

# Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Parochial Church Council of  
The Parish of Stratton St Margaret  
And South Marston

Reports and Accounts  
For the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December  
2022

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## St. Margaret's Church Wardens' report for January to December 2022

It is really encouraging to report that morning church services are practically back to pre-Covid times.

Numbers are back up to 60+ each service with that number rising to 75+ on communion services.

Some positive things did come out of the restrictions like finding new ways of worshipping. Sunday services were streamed online while Coffee after church, Lent groups, Oasis meetings, PCC meetings and Prayer groups were held by Zoom. We thank our clergy for their hard work and ingenuity keeping the churches alive and becoming experts at live streaming and holding Zoom meetings.

Sharing communion on screen but from our own homes was a very special moment – thank you.

Our curate Rev. Mark Tidey supported us through the interregnum and very often cycled between the churches, as part of his 'keep fit' regime. Well done Mark!

When services restarted, even though singing restrictions were still in place, our thanks go to our organists, Rob South and Geoff Walters, who continued to play each week.

Sunday January 20th 2022 was a very poignant service as we said goodbye and good luck to our curate Rev. Mark Tidey. He was moving on to pastures new but we all knew he would leave a big hole in our hearts and worship.

Mark had kept the Oasis group going online each week during the pandemic and the group shared some very special and meaningful worship with each other, studying various passages from the bible.

It was a privilege, with the other wardens across Stratton Team Ministry, to wish Mark well.

With Mark leaving, Rev. Elveen Mead and our Ministry Team now consisted of Licensed Lay readers, Lisa Lodwick and Alison Burston and Dan Read – Emeritus. Elveen invited Rev's Trevor Day and Mark Tubey to assist, when required and also Rev. Rachel Cook was granted special permission to assist. We are grateful that they bring their own special qualities and inspiration.

Community choir – it was wonderful that Angela and Rob Breakspear formed a Community Choir who sing at services, weddings and funerals, when requested. After weekly practises it was so uplifting to see their performance of 'Jerusalem Joy' on Sunday 3rd April 2022. It's a musical based on the Easter story from Palm Sunday to the resurrection and was colourful, full of fun and joyous singing that brought a wonderful time of 'togetherness' in the church. A huge thank you to you all.

Friday 22nd September our reigning monarch of 70 years, Queen Elizabeth II died at Balmoral Castle. She was 96 years old and had set a wonderful example of a Christian life. Shortly after the announcement the wardens and Elveen met in St. Margaret's church to make changes in line with the guidance of the Diocese.

The altar frontal and lectern fall were changed to purple, a table with a black tablecloth was set up with the book of remembrance. The church opening times were put up on the porch door and the website and a rota was prepared for welcomers to be in church. Elveen provided prayer sheets and some services of reflection were arranged.

Remembrance Sunday 13th November 2022 we were joined by the Boys Brigade, Stratton Brownies, 1st Stratton St. Margaret Scouts, Beavers, Cubs and Squirrels.

Thank you to Graham Spackman who played the last post and the reveille and Graham Haines who read the exhortation. Some junior Boys Brigade lads read out the names of those who are on our Memorial plaques. A meaningful service and lovely to see a full church of those supporting the organisations.

To keep the life of St. Margaret's church going we are blessed to have a team of people regularly working 'behind the scenes' and, as well as those mentioned above, our grateful thanks go to :-

Church Administrator - Georgina Martin who kept and continues to keep communications flowing by email, our website and Facebook.

Deputy wardens - David Horne and Ian Jones; Health and Safety officer – Karl Glover;

Treasurers – Mark and Tracey Whitfield; Safeguarding officers - Mike and Mary Boshier;

Welcoming team – Pat and Ray England. The 'welcome rota' had ceased during Covid but we are hoping to start a new rota after the 2023 APCM. We will offer training to those who wish to join the team, taking in the latest guidelines.

It was good to start receiving communion again with Elveen using the intinction method (dipping the wafer into the wine). The wardens ensured that social distancing rules were adhered to.

We have a thriving and active church life and are very lucky to have a wide range of people who give up their time to run other activities in St. Margaret's church, in the centre and across Stratton Team Ministry. A list of contact names will be available should you wish to find out more.

Below are some of the activities going on currently (in alphabetical order):

Altar Frontals (changing in line with the liturgical calendar); Baptism verger and supporters; Bell-ringers; Boys Brigade; Brass cleaning; Bumps and Babes; Care Home services; Choir; Church building/reordering; Church cleaning; Church refreshments; Coffee morning; Electoral roll; Flower arrangers; Food Collective; Funeral vergers; House groups; Knit and natter; Magazine; Messy Church; Ministry Team; Morning prayer meetings; Mothers Union; Music group; Operation Christmas Child (Shoe Box appeal); Organists; Pastoral visiting; PCC meetings; PC members; PCC secretary; Prayer diary; Readers and leaders of intercessions; Recycling; Social events; Sound and loop system; Standing committee; Wardens meetings; Wedding vergers/ sound co-ordinator;

All the teams above would welcome new members, even if it's not on a regular basis so please contact the wardens or the church office if you would like to help in any way. In line with the Diocesan Safeguarding guidance, we include all 'official roles' and 'activities' under the 'safer recruitment' process. This benefits all of us while we are involved in the life of our church.

As normal life resumes we will start expanding our events etc. and would love to include as many of you from the plethora of talent that we have across our team. We welcome suggestions from you all for future fund raising events, forms of worship or any other ideas you may have!

St Margaret's is committed to ensuring that its church; building, worship, congregations and activities are as welcoming and inclusive as possible for all in our local community and further afield.

**With many blessings**  
**June Lewis and Richard Pflieger – Church Wardens**

## ACTIVITIES at St. Margaret's Church and St. Margaret's Centre

We have a thriving and active church life and are very lucky to have a wide range of people available to run other activities in St. Margaret's church and St. Margaret's Centre.

In alphabetical order

**Altar Frontals** - Kim and Trevor Jenkins who change them, in line with the liturgical calendar.

**Baptism verger** – Pat Kennedy who ensures the service goes well and liaises with the family.

**Baptism supporters** – who knit/crochet baby blankets or scarves for the babies and young children.

**Bell-ringers** - who ring for services and at special times during the year.

**Boys Brigade** - 5th Swindon BB based at St. Margaret's Centre – Captain is Teresa Daglish.

**Brass cleaning** – Karl and Maureen Glover, who keep everything sparkling.

**Bumps & Babies** – Tuesdays 11.15-12.15 in St. Margaret's Centre (term time only). For new or expectant parents. Contact via [bumpsandbabes@gmail.com](mailto:bumpsandbabes@gmail.com)

**Care Home visiting** – will be covered by a separate report but 3 homes have had services during 2022, Church View – co-ordinated by June Lewis; Herbert Harvey – co-ordinated by Lisa Lodwick and Midwinter Gardens - co-ordinated by Mary Carter.

**Choir** – Angela and Rob Breakspear co-ordinate rehearsals, mainly on Sunday evenings. The choir have sang wonderful anthems, church music and a special performance in 2022 of Jerusalem Joy.

**Church building** – Richard Pflieger and the building committee look after the building and church re-ordering. While our churches and church halls are managed by our local PCCs, before we can make any repairs or alterations, we have to contact the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) for advice and permission. To make changes, we have to apply for a faculty explaining the extent of the changes.

**Church cleaning** – the rota hasn't officially restarted yet but some cleaning fairies have been around!

**Church refreshments** – Anne-Marie Dom co-ordinates the rota for Sunday mornings. Coffee morning – David Horne co-ordinates the refreshments rota and it's good to see new people joining. Thanks to all those who provide the wonderful cakes and pastries.

**Electoral roll** – Andrew Martin who manages the list throughout the year.

Flower arrangers – the team led by Richard Pflieger provided beautiful arrangements for special services. Another way of worshipping our Lord.

**Food Collective** – Chris and Bob Lyn co-ordinate the collections of food across the team and transport it to the warehouse. This has become such a vital source of support to many since Covid and people's changes of life styles.

**Funeral verger/sound co-ordinator** – Pat and Ray England who ensure the service goes to plan.

**House groups** – will be covered separately but it's good to know that people have started meeting again to share and learn more of God's word.

**Knit and natter** – at the coffee morning a group of ladies have been knitting or crocheting squares as well as the baptismal blankets. They have provided squares for Brighter Futures and Shelter.

**Magazine** – Georgina Martin is the editor and coordinates the articles. There are 10 editions per year plus July/August and December/January being double months. More articles always welcome whether it be a poem, a holiday experience, a prayer etc.

**Messy Church** – co-ordinated by Kate Mitchell. Monthly on a Saturday afternoon in St. Margaret's Centre.

**Ministry Team** - Rev. Elveen Mead, Lisa Lodwick, Alison Burston and Dan Read (via the telephone) who have supported us by their inspiration through all the challenges of 2022.

**Morning Prayer meetings** – Chris Marchant and Crystal Butler co-ordinate prayer worship in the Pollard room 4 mornings each week.

**Mothers Union** – co-ordinated by Anne Pope for Stratton Team Ministry.

Music group – co-ordinated by Rob South and Roger Smith to provide a wonderful variety of music.

**Operation Christmas Child**, (Shoe Box appeal) – co-ordinated by Chris and Bob Lyn.

**Organists** – Geoff Walters and Rob South are our resident organists who provide us with a wonderful variation of music before, during and after the services – special requests welcome! They also play at weddings and funerals.

**Pastoral visiting** – Elveen has covered most of this in 2022 but others have gone when permitted.

**PCC meetings** – the secretary Ros Mitchell keeps us on track with dates, agendas and minutes.

**PCC members** – meet jointly with members from St. Mary Magdalene to ensure the decisions made will meet the needs of our churches.

**PCC secretary** – Ros Mitchell is secretary and co-ordinates the meetings, writes up the minutes etc.

**Prayer Diary online** - Adam Jenkins for providing us with daily ideas for prayer.

**RagstoRiches** – Kate Mitchell co-ordinates the date with David Horne.

Readers and leaders of intercessions – these are co-ordinated by Pat England for St. Margaret's and June Lewis for Coleview.

**Recycling** – Georgina Martin has set up collection boxes in St. Margaret's Centre for bottle tops, crisp packets, stamps and tablet blister packs. June Lewis co-ordinates the packs and Janet Freeman regularly takes them to a distribution centre in Wales.

**Scout links** – Rob South and Hayley Woods.

**Standing committee** – we have communicated mainly by email or telephone.

**Wardens meetings** – due to restrictions, communications by email.

**Wedding verger/sound co-ordinator** – Pat and Ray England who ensure the service goes to plan.

All the teams above would welcome new members, even if it's not on a regular basis. We also welcome ideas that you may have for new activities and enhancing those that are already in place.

Please make contact through the Church office or the Church Wardens.

**With many blessings – June Lewis and Richard Pflieger – Church Wardens**

## Churchwarden's Report for South Marston January - December 2022

Another year has passed and it is time once again to report on the activities of St Mary Magdalene Church and say thank you to all those who have supported me through another year as Churchwarden.

At the start of the year in January we said 'farewell' to our curate, Reverend Mark Tidey, who had spent the last four and a half years with our Team, giving so much and time to our services. We were so grateful for all he did to help us here at South Marston in that time, ensuring that we could continue to have our regular services and other services including our Carol Service and Christingle service. Mark served as Ex officio Governor at South Marston School during the whole time he was here, doing a fantastic job in so many ways and keeping the links between the school and church thriving.

Mark's place as Ex Officio Governor was taken by Rachel Jones, a member of our church congregation to whom we are very grateful. Rachel joined Mary Crichton who is a serving Foundation Governor at the School, together with Karl Glover. We are very grateful to them for taking these roles and helping to keep the church and school together. Rev Elveen has also visited the school to take assemblies during the year. We were thrilled though to welcome the school back for their Easter Celebration led by Elveen. The church was packed and the children gave us a wonderful service, one to remember. Since then, we have seen the school in the church for their Harvest service. The school's next appearance in Church was for rehearsals and then the final performances of their Nativity play on the 13 December. The play was performed by Pre-school and KS1, with each child in those classes having a part to play and telling the story of the Nativity but with a very different slant in the form of Strictly Come Dancing. It was brilliant with performances from Mary and Joseph, the Angels, the Inn Keepers, the Shepherds, the Wise Men and the Townspeople. There was the usual Strictly panel with very recognisable members who voted on each performance. The children were brilliant and performed the play twice in order that all their families could come. The congregation gave generously towards the heating of the church.

Our Church Team Services at Easter were wonderful and Easter including an 8 o'clock Holy Communion Service, when we were joined by some of our Team Choir. It was a joyful celebration and a wonderful way to celebrate Easter Day. Elveen and I took Home Communion to church members in the village before Easter and is something that we have continued through the year almost every month. We hosted Team Services throughout the year in March, May, July and October which saw our church full to capacity every time.

Our All-Age Worship lay-led service has continued on the first Sunday of every month at 10.00 am and it is extremely rewarding to see our joyful and dedicated congregation prepared to join in with anything that comes their way. Our numbers have grown slightly this year, which is encouraging. We now begin our service with time for refreshments and chat. Thanks to Will and Tina for helping with that. I would like to thank Mary and Dorinda for all their help with talks and activities. Thanks go to thank Rachel J, along with her father, for taking the Harvest All Age Worship Service when we were all unavailable. We welcomed back Alison M to play the piano and organ for us for our services.

Unfortunately, Dorinda had to step down from her part with All Age Worship Service as her commitments with her mother have taken her away at weekends. Dorinda has still managed to attend PCC meetings and keep our website running during this time. My thanks go to her for all her hard work.

Much as I love taking this service, it is a big commitment and one I did not expect to

take on permanently, in addition to all the duties of a Church warden. I am only too aware that it is impossible for Elveen to stretch herself around four venues. I would also like to thank Rob S, Geoff, Angela and Rob B and the music group for providing music for us. Thanks go to Will for stepping in to provide music through the internet when there is no-one else available together with Rachel who has also helped. At the time of the Queen's Jubilee, we celebrated with a Flower Festival in the Church over the weekend. It could not have happened without the flower team who excelled themselves and the church looked and smelled magnificent. My thanks to Mary Case who brought her Exhibition of photos of Bygone South Marston to the church. On the Sunday afternoon teas and cakes were served and the church was filled with visitors. It was a very enjoyable and successful experience. Thanks to Tina and Will and their helpers for providing and serving the refreshments. On 10th December, Tracy, an ardent church supporter organised a Craft Fayre in our Village Hall, with lots of stalls selling beautiful hand-crafted items with Christmas in mind. Coffee and delicious cakes were served with the proceeds of £71 going towards the church to help support our beautiful building.

Meeting Point, our Community Coffee morning, took place every month between 1000 and 1200 on the third Saturday. Particular thanks to Richard, Will and Tina for their hard work keeping it going and for the delicious cakes they provide. In December as well as our usual refreshments we welcomed extra stalls, again organised by Tracy. The stalls were full of more crafted items, allowing for last minute Christmas shopping. A most enjoyable morning.

We hosted the Taize Service, led by Alison B on 30 October, which was most calming and enjoyable.

My thanks again to Alison B for taking our Remembrance Service in the church, which was followed by a ceremony at the War Memorial for the naming of the fallen and the laying of the wreaths, at which there was a very good attendance.

Preparation began for Christmas in the church on 4th December at our Christingle Service at 10.00 am. The church was full with children and their families for a service where the story of the Christingle was told and all the children were given a Christingle. These were lit during the singing of the Christingle song and carefully blown out afterwards for the children to take home. There was a special performance of the South Marston School choir who sang Silent Night and Ding Dong Merrily on High, beautifully. At the retiring collection £82 was raised for the Children's Society.

Our Carol service of Nine Lessons and Carols took place on Friday, 23 December at 7.00 pm and was very well attended. On Christmas Eve Elveen led a Crib Service at 5.00 pm, which was again well attended. Our Midnight Communion took place at 9.00 pm which proved most successful, so hopefully these services and timings will be repeated in 2023.

Our Home Group is something I would like to restore during this next year, but it is dependent on available time to organise and run it.

Sadly, we are still unable to ring our church bells, as one of the supports has a crack which could create a dangerous situation if the bells were rung. I would love to hear our bells ringing out over South Marston but because of the amount of money required to repair the support and reset them, we will be without bells for a long time.

PCC and some Standing Committee Meetings have continued during the year. Our last Zoom meeting was held in January and happily we have been able to meet in person ever since.

We have a regular input to our Community News, which is distributed every two



months. All our services and functions are listed there together with a letter from Elveen and any church news. During the year I was invited to become a member of the Community News Working Group.

My thanks to Mary and Dot who make up our fantastic cleaning team and keep our church polished and gleaming, and for giving the church an extra clean on special occasions particularly weddings. Thanks also to our magnificent flower team who do wonders to brighten up our church with their decorations, bringing floral joy. Thank you, Richard, for our beautiful Easter Garden.

Thanks to Colin and Jenny McEwen for keeping the grass in extremely good order on the Glebe.

Thank you, Georgina, in the Church Office, for all you do to help me and for producing brilliant posters for us on a regular basis.

Thanks to our congregation and the community for their generous gifts to the Food Collective throughout the year. All gifts are very much appreciated.

My thanks to Will for his duties as dedicated Treasurer and very importantly for all the additional tasks he undertakes, including maintaining our ancient boiler and getting it any treatment, it needs. We really appreciate having a warm church in the winter. Will does so many things quietly behind the scenes which make so much difference in our church and I could not fulfil my task as Church warden without his help. Thanks to the opening and closing of the church team including Michelle during the holiday season. Thanks to everyone who has been there for me and I apologise if I have left anyone out. Thanks to Elveen and Rachel (Cookie) for our services, Alex, all those already mentioned and everyone in the congregation who are prepared to help with anything to keep our church going.

My second year as Churchwarden has been interesting, challenging and busier for me. We would normally have two Churchwardens so if anyone feels they would like to join me, particularly planning for the future, there is a very warm welcome for you. We also have vacancies to join us on the Stratton Team Ministry PCC, of which we are a part.

**Diane Whitford**  
**St Mary Magdalene Church Warden**

## [Coleview Community Centre Church services - Wardens report Jan to Dec 2022](#)

It is really encouraging to say that we have been holding church services regularly at the Coleview Community Centre during 2022. However, pre Covid we had weekly services but now we have one Celtic communion service on the 4th Sunday of each month.

As with the other churches, communion is given by intincting the wafer into the wine.

As we have limited clergy available, we thank Rev. Elveen Mead for her continual support and inspiration. Most times, Elveen comes to Coleview from an earlier service at another church in the Stratton Team Ministry.

We have a regular congregation of at least 24 people, who really enjoy meeting together to worship and find the Coleview service a crucial part of their Christian life.

We are so grateful for Rob South, Geoff Walters and the Music group who provide music on a rota basis.

Like Elveen, they usually come straight from an earlier service at another church. Very demanding when you have to drive through the many challenging traffic situations at the White Hart roundabout!

April 2022, it was the turn of the Coleview congregation to host the Team service and it was a real joy to welcome members from St. Leonard's, St. Margaret's and St. Mary Magdalene. In many cases, it's the only opportunity the Coleview congregation can meet with the other church members so they really appreciate the Team service.

As with other churches within Stratton Team Ministry, Coleview are supported by Rev. Elveen Mead and the Ministry Team - Licensed Lay readers, Lisa Lodwick and Alison Burston and Dan Read – Emeritus. Rev. Rachel Cook has led one of the communion services and it was very interesting to hear about her life as the Chaplain with the RAF Brize Norton.

Our grateful thanks go to Georgina Martin for keeping the communications flowing either by email, telephone or mail. Also, for printing the necessary orders of service needed for the specific time in the liturgical calendar.

A special thank you to Marion Wigham who opens the room and helps set up the communion table each month. Also thank you to the Coleview ladies who welcome people into the room and those who read and lead the intercessions.

The Coleview congregation are always ready to support charitable events and regularly provide gifts for the Shoe box appeal, Swindon Food Collective, Clothes for Ukraine etc.

As per St Margaret's, the Coleview team is also committed to ensuring that the Coleview Community Centre is a spiritual place of worship on the Sunday morning and all activities are as inclusive as possible. We have no control over the building itself but we all aim to be as welcoming as we can.

We have all learnt how to get through the pandemic with God's help, so let us continue to support each other and be a blessing to our communities.

**Yours in Christ June Lewis and Richard Pflieger – Church Wardens**

### [St Margaret's Church Flower Arrangers.](#)

There are currently 10 of us and we try to cover the main areas of the church on the special services throughout the year, it was decided this year to buy White and Yellow silk flowers to reduce the expenditure. Hopefully this will help with the type of flower displays and the length of time we can leave the flowers in position. We still use fresh greenery and occasional fresh flowers. There is always room for anyone to join us why not give it a try.

**Richard Pflieger**

## St Margaret's Church Building Committee

The committee consists of Richard Pflieger Churchwarden, Rev Elveen Mead, Wendy Sears Bell Captain, Pat Churchill Bells and Roger Smith with Architect Christian Randall

The Committee has been set up by the PCC to look into the reordering of St Margaret's Church. The project is to Re hang the Bells, finish the retiling of the roof, renovating the tower with a new mezzanine floor and staircase which will allow a toilet facility on the ground floor, replacing some electrics and adding a kitchen at the back of the church. This year 2022 we spent trying to get approval firstly from the DAC and secondly from Historic England to agree to pass the idea of the Mezzanine floor and Staircase to allow the project to move forward. This included building a full size model of the stairs to show the position within the Church. It is hoped that we will gain approval and look to start to get quotes for the work and employ trades to carry out this work with the possibility of looking for grants to complete the work.

I would like to thank the committee for their tireless stamina over this last year.

**Richard Pflieger Building committee Chair**

## PCC Secretary's Report for the period 2022 - 2023

We held our last APCM Meeting on May 8th 2022. Since then regular PCC meetings were held in July, September, November, January and March, with good attendance at each meeting from both St Margaret's and St Mary Magdalene PCC members. Meetings were held in St Margaret's church on a Tuesday evening.

As Covid restrictions were beginning to be lifted, it opened up the chance for more visits to our care homes and in the community, As a result it was felt more a structured organisation needed to be designed for everyone's safety. More on this in their report.

A central spreadsheet was designed on the central office PC to hold a list of policies for all 4 churches and checked regularly. Similarly, a H&S spreadsheet has been designed online to cover all risk assessment and people's responsibilities all both the churches. We have kept up to date with all the requirements concerning Safeguarding training and discussed and covered everything requested by our Safeguarding officers.

Mark Tidey, our Curate, left us last year, and we are now down to our one Priest Elveen Mead to look after all the churches. We have 2 lay readers who assist with the services, and also have the assistance of another Priest and a lay reader from another parish, also Rachel Cooke from the Military, but these are only temporary. We are hoping for a new Curate to be appointed soon. As a result we have limited the number of communion services in each church, some services have been cut and more team services arranged. Some groups have organised their own services, which has gone down well.

First Aiders have become more organised this year. A First Aid training course was arranged for all three churches, and a list organised so that there is the correct cover for each service.

A summer fete was arranged, but unfortunately the death of Queen Elizabeth prevented this from taking place. It is being arranged for this year instead.

A book of condolence was put out and we celebrated the Queen's wonderful life in a special service.

There has been a great deal of work carried out this year, in planning the rehang of the bells together with the alterations to the tower to raise the ceiling, put in some stairs, and include a toilet and kitchen area. We are moving slowly due to having to comply with various groups, but are positive we will get there soon.

A foodbank launch took place in January, and this has been attended and supported by members of our churches.

The Choir has been growing after their Jerusalem Joy success at Easter last year, and we hope to enjoy singing Captain Noah and his floating zoo this year. The choir sang several anthems over the year and have given support to the congregations. The choir enjoyed attending the choir practices and the services, and were most grateful to Angela Breakspear leading, and Geoff Walters on the piano.

The financial matters and the Parish Share were discussed at each of these meetings, but this is best left for the relevant people to give these details. Likewise the safeguarding issues.

**Ros Mitchell PCC Secretary.**

## Safeguarding Report for the APCM April 2023

Since the last report in April 2022, Mary and Mike Bosher, Joint Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs), have been keeping a close eye on all aspects of safeguarding for the Parishes of St Margaret's Stratton, St Leonards Stanton, St Mary Magdalene South Marston and Coleview. Ably assisting us are the 'eyes and ears' in the parishes, Chris and Anne Pope for Stanton and Mary Crichton for South Marston. The 'eyes and ears' are the close personal local contact in the churches who can pass safeguarding concerns onto us. Their contact details can be found in the porchway of each church. We thank them for their vigilance.

We have been keeping all members of the two PCCs current with their DBS certificates. There were a number that needed renewal during this year as part of the 3 yearly renewal cycle. All members of both PCCs are now current with their DBS requirements and will not need to renew again until 2024. 23 DBS Certificates were renewed this year.

A Safeguarding Report is presented to every PCC meeting for both the Stratton and South Marston PCC and the Stanton Fitzwarren PCC to keep all members up to date with safeguarding developments and information. Safeguarding management is also monitored by the Diocese via the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard which is maintained by the PSOs

The Parish Safeguarding Officers welcome the fact that regular meetings continue to take place with the Priest in Charge 4 times a year to keep the Church leadership up to-date with all aspects of Safeguarding.

A very positive 2 session Safeguarding Leadership Course (C2) led by the Diocesan Training Officer was undertaken by 25 people in October. Training is regularly taking place for the two PSOs and members of the church family and there will be a Domestic Abuse Awareness course taking place in September. This is now required training for all clergy, members of both PCCs and the Licenced Lay Ministers.

The thrust of our work continues to ensure that all members of all the Churches are safe to worship and go about their church business without risk. To that end, Mike and Mary would ask every member of every church, both leaders and congregation, to recognise their personal responsibility in making Safeguarding their concern. There is no option to leave a concern to someone else. If there is an identified issue, it must be passed on to the PSOs to be investigated and acted upon as a matter of urgency. "If you see something, say something" should be a point of action for everybody.

Mary and I would ask all of you to observe and exercise an attitude of informed vigilance. In that way, everyone will be as safe as possible. If you have a cause for concern no matter how trivial you think it might be, please talk to the 'eyes and ears' in your church or contact the PSOs Mike or Mary via the parish web site email address or call on 07799835437.

**Mike and Mary Bosher**  
**Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs) April 2023**

## Care Homes Report - January to December 2022 – for the APCM in April 2023

### A personal note from Dan Read:

Sadly, I find that visiting the Care Homes now is beyond my strength.

Although over 20 years ago, it seems like only yesterday that I visited Brain Court after Rev. Tim Hawkings had told me that he had 'a useful job for me'.

Since then I, with others, have visited Church View Nursing Home, Wemyss Lodge, Midwinter Gardens and lastly Herbert Harvey Court – a very rewarding experience! Some notable memories included listening to a lady, who was 100 years old, singing a well-known Christmas carol.

If you feel that you would like to be part of the team, **then please DO IT!**

You will find it rewarding and enjoyable!

There is no doubt that there is a wonderful team spirit and a sense of achievement each time we visit the Care Homes.

Our current team consists of: Alison Burston, Mary Carter, Graham Haines, Pearl Jell, Pat Kennedy, Ken Kirkman, June Lewis, Lisa Lodwick, Chris Marchant, Jeanne Read and Geoff Walters.

Geoff brings his keyboard and provides us with wonderful music and in his absence, Ken brings his MP3 player.

Please pray for the team as they endeavour to bring Jesus into the Care Homes each month.

**Dan Read**

### Care Homes Report – January to December 2022

The Care Homes team are very grateful for the years of care shown by Dan and for sharing his experience and guidance on how to share the love of Jesus in the Care Homes.

We feel very privileged to carry on his good work and we involve him as much as we can.

The Care Homes are still very cautious about Covid and Wemyss Lodge have not wanted us to visit at all during 2022. However, Elveen can keep communications open when she visits her Father, who is a resident there.

We always telephone a couple of days before the day we are due to go in and if they want to delay the service, we keep in contact by telephone, cards or Facebook.

The other 3 homes we visit are Church View Nursing Home, Herbert Harvey Court and Midwinter Gardens Retirement Housing Complex.

**June Lewis**

### Midwinter Gardens: Services on 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2.30pm

Mary Carter co-ordinates the visits and is usually accompanied by Pearl Jell, Pat Kennedy, Ken Kirkman, Chris Marchant and Geoff Walters on his keyboard.

2 services were held in 2022 - the November one being held in the library upstairs and the carol service in December in the downstairs lounge.

It's a great joy to welcome a new lady from the home and she has joined in very enthusiastically. We sing hymns, read the bible, poems and share prayers. They offer us refreshments afterwards and we can sit and chat to them all.

**Mary Carter**

#### Herbert Harvey: Services on 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm

Lisa Lodwick co-ordinates the visits and is usually accompanied by Mary Carter, Graham Haines, Pearl Jell, Ken Kirkman, June Lewis, Dan Read on a couple of occasions and Geoff Walters.

Lisa Lodwick visits Herbert Harvey on a regular basis but always adhering to the recommended Covid guidelines.

The team started visiting Herbert Harvey in June 2022 and held 7 services in all with the December one being the carol service. We sing hymns, read the bible, poems and share prayers. Sometimes we base the service on the previous Sunday's church service and in September we shared the service for Queen Elizabeth II's funeral. They said they really appreciated the service and we left them with the special service sheets that we had used on September 19th.

They kindly offer us refreshments afterwards (generously provided by Greta) and we sit and chat or sometimes go and knock on the doors of those who could not attend the service (wearing masks when appropriate).

**Lisa Lodwick**

#### Church View Nursing Home: Services on 3rd Thursday of each month at 2.30pm

June Lewis co-ordinates the visits and is usually accompanied by Mary Carter, Pearl Jell, Ken Kirkman (sometimes with his MP3 player), Jeanne Read and Geoff Walters with his keyboard. Alison Burston joins us when she can.

The team started visiting Church View in May 2022 but had to miss the July Thursday as they felt that the unusually hot weather would affect the residents if they were moved into the day room.

Before we can leave the reception area, we have to take our temperatures and wear the provided masks to walk along the corridors.

7 services were held in all with the December one being the carol service. We sing hymns, read the bible, poems and share prayers. As with Herbert Harvey, we base the service on the previous Sunday's church service and in September we shared the service for Queen Elizabeth II's funeral. They said they really appreciated the service and we left them with the special service sheets that we had used on September 19th.

They particularly enjoy the Remembrance service and they know so many of the hymns and enjoyed the reflective poems pertinent to the war time.

The carers have asked us to visit some of the residents in their rooms and we have prayed with them after the main service. It is a real privilege to share this time with them.

**June Lewis**

The whole team feel it a very special privilege to be able to join in the care home services and share the love of the Lord with the residents and nursing staff.

We are always welcomed and have been thanked for the support that St. Margaret's Church Pastoral Team gives them all.

**Please come and join us – you will feel a real sense of warmth and joy!**



## Grange Drive Home Group

It's been lovely to get back to fairly regular meetings again, kindly and generously hosted by Pearl Jell, and often with delicious cake provided by Anne-Marie Domm. We started by studying the book of Esther, in preparation for leading another "Praise and Prosecco" evening service last August. That involved quite a lot of effort (special thanks to the music group), but it was a lively and cheerful occasion, and seemed to be enjoyed by the encouragingly large congregation.

Since then, we've been studying the book of Isaiah, which has been quite challenging at times, as it's full of dire warnings about the consequences of ignoring God's commandments. However, it's stimulating some interesting conversations, and there are some encouraging verses too about God's mercy and readiness to forgive.

My thanks to everyone who attends our bible studies, as it's a really good way to share Christian fellowship and grow in our understanding of the Bible.

**Lisa Lodwick**

## Report for the Social Committee 2021 - 2022

There were three Fund Raising Events during the year.

In October we had a Murder Mystery Evening, performed by the Purton Players. It was most enjoyable, with fish and chips being served during the interval.

In November The Big Band put on a concert for us in the Church where we served mulled wine and mince pies, this giving people a break from sitting. An enjoyable evening.

In December Mary organised a Wreath Making evening which everyone enjoyed.

**Carole Horne**

## Annual report for the Boy's Brigade.

5th Swindon Boy's Brigade Company continues to bring activities and badge work to Boys aged 5 to 18 years. Each week in term time, Boys can do activities for any of the six categories - Get Learning, Get into the Bible, Get Creative, Get Involved, Get Active and Get Adventurous.

We have a dedicated team of officers and helpers, who work hard each week to deliver a varied programme of activities. Thank you for all that you do, and the preparation that goes into each activity.

Our vision is that Boys and young people experience "Life to the full" (John 10:10)

Our mission - The Boy's Brigade has faith in young people and provides them with opportunities to Learn, Grow, and Discover in a safe, fun, caring environment, which is rooted in the Christian faith.

We have joined Gloucestershire Battalion for events during the year. Two junior section Boys and two staff went to the junior section camp in Devon in May 2022, and are looking forward to this year's camp in Gloucestershire later in May.



Magnus won the Junior Chess competition in 2022 and retained the title again in 2023, a wonderful achievement!

Our two Anchor Boys won the Battalion Bible frieze competition with their picture of "Jesus heals the paralyzed man." Well done.

2024 will be the 5th Swindon Company 50th Anniversary. One of our "old Boys", Dr. Chris Spackman does work with the Boy's Brigade archive team. He is interested in gathering memories of the Company over the past 50 years. Hopefully to put into a book about 5th Swindon's history. Can you help with your recollections?

Can you also help us - do you know of any Boy who would enjoy Boy's Brigade activities?

Could you come along on a Friday evening and share with us an interesting hobby, or about your role within the Church?

Would you pray for our Company, Boys, their families and staff as we continue to advance Christ's Kingdom in Swindon?

**Thank you.  
Teresa Daglish. Company Captain**

## Team Choir

The choir continued to progress musically during 2022. In Lent we sang our first piece of unaccompanied Tudor renaissance polyphony together at St Mary Magdalene for the team service, which was beautifully presented and sounded wonderful in that glorious acoustic.

Much of our choir practice time in the early part of the year was spent concentrating on rehearsing for a Musical Extravaganza – "Jerusalem Joy" which told the Easter Story. We presented this at Palm Sunday with home-printed tee-shirts, some staging and props. This was well received by the congregation and we feel encouraged to do more of this in the future. Easter was a very busy, but fantastically fulfilling time for the choir, with three services on Easter Sunday, and plenty of chocolate!

We sang our first choral evensong on July 10th at St Leonard's, which included some delightful unaccompanied psalm singing – something many of the choir had not done before. We then celebrated together at the Choir Summer Barbeque in late July before taking a break over the summer. After a later-than-usual restart in September the choir sang a beautiful advent service in St Leonard's including three anthems, and followed this up with Christmas Carol Services in all three churches, which were very well attended.

My thanks go to the choir for their continued commitment and enthusiasm, to Geoff Walters for his support and amazing flexibility, whatever music I throw at him, and also to the two Roberts – South and Breakspear for their assistance in running the choir.

We are always looking for new members – no musical knowledge necessary, and no auditions. If you like to sing and would like to join in – just come along.

**Angela and Robert Breakspear**

## St Margaret's Pre-School Annual Report

St Margaret's Pre-School continues to offer affordable childcare within the heart of the Stratton community. We are based within the St Margaret's Centre and open Monday to Friday. We have spaces for children aged 3-4 years old and limited spaces for 2-year-olds. We encourage the children to enjoy a range of activities following the Birth to Five Curriculum.

**From All the staff at St Margaret's Pre-School.**

## Electoral Roll Report – April 2023

The number on the electoral roll after this year's review is 101, three less than last year.

We sadly lost 5 members who passed away, and we gained 2 new members.

**Andrew Martin, Electoral Roll Officer**

## Saturday Scene Report for 2022

2022 saw Saturday Scene back in full action after the pandemic.

Our numbers have not been as high as before Covid but we have a regular set of families attending each month. We still moved to the church for our worship session which has gone down well. It is here that we have our bible teaching, followed by a song. This year we introduced percussion instruments which went down well – one time we had the children marching around the church singing and playing their instruments.

Our sessions start with activities which are followed by a plated tea and then the bible teaching, song and prayer before they all leave clutching the items they may have made during the activity section.

In December we were delighted that the Bumps & Babes group joined us for our session at which we made Christingles and learnt about their meaning.

A few of our older children now help out with some of the activities which encourages them to attend each month. It also helps us out if we have one of our helpers unable to attend.

Saturday Scene is part of the Stratton Team Ministry church and as such we need to make them feel part of our church family. It would be lovely to see some of the congregations visiting us to see what is going on and more helpers would be lovely. We meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month apart from August.

We have started 2023 in the same way apart from our worship section – we now do this in Hall 2 to save having to heat the church for us and so that we don't have to walk across to the church in the dark.

**Saturday Scene Team**

## Annual Report from Stratton St Margaret's Baby & Toddler Group

Stratton St Margaret's Baby and Toddler Group meet in the St Margaret's Centre, on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10.00am until 11.30am. Providing a small meeting place for local parents and carers to socialise and bring their little ones to play, the group caters for children aged from Birth up to school age. A home corner, cars, tent and tunnel, dolls, books, puzzles and a baby corner are regularly on offer and the children have enjoyed a variety of crafts each week with activities such as play dough, painting, colouring and making cards and models.

The group has been in some form of existence for over 30 years with new parents taking over the running of the group when children start school. The children have the opportunity to socialise, learn to share and make new friendships. The parent/carers benefit too. The group can be a good way to integrate into your community.

Approximately 25 - 30 children attend each session, at the group parents/carers stay with their children, and are responsible for them at all times. We charge just £2 per family for the session; this money goes towards the cost of renting the hall, providing refreshments for the adults and, healthy snacks, crafts and toys for the children.

**Georgina Martin,  
Volunteer Mum**

## Treasurer's Report (St Margaret's Church) - 2022

There was an overall surplus of £1,459 in 2022 because we did not pay our Parish Share during November and December (2 x £4912). With increasing energy costs the Church is becoming increasingly expensive to heat so apologies if the Church does not quite feel warm enough at times.

Thank you to everyone who gives to St Margaret's Church. The best way to give regularly to the Church is by the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) as there are no charges and it cuts down significantly on our administrative burden. We now have 40 people who use PGS. Another advantage is that you have the option of automatically increasing your gift every year by the rate of inflation.

**Mark Whitfield**

The Parish of Stratton Saint Margaret with South Marston  
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

# The Parish of Stratton Saint Margaret with South Marston

## Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

### General Funds Receipts & Payments Account

		2022		2021	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Voluntary receipts	1	74,455		74,741	
Receipts from activities for generating funds	2	3,316		2,252	
Receipts from Church activities - fees		8,678		4,065	
Heating grant from Diocese		<u>967</u>		<u>0</u>	
			87,416		81,058
Payments					
Grants	3	605		1,058	
Church activities	4	74,755		76,630	
Church management and administration		<u>9,357</u>		<u>5,661</u>	
			<u>84,717</u>		<u>83,349</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments			2,699		0
Excess of Payments over Receipts			0		2,291
Bank current and deposit accounts 1 January			<u>10,633</u>		<u>12,924</u>
Bank current and deposit accounts 31 December			<u>13,332</u>		<u>10,633</u>

# The Parish of Stratton Saint Margaret with South Marston

## Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

### Designated & Restricted Funds

#### St. Margaret's Church

	Designated Funds		Restricted Funds									Totals
	Rector's Discretion Fund	Building Fund	Sound System	Day Window	Restoration Fund	Flower Fund	Choir Fund	Organ Fund	John Cornwell Legacy	Fete	Media	
Interest	0	0	39	3	467	12	30	103	2,892	39	30	3,615
Receipts	0	0	519	0	247	0	420	0	0	4,600	3,000	8,786
	0	0	558	3	714	12	450	103	2,892	4,639	3,030	12,401
Payments	0	0	0	0	0	119	649	0	5,241	2,082	0	8,091
	0	0	558	3	714	-107	-199	103	-2,349	2,557	3,030	4,310
Balance 1 January 2022	200	5,408	2,833	286	36,052	1,004	2,390	7,940	228,707	0	0	284,820
Balance 31 December 2022	200	5,408	3,391	289	36,766	897	2,191	8,043	226,358	2,557	3,030	289,130

#### St. Mary Magdalene Church

	Restricted Funds				
	Fabric Fund	Bell Fund			
Interest	3	1			4
Receipts	0	0			0
	3	1			4
Payments	0	30			30
	3	-29			-26
Balance 1 January 2022	5,356	3,072			8,428
Balance 31 December 2022	5,359	3,043			8,402

# The Parish of Stratton Saint Margaret with South Marston

## Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2022

#### Monetary Assets

				Totals	Totals
				2022	2021
				£	£
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds		
	£	£	£		
Bank current accounts	13,217	5,608	10,808	29,633	26,296
Bank deposit accounts			2,673	2,673	2,669
Central Board of Finance			278,443	278,443	274,829
Cash in Hand	115			115	87
	<u>13,332</u>	<u>5,608</u>	<u>291,924</u>	<u>310,864</u>	<u>303,881</u>

#### Debtors

Income Tax reclaim	3,361	3,400
Team expenses	300	225
Advertising in magazine	90	90
Fees	300	236
Value Added Tax	0	0
Gas	0	1,027
Electricity	50	0
Harris Trust grant	48	0
	<u>4,149</u>	<u>4,978</u>

#### Creditors

Door mat hire	228	227
NEST Pension	117	117
Clergy Expenses	289	0
Photocopying	294	0
Hire of village hall	110	56
Electricity	0	75
Gas	866	0
Water	0	15
Lightning Conductor	0	150
	<u>1,904</u>	<u>640</u>

#### Stocks

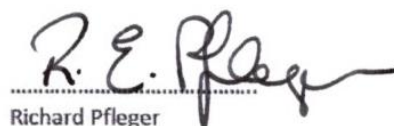
	<u>240</u>	<u>240</u>
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The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 14th March 2023 and signed on its behalf by

  
Rev'd Elveen Mead

  
Diane Whitford

  
Richard Pflieger



# The Parish of Stratton Saint Margaret with South Marston

## Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

### Notes to the General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

	2022	2021
	£	£
<b>1) Voluntary receipts</b>		
Gift Aid planned giving	43,684	45,874
Non-Gift Aid planned giving	9,908	10,011
Collections & other giving	5,313	3,914
Income Tax recovered	11,961	11,750
Thursday Coffee Mornings	1,282	543
Sundry donations	2,307	2,649
	<u>74,455</u>	<u>74,741</u>
<b>2) Receipts from activities for generating funds</b>		
Fund raising activities	3,002	2,073
Sale of magazines	314	179
	<u>3,316</u>	<u>2,252</u>
<b>3) Grants</b>		
Church overseas	0	0
Home missions	555	1,008
Secular charities	50	50
	<u>605</u>	<u>1,058</u>
<b>4) Church activities</b>		
Diocesan parish share	53,125	61,901
Church running expenses	5,192	4,147
Church maintenance	3,134	1,912
Insurance	4,413	4,044
Cost of services	1,387	1,185
Young families work	392	28
Team expenses	5,845	3,013
Fund raising & publicity	1,267	400
	<u>74,755</u>	<u>76,630</u>



**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE TRUSTEES OF STRATTON SAINT MARGARET WITH SOUTH MARSTON  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Stratton Saint Margaret with South Marston Parochial Church Council (the PCC) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

**Responsibilities and Basis of Report**

As the charity trustees of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

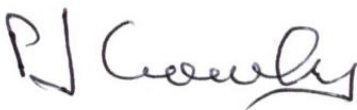
I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect :

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act ; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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



Paul J Crowley FCA  
Derrick Newman Limited  
29 Bath Road  
Swindon  
SN1 4AS

23 March 2023