

**GREATER WHITBOURNE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2023, FOR THE YEAR 2022
PARISH OF GREATER WHITBOURNE**

Upper Sapey



Edvin Loach



*Whitbourne
Tedstone Delamere*



1. Annual Report – Rev Dawn Hyett

During the year, normal service has been largely resumed, with the exception of Tedstone Delamere.

Weekly congregations are well supported, with numbers almost back to pre pandemic levels. Zoomers continue to join although numbers attending via Zoom are falling somewhat.

Christopher Allsop has given notice as he has been offered the role of Organist and teacher at Eton College which he will start in January 2023. A new organist has been appointed thankfully. I would like to express my thanks formally to Christopher for his work in the greater Parish. He has always been willing to play for all of our churches should the need arise and has been a wonderful music worship lead for Whitbourne church.

Four weddings this year and three new bookings for 2023. Three baptisms took place.

Mum's and toddlers work going well, with the after school club developing too. Thanks to Amyjane Terry, Marion and Mike Symmons, Jan Webb and the many volunteers who are helping.

Friendship lunches have restarted and being well supported.

May I thank all who contribute to the life of the churches. So many jobs are completed diligently and sometimes not seen by others. This all makes for smoothly run churches, kept in excellent condition and looking splendid for all our celebrations and services. Thank you.

2. Parish Churches

2.1 Upper Sapey

In 2022 activities have now got back to normal despite the on going concerns over Covid.

We held a successful Bring and Buy plant sale on 7 th May coffee morning and raised £95. This year, rather than having a Summer Fête, we called it a Garden Party and put all the gazebos and marquees together to create a large covered space, as the weather was uncertain. This worked well as those having tea could watch those on the various stalls. Although numbers were a little disappointing we still took £330. We must allow more time, next time, to put up the rather complicated marquee.

We held a Carols round the tree event in December with a couple of stalls, rather than a Christmas Fair, starting with mulled wine and mince pies and ending with tea and cake. The following week at 3pm we had a full Carol service of 9 lessons and Carols, not only did we have a group of hand bell ringers organised by Maureen Williams, making a lovely start to the service but we also had the Whitbourne choir who made a great contribution to the singing. It was lovely to have the organ played at this event rather than the usual recorded music at services. This was followed by tea and cakes.

We have held regular Holy Communion services once a month, but we are lucky if we get more than 10 people at them, as well as the regular festivals.

We have had two special services one of which was a wedding, the first in many years!

Film-nights in Olly's Friendship Room have continued with John Bland doing the publicity and setting it up. The films chosen by Jan Webb have been thought provoking and enjoyable but the attendance is generally poor and the financial viability will have to be considered next September when the licence is up for renewal, as it is currently running at a loss.

The churchyard has continued to be kept in a tidy condition by Andrew and Chris and it is much appreciated and commented on.

Chris Amphlett and Val Burness do a great job in keeping the church clean and tidy.

As well as those just mentioned we would like to thank all those who have helped in various capacities during the year.

However, there have been a number of changes of personnel who we would like to say a special thank you to for their services over many years.

Ian Evans-Fisher has retired as churchwarden after many years when he and his Carol kept the church going when it faced a very bleak future and certain closure when structural defects were found until the restoration took place in 2015 onwards. Ian has and continues to be a great source of help and support to me. Carol Wilde our longstanding and reliable Treasurer who has kept the Church accounts up to date and our thanks go to her for this valuable help .

John and Sylvia Bland who are now partly withdrawing from what they do in supporting our various churches and have done so much with publicity, CD production, flowers, Communion support and many other supporting roles.

John's role as Treasurer of Olly's Friendship Room in keeping meticulous records

of funds in and out and always reliable.

We would also like to thank all those, behind the scenes, that make things happen like Dawn Hyett and the supporting clergy and others.

We are very grateful to John Grove for stepping into the combined Treasurer's role of the Church and Olly's Friendship Room, which have now been combined into one bank account and to Mark Maddock for becoming churchwarden again and for his practical help too.

Churchyard boundaries with 2-4 Church Close – at long last real progress has been made and we are hopeful of a satisfactory outcome for all parties.

We have struggled over the years in establishing new activities for the Community as these are far better supported than are the regular church services, but generally this has proved difficult and poorly supported.

However, Mike and Marion Symmonds, who have recently moved into the area, and have considerable experience with working with children and young people and both have musical skills.

They have set up a 'Little Lambs' group for young children at Saltmarshe and District Village Hall who meet once a month.

They have already provided musical and activities for both children and adults at Upper Sapey and we look forward to the future working with them.

Thank you

The church generally is in fair condition but there are items that need attention and there will probably be more after the Quinquennial Inspection in March

2.2 Edvin Loach

APCM Report for St Mary's Church, Edvin Loach - Year 2022

Two Churchwardens were in place for the year, Lis Morris and Jeff Salt.

In general the year saw a continuation of the regular church service attendance of around 11 people which is good when put in context with the population of the hamlet of Edvin Loach.

Services continue to be held on the third Sunday of each month plus an extra service at Xmas eve.

A successful fund-raising harvest festival event was held in October.

A generous donation of £5000 was gratefully received from the estate of the late Mr Trigg to be used for the ongoing maintenance of the church fabric.

Work planned for completion/action during the year is shown below together with an update on current status:

Hoover to be purchased - completed.

Water tank located in the churchyard to be replaced - tank inspected and cleaned and found sound.

Notice board to be purchased and erected - completed, the notice board now stands proudly in the car park area next to the churchyard gate.

Garden work - it was intended to have the grass around the graves strimmed as it is not possible to use a lawn mower due to the unevenness of the land, however given the weather conditions it was not necessary.

Roof repairs - it was planned to have the missing roof tiles replaced and the small leak in the roof above the altar repaired. Not yet completed, delays have been forthcoming in trying to source the missing round fronted tiles (Rosemary Classic Club tiles) needed to keep the distinctive roof pattern. It has not been possible to source the round fronted tiles therefore it is proposed to relocate some of the round fronted tiles from the porch roof to the main roof and rearrange the porch roof tiles to maintain a distinctive pattern. This will not distract from the overall roofs cosmetic appeal. Costs for the roof repairs have been identified, £630, which is significantly less than anticipated as scaffolding will not be required. Date for the availability of the roofing contractor awaited.

Bell tower inspection and replacement of missing wooden louvres in the slatted windows outstanding, it is planned to have the bell tower inspected and cleaned particularly as there is a large amount of bird nest material visible and to possibly have the bell brought back into ringing order. A suitable company to complete has not yet been found.

Lightening rod inspection - completed and passed.

Vestry inspection for possible damp penetration - a visual check is made regularly by the church wardens and there is no current evidence of damp. The basement room is also looked at several times during the year to check for any damp rising into the vestry.

Quinquennial inspection - was due to be completed but is delayed as it is preferred to have the roof repairs completed first, also the preferred contractor, Alex Coppock, declined the invitation to complete the inspection and has now been removed from the approved contractor list maintained by the DCC. Liaison is ongoing with the DCC to ascertain an alternative approved contractor so the inspection can be completed in 2023 earliest.

Daffodil planting - outstanding, it was planned to plant a significant number of daffodils in the churchyard, this will now be actioned in 2023 at the appropriate time of year.

In general the churchyard is kept tidy and litter free and standing headstones are checked for wobble.

2.3 Whitbourne

After many months of delay and disappointment it has been a real pleasure to return to larger services and events that were 'on hold' during 2020-2021. Whitbourne's village fete was held in the church grounds, on a rare rainy afternoon which did not seem to dampen the turnout or the pleasure of friends and neighbours chatting and catching up with each other after a 2 year absence.

Work to repoint the external wall of the North Aisle, after gutter clearing, was completed along with the fortnightly mowing programme of both churchyards. The DCC continue to

receive a grant from Whitbourne Parish Council towards the mowing costs and maintenance of the tower clock. This grant is greatly appreciated. The large amount of Christmas wreaths, spring bulbs and fresh summer posies that are placed on graves demonstrate how often families visit throughout the year.

The floral decorations in the church during Advent and post-Christmas drew many to pop in and admire, as well as providing a fine background for Christmas services.

All the annual inspections for 2022 have been completed satisfactorily. As one of the few churches in this part of the country to install heated pew seating we continue to receive requests from other churches to view the product and to talk through the costs. The church bells have been rung, by visiting teams, for the national events of this last year.

Many thanks go to the 30 or so people who contribute on a rota basis to the housekeeping, clock winding, floral arrangements, rose bed displays, zoom facilities, weekly notice sheets and refreshments on a Sunday. The choir, led by Christopher Allsop through the year, have grown in numbers and make a huge contribution at the Sunday service.

We now look forward to the independent Quinquennial inspection of our church and its facilities which will be undertaken later this year.

2.4 *Tedstone Delamere*

Financial

St James church was closed for all 2022, because following the outbreak of dry rot in June 2021 much of the affected floor had been removed and re-instatement work had not physically commenced. This meant that revenues from collections were missing from our income and so the amount of contribution to the common purse was not attained at the same levels in prior years.

As far the repair work is concerned, the funding is all in place as a result of the commitment of grants from the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust (£8,000) and the National Churches Trust (£5,000), and the support of local donations, for all of which we are most grateful.

Building and Churchyard

Following an on-site meeting with the DAC and one of their advisory consultant architects in February we agreed the way forward and the Architect's Specification was issued in April.

The Faculty was granted in the autumn and many building contractors were approached but none could commit to any work before Spring 2023 at the earliest. We are most grateful that Mr and Mrs Andrew Jones have made available their builder to do the work during this year in stages.

Also work on the churchyard was well supported by working parties and other local resources.

Missing roof tiles were replaced and the statutory inspection of fire extinguishers completed.

The Quinquennial due in April 2022 has been postponed until the dry rot repairs have been completed. The DAC has approved the appointment of James Phillips, Apec

Architects Ltd, to carry out this. Similarly the electrical testing of appliances been delayed until the repair work has been done.

Several fundraising events, which were well supported, were held and we are most grateful for Mr and Mrs Lorren Wyatt hosting a carols' event at their house on Christmas Eve.

3. Financial Report 2022

The 2022 Consolidated Accounts for the whole parish are attached.

Though still affected by the Covid restrictions, 2022 has overall been a good year financially in the parish. Taking the four churches + the Common Purse together, 'normal' income exceeded expenditure by £730. Individually, some were a bit in cash surplus and some in cash deficit. This was turned into a really positive result by the receipt of a generous £5,000 legacy at Edvin Loach from the estate of the late Trevor Trigg.

Back in 2021 we agreed to promise the Diocese £23,000 in Parish Share during 2022, and that we would review this level of payment towards the end of the year in the hope that it would be possible to send more. In the event we were able to send £24,250, with Whitbourne and the Common Purse adding £500 each, and an extra £250 from a donor in Tedstone Delamere.

For 2023 we are taking a similar approach to our Parish Offer, and have promised £24,000, with a review due in December.

Whitbourne, Tedstone Delamere and Upper Sapey all have quinquennial inspections due this year, which will help show how much maintenance expenditure is needed.

With warmest thanks to each one whose generous contributions, in cash and in time, have enabled us to keep moving forwards and have made possible all the activity recorded in the other parts of this annual report.

Chris Evans, PCC Treasurer.

4. Safeguarding

During the past year there have been a number of changes in the way DBS applications are processed and verified, with most now being done online. Basic and Foundation level training is also mainly conducted online, although face-to-face training sessions are available to any who do not use a computer.

It has taken most of the year to understand and implement these administrative changes

whilst continuing to ensure that ‘actual’ safeguarding remains a key priority in our involvement and interaction with the church and village communities.

I am grateful to the Diocesan Safeguarding team in Hereford for their support and encouragement, and also to the PCC, ministry team and congregations for their patience as I have negotiated this steep learning curve!

5. Members of the PCC

The Rev Dawn Hyett

Churchwardens

Jeff Salt	Edvin Loach
Lis Morris	Edvin Loach
Kathleen Harris	Tedstone Delamere
William North	Tedstone Delamere
Anne Evans	Whitbourne
Clive Pickering	Whitbourne
David Roberts	Upper Sapey
Ian Evans-Fisher	Upper Sapey

Marion Symmons

Mike Symmons

Elected members

Chris Evans	Finance
Jerry Cummins	
Louisa Wyatt	PCC Secretary
Red Jan Webb	

6. Members of the LMDG

Revd Dawn Hyett

Chris Evans

Anne Evans

Revd Jan Webb

Revd Andrew Bullock

Alexandra Bullock

William North

Clive Pickering

Louisa Wyatt

7. Appendix 1

[Consolidated accounts 2022](#), and [Balances 2022](#) - please see attached.