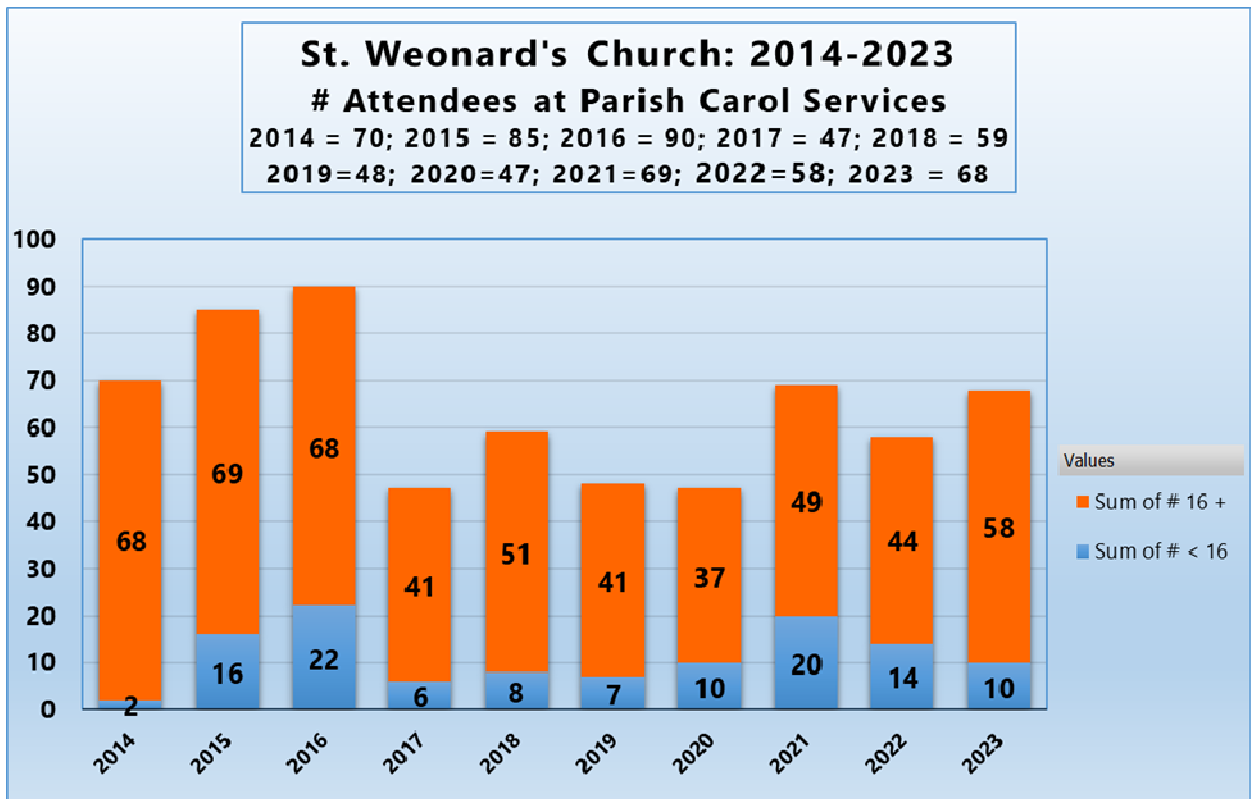
It was a great pleasure to welcome the friends and families of children who were baptised in the church: Emily Middlecote, Ryan Morris, and Lilly Bowen. In February we were delighted to see long-time member of our All Age congregation, Thomas Simpson, confirmed by Bishop David Thomson.

Many hundreds of people came to remember and give thanks for the lives of three much-loved individuals: Louise Williams, Elizabeth Bond, and June Griffiths.

Other special services included:

- Easter Day family communion, led by Assistant Bishop David Thomson (52 adults + 12 children and young people)
- A Coronation Celebration in honour of His Majesty Charles III, led by Bishop David (45 + 15)
- Harvest Festival, led by Bishop David (32 + 4)
- Parish carol service (58 + 10)
- Christmas Eve crib service (73 + 37)
- Christmas Eve 'midnight' communion, led by Revd Sheila Anthony (55 adults).





There has also been a small group meeting on the first Tuesday of each month to pray for our benefice, churches and local communities. We have also welcomed Shirley Cooke from Hereford who has led contemplative prayer on a number of Monday mornings.

Caring & serving and responding to community needs

We have continued to make collections for the Hereford Food Bank.

Safeguarding the integrity of creation

As a church, we seek to respond to the fifth Anglican 'mark of mission', to 'strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.' Following our **Eco Church**¹ bronze award in 2020, we have continued to try to work out and integrate the core themes (Worship & Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community & Global Engagement, and Lifestyle) into our common life as a church.



Volunteers

We would like to thank all who have contributed so generously to the life of the church during the past year.

We thank Peter Hallewell for leading our team of ringers; it's lovely to hear the bells ringing out across the valley during



¹ <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

Thursday evening practices. New volunteers always welcome!

Choral and organ music continue to form an integral part of worship in our services and the parish and wider benefice is grateful to Richard Mynors for the commitment and professionalism that he brings to all aspects of our church music.

Many thanks to our many volunteers:

- our skilled flower arrangers who make the church so lovely, organised by Gillie Hallewell
- people who welcome congregations
- those who prepare the communion table and wash the church linen
- the Lewis and Williams families for providing refreshments
- Stephen Herbert for maintaining the St. Weonards benefice and A Church Near You websites
- Alex Herbert, Claire Peveraro-Morris, and Anna Williams for updating the St Weonards Church Facebook page
- Alex Mynors Herbert for leading worship and preparing the 'MailChimp' e-newsletters
- Laura Pritchard and Alžbeta Taylor for the regular cleaning
- Tracy Knights for maintaining the churchyard in excellent order
- The Muldowney family for helping to clear the church roof valley gutters, carrying out major repairs to two sections of the church roof and pointing the exterior stonework to reduce the ingress of damp
- We would like to express our particular thanks to our Treasurer and Gift Aid Officer Stephen Herbert, our Secretary Fiona Mynors, and our Churchwardens Richard Mynors and Anna Williams for the significant number of hours they invest in supporting the life of the church and ensuring the smooth running of the PCC throughout the year.

Safeguarding

The PCC has adopted the Church of England's 'Promoting a Safer Church: Safeguarding Policy Statement', and ensures that safeguarding is a standing order agenda item at every meeting. We are grateful to our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Fiona Mynors, for her work in this key area. The PCC considers that it has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Deanery & Diocesan Synod

We thank Richard Mynors for acting as our deanery and diocesan synod representative. This role provides an important link between the parish and wider church structures. The Deanery is hoping to appoint a 'LifeLink Chaplain' to work with young people, mainly through John Kyrle High School. A Deanery viability survey was carried out, in which parishes were asked to assess their success at various aspects of parish life. Sean Semple and Tim Starling resigned as Rural Dean and Deputy; Revd Sheila Anthony was appointed Rural Dean in September; she is active in oversight of our benefice. Gill Wylie resigned as Lay Co-chair moving away; a replacement has yet to be appointed.

We aim to share God's love in our community and the world and show Jesus Christ to those around us in practical ways through tithing, giving at least 10% of our voluntary income to mission work outside the parish. Our principle is to give to Christian organisations working at diocesan, national and international levels. In 2023, the PCC made gifts of £750 to the Hereford Food Bank², £750 to Christians Against Poverty³, £50 to A Rocha UK's Eco Church Appeal⁴, £500 to the Church Mission Society⁵ to support Revds Simon and Sarah Cawdell serving in Gulu in northern Uganda. The PCC also made a donation of £100 to the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust⁶.

Ecumenical relationships

The ecumenical opportunities of linking with neighbouring Baptist and Methodist Churches have been limited in 2023, although we have continued to welcome families from these congregations to our All-Age services, and pray with those who would associate themselves with non-Anglican denominations.

Fundraising events

The PCC is very grateful to all who supported a variety of events through the year. These included:

- A "Music, Words and Childhood" concert at Treago on 1 June (raising £171, split equally between We Are Farming Minds, Foundation Matters, and the Church Mission Society);
- The Open Gardens event at Treago on 11 June (£1,098 for general church funds);
- Garden Opera at Treago in conjunction with Wild Arts (which raised an amazing £3,828);
- Lammas service at Tre-Essy Farm Barn on 30 July (£160 for Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy);
- Our Harvest Festival service and lunch in the Village Hall on 22 October (£423 for Christian Aid's Middle East Crisis Appeal); and last but by no means least
- 'Faye's Bingo' evening on 24 November in the Village Hall which raised a wonderful £1,560 in aid of the Churchyard Fund.

The PCC also received £43 from Easyfundraising through donors choosing to donate via their online shopping.

Grants

The PCC is very grateful to the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust (HHCT) for a grant of £3,000 in October to partially reimburse the cost of repairs to the chancel floor.



² <https://herefordfoodbank.co.uk/>

³ <https://capuk.org/>

⁴ <https://arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/eco-church/>

⁵ <https://churchmissionsociety.org/people-in-miss>

⁶ <https://www.hhct.co.uk/>

The PCC also received £5,591 from the UK Government's Listed Places of Worship (LPW) Grant Scheme which covers VAT on certain repairs to listed buildings used as places of worship. These covered repairs undertaken to the north aisle wallplate in 2022, chancel floor in 2023, and lime mortar repointing around the church (to mitigate damp).

Church fabric, building and churchyard



The PCC's Repairs to chancel floor April 2023 Lamb, advised that due to ill health he would be unable undertake the Quinquennial Inspection in 2023, and hence the PCC decided to appoint Deborah Johnson RIBA of Hook Mason and Co in his place. She conducted her inspection on 21 November. The report noted that the church was clearly very well cared for. Ongoing problems with damp in the tower and the NE corner of the church are mainly attributable to discharges of rainwater.

Garren Services (Tracy Knights) continued to mow and strim the churchyard and green burial space in accordance with the grassland management plan recommended by the charity Caring for God's Acre⁷. Visitors often comment positively on the 'well cared for' feel of both the church building and the churchyard.



Hot air balloon landing in field below churchyard 14 September 2023

Financial review

Total incoming resources were £44,037, 3% lower than in 2022. Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £35,763 (+23% vs 2022), of which £19,044 came from voluntary donations (2022: £20,489), and £5,475 (2022: £4,018) from recovered Gift Aid and the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme. Total tax-efficient planned giving through the Parish Giving Scheme and by standing order increased by 5% to £13,307 (2022: +9% to £12,624). The PCC is grateful for all donations and wishes to recognise with particular thanks those who chose to give in a planned way. These steady commitments keep the mission and ministry of the church alive. The value of collections taken during church services varies significantly depending on the number and type of service: the total of service collections in 2023 was £2,253 (2022: £1,643).

⁷ www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/

The PCC is extremely grateful to all those who supported events raising funds for the church. In total, these raised £6,520, more than 2.5 times the level in 2022. A particular highlight was the Garden Opera at Treago which raised £3,828, while the ever-popular 'Faye's Bingo' generated £1,551 for the Churchyard Fund.

Total expenditure in 2023 was £39,816 (2022: £45,854), which included one-off capital repairs to the church building of £14,208 (2022: £20,165). The PCC was pleased to be able to honour its Parish Offer commitment of £16,600, a 7.4% increase on 2022. This was to ensure that the St Weonards benefice was able to make a realistic contribution towards the cost of its stipendiary ministry, knowing that weaker finances in some neighbouring parishes meant they could not offer as much as they wished to. Insurance cover continued to be provided through Trinitas Church Insurance Services, with the premium increasing by 2.3% to £2,306. The PCC made charitable gifts to support Christian mission totalling £2,150, being 8.8% of unrestricted voluntary income (2022: 12.7%).

Overall, receipts exceeded payments by £4,221 in the year (2022: net payments of £265), represented by a net surplus of £5,751 in unrestricted funds, and a deficit of £(1,531) in restricted funds. Total PCC funds carried forward at year-end increased by 11% to £41,872, of which approximately a fifth will be needed to meet the costs of short-term repair works identified in the quinquennial inspection, and more may be invested in the major audio/visual upgrade project.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to aim to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to approximately six months' regular unrestricted payments, equivalent to around £15,000. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow, to meet emergencies, and to ensure that Parish Offer contributions can be paid in full on time. The cash balance of £18,795 held in general unrestricted funds at year-end exceeded this target by 25%, in anticipation of significantly above average levels of expenditure in 2024-2025. The balance across three restricted funds was £7,723. All these funds will be used to further the ministry of the church within and beyond the parish in future years, as well as to meet ongoing repair costs arising from the recent Quinquennial Inspection report.

The PCC's policy is to invest surplus short-term current account balances in interest-earning accounts such as the CCLA CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or the CAF Bank Gold account. Other surpluses that can be invested over the medium to long-term are invested in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011). The PCC is currently excepted by order from registering with the Charity Commission.

The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Weonards, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, churchwardens, and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. Church of England regulations require that a new electoral roll is drawn up

every six years; this was last done in 2019. All those who attend our services regularly 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. It is our aim to ensure that new members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC met six times during the year including the APCM, with an average attendance level of 68%. The UK & overseas mission sub-committee is responsible to the PCC, but did not meet separately during 2023, as all charitable giving decisions were made by the PCC as a whole.

Readers of this annual report should also note that the St Weonards Old School Religious Education Fund was established by The Diocese of Hereford (Educational Endowments) Order 1998 under statutory instrument number 1334, the trustees being the vicar and churchwardens of St Weonards. This Fund is entirely separate from the PCC's financial statements, but is deemed to be connected to St Weonards PCC due to the vicar being chair of both boards. The trustees of this Religious Education Fund "shall apply the income, and may apply the capital thereof, for educational purposes related to the Parish of St. Weonards in connection with the provision of religious education in accordance with the tenets of the Church of England by means of a Sunday School or otherwise."

Administrative information

St. Weonards Church is situated in the heart of St. Weonards village. It is part of the St Weonards benefice within the deanery of Ross & Archenfield in the Diocese of Hereford.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

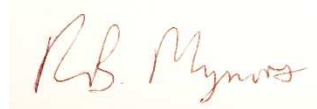
Ex-officio members:

- Incumbent: Vacant
- Churchwarden: Sir Richard Mynors
- Churchwarden: Mrs Anna Williams

Elected members:

- Mrs Gillianne Hallewell (until 18 September 2023)
- Mr Peter Hallewell
- Mrs Alexandra Herbert
- Mr Stephen Herbert (Treasurer & Gift Aid Officer)
- Mrs Christine Lewis
- Lady Fiona Mynors (Secretary & Parish Safeguarding Officer)
- Sir Richard Mynors (representative on Deanery Synod)
- Mrs Claire Peveraro-Morris

Approved by the PCC on 19 February 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Sir Richard Mynors Churchwarden

The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St Weonards Independent Examiner's Report on the accounts

Report to the trustees of: **St Weonards Parochial Church Council**

On the accounts for the year ended: **31 December 2023**

Set out on pages: **10-16**

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities 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 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 the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an 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 statement below.

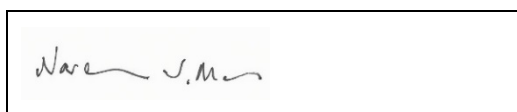
Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records, or
- statutory fees were not accounted for correctly.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

19 February 2024

Name:

Norman Moon

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body:

ACIB

Address:

c/o 4 Birch Close, Hay-on-Wye, Hereford HR3 5TL

The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St Weonards Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Prior year total funds £
<i>Receipts</i>						
Donations and legacies	3	27,550	354	6,369	34,273	39,400
Income from charitable activities	4	733	-	-	733	1,406
Other trading activities	5	4,969	-	1,551	6,520	2,527
Investments	6	1,032	-	-	1,032	653
Other income	7	1,479	-	-	1,479	1,603
Total receipts		35,763	354	7,920	44,037	45,589
<i>Payments</i>						
Raising funds	8	126	-	-	126	-
Expenditure on charitable activities	9	30,239	-	9,451	39,690	45,854
Total payments		30,365	-	9,451	39,816	45,854
Net movement in funds		5,398	354	(1,531)	4,221	(265)
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>						
Cash funds last year end		28,397	-	9,254	37,651	37,916
Cash funds this year end		33,795	354	7,723	41,872	37,651

Represented by

Unrestricted

General fund	£	£	£	£	£
	33,795	-	-	33,795	28,397

Designated

Damp Management Fund	£	£	£	£	£
	-	354	-	354	-

Restricted

Bell Maintenance & Restoration Fund	£	£	£	£	£
	-	-	3,500	3,500	3,500

Building Fund	£	£	£	£	£
	-	-	1,768	1,768	4,020

Churchyard Fund	£	£	£	£	£
	-	-	2,455	2,455	1,734

The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St Weonards

Statement of Assets & Liabilities as at 31 December 2023

	Note	General Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Funds £	This year Total funds £	Last year Total funds £
Fixed Assets - Investments						
CCLA CBF C of E Investment Fund inc. shares	10	15,000	-	-	15,000	15,000
Current Assets - Cash at bank						
Lloyds Bank - Treasurer's account		2,540	-	1,561	4,101	-
CAF Bank - Cash (current) account		2,403	354	1,942	4,699	2,299
CAF Bank - Gold (savings) account		2,785	-	720	3,505	9,723
CCLA - CBF C of E Deposit Fund		11,067	-	3,500	14,567	10,629
Total		18,795	354	7,723	26,872	22,651
Net total assets		33,795	354	7,723	41,872	37,651

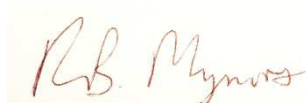
Represented by	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted - General Fund	33,795	-	-	33,795	28,397
Designated - Damp Management Fund	-	354	-	354	-
Restricted - Bell Maintenance & Restoration Fund	-	-	3,500	3,500	3,500
Restricted - Building Fund	-	-	1,768	1,768	4,020
Restricted - Churchyard Fund	-	-	2,455	2,455	1,734
Totals	33,795	354	7,723	41,872	37,651

Agency accounts represent monies passed through the PCC's books for the St Weonards benefice group account or other charities. During 2023, the amounts listed below were passed through in this way:

Date	Amount	Recipient	Purpose
February 2023	£114.00	DEC Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal	Disaster / humanitarian relief
August 2023	£160.00	Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy	Pastoral support to farming families
August 2023	£135.98	St Weonards Group (Benefice) Account	Benefice service collection
September 2023	£57.00	We Are Farming Minds	Pastoral support to farming families
September 2023	£57.00	Foundation Matters	UK Christian mission
September 2023	£57.00	Church Mission Society	International Christian mission
October 2023	£422.80	Christian Aid Middle East Crisis Appeal	Disaster / humanitarian relief
December 2022	£47.00	Hereford Diocesan Board of Finance	Parochial fees

£1,050.78

Signed on behalf of the PCC on 19 February 2024 by:



Sir Richard Mynors Churchwarden

THE PARISH OF TRETIRE WITH MICHAELCHURCH AND PENCLOYD

Annual report of the Parochial Church Council for the financial year to 31 December 2023

GENERAL The Benefice has been in interregnum for a further year. But we enjoyed regular services in our three little churches of St Denys, Pencoyd and St Mary, Tretire with St Michael at Michaelchurch also in the Parish though under the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. The Parish is a member of the St Weonards Benefice group.

MEMBERSHIP: Members of the PCC are elected annually at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with Church Representation Rules. During the period the following offices and officers were held:

Chairman: None (Church warden)

Church Wardens / Vice Chairmen: Miss E Malcolm

Members: Mrs K Handby (Treasurer & Gift Aid officer), Mrs R Evans, Mr M Evans, Dr J Oubridge, Mrs M Oubridge (Deanery Synod representative), Mrs L Miles, Mrs M Walton

Safeguarding Officer: Dr J Oubridge.

Archenfield Deanery Synod Representative: Mrs M Oubridge and Miss E Malcolm

Accounts Examiner: Nigel Richard Evans.

Bankers: National Westminster Bank.

Electoral Roll: There are currently 26 members on the Roll.

CHURCH SERVICES AND ATTENDANCE:

In the Year 2023 we have continued the pattern of Evening Prayer each month, alternating between St Denys Pencoyd and St Mary's Tretire. These are ley-led.

The annual evening service at St Michaels, Michaelchurch took place in June and was led for us by Rev Brian Phillips. This is always a much loved and well attended service.

In collaboration with the Church Wardens of the Benefice we have enjoyed hosting the occasional Benefice Service. For these Communion services we have enlisted the help of Rev Phillips, Bishop David Thomson (retired) and Rev Mark Melliush.

We continued to hold vital Communion services in the Parish for Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Celebrants Rev Brian Phillips and Rev Simon Tarlton are much enjoyed with congregations of 26 for Easter and 66 for Christmas at Pencoyd. We will be determined to find ways of continuing to offer services or these celebration periods to consolidate support for the Parish and community.

Two Baptisms were celebrated at Pencoyd during the year, with Rev Mark Johnson presiding on the first for Miss Annabel Snow and Rev Sean Semple welcoming Miss Ella Bevan. The annual Palm Sunday walk led by Rev Mark Johnson from Pencoyd to Llanwarne has become a regular feature of our year and a welcome opportunity to support and work with our neighboring Parish.

CHURCH FABRIC: both churches are regularly cleaned and thereby inspected. Tretire has a team of Parishioners who kindly come together to prepare the church prior to use, which makes for an enjoyable social time from what can be time consuming drudge when done alone. We are grateful to Sue Snell who always makes sure that Pencoyd is gleaming for services. No major fabric activities have been required in 2023.

SAFEGUARDING: The Parish of Tretire with Michaelchurch and Pencoyd adopted the Church of England's Safeguarding Policy in 2016. Since then, it has had a Safeguarding Officer who has attended all necessary courses and received the appropriate certificates. Most members of the PCC have attended courses in basic safeguarding. Official notices are displayed on our church noticeboards and safeguarding is a regular item on our PCC agenda.

EVENTS: I am hugely grateful to Mrs Linda Miles for her weekend Open Arboreum and the generosity of all visitors who gave donations and took meals at 'Linda's Café'. The PCC members once again triumphed with soups, home-made sandwiches and delicious cakes, which on coldish Autumn afternoons were much enjoyed. Despite heavy rain downpours the Tennis Tournament led by Christine Snell was much enjoyed, by players and spectators and made an important contribution to funds for the year. At Christmas, Tom and Sarah Vaughan once again kindly provided the space for Parish Carols, Angels and Mince pies. It was great to see so many younger members of the community. Not only do these events raise vital funds, but they bring our community together.

TREASURER'S REPORT for year to December 2023.

The completed and inspected accounts for the year to 31st December 2023 are appended to this report.

This financial year of 2023 we held our regular services and a variety of fund-raising events. As a result our General Income for the year was higher than the previous year at £13,661.29. Additional income came from Fund Raising of £3,060.86 making a total income of £16,722.15 for the year.

General Expenditure was £15,472.86, as the cost of insurance and electricity have increased substantially. The bank balance at the year-end was £20,777.60 which is slightly more than the previous year.

Dividend income from Charifund accounts with M&G and Schrodgers continue to produce a vital income.

As in previous years, the Parish Share and Insurance are the major outgoings but we did increase the parish offer this year to by 2% to £11,220 per year. The Parish is not yet included in the Diocesan Parish Giving Scheme but the Stewardship Scheme brings in regular income by standing order each month and continues to provide a very important source of revenue.

We held three fund-raising events this year. In July a Tennis Tournament & Cream Teas was held raising an impressive £831 and enjoyed by all who attended despite the terrible weather. In October one of our PCC members opened her Arboretum for two days with all proceeds from donations and refreshments being donated to the churches. Over the course of the weekend a fantastic sum of £1,904 was raised, a truly generous sum. The third event was our Christmas Carols by the Bonfire which raised £195 and the mulled wine & mince pies were enjoyed by all who attended, especially the children.

Our Charitable giving this year was given to the Churches Conservation Trust which was the St Michael's Church service collection & donations from the wall safe which amounted to £220, plus £515 to the Ross for Ukraine Charity which included the proceeds from our Lent Lunch, and £30 membership to Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust (HHCT)

As a result, we made a profit of £1,249.29 for the year, an increase on the previous year when we made £939 so we are in a very stable financial position. Once again, our PCC members & supporters are all still active despite their ages and help as much as in past years but we have some challenges ahead in continuing to hold fund raising events as our Harvest Supper was cancelled to due waning support.

In the coming year we look forward to welcoming our new vicar and we hope that our supporters will continue their generous financial support as donations and gift aid are an essential part of our income which helps to support the ministry of the Church in Tretire and Pencoyd This could not happen without the constant support of our friends and parishioners and is very much appreciated.

Kathy Handby,
Treasurer

St Weonards Group Accounts
For the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Subscriptions from Parishes (at £45 per month)	225		540	
Fees charged by Parishes	2405		4612	
Expenses recovered from elsewhere	0		0	
Expenses recovered from Parishes	646		173	
Donations from Parish Magazine	1000		1000	
Donations from elsewhere	0		530	
CBF Deposit Account Interest	<u>126</u>		<u>51</u>	
		4402		6906
Payments				
Fees to Hereford Diocesan Board of Finance	895		2181	
Fees to Parishes	1185		3281	
Fees to Professionals	100		375	
Clergy Expenses	0		580	
Sundry Expenses	<u>157</u>		<u>248</u>	
		2337		6665
Surplus/Loss for the year		<u>2065</u>		<u>241</u>
Opening Balance as at 1 January 2023		8129		7888
Closing Balance as at 31 December 2023		<u><u>10194</u></u>		<u><u>8129</u></u>
General Funds		10194		8129
Restricted Funds		0		0
		<u>10194</u>		<u>8129</u>