

**West Dartmoor Mission Community**  
**Annual Report for Year Ending 31st December 2024**

**St John the Baptist, Horrabridge**

**St Peter's, Meavy**

**St Mary's, Sampford Spiney**

**St Leonard's, Sheepstor**

**St Mary the Virgin, Walkhampton**

**St Paul's, Yelverton**

**Legal and Administrative Information**

<b>Rector:</b>	Revd Andrew Thomas, The Rectory, Yelverton PL20 6AB Tel: 01822 854804 <a href="mailto:rectorwestdartmoor@gmail.com">rectorwestdartmoor@gmail.com</a>
<b>Associate Priest:</b>	Revd Miranda Donne (SSM) <a href="mailto:Revmirandadonne@gmail.com">Revmirandadonne@gmail.com</a>
<b>Curate (Training):</b>	Revd Dr Philippa Bellows, The Rectory, Tor View, Horrabridge PL20 7RE (left the MCC on the 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2024) Tel: 01822 859353 <a href="mailto:philippa.bellows@icloud.com">philippa.bellows@icloud.com</a>
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**The Purpose of Each Parochial Church Council in the Mission Community.**

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

The PCC (Powers) Act 1956 states that the PCC *'is to cooperate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'*

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2020.

## **Rector's Report**

For the fifth time, I come to the writing of my Annual Report as Rector with much to say of the work, life and prayer of our Mission Community and a reduced space in which to say it.

As the year has unfolded our parent and Toddler group, Poppins, continues to go from strength to strength, and our ministry to children and young people also continues to be supported by now regular Collective Worship in our church schools at Meavy, Walkhampton, and the county school at Horrabridge. Our Open the Book team have also been hard at work continuing to be a presence in our church schools, bringing the stories of the bible to life. Our Sunday family worship provision, Toast@10 continues to thrive at Horrabridge Church with a large cross-generational congregation.

Much of our pastoral visiting takes place unseen and unfussed, but many of our parishioners welcome the unbidden telephone call or knock on the door, especially when it's accompanied by the delivery of our superb parish magazine. Pastoral care continues to be at the heart of much of what we do here, and this has borne fruit in many ways, not least in the numbers of Baptisms, weddings and funerals we are asked to conduct. Caring for families at the milestone markers in life, being invited in to their lives is a great privilege, and we are grateful for the opportunity to care and love as Jesus taught us. Our pastoral care reaches out further in the great work that our Ministry Team has done in engaging and offering a pastoral presence in our local care homes for the elderly. This provision has been enhanced by the addition of a few members of our congregations joining the visiting team, these new members will also soon be undertaking training to administer Communion to those who wish it in our care home settings. In the climate of increased costs of living and fuel costs, the foodbank collection point at St Pauls, and Food Hub collection point at St John the Baptist's have been as busy as ever.

Much of the usual parish life has continued earnestly; the bell ringing, flower arranging, church cleaning, church locking and unlocking, making of music, and much more, all of which I'm extremely grateful for.

This year also saw us continuing to work on our five year mission action plan. The plan will always be a work in progress, but it is hoped that it will continue offer guidance and direction for what we would like to achieve here in the coming years. Much of it will include an element of prayer and worship, and so it's fitting for me to mention here that the worship continues to be offered in all

our churches on least 3 Sundays a month, and we come together as a wider community on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month when they occur.

The Ministry Team continues to thrive and I am so very grateful for their support, encouragement and prayer. 2024 has seen the Team working hard and well together across the Mission Community. 2024 also saw us say goodbye to Philippa and Scott, Philippa to become the Rector of the Brixham Team Ministry and Scott to begin his curacy in the Honiton Team Ministry. We continue to wish them well and hold them and their partners in our prayers. This past year the Team has been again able in addition to regular Sunday worship, offer Advent and Lent courses of study, with good attendance. The end of the year also saw the full timetable of All Souls, All Saints, Acts of Remembrance, Carol Services, Nativity Scenes, Christingles, and general extravagance.

The year ahead looks exciting and full. The building works on our churches at Walkhampton, Horrabidge, and Sheepstor will continue a pace, we hope the Champing <sup>TM</sup> bookings at Walkhampton will continue to flood in as they have in 2024, and that our worshipping communities will continue to thrive and grow. There is always so many to thank for their efforts, kindness and care, and so to everyone, Thank You! And thank you for your support, love and encouragement this past year to me, and I very much look forward to continuing to work and live alongside you all in 2025.

Love and Prayers, Andrew.

## **Safeguarding Report for the Mission Community**

Safeguarding as always is a priority in the Mission Community and each church displays safeguarding details together with useful telephone numbers on their notice boards, and on our web pages.

There are thirty-nine volunteers in the mission community who are in roles requiring some level of DBS disclosure. The vast majority are PCC trustees, and four are in the recently created roles of pastoral visitors. All except one person have current DBS disclosures at the appropriate level, and currently only six will require a new disclosure in the coming year. There is a robust system of recording DBS applications and outcomes, and a programme is in place to ensure renewals are applied for in good time.

All volunteers are required to have basic training. Currently all but two volunteers have this in place. Almost all volunteers also require foundation and domestic abuse training, and again all but two have this in place. Except for cases where it is the sole requirement the basic training module does not require updating, but other training modules have a three-year currency. There is a robust system in place to monitor training needs and outcomes. Renewals are flagged well in advance of the expiry deadline. Although most volunteers find the online provision of training appropriate we have plans to offer small group training for those who prefer, in the coming year.

The Mission Community as a whole has adopted the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and this is reviewed regularly throughout the year, with the three main questions relating to safeguarding itemised on the agenda at each MCC and PCC meeting, these being:-

Is there anyone we wish to appoint to a position who will need to be subject to our safer recruitment procedures and/or DBS checks?

Is there anyone or any situation that is causing us concern from a safeguarding point of view?

Are there any training needs for new members or others in the congregation or refresher training for existing appointees?

The Rev Andrew Thomas - Rector.

### **Open the Book Report (2024)**

Over the past year the Open the Book team have enjoyed sharing Bible stories with the pupils of Lady Modiford's School, Walkhampton and Meavy School every 3-4 weeks during term time.

The team have also visited Horrabridge School on three occasions, using stories linked to the School R.E. curriculum, with children of different ages. All schools have made us feel welcome.

The team have become more familiar with the new resources produced by the Bible Society which we started using in September 2023.

The team has been pleased to welcome two new members this year from across the Mission Community. If there are any more budding thespians in the Mission Community interested in finding out more do get in touch.

### **Toast@10 (2024)**

Our Mission Community Fresh Expressions Service, **Toast@10**, has continued to flourish through 2024. The monthly service at St John's Church, Horrabridge, is open to all from across the Mission Community and the welcome starts with toast, tea and coffee being served from 9.30 and our all-age service beginning at 10 am.

The Toast Team is made up of people from the different churches in our Mission Community, who are keen for the Gospel to be told in a fresh and challenging way. The team plan a service that is interactive and encourages everyone to be involved in a comfortable way. Children are encouraged to take an active part in the dramatic readings and intercessions. Following the reflection on the reading, it is great to see everyone, old and young, involved in the Active Worship activity. We are grateful to the Mission Community Council for its continued subscription to the resources provided by [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com) which have proved invaluable in the planning of these services. Also, a huge thank you to David Crocker for his enthusiastic contribution to the music. Sadly, the team said goodbye to Philippa and Scott who had both contributed to the planning and delivery of the services throughout the year. They have moved on to new pastures and hopefully have taken a little bit of “Toast” with them.

### **Poppins (Mother and Toddler Group) Report 2024**

This group meets every Wednesday morning from 9.15-10.45 during term time in St Paul’s church hall and is thriving. A great team of 15 volunteers makes this possible. Each week a variety of play equipment is available for the children along with a craft activity, singing and story time, plus refreshments. Parents, carers and their children can meet socially in a safe and relaxed environment. The group is free for all to attend. Donations are often made.

During the year, nature trails around the church grounds have taken place – the children were particularly intrigued by the diggers when SWW were clearing the leat and watching the tree surgeons at work. The group has come into church for celebrations of Christmas, Easter and harvest and to place displays by the Childrens’ altar. A Poppins display with the theme of love was also shown at the Horrabridge Nativity Festival.

We were gifted a parachute which is a great addition for use at the end of some sessions.

### **Deanery Synod Report March 2025**

There have been three meetings, in June and October 2024, and February 2025.

These always start with a short act of worship, offered in turn by a member of the clergy or a lay parish representative.

June 2024. David Runcorn spoke on the theme “Endings, Beginnings and the space between”

October 2024. Sarah Charker, Creation Care Engagement Officer, spoke on “Creation and Environmental Care.

February 2025. The Synod trialled meeting on a Saturday, which was agreed to be a good idea in winter months. We engaged in two activities: Dwelling in the Word led by the Rural Dean and an Opening activity which encouraged us to take to all other members of the synod. Both were well received.

Every meeting has a business section when information from the General Synod, Diocesan Synod and from the Rural Dean is shared and there is also usually space for sharing of ideas and problems. Every meeting has a refreshment break provided in turn by different mission communities or benefices which gives more time for meeting each other from the different parishes.

Rev'd Andrew Thomas was appointed as Rural Dean in September following the previous Rural Dean's move to Cornwall.

# West Dartmoor Mission Community

## Receipts and Payment accounts for the year to 31st December 2024

Receipts		2023	£	2024	£	Payments		2023	2024
		£		£				£	£
Parish Payments						Clergy Expenses		2329	2,242
Yelverton		1,786		0		Church Office		2,329	2,242
Meavy		1,256		0		Secretarial		963	989
Horrabridge		630		0		Other Costs		0	37
Walkhampton		461		0		Clergy Courses		505	381
Sampford Spiney		450	5,033	0	0	Printing		307	395
Sheepstor		450		0		Services		307	395
Donations						TOAST		475	960
Regular Giving		540		540		Wafers		96	31
Major Donation				4,800		Music		127	133
Other Donations		50	725	20	6,681	Books and Service Printing		451	344
Gift Aid Tax Recovered		135		1,321		Mission			
Service Collections			86			Poppins		630	1,057
TOAST		86		237	237	Open the Book		237	216
Fees Account						Giving		650	
Fees		16	54	87	87				
Easy Fund Raising		38		0					
Mission Projects									
Harvest		650		111					
Carol Service		914		867					
Lent			1,638	260	1,311				
Christingle		74	40	73	373				
Miscellaneous Income		40		372					
			7,576		8,689				
Total Receipts									
						Total		7,690	9,397
						Surplus of Receipts over Payments		-114	-708
						Balance brought forward from prior year		9,333	9,219
						Balance Carried forward to following year		9,219	8,511
						Cash at HSBC Bank		9,219	8,511

## NOTES

- 1 The budget plan to rely entirely for funding on the hoped for repeat of the regular large donation worked very well.
- 2 This donation was £4,800 and together with Gift Aid recovery of £1,200 generated a total of £6,000 covered most of the expenses.
- 3 As usual the results are distorted by some Mission Giving payments being delayed until the following year

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18th January 2025