

The Parish of Car Colston and Screveton PCC

St Mary's Church, Car Colston and St Wilfrid's Church, Screveton

Patron : The Prayer Book Society

Part of the Fosse Group Benefice in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham



Annual Parish Report and Accounts

31 December 2024

14 May 2025

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Annual Parish Report 31 December 2024

Parochial Church Council members as at 31 December 2024:

| | |
|--|--|
| The Rector: | Revd Ruth Colby - retired 30 April 2025 |
| Church Wardens: | Mrs GM Bignall, St Mary's (<i>Ex Officio PCC member</i>) Mrs M Beeby, St Wilfrid's (<i>Ex Officio PCC member</i>) |
| PCC Secretary: | Mr NL Crockford |
| PCC Treasurer: | Mr CP Bignall |
| Elected Members: | Mrs Gemma Bignall* [@] , Mr J Bignall*, Mr HS Blagg, Mr NL Crockford Mrs RM Crockford, Mr Matthew Beeby (resigned 18 April 2025) |
| Co-opted: | Mrs E Bonser* |
| Parish Safeguarding Officer: | Mrs M Beeby |
| Deanery Synod Representative: | Mr CP Bignall (<i>Ex Officio PCC member</i>) |
| Electoral Roll Officer: | Mrs RM Crockford |
| <i>*Non-resident of the Parish @ Lay Vice-Chair</i> | |

This report summarises the activities of the PCC for the year and, together with the Churchwardens' reports, covers significant matters relating to the Fabric of both churches.

Services and day-to-day activities, including cross Benefice initiatives of outreach and mission, are summarised in the Churchwardens' reports, some of which are featured on our St Mary's and St Wilfrid's Instagram account.

Safeguarding: The PCC complies with section 5a of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 including adoption of the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy "Promoting a Safer Church". Members of the PCC and others with responsibility for young people or vulnerable adults, comply with regular mandatory safeguarding training as set by the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.

The House of Bishops' Policy has been adopted as the PCC's Safeguarding Policy. Matters relating to safeguarding including training are covered in the Parish Safeguarding Officer's report.

Finance: The accounts show total balances for the Parish at 31 December as follows:

| | | 2024 | 2023 |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Fabric accounts (Restricted) | St Mary's | 79,789 | 94,443 |
| | St Wilfrid's | 14,163 | 15,181 |
| General accounts (Unrestricted) | St Mary's | 10,680 | 6,615 |
| | St Wilfrid's | 5,562 | 2,393 |
| Joint | | <u>1,801</u> | <u>2,687</u> |
| TOTAL FUNDS | | <u>£111,995</u> | <u>£121,319</u> |

The Fabric accounts are restricted funds ring-fenced for the fabric of the respective churches.

The General accounts, which cover day-to-day activities, showed a combined surplus for the year which was a welcome improvement on the deficit in 2023. The Parish paid its parish share in full to Southwell Diocese, totalling £9381 (2023 £8880).

Giving Campaign: We ran a successful giving campaign in Screveton, similar to that completed in Car Colston in 2019; we were pleased to increase the number of donors to 22 and increase annual giving (excluding Gift Aid) by £4000. Significantly, we have achieved our objective of both churches being able to meet their Parish Share from annual giving.

Fundraising social events: we continued our monthly Parish Lunches and held a Summer Party in July and a Wine Tasting in St Mary's Church in November. In total we reached out to over 100 people and raised some £4000, a similar level to the previous year.

The St Mary's Tower Refurbishment Project: The St Mary's refurbishment was completed during the year, except for the restoration of the west window, which was done in February 2025. The architectural finds, including a bead and a coin, have been returned to church, and are available for viewing from time to time.

Electrically controlled shuttering was installed in the south and west sides of the tower to reduce the sound during weekly practice ringing; this has been appreciated by our neighbours, particularly on Church Lane.

The total cost of the project was in line with the budget at £160,000, plus £9270 for the sound reduction shuttering.

The Dedication Service on 28 January 2024 was a fitting celebration of the project attended by over 120 people; it was led by the Right Reverend Paul Williams, Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham, and attended by Sir John Peace, the Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, and by Bradley Smith, Chairman of the Prayer Book Society, our Patron.

We were honoured by HM King Charles III who conveyed his "warmest congratulations" to everyone involved. A copy of the letter from Buckingham Palace has been hung in church.

Other Fabric matters: The Quinquennial Inspection was carried out at St Mary's and identified the need for relatively minor repairs, and the repairs to St Wilfrid's were completed in the year. We continued to explore alternatives for an audio system at St Mary's which we plan to install in 2025.

Eco Church: We were pleased to achieve a Silver Eco Church award at St Mary's and we have made progress towards the same award for St Wilfrid's.

Our churchyards: St Mary's churchyard is cut regularly by volunteers and we are building a similar team for St Wilfrid's. Both churchyards have wilder areas to encourage birdlife, plants and insects, and have Bug Churches.

St Mary's Bellringing: Our Tower Captain, Susan Radford, leads our bellringers' team who are supplemented by ringers from neighbouring churches as required. Weekly practices are well attended and lively with a much appreciated supply of coffee and refreshments.

The Parochial Church Council met five times on 16 March; 24 April; 1 June; 14 August and 19 October.

Matters discussed by the PCC: discussions related to mission and families, safeguarding, church and churchyard maintenance, our eco-church agenda, insurance, risk analysis, the St Mary's Tower and Bells Project, improving facilities at St Wilfrid's and our giving campaign in Screveton.

Vision: our Mission Action Plan is to seek to attract more and younger people to be involved with St Mary's and St Wilfrid's to help to support and stimulate community spirit and fellowship for the people of Car Colston and Screveton. Since July we have participated in the Fosse Group Benefice "Growing Disciples" Steering Group which is working on a new plan for mission applying the Diocesan Vision 2030.

Subsequent Event

Farewell to Revd Ruth: with much sadness we learnt in February of Revd Ruth's decision to retire on 30 April. We thank Rector Ruth for her warmth, caring, guidance, and leadership during the five and half years she presided over our two churches, and the whole of the Fosse Group Benefice. We will miss her very much and wish her every happiness in her retirement.