

ANNUAL REPORT FOR GULVAL PARISH 2023



The Ministry Team

Rev Peter Butterfield
 Rev Jo Thomas
 Rev Howard Peskett
 Rev Ian Lowell
 Reader Kay Short

Honorary Auditor of accounts

Marcus Wilkinson

Deanery Synod members

Christina De Vries

Tower Captain – Jane Hitchens

Organist – John Philpotts

The PCC

Jan De Vries (Churchwarden)
 Vacancy (Churchwarden)
 Kay Short (Lay Chair)
 Phil Peters (Treasurer)
 Rhoda Holt (Secretary)
 Christina De Vries (Safeguarding Officer)
 Marj Jenkin (Electoral Roll Officer)
 Suzanne Melio
 Linda Williams
 Vacancy x3

FINANCE 2023

Total Income	£16,393.10	Total Expenditure	£19,678.53
Including:		Including:	
Planned Giving	£3,710	MMF	£6,000
Collections	£3,559	Running costs	£ 313
Donations	£2,855	Utilities	£3,062
Fund raising	£1,641	Insurance	£3,913
Fees	£4,307	Maintenance	£5,213

Balances at 31/12/23

Current a/c	£16,098.13
Deposit a/c	£14,449.11

The 2023 MMF total of £9,290 was paid in part (this was a reduced call as the parish was in interregnum throughout 2023)

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

Huge thanks must go to Phil Peters our Treasurer for managing our funds so well and to Marcus Wilkinson our Honorary Auditor.

DOING WHAT WE CAN

Who can forget the picture of the old gardeners' room before the Gardens of Heligan were discovered and restored? Thirteen gardeners went off to World War 1 and only four came back. One of the mottos of Heligan is "The best of the old and the best of the new." But everybody knows that gardening is hard work!

I was encouraged by the words of a woman on the TV programme *Songs of Praise* who described how she had started a café in York for hard-to-employ young people. "We just do what we can with what we've got," she said. Did you see the film *One Life* about Nicholas Winton (the *Kindertransport* man) who rescued 669 children from the Nazis in Czechoslovakia? He was plagued by memories of those he could NOT save - but "he did what he could" and the 600+ he saved had turned into 6000+ by the time of his *This is your Life* programme. JRR Tolkien wrote, in *Lord of the Rings*, For the fate of Lothlorien you are not answerable, but only for the doing of your own task. "I translate this sentence into my own words as, "It is amazing what we can do when we stop trying to do everything! I remember Bishop Bill Ind proposing to us, "Choose one thing you can do and do it well!"

The story of the growth of the early church in the Roman Empire is amazing and unusual. There were many disincentives to becoming a Christian and regular, sometimes ferocious, persecutions. There were very few church buildings; the Christians did not study evangelism or apologetics. The eucharist and Christian worship were barred to outsiders. "We do not preach great things; WE LIVE THEM!" said the North African bishop Cyprian. There were not many famous Christians in the early centuries; most Christians were people of no account; many were slaves. 40% of the people who go to Anglican churches these days, go to rural churches like ours and they tend to be older persons (the wave of the future!). The most important thing we can do is "walk the talk, live the life"; to DO WHAT WE CAN, to live lives in which Jesus Christ becomes visible. We pray for God to help us.

Revd Howard Peskett

Gulval Parish in 2023

January 2023 saw the second full year of interregnum for the parish. Rev'd Jo Thomas was re-licensed by Archdeacon Paul Bryer during a communion service and became an Associate Minister in the benefice. In **February**. Following the disappointment of having no applicants for the vacancy the Archdeacon was pressed to ascertain the next steps he said that the Deanery Implementation Team would consider the next move but that it may be the next Deanery Synod in April before the way forward was clear. Kay led a healing service and Jan led his first service of the year as Churchwarden, and gave a talk on his time at sea.

March included a St Piran's service, and Mothering Sunday when flowers were distributed.

The month of **April** saw Palm Sunday celebrated and on Maundy Thursday Kay led us in a service of hand (rather than foot!) washing and Communion by Extension, which was followed by stripping the altar in preparation for Good Friday. Peter led us in a joyous celebration on Easter Day, which included the baptism of Wynne, who was dressed in a christening gown that had been worn by several generations. We held our Annual Parochial Church Meeting – the AGM – on 18th April followed by cheese and wine. Jan De Vries was re-elected as Churchwarden, Marj Jenkin and Suzanne Melio were re-elected to the PCC for a 3-year term, and Christina De Vries was re-elected as Deanery Synod rep for a 3 year period. 2 vacancies remained unfilled and we accepted the resignation of Ivor Phillips who had served on the PCC for many years.

In **May** we celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla in a joint benefice service at Madron. The service was led by Peter Butterfield and Jo Thomas preached. A combined choir from both churches led by Bridgit sang an anthem composed by Bridgit based on Psalm 21. Prayers for King Charles III were said by children from Madron Daniel school. In **June** we celebrated the Feast of St Gudval after whom the church is dedicated and Jo provided a lovely service for Sea Sunday in **July**. We held a Summer Fayre in the church – it was planned for the churchyard but the weather wasn't favourable! **August** saw a marathon of singing in our Songs of Praise service which included a wide variety of our favourite hymns, each introduced with facts about or the story behind the hymn which the congregation found very interesting.

Harvest was celebrated in **September** with the Harvest Lunch held at the village hall and Ian led a service of healing with communion. Some dead trees in the churchyard were removed.

In **October**, Rev Jo was ordained to the Priesthood in a joyous service led by Bishop Hugh at a full Madron church, with Jan being asked to read one of the lessons. The choir again joined with Madron to sing for this wonderful service, Jo was presented with a purple stole by the PCCs, which the Bishop blessed, and everyone enjoyed lovely refreshments and fellowship afterwards. October also saw the first baptisms and

confirmations of members of our benefice Families@4 congregation, and the confirmation of Kate Laity, one of our regular congregants, by Bishop Hugh. In **November** we were grateful to Rev Keiran Marwood who took our Remembrance service. We held an Autumn Bazaar rather than a Christmas Fayre and, despite the weather, raised over £850. In **December** we once again raised funds at the Tree of Light Carol Service for the Children's Hospice. Our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services were led by Peter and Ian.

Whilst we don't often see children and families in our morning congregation, children and families ministry through Families@4 goes from strength to strength, led by Jo, Kay and a team of volunteers. Several families come from or are connected with Gulval parish, and we regularly have upwards of 30 people in the congregation.

The PCC would like to thank the Ministry Team - Peter, Kay, Howard, Ian and Jo - for maintaining the life of the Church with weddings, funerals and baptisms and leading our services in what was another full year in interregnum. They maintained most of our usual pattern of services, and Howard also found the time to lead bible studies for us. The PCC would also like to thank the Readers and Clergy from the Deanery and elsewhere who stepped in to take or preach at services while Kay was undergoing cancer treatment, including Rev Harry Burlton, Sally Piper and Debbie Harries. We are hopeful that we will be able to recruit a new vicar in 2024 which will enable the Ministry Team, who all provide their time voluntarily, to [.

Gulval Treasurer's Report

The accompanying document sets out our income and expenditure for this past year and the stand out matter is that our expenditure exceeded our income by just under £3,000. However this figure may not have quite as severe a consequence for our church than it would seem.

The, (small), congregation continues to contribute generously to the church and the amount of income that we derived from our weekly service collection and planned giving via weekly gift envelopes or bank transfers has held up well, and continues to be our main source of income. Fund raising events also brought in significant income, doubling the figure for last year. We were also most grateful for a significant legacy from the estate of the late Diana Morse.

However the amount of income that we received from conducting funeral services was reduced significantly as was the amount received by donation. Just these two items bringing a combined £3,000 less income than last year.

Our biggest expenditure by far this year has been the MMF, (Ministry and Mission Fund). The MMF is money contributed by the individual parishes to Truro Diocese to pay for the ministry it receives. Each year a monetary figure is given to each parish as their expected contribution for ministry. For the year 2022 our contribution was significantly reduced to £5,430 as we were in interregnum, which we paid in full. The expected contribution for 2023 was £9290, again, a reduced amount as we were still in interregnum (a just under 60% increase), of which we paid £6,000 as we were unable to contribute the full amount. Because we expect to have a new vicar in post in 2024, the given figure for the current year, (2024), is £13,639, an increase of just under 70% on the unfulfilled figure for 2023, and a figure we are unlikely to be able to meet given current levels of income as this would be around 85% of our income.

The other large increase in expenditure was energy, the cost which increased by a little under £2,000. We were unfortunate that our energy contract expired roughly at the point where there was a massive increase in energy costs. We were obliged to lock into the cheapest tariff possible for the shortest period of time, (one year), and I am hopeful that as energy prices have begun to fall so will our energy costs.

Another significant piece of expenditure was electrical work amounting to around £1500 of additional expenditure, however this cost was unavoidable to ensure the safety of the electrical installation of the building.

Our deposit account remains untouched and holds a balance of just under fourteen and a half thousand pounds and is slowly accruing value with reinvested interest.

In summation, our finances for the year 2023, despite the apparent 'loss', have been sound. As a PCC we have tried very hard to pay our share of ministry costs, with the most significant portion of our income going towards those costs, and we will continue to do so. However, the level at which we are currently asked to contribute is not sustainable as we are mindful that the continued maintenance and management of our wonderful listed parish church is also a priority.

Philip Peters, Gulval PCC Treasurer

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

Following the failure to recruit anyone for the combined position of Penwith Rural Dean and incumbent for the Gulval and Madron benefice late in 2022 it was decided to readvertise the position for a second time and this happened during January 2023, sadly there weren't any applicants.

A Deanery Implementation Team (DIT) was formed to implement the deanery plan that had emerged from the On the Way process.

The DIT decided that the dual role that been advertised twice was not the way forward and they examined the viability of Gulval/Madron with eventually Towednack and Zennor joining to form a benefice with a full-time priest in charge for this new benefice.

This would be difficult financially but with support of £15k from mission funding to allow part of the new role to be of a "pioneering" nature it was felt that there was scope for this particularly in areas of Heamoor and the edge of Penzance.

This proposal was therefore put forward as a "change" to the Deanery Plan and also to be agreed by the Episcopal College.

These permissions were given and a joint consultative meeting of the PCCs of Gulval, Madron Towednack & Zennor was called for 25th July, chaired by the acting Rural Dean Nick Widdows. It was stated quite clearly by the Zennor representatives that they did not want to join in the new four parish benefice and would prefer to "go alone". Towednack said they would require more time to understand Zennor's view. Madron's concern was that this had apparently all been agreed and voted for as the Deanery Plan and would now put the viability of have a full-time priest in charge at risk.

The matters raised by Zennor would need to be explored. It was confirmed by Nick Widdows and Daniel Mantell-Roberts (Diocesan Project Support Officer) that the post would be initially recruited to Gulval and Madron, and therefore Zennor and Towednack would not formally be part of the new benefice until pastoral reorganisation. Ahead of that, the chair committed that other options might be explored, and therefore asked that Zennor and Towednack allow the proposal to continue until such a time by abstaining on any votes held. With the assurance provided, an informal indicative vote was conducted regarding support for the proposal. All present members voted in favour, with Zennor and Towednack noted as abstaining.

During August and September Gulval & Madron representatives met with the Diocesan Transitions Advisor to amend the Parish profile in preparation for advertising the role.

The profile and job advertisement were approved by the PCC at the end of November. It was decided not to advertise prior to or over Christmas and the advertisement was placed in the Church Times and online on the 25th January 2024.

The Deanery synod met regularly during 2023. An administrator was appointed during the year who has sent regular newsletters out telling of news and events in the Penwith Deanery.

The Rev'd Nick Widdows (Vicar of St Ives) was appointed acting Rural Dean. It is the intention of the Diocese to appoint full time area Deans during 2024. At its July meeting, Dan Garside (Towednack) took on the role of Deanery Lay Chair, and shortly afterwards Kay Short was appointed to the Deanery Implementation Team to represent the Benefice.

Electoral Roll

The number on the electoral roll for Gulval Parish at 5th April 2024 was 56 with 27 being residents and 29 being non-residents (55 as at 1/5/22). Two new people joined the electoral roll in the past 12 months, and 1 person was removed.

Marj Jenkin – Electoral Roll Officer

Safeguarding

The PCC and its officers are responsible for safeguarding in the parish but it is everyone's responsibility to raise any concern for a child or adult, with the Parish Safeguarding Officer (Christina De Vries), a member of the Ministry Team, or the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

The PCC must have "due regard" for safeguarding within the parish. As a minimum we should:

Adopt the Church of England National Standards at each APCM

Have Posters promoting a safer church on display.

A National Standards poster should be displayed.

Safeguarding is displayed on entry/home page of each web site.

Safeguarding should be run-on social media feeds on a regular basis

Safeguarding should be on each PCC meeting agenda.

We comply with these standards.

All members of the PCC completed relevant safeguarding training at the appropriate levels during 2023. This training is updated at regular intervals. Police checks appropriate for the roles are being carried out in 2024 for PCC members and the Tower Captain.

No safeguarding concerns were raised in 2023.

The ethos of our Church 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".

Christina De Vries – Safeguarding Officer

Health & Safety

There were no major concerns raised over Health & Safety in the church during the year. All equipment such as fire extinguishers were checked according to the manufacturer's instruction. A surge protector was fitted to the lightning conductor during the year.

From the Belfry

We have had a good year on the whole and have rung for nearly every Sunday morning service at Gulval and also once a month at Penzance. We do rely on help from ringers from other towers if we ring all eight bells as we only have six of our own ringers. Tuesday night practices have been well-attended and are popular with ringers from other towers enabling progress to be made.

Weddings have been few and far between since covid therefore we have lost our main source of income which we rely on for any work which needs to be done on the bells or fittings. The number of visiting teams has also fallen though we still receive the occasional visitors on holiday in the area.

Ringling for special occasions included the Coronation on May 6th when we rang at Penzance and Gulval. We also rang in the New Year here at Gulval for the first time in many years, an occasion enjoyed by all involved.

In September we attended the Western District Autumn Festival at St Keverne with ringling at surrounding towers. In November was the Annual Western District Dinner at The Union Hotel in Penzance which was attended by many ringers from all over the Western District of the Truro Diocesan Guild of Ringers and is the main social event of the year. The following week we had a successful ring. pie and pint evening at Ludgvan. In December we had our usual Advent Ring and Walk, beginning with a ring at Paul then a walk down through Mousehole with coffee en route then on to Penzance for ringling and mince pies.

By the time you read this, we will also have attended on April 6th the Western District AGM based at Paul with ringling at other local towers including Gulval.

As always, we really need some new recruits so that ringling can continue at Gulval into the future. We would welcome anyone of any age to come along on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm to see what ringling involves.

Jane Hitchens – Tower Captain

Friends of Gulval Churchyard

October marked our first year of existence and we continue to make a worthwhile contribution to the upkeep of Gulval churchyard.

We have developed a group of friends who come out each month and I am very grateful for their voluntary contribution to our church. We are also very grateful for the tea and wonderful fruit cake donated by Jan and Christina!

This past year has been mainly about catching up on a backlog of work with the main focus being on the wall between the old churchyard and the newer one at the bottom of the steps which has been cut back to prevent the undergrowth growing over the graves. Removing overgrown rhododendron's and bay trees from the area around the Garden of Rest and cutting back the yew trees marking the four corners of the war memorial in the Churchyard extension.

A significant problem was what to do with the green waste?

I am very grateful to the Cornish Green Waste company at Splattenriden who have taken all our green waste at no charge. The waste is turned into compost and sold on and, (rather amazingly), in the 8 months from May to December we took over a tonne and a half of waste to them!

The group continues to meet on the second Saturday morning of every month, all are welcome.

Phil Peters

Any further information on any of these reports may be obtained from the PCC Secretary, Rhoda Holt at gulvalchurchsecretary@gmail.com