

ANNUAL REPORT FOR MADRON PARISH 2023



The Staff Team

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

Reader

Kay Short

Honorary Auditor of accounts

Marie Jackman

Deanery Synod members

Kay Short & Andy Freeman

Choir /Organist

Bridgit England

Magazine

Rona Freeman

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)
 Dorcas Jelliss (Lay Chair)
 Theresa Pritchard
 Kate Gottschling
 Kay Short
 The Rev Jo Thomas
 The Rev Peter Butterfield
 The Rev Howard Peskett

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Sacristan

Sharon Jones

FINANCE 2023			
Total Income	£51496	Total Expenditure	£38490
Including:		Including	
Planned Giving	£18877	MMF	£9290
Collections	£6074	Running costs	£6631
Gift aid tax refund	£5398	Utilities	£7135
Fund raising	£2249	Insurance	£5969
Miscellaneous	£1228	St Thomas decoration	£4800
Balances at 31/12/23			
Current a/c	£1333		
Lloyds Saver & Bond	£55452*		
*Includes Madron restoration and St Thomas' restoration	£12269 £3678		
<p>The 2023 MMF total of £9290 was paid in full (this was again a reduced total as the parish was in interregnum throughout 2023). Utilities increased by 17.7% and insurance by 7.45%. There was a payment of £4800 in December as part payment of the external decoration of St Thomas'.</p> <p>Thanks should again be given to everyone for their generous contributions whether it was from planned giving or one-off donations or legacies.</p> <p>There were very good fund-raising efforts at both Madron & St Thomas'.</p> <p>Terry Jackson our Treasurer again managed our funds very well and took advantage of interest rates offered during the year. Thanks also must go Marie Jackman our Honorary Auditor.</p>			

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.

Howard Peskett

Madron Parish in 2023

January 2023 saw the second full year of interregnum for the parish. It was business as usual for the PCC and the voluntary clergy team. In response to the high energy costs it was agreed to join with Madron Methodists to host a "warm space" for the community to meet and enjoy a hot drink and fellowship with villages. The Chapel school room was the venue for this Wednesday morning "warm hub" and was staffed by members from the parish church and chapel. Our charity giving was decided the chosen charities were Water Aid, Smile Train, The Trussell Trust and St Petrocs. The report for the Quinquennial inspection report was received with no major issues found although subsequently a major problem was identified with the ceiling of the ringing chamber in the tower. The Rev'd Jo Thomas was re-licensed 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. An Ash Wednesday service was held led by Howard.

March included a St Piran's service in which the Lord's Prayer was said in Cornish and English and St Piran's flag flew from the tower. Mothering Sunday was celebrated on the 19th.

Palm Sunday was early in **April** There followed reflections for Holy Week on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. A communion service was held on Maundy Thursday when the altar was "stripped" in preparation for Good Friday. The reflective services continued on Good Friday before the glorious celebration of Easter Sunday, when led by the Rev'd Ian Lowell, the service commenced outside when the Easter Fire was lit and in turn the Easter Candle was carried into Church.

The parish AGM was held following the morning service in Madron on the 23rd April. Caroline Somers was re-elected as Church Warden and there remains one vacancy. At the time of the meeting the post of safeguarding co-ordinator was unfilled. Kay Short was elected as Health & Safety Officer.

May saw the Coronation of King Charles III, the first Coronation in living memory for most people. Madron bells rang out on the morning of the Coronation and a celebration of the Coronation was held on Sunday 7th with a Benefice service at Madron. The bells again rang and the lessons were read by Colonel Edward Bolitho and Derek Thomas MP. The service was led by Peter Butterfield and Jo Thomas preached. A combined choir 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.

During **June** Church Watch began and with church being opened on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, until the end of September. We registered as a "Celtic Quiet Place" along with 70 other Celtic churches across Cornwall as a welcoming place where people may find a quiet sanctuary.

The summer fete was held in the church and churchyard on the 1st **July**. A dry morning saw many visitors to the stalls and attractions such as the tower tour. There were refreshments including ploughman's lunches. The fete raised in excess of £1000. Quotes for the replacement of the ringing chamber ceiling were received and ranged from £16k to £22k. The PCC considered the quotes at their July meeting and felt that more detailed quotes were required. The West Country Embroiders group held an exhibition in Madron church which was well attended.

In **August** the congregation were saddened by the news of the death of Shelagh Jelbert a stalwart of the church for many years, serving as a churchwarden and on the PCC and also as a choir member. Singing was one of Shelagh's passions along with embroidery and of course her family.

Harvest was celebrated in **September** with the supper in Landithy Hall well attended on the Thursday following the Sunday's Harvest festival in a beautifully decorated church. Shelagh's funeral was held on the 15th in a packed church. It was pleasing in **October** to have the church filled to capacity for two events. The usual annual Trafalgar service at which the sailors from RNAS Culdrose paraded through the village to church following their band. The service was led by Peter Butterfield and the preacher was the Rev'd Edward North a RNAS chaplain. The salute was taken by the commanding officer of HMS Raleigh Captain Jane Roe. The second event was the ordination of Rev'd Jo Thomas. In a joyful service the acting bishop of Truro Hugh Nelson ordained Jo Thomas assisted by local clergy. The joint choirs of Madron and Gulval sang as did local singing groups that Jo is involved with. There was time for refreshments and chat following the service.

In **November** the church was a hub for the collection of shoe boxes for the Samaritans Purse appeal. The remembrance observation was held in the church rather than the memorial gardens due to bad weather and the choir sang a poem by an eleven-year-old girl called "who are these men" set to music by our organist Bridgit.

Feast Sunday and Advent Sunday fell in **December** when a small group including children from the school marched from the top of the village under the banner of St Maddern singing the feasting song. Howard Peskett led the service and the preacher was the Rev'd Matt Fugill from the West Cornwall Methodist circuit. The school held its Christingle in church and we were able to say good bye to Mrs Hilary Tyreman who was retiring as Head Teacher. Mounts Bay Academy held their carol concerts in church and both were well attended. St Thomas' carol service was held joining together with Madron with the choir singing and leading the carols. The village carol service in Madron Church was well attended. Lessons were read by the leaders of community and church groups. Services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were well attended.

St Thomas' in 2023.

A small but faithful congregation attended St Thomas throughout the year with clergy led services. Peggy Harvey was missed as she was in and out of hospital during the year. Jo Morris worked hard in preparing services and thanks should also be given to Sylvia Masters for playing the organ.

It has long been recognised the St Thomas' buildings were an asset that could be developed for both church and community. An advisor from the diocese met with the PCC at St Thomas' in January. There could be grants available for improving the facilities once firm plans and ideas can be drawn up.

A Lent Lunch was held in St Thomas' as part of the CTIPA Lent Lunches in March.

St Thomas was the venue for three bible studies during the year which were well received.

The Families@4 monthly session went from strength to strength and at its height over forty people children and their parents attended. The highlight of the year was in October when Bishop Hugh attended Families @4 and confirmed three people and baptised two children in a very relaxed service attended by family, friends and other congregation members.

The church was packed for the Scouts remembrance service in November.

The monthly Saturday coffee mornings recommenced during the year and were a sociable time for the congregation and as an outreach to the community.

Other events at St Ts included a Clothes Share where good quality used clothing were available for people to take. A pasty supper was held at harvest time.

The external decoration was completed at the end of the year and the repainted gates were re-hung. The Beavers (part of the scout group) did a tidy up of the church surrounds and cleared it of weeds. The meeting room was well booked for a number of different activities throughout and generated income.

The above is a “snap shot” of **2023** in the parish but there was so much more going on and to this end the PCC would again (after a second full year in interregnum) like to thank Jo, Peter, Howard Ian and Kay for their tireless efforts in leading not just our Sunday services but for the extras such as Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms the monthly Families@4 plus three sets of bible study during the year. There were some lay led services notably Evensong at Madron which was “lay led” three Sundays out of four. Both Churches rely heavily on individuals that “make things happen” this includes lesson reading and Sidesmen on Sundays, church cleaning, flower arranging, minor maintenance of the building, churchyard tidying, bell ringing and singing in the choir the PCC is so grateful to all these people for their dedication.

Madron & Heamoor children’s and youth Ministry 2023

- Family Services; children rarely attend and need specific inviting and a change of service if these services are to grow.
- Harvest Festivals (schools are invited, but more time is needed to create links via a youth worker). Heamoor Primary came to St Thomas’s in 2022 and was visited in 2023. On both these occasions, they were led by a retired priest or SSM. A youth worker could build on these positive interactions.
- TrafalgarService 50 sea cadets attend Madron Church each year. Further links could be made for Sea Sunday and chaplaincy work.
- Remembrance services 100 + Scouts attend St Thomas’s and links are growing.
- Mothering Sunday. Few families attend, but many links are made through posies. There is potential to use this service for outreach with a youth minister’s input.
- Christingle at Madron is attended in the week, by the school and St Thomas’s 100+ in the evening.
- Carol Services see various numbers of youth attend in each church.
- Madron Daniel school assemblies are dependent on SSM being available. Heamoor is visited by PTO, occasionally. All schools are open to visits, but we do not have the volunteer capacity.
- Mounts Bay Academy visits Madron School for a Christmas carol concert. Links could be developed with a youth minister.
- A Clothes Swap, in St Thomas’s, was organised for recycling clothes (including children’s).
- The King’s Coronation saw an exhibition in Madron Church. Links developed by SSM but she is at work, so a youth minister would be able to develop these positive links.

All the above rely on volunteers and the ministry team are self-supporting.

Families@4, is a once-a-month service, for baptism families and wider community, run by SSM, Reader and volunteers. Grown over two years to 45 plus attendees, half are under the age of 16.

Future possible initiatives: if we had a youth & families’ minister, regular school assemblies could be organised. Also: wild walking and Godly play, toast and homework club, outdoor worship, pet’s service, Young Farmers outdoor service.

A Penwith wide youth Gospel choir workshop, with service including creative arts, is being organised by SSM in 2024 for youth and their families with guest speaker from the Bible Society.

If we had a families' worker, we could facilitate: crafts days, writing workshops, Youth Alpha (or similar), exhibitions, coffee drop-in for school parents, youth club, discipleship courses.

During these three years, the SSM and Reader started a Families@4 service, building a team, which has seen new families attend. Gentle outreach has begun into the schools and youth organisations (Scouts and Young Farmers) which could be developed further, if we had a worker.

Rev'd Jo Thomas

Deanery Synod/ 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 advisor) 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 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 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 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.

Electoral Roll

The number on the electoral roll for Madron Parish at 31st January 2023 was 82, (86 at 31/12/22).

2025 will see a complete revision of the parish electoral roll.

Safeguarding

The PCC were unable to appoint a safeguarding office during 2023. There was some interest shown in the role but the work involved does seem to be daunting. The PCC and its officers are responsible for safeguarding in the parish with Howard Peskett reminding the PCC what is required of it and what training is needed. He also produced a paper with the steps that are required for the PCC to 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.

Anyone having concerns over a safeguarding issue within the parish should report it to one of the clergy team immediately.

Health & Safety

There were no major concerns raised over Health & Safety in the churches 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.

Kay Short took on the Health & Safety role at the APCM and her experience in this field will keep H & S as a high priority for the PCC.

From the Belfry 2023.

It was a privilege for us to be able to ring all eight bells for the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla in May this year, taking our place in the history in the UK. There was one wedding earlier in the year and only one visiting ringer on our practice night – which is Mondays 7pm – 8pm, except Bank Holidays. If anyone is interested in learning to ring, we will be pleased to see you.

Thanks to the money raised from the Thrifty Club, the Ringers were once again able to contribute to the lunches at the annual Fete and the cost of the Christmas tree.

The bells were rung half muffled for Remembrance Sunday and more recently for the funeral of Dilys Rowe by fellow ringers who were made aware of our safety concerns. The bells are generally in good order, although the ropes for the Treble (No.1 bell) and No. 2 bell were pulled up above the extremely wet ceiling in the Belfry as it was thought best not to have anyone stood directly under the problem area. Matters are currently ongoing regarding the replacement of the ceiling and the bells are not currently being rung while we await permission for the necessary work to be carried

Theresa Pritchard

Kernow Green Churches

The big news was achieving the bronze award! This I received officially at a lovely service in Truro cathedral with Bishop Hugh along with others receiving their awards.

Having attended ‘The Big One’ gathering in Truro, we recreated it in Penzance – an outdoor ‘Creation Care Act of Worship’ with prayers, readings and songs. A small team from Madron was joined by Derek Thomas MP and a few members of the public. Small but beautiful! This year’s event is coming soon (as I write) to coincide with the Lent Vigil in London and elsewhere. I’m hoping for a bigger turnout and no rain!

Robert Moor from Living Churchyards visited us advising us to keep long grass where possible and to dig out the invasive Winter Heliotrope. We have made a start but it’s an ongoing task!

The PCC agreed to nominate ‘Cool Earth’ as our Eco charity to which we will make regular donations. Cool Earth exists to give cash direct to rainforest communities, to fund projects that create choice, tackle the root causes of deforestation and protect vital carbon sinks.

We held the ‘Great Big Clothes Share’ in St Thomas’ with lots of clothes! A huge effort by our great team. Many people came – some first-time visitors who thought the church very lovely – and all were delighted to receive free clothes. Some donations were made to ‘Cool Earth’.

The aim of all of this is to take steps to, 'Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon and Speak up.'

Bridgit England

Madron Church Choir.

Despite our small numbers, the choir continue to make a good sound, enhancing many occasions in church with songs of praise and reflection. We sang 'Singing Hosanna' at Easter, 'Take this bread' for Maundy Thursday and 'See what a morning' at Easter. A highlight of the year was singing our new 'Coronation Anthem' for the Coronation service in May. We were delighted to be joined by members of Gulval choir on this great occasion. They also joined us for Jo's ordination service where we led the 'Gloria'.

Sadly, we lost Sheilagh Jelbert last year – a great loss to our choir in particular as Sheilagh was an excellent and enthusiastic singer who enjoyed singing everything! We still managed to sing for Remembrance and Christmas with a variety of music for the two Carol Services at Madron & Heamoor. We would welcome new members to boost our numbers.

Bridgit England.

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