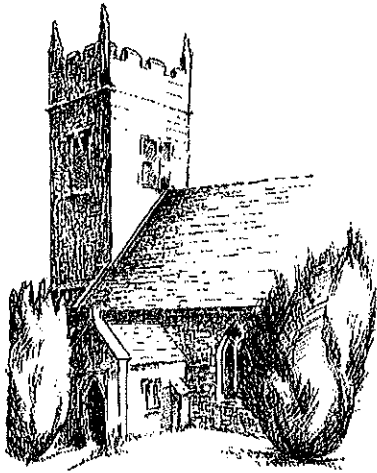


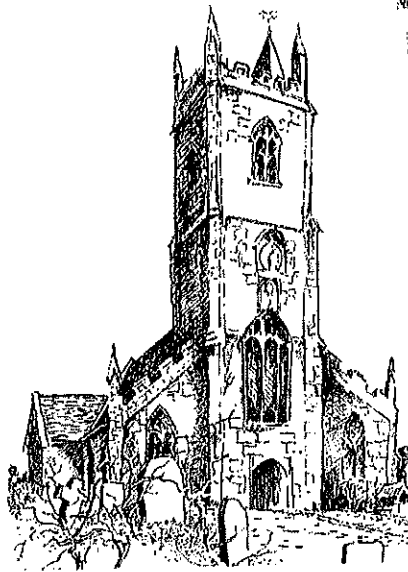
# UNITED PARISH OF POSTLEBURY Yearbook 2024



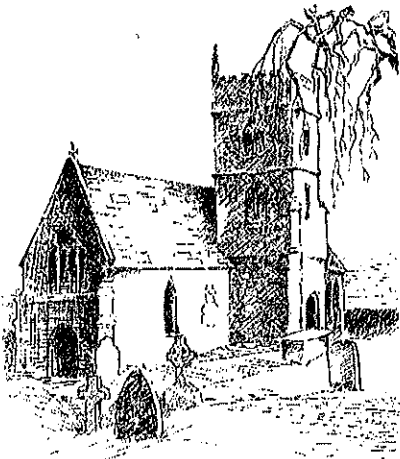
*Blessed Virgin Mary, Chford*



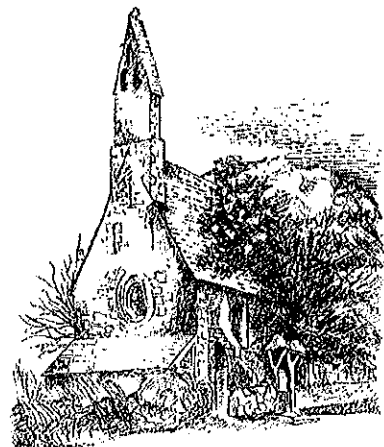
*St Leonard, Muston Big*



*All Saints, Nantwich*



*The Blessed Virgin Mary, Wainhor*



*The Blessed Virgin Mary, St John the Baptist and All Saints, Wilsan Frery*

**Produced in March 2025 - Reporting for year 2024**

**PARISH OF POSTLEBURY - YEARBOOK 2024**  
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## PARISH OF POSTLEBURY Report and Accounts 2024

### **Aim and purposes**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Parish of Postlebury has the responsibility of working with the Priest-in-charge, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The members of the PCC are the trustees of the Parish of Postlebury (an excepted charity).

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the five churches in the Parish: St Leonard's, Marson Bigot; All Saints, Nunney; The Blessed Virgin Mary, Wanstrow; The Blessed Virgin Mary, Cloford and The Blessed Virgin Mary, St John the Baptist and All Saints, Witham Friary.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Mission and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the various churches, which are all Listed buildings, and associated buildings.

The Priest-in-Charge also ministers to the three East Mendip Churches in the parishes of Leigh-upon-Mendip and Stoke St Michael, which are situated to the NW of Postlebury. Since May 2024, the benefices have been in vacancy.

The parish contributed to the cost the benefice administrator who is a part-time member of staff (47 hours a month) during 2024; there is also a bookkeeper who is self-employed.

### **Achievements and Performance**

The retirement of the Priest-in-Charge, Revd. Anthony Dickson at the end of May 2024 presented a number of challenges. A steering group was set up across the eight churches in Postlebury and East Mendip to manage the retirement event and to smooth the administration and maintenance of pastoral support as well as worship during the period of Vacancy. The steering group met eight times during the year to organise and distill the outcomes of consultations with our communities to form the Parish Profile, role profile and advertisement for the post and to deal with matters of mutual interest to do with the work of the parishes. This included improving joint-working across the benefices and administration during the vacancy. The combined parishes have been supported greatly by four recently retired priests and one serving priest (working in the CofE) residing in our villages.

The greatest achievement has been to be able to provide as many services during the vacancy as in the past few years, with a variety of "voices". A lay pastoral support team has also formed and is evolving to help any future Priest-in-Charge in that aspect of the role.

The budget projected a deficit and despite the best efforts of the churchwardens and others to raise funds, there was still a shortfall at the end of the year. Two significant fundraising events were the provision of refreshments and sale of bric-a-brac at Nunney Church during Nunney Fayre Day in late July and a Harvest Lunch at Cloford Manor in October.

Nunney Church is the only church in the parish which is open to the public every day and received many visitors over the summer. Under the leadership of Ruth Brooks, volunteers at Nunney Church offered teas to visitors on about eight occasions during the summer and during the Open Gardens in late June. Marston Church combined teas with live music during July and August, thanks to John and Sheila Salmon and Wanstrow Church opened for teas once a month, thanks to Janet Bramley.

The Marston Music initiative, led by John Salmon, made use of St Leonard's Church to host a broad range of musicians during the summer and the concerts were enjoyed by many, raising a useful contribution to the costs of maintaining the church. There was also music provided during teas in the church in July and August.

4 children and one adult were baptised in 2024 and there were 4 weddings and one renewal of wedding vows. A total of 12 funerals were held at or on behalf of the parish during the year.

Renovation of the Rectory took place under the direction of the Diocese during the last four months of 2024 and the office moved temporarily to Delamere House, Nunney.

### **Worship and Prayer**

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling.

There is a combined Worship Committee (with all the incumbent's eight churches) which meets at least twice a year. We have continued with the regular rota of communion services across the whole benefices.

Soul Food, a more modern style of monthly evening service, with music, words and prayer takes place on one Sunday evening each month, alternating between Nunney Church and Stoke St Michael Church.

Compline is held monthly at Wanstrow Church on a Thursday evening.

There is a weekly service of Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer on Friday mornings in Nunney.

Evensong is held monthly in Downhead and Stoke St Michael churches.

There is a monthly communion service in the Dallimore Mead sheltered housing complex in Nunney.

Attendance on Feast Days and other special occasions increased significantly again during 2024. Building on different styles of service introduced during the pandemic, there were a number of imaginative services across the parish. At Easter there was a lay-led outdoor service in Nunney churchyard with over 60 attendees and an Easter trail following the events of Easter week inside the church. In Wanstrow and Nunney there were nativities with live donkeys in the run up to Christmas. There were four, well-attended, carol services in Postlebury churches.

At the end of 2024, there were 64 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. The total worshipping community was 84 in 2024. The average weekly attendance on Sundays throughout the year was 28.

### **The Church Buildings**

All five churches in the parish are listed buildings. There was ongoing maintenance on all the churches.

There were no major repair projects during 2024, other than the renovation of the clock at Wanstrow which was finished in early 2025.

### **Mission and Outreach**

Although the Mission and Outreach committee has not managed to meet during 2024, the churches have continued to undertake work in their communities. This includes the two Life Groups, held fortnightly to study scripture, in homes in the parish and one in Stoke St Michael. The Little Saplings Carers and Tots group which started in September 2021 continued to thrive, with its team of volunteer helpers led by Felicity Evans and with the help of a grant from Nunney Parish Council. Open the Book (assemblies based on the bible) took place in Nunney First School twice a term.

A 5-session marriage preparation course for couples preparing for marriage across the parish was held partly on Zoom, in early 2024, for two couples.

At Nunney, Wanstrow and Witham Friary various activities were organised during the year to promote more wildlife in churchyards as part of the Diocese's 'Wilder Churchyards' initiative and parish's commitment to work towards Eco Church status. Nunney Church has achieved its bronze Eco Church award and has created better signage for the project thanks to a grant from the Nunney and District Flower improve the signage.

The parish maintained its website [www.postleburychurches.org](http://www.postleburychurches.org), and produced a Postlebury Annual Guide 2024, which was distributed free to over 1800 homes and businesses across the parish. The monthly newsletter was largely distributed electronically.

Over £1225 was raised during the year by the parish churches for other charities: the Royal British Legion, Farming Community Network (Frome Market Health Hub), Fair Frome, The Childrens' Society ,USPG, Childrens' Hospice South West, and Time is Precious.

### **Structure, governance and management**

The Parochial Church Council of Postlebury is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The Parish of Postlebury is an excepted charity. It is within the Diocese of Bath and Wells. The Priest-in-Charge is also responsible for the Benefices of Stoke St Michael and Leigh-on-Mendip with Downhead.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership of the PCC consists of the Priest-in-charge (our vicar), churchwardens, the reader and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. There were 64 members on the electoral register at the end of 2024.

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. They also approve policies for better governance of the parish. In doing so, they have a number of working sub-committees to advise and put forward proposals on worship, fabric, finance, mission and outreach, fundraising and also, individual church committees for each church in the Parish. The PCC met six times in 2024 in person.

The Easter Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meeting reporting on 2023 with elections for 2024 were held 9th April 2024.

### **Administrative information**

The Parish of Postlebury is an excepted charity and is registered at Nunney Rectory, High Street, Nunney, Frome, Somerset, BA11 4LZ.

The PCC of Postlebury is chaired by the Priest-in-Charge, Revd Anthony Dickson and PCC members who served in 2024 until the date of approval of this report and accounts were:

Janet Bramley,	Elected Member
Robert Bramley	Elected Member
Jennifer Brook,	Churchwarden Nunney, PCC Secretary and Lay Co-Chair of PCC

Margaret Anne Dalgety Churchwarden, Witham Friary

*(resigned 3 Sept 24)*

Steve Elliott	Treasurer (co-opted)
Richard Mawer	Churchwarden, Cloford and Deanery Synod Representative
Jane Norris	Elected Member and Assistant Churchwarden, Marston
Timothy Mansfield	Churchwarden, Wanstrow
Caroline Pomeroy	Churchwarden, Nunney and Parish Safeguarding Officer
Henry Pomeroy	Lay Reader and Deanery Synod Representative
George Pritchard	Churchwarden, Witham Friary
Angela Yeoman	Churchwarden, Marston

### **Safeguarding**

The PCC of Postlebury is working within the guidelines and policies developed by the Church of England in 2017 and with the support of the safeguarding team in the Diocese of Bath and Wells, will comply with the operating procedures put in place by the Church of England.

Caroline Pomeroy is the Safeguarding Officer and is assisted by the Benefice Administrator. Safeguarding training and DBS checks have been completed for all but one member of the PCC and others in key positions and DBS checks have been undertaken for all volunteers for the Little Saplings. The policies and training requirements have been updated and presented to the PCC for approval.

### **Volunteers**

The Parish of Postlebury relies heavily on the contributions of volunteers, in addition to the members of the PCC. Many help with fundraising activities in normal years, which also provide a community focus. Others played the organ, sang, arranged flowers, cleaned the churches, made teas, tidied the churchyards, managed church clocks, rang bells and distributed the Parish Annual Guide, for example.

### **Financial Review (Treasurer's report)**

The financial statements are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis. The income and expenditure statement shows a deficit of £7,236 in the unrestricted funds for 2024 but a surplus of £21,573 on expenditure from the restricted funds. This was mainly due to a legacy from Kathleen Powell of £70,000 for the benefit of Witham Friary Church. £60,000 of this was invested in the CCLA Church of England Investment Fund, and this investment is shown at cost in the Financial Position at 31 December 2024. The market value at the year end was slightly below cost, but at the time of writing is slightly above. We also made two transfers of existing restricted funds to the CCLA Deposit Fund; £20,000 was transferred from Friends of Nunney and £50,000 from Nunney Restricted. These new investments appear in the summary of bank holdings and investments.

For the unrestricted funds receipts from fundraising were helped by the Nunney Street Fayre, Harvest lunch and Postlebury Annual Guide and the parish was still able to pay its parish share in full, thanks also to the generosity of individual parishioners, particularly those making regular contributions. Nevertheless, the pressure on unrestricted funds is necessitating careful thought as to how a modest use of restricted funds could be used to meet some regular costs as well as raising more funds through events and donations. Costs continue to rise and we must find ways of increasing our income.

The Parish of Postlebury faces another steep rise in contribution to Diocesan costs (which include employment of Priest-in-charge and provision of Rectory) of 15% in 2025 when the Diocese of Bath and Wells also moves to a "Benefice Share" methodology. The other parishes of Leigh with Downhead and Stoke St Michael. Meetings were held with the other Treasurers and with the Diocesan Head of Finance to discuss the situation. As a result the Parish of Postlebury has volunteered an increase of 5% for 2025 but this is a holding position and may change. Nonetheless, the budget for 2025 shows another deficit, eating into the reserves. The PCC has resolved to improve its income by encouraging regular giving by its congregations and additional fundraising.

### Reserves Policy

Although the Parish has responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the five listed churches, there are restricted funds and grants available to help with this. The unrestricted (free) reserves of the Parish are determined in relation to the everyday expenditure of the Parish. The main elements are the Parish Share (contributing to the costs of the central organisations of the Church of England and the support of the priest-in-charge), the salaries of one part-time member of staff and the fee of an external bookkeeper. In total, the monthly outgoings are around £5,000. The PCC aims to maintain a free reserve of at least 3 months of such costs, plus any outstanding contractual obligations, so it would seem appropriate to raise our reserve target to £16,000. The reserve has been reduced during 2024 and will fall again during 2025.

### Investment Policy

The parish invests its reserves and restricted fund assets in regulated funds, bank accounts, and the deposit fund with CCLA, and the CCLA Church of England Investment fund which is a multi-asset Regulated Fund with no capital guarantee, but cautiously managed to give a high degree of capital security as well as a useful income.

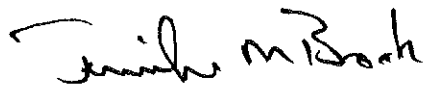
The Parish seeks to invest only in such regulated equity funds which follow the ethical guidelines of the Church of England Board of Finance.

Where investments invested in other regulated funds are donated to the parish or its churches, such investments will generally be sold at an appropriate time and reinvested alongside the other equity and cash investments of the parish.

The parish will withdraw capital from its investments where these do not form permanent endowment, to support its objectives.

**The Accounts were approved by the PCC of the Parish of Postlebury at a meeting held on 18 February 2025, in readiness for signature subject to completion of their financial examination.**

Signed



Jennifer Brook  
Lay co-chair of PCC of Postlebury



Steve Elliot  
Treasurer

# Parish of Postlebury

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report to the Parish of Postlebury members on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024.

### **Respective responsibilities of members and examiner**

The members are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The members consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA).

Having satisfied myself that the Parish of Postlebury accounts are not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Parish of Postlebury 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 you as members 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 next statement.

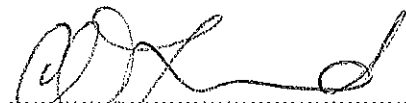
### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Natalie Froud BMus MA ACMA CGMA FFA FIPA FISM.  
Independent Examiner

on behalf of R. E. Froud & Associates Ltd  
61 Robins Lane  
Frome  
Somerset  
BA11 3ET

Date:- 20th February 2024

## Parish of Postlebury

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE		2024			2023
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
<b>Income</b>					
Voluntary Income	1	33,849	92,449	126,298	72,726
Activities generating funds	2	9,052	5,118	14,170	25,658
Investment income	3	139	7,351	7,490	6,029
Additional income	4	2,872	-	2,872	2,580
Parochial fees	5	8,401	-	8,401	9,591
Collections for other charities	6	91	-	91	1,128
<b>Total income</b>		<b>54,404</b>	<b>104,918</b>	<b>159,322</b>	<b>117,711</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Church activities	7	35,621	47	35,668	36,928
Church Running expenses	8	23,962	9,320	33,282	25,560
Charitable activities	9	91	1,211	1,302	3,183
Governance costs	10	1,966	96	2,062	3,633
Repairs to church buildings	11	-	5,435	5,435	73,434
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>61,641</b>	<b>16,110</b>	<b>77,750</b>	<b>142,739</b>
<b>Incoming resources before depreciation</b>		<b>(7,236)</b>	<b>88,809</b>	<b>81,572</b>	<b>(25,027)</b>
Depreciation		-	-	-	-
Disposal of investment		-	-	-	-
<b>Net income and net movement in funds</b>		<b>(7,236)</b>	<b>88,809</b>	<b>81,572</b>	<b>(25,027)</b>

## Parish of Postlebury

### NOTES

	Cash at bank £	CBF shares
<b>Restricted Funds Comprise:</b>		
Cloford Church (TSB)	13,259	
Marston Church (TSB)	10,971	
Nunney Church (TSB)	17,004	
Friends of Nunney Church (TSB)	8,695	
Wanstrow Church (TSB)	14,737	
Witham Friary Church (TSB)	12,754	
Nunney Bells	44	
CN Clarke Churchyard Maintenance Trust (Wanstrow) (CBF 101001490S)		2,172
EAP Warburton Churchyard Trust (Wanstrow) (CBF 101001235S)		262
Wanstrow cash at CBF (601160001D) (CB3019704-001)	10,286	
Wanstrow General Purposes Trust (CBF 101001385S)		242
EAP Warburton Church Repair Fund (Wanstrow) (CBF 101001236S)		272
FW Colwell Trust (Wanstrow) (CBF 101001590S)		383
Wanstrow Church Hall Trust (CB3019705-001 / CBF 601160001S)		577
Witham General Purposes Trust (CBF 101001381S)		62
Gare Hill Chapel Fund (Marston) (CBF 101001518S)		406
E. Townsend Witham Friary Church Fund (CB3019706-001 / CBF 601160002S)		970.92
Nunney Church Rooms (CB3040125-001 (CBF 776512001D / 101001591S)	3,232	3,539
Witham Kathleen Powell Fund (CB1008413-001)		2,532.2873
Nunney Church (CB1007212-001)	50,000	
Friends of Nunney (CB1008409-001)	20,000	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>160,982</b>	<b>11,418.21</b>
Share price at 31 December 2024 pence per share		2,312.27
<b>Total Shareholding Value</b>		<b>264,020</b>

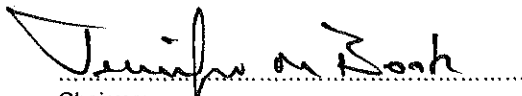
## Parish of Postlebury


### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	General Fund (Unrestricted)		Other Funds (restricted)		2024 Total		2023 Total	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>								
Tangible Assets								
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>								
At cost (market value 2024- £264,020: 2023- £200,869)		-		95,593		95,593		35,593
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>								
Cash at banks	23,428		160,982		184,410		162,837	
		<u>23,428</u>		<u>160,982</u>		<u>184,410</u>		<u>162,837</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>23,428</u>		<u>256,575</u>		<u>280,003</u>		<u>198,430</u>
<b>FUNDS as at 1 January 2024</b>		30,664		167,766		198,430		223,457
Net incoming resources		(7,236)		88,809		81,572		(25,027)
Transfers		-		-		-		-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024</b>		<u><u>23,428</u></u>		<u><u>256,575</u></u>		<u><u>280,003</u></u>		<u><u>198,430</u></u>

These financial statements were approved by the members of the Postlebury Parochial Church Council on the

18 February 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:

  
.....  
Chairman

  
.....  
Honorary Treasurer

## Parish of Postlebury

### DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE		Unrestricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
<b>Income</b>	<b>Note</b>				
<b>Voluntary Income</b>	<b>1</b>				
Planned giving		17,822	-	17,822	16,690
Collections		8,529	115	8,644	8,326
Donations		1,231	15,683	16,914	25,337
Gift Aid		6,218	3,068	9,286	8,223
VAT recovery		-	233	233	6,672
Grants		50	2,848	2,898	6,475
Legacies		-	70,502	70,502	-
Other income		-	-	-	1,004
		<u>33,849</u>	<u>92,449</u>	<u>126,298</u>	<u>72,726</u>
<b>Activities generating funds</b>	<b>2</b>				
Parish Magazine		3,258	-	3,258	3,156
Church teas		-	1,314	1,314	1,307
Fundraising events		4,726	3,804	8,530	20,051
Photocopying		1,068	-	1,068	1,144
Sundry		-	-	-	-
		<u>9,052</u>	<u>5,118</u>	<u>14,170</u>	<u>25,658</u>
Investment income	<b>3</b>	139	7,351	7,490	6,029
Additional income	<b>4</b>				
Insurance claim		-	-	-	-
Contribution from Leigh/Stoke		2,872	-	2,872	2,580
		<u>2,872</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,872</u>	<u>2,580</u>
Parochial fees	<b>5</b>	8,401	-	8,401	9,591
Collections for other charities	<b>6</b>	91	-	91	1,128
<b>Total income</b>		<u>54,404</u>	<u>104,918</u>	<u>159,322</u>	<u>117,711</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
<b>Church activities</b>	<b>7</b>				
Cost of fundraising		379	47	426	1,601
Parish share		30,347	-	30,347	26,389
Clergy Expenses		861	-	861	845
Parochial fees to DBF		1,634	-	1,634	5,236
Parish magazine		2,401	-	2,401	2,857
		<u>35,621</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>35,668</u>	<u>36,928</u>
<b>Church Running expenses</b>	<b>8</b>				
Administration		8,465	-	8,465	7,308
Lease of equipment		1,110	30	1,140	1,110
General expenses re services		2,114	3,246	5,360	1,973
Lighting and Heating		4,864	372	5,237	5,845
Maintenance repairs		-	5,672	5,672	1,814
Insurance		7,409	-	7,409	7,510
		<u>23,962</u>	<u>9,320</u>	<u>33,282</u>	<u>25,560</u>
<b>Charitable activities</b>	<b>9</b>				
Disbursement of collections for other charities		91	-	91	2,034
Little Saplings		-	1,211	1,211	1,149
		<u>91</u>	<u>1,211</u>	<u>1,302</u>	<u>3,183</u>
<b>Governance costs</b>	<b>10</b>				
Bookkeeping		1,498	-	1,498	1,669
Accountancy/professional fees		330	-	330	1,903
Miscellaneous		139	96	235	61
		<u>1,966</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>2,062</u>	<u>3,633</u>
Repairs to church buildings	<b>11</b>	-	5,435	5,435	73,434
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>61,641</u>	<u>16,110</u>	<u>77,750</u>	<u>142,739</u>
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE DEPRECIATION</b>		<u>(7,236)</u>	<u>88,809</u>	<u>81,572</u>	<u>(25,027)</u>
Depreciation		-	-	-	-
Disposal of investment		-	-	-	-
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<u>(7,236)</u>	<u>88,809</u>	<u>81,572</u>	<u>(25,027)</u>
<b>Reconciliation of cash in bank</b>					
Total funds brought forward		30,664	167,766	198,430	223,457
Net incoming resources before depreciation & disposals		<u>(7,236)</u>	<u>88,809</u>	<u>81,572</u>	<u>(25,027)</u>
<b>Total cash carried forward</b>		<u>23,428</u>	<u>256,575</u>	<u>280,003</u>	<u>198,430</u>

## **Mission Giving and Charitable Collections 2024**

Royal British Legion £479.20  
The Childrens Society £176  
Frome Market Health Hub £98  
Fair Food Frome £93.10  
Time is Precious £147.55  
Childrens Hospice South West £231.84

## **PCC subcommittees and other affiliated groups**

There are four sub-committees of the PCC, supporting the work of the united parish. The minutes of their meetings are reported to the PCC. The Postlebury Bellringers are also under the umbrella of the PCC.

### **Postlebury Bellringers**

Postlebury Bellringers are an active group of ringers who practice and provide ringing services for three churches in the Postlebury Parish - Marston Bigot, Nunney and Wanstrow. This includes Sunday service ringing, weddings, funerals and other special events such as Nunney Street Fayre.

During the Street Fayre, the ringers also open the tower and ringing chamber for Tower Tours where you can climb the steep spiral staircase, see where all the ringing happens and also enjoy stunning views across the village from the top of the tower.

After the 2024 tour, two new ringers started to learn and six months later, they are now ready to join in with service ringing and all the other activities mentioned above.

Since the restoration of Nunney bells, there has been much interest from ringers wishing to try out the new bells and the church has been host to several groups, both local and from further afield. In February a local band was also able to ring the first quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples then later, in November, a full peal of Plain Bob Major (three hours of ringing) was completed by a band of ringers including two Postlebury members - a feat of both mental and physical stamina!

On a sadder note, two former members and one active member died in 2024 - Mary, Marianne and Terry. All have been commemorated with quarter peals in their names. They will be much missed.

Looking forward to 2025, we will be finishing the decorating of Nunney tower, putting in new ropes and repainting at Marston Bigot, and general maintenance at Wanstrow.

Postlebury Ringers meet every Thursday evening for practice, if you would like to get involved (no religious affiliation required) or know more, please contact the Tower Captain.

Mary Hooper (Tower Captain)  
[mary.hooper@virgin.net](mailto:mary.hooper@virgin.net)  
07732 948311

### **Peals and Quarters**

#### **Nunney**

1 Peal Plain Bob Major, 9 QP's - 1 minor, 4 triples, 4 major

## **Marston Bigot**

12 Peals, 5 QP's, 2024 on NYE

## **Wanstrow**

2 QP's

### **Finance Sub-Committee**

The Finance Committee met twice in person during 2024 to review the budget, to discuss fundraising requirements and to review expenditure. An additional meeting was held with representatives of Stoke and Leigh with Downhead to discuss the proposed changes to the Benefice Share (previously Parish Share) for 2025. The committee also reviewed the amount of funds held in cash and made proposals to the PCC for their investment depending on the timescale of need for cash.

### **Fundraising and Events sub-Committee**

The committee did not meet in person in 2024 but fundraising matters were discussed in the Finance Committee and in the PCC meetings. Funds raised in 2024 came from the Nunney Street Fair (catering, bric a brac and tombola) £2996, Harvest lunch at Cloford Manor £1150 and Postlebury Annual Guide 2024 £1548.

### **Worship sub-Committee**

The worship committee includes the churchwardens of Leigh with Downhead and Stoke St Michael. It met twice during 2024 to discuss the cover arrangements during the vacancy and to review the service plan going ahead. Thanks to the willing help of the PTO clergy in the parishes, the service schedule was covered in full and we have been able to provide lay pastoral support and ordained clergy support for life events, as needed

### **Mission and Outreach sub-Committee**

The committee did not meet in 2024 but work continued across the parish to reach a wider population than the regular congregations. This included Warm Space, Little Saplings and Life Group in Nunney and the Chat Café in Wanstrow. The success, particularly at Christmas 2024, at bringing large numbers of local residents into the churches, built on these endeavours.

### **Churchwardens' Reports for 2024 – worship and events in church**

#### **The Blessed Virgin Mary, Cloford**

Cloford had services at 11.00am on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, alternating between Holy Communion and BCP Matins. Despite sharing the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday with Nunney Church whose services were at 9.30am, Cloford had congregations averaging over 20 people. We continued to add new worshippers.

Weddings:

27<sup>th</sup> July : marriage of Hermione Cheal to Steffan Griffiths.

17<sup>th</sup> August: marriage of Kat Riley to Luke Tree

Funerals:

1<sup>st</sup> May: funeral and burial of David George (died 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024)

No baptisms took place in 2024.

The candle and oil lamp lit Carol Service was on December 23rd with a record 108 in the congregation vs 75 in 2023, followed by wine and mince pies. Norman Hughes has completed 35 years of mowing and strimming the churchyard and has at last retired at the age of 81. RM presented him with a National Gardens voucher for £450 from donations by Cloford inhabitants plus £50 cash from a late donor at the end of the Carol Service.

**Donations and Gifts:**

In December, Kara Poole (the granddaughter of longtime churchwarden Doris Mitchell) and Simon Boddy very kindly donated a new bench ahead of their wedding in August 2026, to replace the one in the NE corner of the churchyard which has rotted beyond repair.

**Churchwarden:** Richard Mawer

**St Leonard's Church, Marston Bigot**

Baptisms: Baptism of Somerset Symes

Renewal of marriage vows: Geoff and Sally Simms

Funerals & Burial: Funeral and burial – Mary Elizabeth Coke  
Funeral and Thanksgiving – Pauline Clark  
Interment of Ashes – Nigel Cowler

Sunday Services: 12 Sung Eucharist/Holy Communion, including one with Baptism  
Including 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024 Feast of Pentecost: final service at Marston by Revd Anthony Dickson prior to retirement.

Christmas Eve - Nine Lessons and Carols: Attendees: 110 adults: 3 under 16. Lay Led.

**Concerts held in Marston Church**

Wed 19<sup>th</sup> June Gregory Steward – Tenor – Marston Music concert at Marston Church

Fri 21<sup>st</sup> June Band of Pilgrims – Marston Music concert at Marston Church

Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Oct OPUS 4 Recorder Quartet, arranged by Mary Hooper

June to August Sunday afternoon teas organised by John and Sheila Salmon, with various musicians to entertain during tea.

**Churchwarden:** Angela Yeoman

**Assistant Churchwarden:** Jane Norris

**All Saints' Church, Nunney**

The Nunney Church Committee met in April and September to review services in Nunney Church and plan fundraising and other activities.

Holy Communion services were held at 0930 on the fourth Sunday of every month alternating with Morning Worship until November. Average attendance was 23 on Communion services and 21 at Morning Worship. The average attendance at the Friday morning BCP Holy Communion service was 4. Soul Food took place on the second Sunday evening in the month at either Stoke St Michael or Nunney Church on 8 occasions over the year.

Attendance at special event/Feast Day services continued to rise significantly. These included:

9/4 Easter Day – an outdoor service led by Henry Pomeroy with a band in the churchyard, attended by 100 (including 20 children) . An Easter Trail was laid out around the church for two weeks, with scenes to illustrate the events of Holy Week and Easter.

26/5 Trinity Sunday combined benefice service to mark the retirement of Revd. Anthony Dickson and attended by 93.

9/6 Churches Count on Nature, attended by about 30 adults and children over the afternoon.

22/9 Harvest Festival – led by Bishop Chris Foster and attended by 43, with an auction of produce and gifts in aid of the Frome Market Health Hub charity.

3/11 All Souls' Memorial service – for Postlebury – led by Revd Sally Davenport. 33 bereaved family and friends attended.

12/11 Remembrance Sunday – led by Bishop Chris Foster and Revd Sally Foster. The Act of Remembrance in the churchyard was attended by 76 and the service following in the church by 59.

8/12 The Roving Nativity became an event inside the Church, because of atrocious weather. Over 160 attended, including 60 children.

21/12 Carol Service and concert - with choir and musicians. Led by Henry Pomeroy and attended by 140. This included a premiére of "No More Gloom" by Mark Chichester-Clark.

25/12 Christmas Day – Holy Communion taken by Revd Sally Foster was attended by 100.

There was also a pet service, and three other family worship services led by lay members of the congregation.

We are grateful to all the musicians who have played at our services and particularly Georgie and Steve Dayman-Johns, and to those who have sung.

Outreach activities during the year included the marriage preparation course (2 couples in 2024) led by Caroline and Henry Pomeroy, Life Group (with 16 regular participants) led by Caroline Pomeroy in Nunney, and the Little Saplings Carers and Tots group led by Felicity Evans. A team of six volunteers continued Open the Book assemblies in Nunney First School during term time. These involve children acting out bible stories and run fortnightly. They are much enjoyed by the school community (and the volunteers!).

Little Saplings relies on a team of volunteers to run every Wednesday morning during school term. The voluntary donation to running costs was £3 per family per session. The average attendance was 15 families each week over the year but in the order of 36 different families attended during the year. The Parish Council gave a grant of £400 to help with the cost of hire of the Village Hall and provision of refreshments.

Lyndsay Wade created the flower arrangements in church during the first half of the year. Mary Lynch-Staunton continued to clean the church.

Teas were sold on Bank Holiday Mondays and on the Open Gardens day organised and largely supplied by Ruth Brooks and a host of volunteers. £1193 was raised for church funds. Teas were also provided, a tombola stall and bric-a-brac stall in Nunney Church on the Nunney Fayre day at the end of July and raised just under £3000 for Parish funds.

Donations via the fixed electronic donations point and the chest amounted to £1292 for the Building Fund and £1428 for the Friends of Nunney Church fund. The church received a legacy of £500 from Neville Ronald John (Ron) Masters.

There were no baptisms and one wedding during the year in Nunney Church: marriage of Louis Johnson and Natasha Priest 5/12/24

Funerals: Mary Grief (memorial), Ralph Bell, Margaret (Peggy) Hillier, Margaret Hodder, Owen Hillier, Anthony Steele, Elizabeth Legge and burial of ashes of Barbara Woodland, Owen and Peggy Hillier, Elizabeth Myers.

**Churchwardens:** Caroline Pomeroy and Jennifer Brook

### **The Blessed Virgin Mary, Wanstrow**

11 sung Holy Communion services were held on the first Sunday of the month and one morning prayer (7<sup>th</sup> January). 9 Compline and Meditation services were held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month.

Additional services were held for:

14<sup>th</sup> February Ash Wednesday sung Communion and Imposition of Ashes

20<sup>th</sup> October Harvest Thanksgiving

10<sup>th</sup> November Royal British Legion Service of Remembrance

21<sup>st</sup> December Village Nativity and Carol Service (collection split with "Time is Precious" – a local charity based in Coleford)

The church also hosted the Upton Noble School Carol Service on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Baptisms:

19<sup>th</sup> May Hector Jack Masters

3<sup>rd</sup> November Lucy Brown

Confirmation of Lucy Brown took place in Wells Cathedral on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

Funerals:

25<sup>th</sup> June Molly Matilda Nicholls (died 28<sup>th</sup> May) followed by burial of ashes on 11<sup>th</sup> July

16<sup>th</sup> December Terry Nicholls followed by burial of ashes together with those of his sister, Sylvia Elsey

Informal Chat Café was held in Wanstrow Church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month with average attendance of sixteen. Donations at these events raised £93.10 for Fair Frome and £453.60 towards the repairs on the clock on the church tower.

### **Donations and Grants**

Donation from Mrs Deborah Osborn of £52 for the churchyard

Anonymous donation of £200 for the clock repair

Grant from Wanstrow Parish Council of £500 towards churchyard maintenance

Gift of a new mower for 2025 from Wanstrow Parish Council (cost £625)

**Wanstrow Church Committee** (churchwardens, Janet Bramley, Lucy Brown, David and Julie Humphrey) met three times during the year.

Organist: Malcolm Parr

Cleaning: Lucy Brown

Flowers: Mary Crease

Churchyard maintenance: David Humphrey, Max Masters and team.

Lay Pastoral Assistant: Janet Bramley

**Churchwardens:** Robert Bramley and Timothy Mansfield

**The Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St John the Baptist & All Saints, Witham Friary**

Apart from the twelve regular 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday monthly service other events in church were:

1 Prayer meeting with Lord Raymond Hylton for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

A village family gathering marking Ash Kody's coming of age and his first pilgrimage.

Wedding:

6<sup>th</sup> July: marriage of David Marshall and Teresa Dennett

Baptisms:

17<sup>th</sup> November: baptism of Primrose Wareham

Donations were received as following:

Witham Friary Parish Council

SSE – compensation for power outages

A legacy of £70,000 from the estate of Kathleen Powell

A wooden bench for the churchyard

New St George's flag and altar cover sheet

Finally, Witham Friary church was saddened to note the retirement of our long standing senior churchwarden, Mrs Anne Dalgety, who has moved away from the parish to be closer to her family. Our thanks for her devoted service and our prayers go with her.

**Churchwarden:** George Pritchard

**Fabric - Maintenance and Repairs to the Churches**

Insurance for all the buildings was provided by Ecclesiastical Insurance plc.

Routine annual maintenance of fire extinguishers, gutter clearing and lightning conductor checks were carried out in February/March.

**The Blessed Virgin Mary, Cloford - fabric report**

10<sup>th</sup> Quinquennial Report – Marcus Chantrey July 2020

Gary Eagle has agreed to take over mowing the churchyard from Norman from the 2025 season.

Wanstrow Parish Council gave a grant of £500 towards the maintenance of the churchyard.

The restoration of the organ case has been ongoing, albeit very slowly and is still not finished.

In September, TA Green Builders completed the last phase of the redecoration of the church by attending to lime plaster repairs and limewashing the vestry and the old organ loft for a total invoice of £1,399.68. The £233.28 VAT was successfully reclaimed from The Listed Places of Worship scheme.

We applied for a Faculty (granted on August 21<sup>st</sup>) to place a defibrillator on the churchyard wall. On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Micheal Gay applied for a grant on November 3<sup>rd</sup> to The British Heart foundation in his capacity as a Wanstrow Parish Councillor on behalf of Cloford which falls within Wanstrow parish. This was refused on January 6<sup>th</sup> 2025. We will try other routes.



early January and aim to reinstate the clock by mid-March. The work has been funded by donations.

### **The Blessed Virgin Mary, St John the Baptist and All Saints, Witham Friary**

10<sup>th</sup> Quinquennial report – Marcus Chantrey, Benjamin and Beauchamp September 2020

Organ tuning and repairs by Organ Design

Chafed bell rope renewed with new length from Avon Ropes

Pulpit stairs and decorative moulding repair.

### **Nunney Rectory**

Revd Dickson vacated the Rectory in early July. The Diocesan surveyors then put in place a major scheme of renovation of the house including:

additional insulation in the roof, replacement of the heating system with one fed by Air Source Heat Pump, replacement of gutters, downpipes and fascias, replacement of the main bathroom and comprehensive redecoration throughout.

### **Safeguarding Report**

In June, I received training to use the Church of England's Safeguarding Hub and Dashboards to manage safeguarding across the parish. I have worked closely with the Safeguarding Officer for Leigh and Stoke and taken the latest advice from the Diocese on the level of DBS checks and training required for each role. With support from our Parish Administrator, most people are well on their way to completing the required checks and training for their roles.

At each PCC meeting I have presented a progress report generated from the Dashboard. There were no recorded safeguarding incidents during the year.

Caroline Pomeroy

**Parish Safeguarding Officer**

### **Parish Share**

In 2024, the Parish Share for Postlebury increased by 15% to £30,347. This was paid in full.

During the year, the Diocese consulted on a changed methodology for the levy, also replacing a parish-based levy with one based on the Benefice, or in our case, the two Benefices. The proposed increase phased in between 2025 and 2030 was approximately 15% each year. This is not affordable and the parish of Postlebury has offered to pay an extra 5% in 2025.

### **Annual Report of Frome Deanery Synod – 2024**

Deanery Synod meetings were held in March and October 2024 and January 2025.

Activities being undertaken across the Deanery include:-

- recruitment to fill vicar vacancies in 3 (Mells, Hardington Vale and Postlebury Leigh Stoke) of the 7 benefices/parishes across the Deanery is in progress. Hardington Vale has just finished its first advertising without any applications.

- St Mary's House and the Giant's Garden project – includes youth work, prayer shed, and prayer rhythm, under Christchurch's (Liz Dudley) direction. Website <https://www.maryshouse.org/>

- GO team youth work – The Big Dream - (with Tony Cook’s support from the Diocese) works towards growing faith by making the connections between church, school and household. This now includes a group across the deanery introducing and using Open the Book children’s Bible story acting in Primary and First schools.

- FACT (Frome Area Christians Together - see Facebook page and link to membership <https://www.facebook.com/groups/204571649667719/>) enables all churches in the Frome and surrounding area to link and communicate better.

- DPMG - Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group - led by Revd Ian Snares (Trinity church) helps to communicate better across the Deanery and includes building networks of treasurers, wardens, maintenance, finances, etc. It is changing its name to Frome Deanery Council

- “Anna” Chaplains – supporting and working with older people. they are looking for people to join the team.

- Green Pastures – a Frome churches housing project for homeless people led by Trinity Church.

Henry Pomeroy

**Reader and representative on Frome Deanery Synod**



## Map of Frome Deanery – January 2024

Area Deans for the Frome Deanery: Revd. Liz Dudley & Revd. Ian Snares

Priest in Charge of the Parish of Postlebury and the Parishes of Leigh-upon-Mendip with Downhead and Stoke St Michael: Revd. Anthony Dickson to 31 May 2025, then in vacancy.

The Rectory, High St, Nunney, Frome BA11 4LZ 07404 824355

[www.postleburychurches.org](http://www.postleburychurches.org)