

ANNUAL REPORT FOR MADRON PARISH 2022



The Staff Team

The Rev Peter Butterfield
 The Rev Jo Thomas
 Rev Howard Peskett
 Rev Ian Lovell

Reader.

Kay Short

Honorary Auditor of accounts

Marie Jackman

Deanery Synod members

Chris Burlton, Kay Short & Andy Freeman

Choir

Bridgit England

Magazine

Rona Freeman

Sacristan.

Sharon Jones

The PCC

Caroline Somers (Churchwarden)
 Vacancy (Churchwarden)
 Terry Jackson (Treasurer and Tower Captain)
 Andy Freeman (secretary)
 Jennifer Eddy
 Bridgit England (Organist)
 Peggy Harvey (St Thomas)
 Sheilagh Jelbert
 Dorcas Jelliss
 Theresa Pritchard
 Liz Woodworth (St Thomas)
 Kay Short

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FINANCE 2022

Total Income	£57889
Including:	
Planned Giving	£20131
Collections	£4398
Gift aid tax refund	£6418
Fund raising	£2556
Miscellaneous	£5739

Balances at 31/12/22

Current a/c	£23495.91
Restoration (Madron)	£11293.58
Restoration (St Thomas')	£6008.86

Total Expenditure

Total Expenditure	£39300
Including	
MMF	£8146
Running costs	£5707
Utilities	£6062
Insurance	£5555

The 2022 MMF total of £8146 was paid in full (this was a reduced total as the parish was in interregnum throughout 2022)

Thanks, should be given to everyone for their generous contributions whether it was from planned giving or one-off donations or legacies.

There were very good fund-raising efforts at both Madron & St Thomas'.

Huge thanks must go to Terry Jackson our Treasurer for managing our funds so well and to Marie Jackman our Honorary Auditor.

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

For some people it is a building; sometimes it has been standing there for hundreds of years. For some it is a place where they go occasionally - for baptisms, for weddings, for funerals, to remember Trafalgar, to think about the Queen's long reign and death. For some pilgrims the church is a quiet place, a "thin" place where it is easier to think about God, to feel his presence. For some people the churchyard is a place they go to to remember someone they loved; for others it is a place where they walk the dog. There are some expensive monuments; and some tiny memorial tablets. For some the church is about music, or bells ringing or tolling, or the place to go when a tragedy takes place. For some the church is about old people and old language and immemorial customs. There are ruins of churches and monasteries scattered around our countryside. But in many parts of the world young people are flooding into the church. There are many churches which are not in "church" buildings - church is where people meet each other and meet God. Christians believe that the church has never lost a member through death - there is the church militant here in earth and the church triumphant in heaven. Church is what HAPPENS when people meet God. Everything which follows in this report is a description of how we want that "happening" to happen to more people, in more places, and of all age groups.

Madron Parish in 2022

In **January** the work to install a flushing toilet into the church was completed. The project had gone over budget because an archaeologist had to be called in when a grave was uncovered on the route of the drainage trench. It was hoped that the cost of this would be offset by claiming back the VAT for the work. Services were conducted under ongoing covid 19 rules where it was suggested that masks should be worn until seated. A Deanery Synod meeting voted on the deanery plan produced from the "On the Way" process. See details later in this report under Deanery Synod. In **February** a joint meeting of Madron & Gulval PCCs was called to discuss the deanery plan again more detail under Deanery Synod. Ash Wednesday services were held in both churches at we entered Lent. A full programme of services was held during **March** including a St Piran's service on the 6th the Lord's prayer was said in Cornish and English and St Piran's flag flew from the tower. Mothering Sunday was celebrated towards the end of the month. The month of **April** commenced on Palm Sunday with something different! Ian led the service and instead of a sermon we were all involved in "The passion of the Gospel" narrated (by Randal). It was a drama with the congregation playing parts including a vociferous crowd! On a more reflective note, Howard led a most thought-provoking series of meditations from Isaiah during holy week culminating in a communion service on Maundy Thursday when the altar was "stripped" in preparation for Good Friday. Easter communion was celebrated with taking of the elements of both kinds. The choir sang the anthem "I know my Redeemer Lives" in a beautifully decorated church. The parish AGM was held following the morning service in Madron on the 24th April. Ann Jenkin stepped down as Lay Chair, Safeguarding Officer and as a PCC member. Chris Burlton and Sue Rowley did not seek re-election.

Kate Gottschling was elected to the PCC. Dorcas Jelliss was elected to be Lay Chair at the PCC meeting on the 18th **May**. There remained vacancies for Safeguarding and Health & Safety officers. The Countryside was celebrated at a service during the month. A successful Organ "drop-in day" was held with guest organists playing throughout the morning raising over £400. The Queen's platinum jubilee was celebrated during **June** with an exhibition in Madron Church celebrating the decades of the Queen's reign. Many local organisations participated with displays depicting the decades. The school sang songs from the Queen's seventy years on the throne, which was very well received. Later in the month as part of the Archbishop of Canterbury's visit to Truro diocese one of his "evangelists" attended and preached to what was hoped was going to be a outdoor Picnic and Praise service on the school field but, sadly, due to the weather the service had to be in the church but there was a lively service with music from young musicians and a good feeling of fellowship.

1st **July** was Sea Sunday and we were joined by the Penzance Sea Cadets who were celebrating their 80th birthday and with whom we have strong links through Peter Butterfield and Mike Hersant. Church Watch commenced this month and the PCC is grateful to the volunteers who "manned" the Church during the summer months and welcomed visitors to Madron Church, many of whom were from overseas. The fete was held and raised around £1000.

August was a quiet holiday month but with the usual pattern of services maintained including the popular Songs of Praise when we had the chance to sing our favourite hymns. The death of Queen Elizabeth II early in **September** led to a period of public mourning which was observed by the church and included ringing "muffled bells" and having books of condolence in both churches. A service of reflection and thanksgiving was held on the 15th in which uniformed organisations took part. The Lady Mary St Levan a deputy lieutenant for Cornwall attended, and read a lesson. The Harvest festival and supper was held during the month. Bishop Hugh was the preacher for the Trafalgar service in **October** at which the sailors from RNAS Culdrose paraded through the village to church following their band. 5th **November** saw the bells being rung to coincide with the start of COP 27. Our MP Derek Thomas joined us for this important support for the climate change conference in Egypt. Remembrance services were held at the memorial gardens and in church, both being well attended. Madron Feast service was held on Advent Sunday. The service was led by Ian and the preacher was the Rev'd Harry Burlton. Many of the congregation plus some children from the school walked through the village to the church singing the feasting song accompanied by violin and drum under the banner of St Maddern.

The Quinquennial inspection took place during the month and we await the report.

The busy month of **December** included the carol concerts at Madron and Heamoor. Madron Daniel and Mounts Bay Academy used the church for their carol concerts. Christmas services were well attended.

The PCC would like to thank Jo, Peter, Howard, Ian, and Kay for maintaining the life of the Church with weddings (sadly only one in 2022), funerals and baptisms and leading our services in what was a full year in interregnum. They maintained our usual pattern of services plus also finding the time to lead bible studies and lead the Families@4 sessions at St Thomas' and so much more, however, if we continue in interregnum for much longer there will be a need for more lay involvement in services and pastoral work. The 6.00pm evening service at Madron is lay led on most Sundays and this is an example of what we should aspire to.

St Thomas' in 2022. A year of consolidation for St Thomas following the effects of covid where there had been a reticence amongst some to return to church. The numbers for most services was around 7 or 8 but would be into double figures for such services as Harvest or Christmas.

St Thomas was used for the Families@4 service held once a month for children and young families.

There were several plumbing issues that required attention in the church and the kitchen area, these were completed by the autumn. The gates were taken away to be shot blasted and professionally painted and will be re-hung once the external repair and re-decoration is completed. The PCC agreed to have the external decoration carried out unfortunately, it wasn't possible for this work to be undertaken in 2022 and the work is now scheduled for April 2023.

The rooms at St Thomas' continue to be used by various groups during the week.

Deanery Synod/On the way/Recruitment of new Incumbent.

At the end of 2021 a vote on the three options from the "On the way" process was postponed until the Deanery Synod on the 15th January 2022 Deanery Synod. At this meeting option 1, which had not received the most parish votes but had been put back on the table at the Deanery synod in December 2021, now received the most votes (36 votes) with option 2 (20 votes) and option 3 (15 votes). Therefore option 1 which had an east/west split proposed for the deanery would be sent to the episcopal college for their approval. Despite option 1 being chosen following the bishops questions a joint meeting of Madron and Gulval PCCs agreed that the way forward would be a grouping with Zennor and Towednack. In effect option 2 within option 1. The leadership team then attempted to come up with a Deanery plan which transpired to be a difficult and sometimes traumatic experience. There was to be Deanery Synod on 14th June subsequently postponed until July when Archdeacon Paul attempted to explain the latest situation with the plan. One of the first steps would be to recruit a Rural Dean 0.5 position and a Priest for Madron / Gulval 0.5 position. (There was some unease from Zennor and Towednack that they were not involved in the recruitment.) In the meantime, urged on by Howard, the PCC started preparing for the future this would include generating a parish profile for the recruitment of an incumbent for Madron and Gulval. Many people were involved in producing these documents whether in one of the ideas sessions or putting down in print what we want for our churches. This work continued during the summer and in August the diocese

appointed a transitions advisor to help “refine “the work already carried out on the parish profile with a view to combining it with the Rural Dean position to create an advertisement to be placed in the Church Times and online. Following several meetings with the advisor the profile was finished and approved by the PCC.

The advert was to be put in the Church Times during October with a closing date in mid-November. There was some interest in the post but no firm application. Therefore, it was decided to readvertise the posts in early January 2023. There was great disappointment at this news as it would mean at least another six months without an incumbent. In the meantime, the Deanery Synod were forming an implementation team to oversee the implementation of the whole plan.

Electoral Roll

The number on the electoral roll for Madron Parish at 31st January 2022 was **86**, (88 at 31/12/21).

Safeguarding

Safeguarding continues to be a priority for the PCC and is on the agenda for every PCC meeting.

Our long-time safeguarding co-ordinator, Ann Jenkin, stepped down at the AGM in April and although the post was filled by the summer, we ended the year with the post again vacant. We hope to fill this important vacancy early in the new year but in the meantime, safeguarding is the responsibility of the Churchwarden, other officers, and the PCC.

The ethos of our Churches remains “To ensure that children and young people as well as adults are kept safe whilst in our care, and this is an integral part of our Church life”.

Health & Safety

Early in 2022 there were still covid restrictions in place and the PCC followed these and as the year progressed they became advisory rather than mandatory. Sue Rowley stepped down as Health and Safety officer at the AGM and as at the year-end there was no replacement. It, therefore, falls to the entire PCC to be aware of any safety issues in the churches or their surrounds. A reporting process was put in place. There were no Health and Safety issues reported in 2022.

From the Belfry.

This year we have rung the bells on more special occasions than usual – especially for the Queen’s Jubilee Celebration, and later in the year to mark her funeral – as well as Remembrance Sunday and also in support of the Climate Change Summit, COP27 which took place in Egypt in November.

Madron Tower suffers a lot because of the inclement weather and there are buckets and containers placed in strategic places in the higher levels within the tower in an effort to limit the flow of water down the inside of the tower walls. Dorcas and Sue have been responsible for emptying these buckets and containers every week for a very long time and have stepped back from doing this.

At Chris’ suggestion this task should now be carried out on Monday evenings at the end of practise evening when the bells are down and there more people to help. We are all very grateful to Dorcas and Sue for the good job they’ve done for so long.

Prior to Christmas a piece of wood from the Ringing Chamber ceiling was found the was found on the floor. Further investigation has shown that there is a problem with rot and we await more details from the architects as to what exactly is needed to rectify the situation and it’s likely to be an expensive repair. Currently we are only ringing 6 bells and there will be no Tower Trips during the Fete or until works completed.

The Thrifty Club has done well over the year raising over £200 for tower funds and some of the money has paid for the Christmas tree and food at Fete lunches. A big thank you to everyone who has supported us in this way. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact Theresa or any member of the Ringers.

It has been confirmed that we will be ringing for a wedding in August and perhaps another in July.

Last but not least, we have a new member of the team, Ashley, who is learning the ropes and doing very well.

Theresa Pritchard

Kernow Green Churches

Over the last year, we have begun our journey to Net Zero 2030 and making our church more environmentally sustainable by working towards achieving a Kernow Green Church Award. It is about ‘encouraging first steps and lasting steps to engagement in Creation Care’.

The initial survey has been done and we have scored well in many areas. Working towards the bronze award, a carbon footprint for the church has been done for 2021, some environmentally friendly cleaning products and recycled paper toilet rolls are now being used, more bulbs have been planted in the churchyard, and practical lifestyle tips and advice on caring for God's earth have been displayed.

Last year, we had a 'Ring for Climate' event with bell-ringing, songs, and prayers. Recently, we have participated in the 'Show the Love' campaign to encourage the government to take faster action on climate change, and looked at the range of Fairtrade goods now on offer. The aim of all of this is to 'take steps to Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon and; Speak up.'

Bridgit England

Madron Church Extended Choir.

Since Robert Croft gave up the reigns last year, the choir has continued in a slightly reduced form but still makes a very good sound. Last year, we sang two joyful songs for Harvest. For the October Mattins service, the choir sang an anthem I wrote based on a psalm called 'Rejoice'. For Remembrance Sunday, words were found at the National Memorial Arboretum written by 11yr old Jodie Johnson. I was given permission to use these words and I then composed the music to the song called 'Who are these men?'. This was sung beautifully by the choir and many people commented on how moving they found it.

The carol services at Madron and St. Thomas' gave us a chance to sing a range of songs both old and new and, in a change of date to the normal Friday evening, we were able to sing to a joint service at St Thomas'. Despite many illnesses, (and loss of voice on my part!) the choir enhanced the Christmas services as always.

More choir members are always needed so please let me know if you are interested in joining our happy band. We rehearse as needed so we practice in the run up to any occasion.

Bridgit England.

Any further information on any of these reports may be obtained from Andy Freeman on 01736 333786 or andyfreeman313@gmail.com