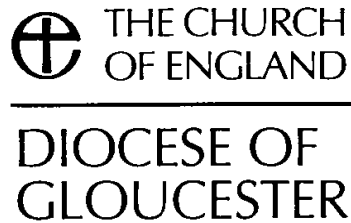


The Parochial Church Council of
Holy Trinity Brimscombe



Annual Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 December 2024



LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION 2023

Administrative Information

Holy Trinity Brimscombe Church is situated in Brimscombe It is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Revd Peter Francis, *The Rectory, Walkley Hill, Rodborough GL5 3TX*

The website address is <https://brimscombechurch.org.uk/>

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC

Rev P Francis – Vicar. Ex-officio

Mr P Gee – Reader. Ex-Officio

Mr C Short – Warden. Ex-Officio

Mr R Kerr – Warden. Ex-Officio

Mrs S Bennie – Treasurer. Elected with 0 years to stand, replaced by Mr G Ayre December 2024

Ms J Wilson – Elected with 1 years to stand.

Mrs H Kerr – Elected with 1 years to stand.

Mrs M Adams - Elected with 1 years to stand.

Deanery Synod Reps:

Permitted 1 rep and there is currently a vacancy

Structure, governance and management

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

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: Mr. Joseph Simpson, Simpson Costea Limited,
The Willows, Tinkley Lane, Nympsfield, GL10 3UH

BANKERS: National Westminster Bank plc., 21 Eastgate, Gloucester, GL1 1NH.

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

The main purpose of the PCC is defined in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as “to co-operate with the Minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical”

There have been 6 full PCC meetings since the last APCM on 14th April 2024. PCC membership after that APCM numbered 9 including ex-officio members.

Numbers on the Electoral Roll in April 2024 totalled 37 with 16 resident members and 21 non-residents.

MINISTRY TEAM: organises all aspects of ministry and worship

PCC STANDING COMMITTEE: meets at short notice on behalf of the full PCC and looks after fabric and grounds.

PCC ANNUAL REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024

The Annual Parish Church Meeting took place on Sunday 14th April 2024 after the service of Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity Brimscombe with Rev Peter Francis in the chair.

Review of the Year 2024

Mission and worship

Revd Peter Francis, together with Readers Richard Spencer and Peter Gee have, as a ministry team, led worship in the benefice of Rodborough, Woodchester and Brimscombe.

With the help of lay service leaders and a retired priest, Worship took place every Sunday at Holy Trinity at 11am (excepting Joint services) and our services have been greatly blessed by Peter, Jez and Anne, who have led us in sung Worship. It has also been encouraging to us all, that Church members have started giving testimonies during Sunday services on how God has been working in their lives.

Joint services typically happened on the 5th Sunday of The month, alternated between St Mary's, Woodchester and Brimscombe School and have been a great opportunity to bring the whole benefice together.

Sundays Sermons have been following a pattern of Benefice wide sermon series , often using the lectionary readings or following particular themes such as Generosity and Sabbath (utilising material from 'Practicing the Way') ,or digging deeply into areas of scripture such as the 'Sermon on the mount' .

Midweek Benefice services include a continuing Zoom Morning prayer on Mondays and a new Celtic morning prayer service every Wednesday, held at the Old Endowed School Rodborough, that has a slowly building congregation. As well as these liturgical services there is now a more open time of prayer, every Monday evenings in the Upper Room, a space for people to come to listen, pray and encounter God.

Amongst, the varied Midweek study groups in the benefice, two are hosted in Brimscombe Parish. Firstly, a lunchtime bible study group - Soul Food that occurs on alternating Thursdays from 1pm to 2.30pm in the Upper Room. This starts with sharing lunch together, then focuses on a book in the bible and finish up with praying for each other and for others. Secondly, Peter Gee hosts a Bible study group

that meets weekly on Tuesday evenings via Zoom which allows inclusion of those who find attendance to a physical evening group difficult.

The benefice Lent course on 'Fruitfulness on the Frontlines' encouraged us all to live out our faith in our everyday lives and places of work, volunteering and community. Between Ascension and Pentecost, we joined in the Archbishops 'Thy kingdom Come' initiative, praying for 5 people each.

And an inspiring Quiet Day led by one of the Archbishop's Evangelists helped provided encouragement that some of our friends are searching and interested in faith and seeing us live out that faith, are even waiting for us to invite them to church!

In 2024 there were 5 baptism and 1 funerals in the church as well as services at local crematoria.

At Christmas 2024, there were 75 people attending the carol service, up from 55 previous year, which was really encouraging.

Benefice Bible Study Group on Zoom – Tuesday Evenings at 7.30pm

We started this Benefice Bible Study Group back in 2023, and it is held on Tuesday nights during term times, from 7.30pm to 8.45pm. We meet on Zoom, so that the group can potentially include people from all three churches within the benefice, and also those who are housebound or sick. It is also nice during the cold winter months to meet from the comfort of your own living room. The format of the evenings is a few minutes of chatting and we all bring our own drinks and snacks, then reading a Bible passage and allowing God to speak to us, and into our hearts and lives, then discussing the passage together, and finishing the evening with a time of prayer together.

You don't have to take any part in the evenings, you can literally just come and listen and even turn your camera off if you don't want to be seen on screen.

During 2023, we went through the whole of the Gospel of Luke, and then finished the year in a short Advent series of Bible studies. In 2024, we studied the Epistle to the Romans. During Lent, we then joined in with the whole benefice and completed the mission focused course called "Fruitfulness on the Frontline," which encouraged us all to perform small acts of love and kindness, and to tell our own story of faith to others. The rest of 2024 saw us look at the lives of King Saul and then King David. We then completed the year by looking at the lives of women in the Bible, with studies on Rachel and Leah, and Deborah.

In 2025, we have so far completed a study on the book of Ruth, followed by our Lent course called "Practising the Way," which has focused on the nine main spiritual disciplines we find in the life of Jesus himself, including – solitude, prayer, Scripture, fasting, Sabbath, generosity, service, community, and witness.

I find studying God's living Word so exciting and we need to remember that the Bible is spiritual food for our souls which we all need to continue to feed upon to stay strong and healthy. This group is open to all people of all ages and it is designed to be easily accessible for everyone, so please do feel free to join us at any point, or just to come and go as you feel comfortable.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105)

Peter Gee

Helen Kerr: Prayer Group at Brimscombe Upper Room - Monday Evenings at 7.30pm

The Monday night prayer group is open to everyone, whether you have belonged to a prayer group before or would like to join for the first time it is a relaxed environment. We begin with a bible passage and then see where God wants to take us. It usually includes music from an artist, and prayers often are for the community, the world, for healing, for friends, for Church, and for salvation and revival. It is a wonderful opportunity to be with God in prayer, psalms and worship music and there is often a palpable spirit of gratitude for all that He has done and is doing. Everyone is welcome to join us. We try to meet every Monday save for bank holidays and PCC meetings.

Helen Kerr

Community engagement activities

The church building was kept open every day of the year, providing a quiet place of prayer and reflection for the community.

Outreach into the community included:

Weekly Open the Book and Clergy Worship at Brimscombe Primary School as well as seasonal school services held at Holy Trinity and to which parents were invited. Occasional special All Age services (such as Christingle) were held at the school, as well as joint benefice services and Christingle. An Easter church cake and jam sale also took place at the School, which raised over £200 split between the school and church as well as a good opportunity to meet people and chat. The Roving nativity, also took many of its actors from the school drama group and achieved extra publicity in 2024 as BBC radio Gloucester, helped us hunt for a baby Jesus.

A monthly coffee and chat morning at the Long Table, that started focusing on older members of the community, but has become a place where new friends are made and everyone (of any age) is welcomed. Again 2024 included Carol singing before Christmas led by Peter Gee. Likewise, Carol Singing at the Ship was perhaps more popular than it has ever been, and some were visibly touched.

The Church has been blessed with its Interaction with Nelson Trust, some with residents worshipping in the church and river baptism at the Grace Network being a powerful service and witness. One of the highlights of the Roving nativity, was also the wonderful reception it received at Nelson House. The upper room was also made available to the Trust.

Church Warden's comments

The Church building has been open during the day on the timed lock for the whole year, 8-4 during the winter months and 8-6 over the summer.

In 2024 we progressed a number of streams of work.

- We received the 2024 quinquennial report from David Newton. The works were categorised into the most urgent priorities, and in 2025 we will be exploring the faculties required and the possibility of funding via grants. Subject to Diocese approval the PCC has identified a master stonemason to do the priority external elements.

- We have received quotes for a new Audio Visual system, which will provide a modern integrated technological solution to enable sound and vision for congregation, service leader, preacher and worship musicians. Again a faculty will be required, and is another area to seek external funding.
- We are keeping an eye on the existing gas boiler, as the heating system has again been inconsistent and the church was cold some services. The boiler is expected to function well for a few more years now but the wardens are investigating alternative options including infra-red, convection heating, pew heaters, wall heaters and air source heat pumps. Replacing the current system with a like for like is not thought to be an option. We will be exploring some grants in 2025 and upping the electricity supply to help be prepared should we need to move away from the existing system, to an electric heating solution
- The clock has been serviced and given a clean bill of health. Rob assisted Chris in repairing the wire shuttering that stops the Jackdaws from nesting in the bell tower. When they do get into the bell tower their nesting material stops the bells from ringing and this is very unpopular locally!
- The church needs a good clean and be spruced up so it looks loved and welcoming. This is planned for later in 2025.
- And finally... we would like to recognise all of the congregation members who help the church run from tea & coffee, flowers, cleaning, reading, prayers, music and ministry. Remembering always that Church is about people and not just the building! A heartfelt thanks to all.

Chris Short and Richard Kerr, Churchwardens

School Governors Report

Foundation Governor Report 2024

Foundation Governors: Rod Harris (Chair), Peter Gee (ex-officio), Catherine Crampton, Fiona Short (leaving April 2024), Graham Ayre, Becky Saunders, Theresa Yates-Round

'Stay alert and hold firmly to all you believe. Be mighty and full of courage. Let love and kindness be the motivation behind all that you do.'

January to July has been a challenging time at the school. to support the staff. Whilst the head teacher continued to support Bisley and Oakridge schools it became obvious that the staff wellbeing needed to be addressed. We did our first wellbeing questionnaire for the staff which was very much appreciated and gave the staff an opportunity to be heard. We listened and hopefully have recognised areas that we, as governors, can be more supportive. We have been able to ensure that the outside area for the Pre-school is renovated, the outdoor space for Dragonfly classroom is secured and a calm room created which the staff really need to support and help those children with challenging behavioural needs. It continues to be a privilege to be part of the governing body at Brimscombe and witness such a strong team of staff who are completely committed to upholding the key 'love and kindness' in all they do and so reflect this in how they interact with the children to live this out.

At the end of the summer term the governing body provided lunch for the staff and the governors were able to share this and let them know how much we value their dedication and hard work. It is not easy

to juggle all the national curriculum demands with sport and the arts to consider as well as ensuring spirituality is present and visible.

We are thrilled that Nicki Brown is now the head teacher and has taken on the role since September with incredible professionalism, with a strong Christian foundation at her core, embracing all that the new title involves. It has proven to be a huge amount of updating and incredible hard work that we as governors are helping to support and encourage. Just as Nicki was getting to grips with day-to-day events, the school business manager handed in her notice, leaving at Christmas. A difficult time for recruitment, and by the time she left, we had not been able to appoint.

The children continue to receive weekly worship with from either Rev Peter Francis or Rod Harris leading. As part of my role for EYFS I have been able to come and give the Pre-school and Reception children a bible story each term (whilst the older children are in worship) so the EYFS staff meet together. Selfishly from my part, pure joy! The children still have a place in their classrooms where they can express either through written or drawing pictures, a prayer or thought. In addition, the older children regularly write and say their prayers to parents at the weekly assemblies of celebration on Fridays. The amazing Open the Book team visit the school every Monday – a great way to start the week.

It was good to welcome the children to the church as we celebrated their Christmas end of term service which, with the support of the Open the Book team, we made it as interactive, biblical, welcoming and child centred as possible.

The school is thriving and as with all schools, it is a challenge to make sure new children keep coming. The national birth rate continues to be low so it is our duty to make sure Brimscombe is exceptional in delivering a firm foundation for learning, as well as being uniquely loving in giving all the children and staff the opportunity to know Jesus and the love of Christ for their own lives.

Theresa Yates-Round

Brimscombe School - Open the Book – Helen Kerr

One of the great joys and privileges we've experienced this year has been our continued involvement with the *Bible Society's Open the Book* programme, taking the message of God's love into our local primary school through Monday morning assemblies.

This initiative is a truly wonderful opportunity for children to engage with the Word of God in a way that is both practical and fun. Each week, a small team of volunteers from our church community presents a dramatised Bible story—often in costume, always with heart and a sense of humour —bringing these timeless accounts to life in a way that captures their imagination.

The children's enthusiasm is always a joy to behold, as they listen to the stories unfold and especially their laughter during interactive moment I am encouraged that these assemblies are making a meaningful impact. The experience is more than just storytelling—it is planting seeds of faith, hope, and love.

One of the most heartwarming aspects of these sessions is seeing and hearing the children engaging so naturally and enthusiastically with a Christian message. These moments serve as a reminder of the openness and curiosity of young hearts—and how important it is that we continue to nurture their spiritual growth.

We give thanks for this opportunity, and for the dedication of those who make it possible each week. Open the Book is not just a programme—it's a ministry of presence, story, and joy. May it continue to flourish, and may the children continue to encounter the living Word in ways that stay with them for a lifetime.

Helen Kerr

A copy of the Lion Storyteller Bible, used by the team, was presented to each reception class child on joining the school.

Safeguarding has been kept on the agenda, with each PCC member and others in leadership required to complete on-line training every 3 years, and the required DBS checks have been carried out.

Church Giving

Our income is tithed, and we support our missionaries and certain local organisations financially and in prayer including Nelson Trust, The Grace Network, The Door Youth Project, Amigos Worldwide, Arocha UK.

Financial Review

Total receipts on ordinary unrestricted and undesignated funds were **£34349** and are detailed in the financial statements.

Total payments in the year were **£31586**. The largest item of expenditure was **£16560** on the Parish Share which is the payment to the Gloucester Diocesan Board of Finance to enable it to provide the parish with clergy and support services.

The net result for the year was a surplus of receipts (including interest on Designated and Restricted Funds) over payments of **£4014** which was added to financial reserves.

A number of payments, such as Mission Giving for 2024, have been carried over to 2025.

Full financial reports are published on the Church website. <https://brimscombechurch.org.uk>

Graham Ayre, Treasurer

Approved by the PCC on and signed on their behalf by

..... **Chairman**