



WOODBIDGE ST MARY



Annual Report 2022-23



Parochial Church Council 2022

Chairman	The Rev'd Nigel Prior
Vice Chairman	Mr Stephen Cole
Churchwardens	Miss Veronica Howe Mr David Sharples
Diocesan Synod Representatives through the Deanery Synod	Mrs Penny Bird Mrs Mary Hare
Deanery Synod Representatives (until 2023)	Mrs Penny Bird Mrs Mary Hare Mrs Rita James
Churches Together in Woodbridge and Melton	Mrs Barbara Stear Mr Stephen Cole
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Phil Poole
Honorary Secretary	Mrs Joanne Lovett (stepped down)
Elected Lay Members	Mr David Berridge Mrs Michelle Bullard Mr Stephen Cole Mrs Margaret Davidson Mrs Margaret Harper Mr Jeremy Hawksley Mrs Margaret Harper Mr Simon Morris Mrs Janice Poulson Mrs Barbara Stear Mrs Katharine Turner

OFFICER NOT ON THE PCC

Planned Giving Secretary (Parish Giving Scheme, Covenants/Gift Aid)	Mr Michael Holland
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Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting
held at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 17th May, 2022
in St Mary's Church Centre

1. **Apologies for Absence had been received from:** Mr Geoff English, Mrs Susan Hubbard, Mr and Mrs David Lowe, Mrs Heather Marshall.
2. **Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 17th May 2021**

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting was

Proposed by Mrs Mary Hare

Seconded by Mrs Caroline Hawksley

Carried unanimously

and they were signed by the Rector as an accurate record.

3. **Churchwardens' Accounts:** Miss Veronica Howe drew attention to the copies of the accounts, which had been audited by Mr Tony Hubbard. She said that the purpose of the Sayers fund was to offer a small amount of money, not just at Christmas, but at any time of year to people in need, so he asked that parishioners should advise the Churchwardens of any known need. Some small grants had been made at Christmas 2021.

The adoption of the accounts was Proposed by Mrs Sandra Schur

Seconded by Mr John Davis

Carried unanimously

Miss Howe invited all wishing to do so to sign the ancient ledger at the end of the meeting.

4. **Election of Churchwardens:** The Rector referred to the changes over time in the process of appointing churchwardens, which now required nominees to be proposed and seconded in writing prior to the Vestry Meeting. He had received two nominations for Churchwarden:

Miss Veronica Howe Proposed by Mrs Lucy Symons

Seconded by Ms Rita James

Mr David Sharples Proposed by Mrs Sue Smith-Lyte

Seconded by Miss Veronica Howe

Both candidates were duly elected and appointed to serve for the year. They were thanked for their work.

There being no further business, the Meeting was closed at 7.40 p.m.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held at 7.45 p.m. on Tuesday, 17th May, 2022
in St Mary's Church Centre

1. Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting held on 17th May 2021:

Approval of the Minutes was Proposed by David Sharples
Seconded by Janice Poulson
Carried unanimously

and they were signed by the Rector as an accurate record.

2. Election of Lay Members to the Parochial Church Council

Nominations had been received for Philip Poole

(Proposed by Veronica Howe and seconded by Joanne Lovett)

Katharine Turner

(Proposed by Margaret Harper and seconded by Sandra Schur)

Each received the support of the meeting and was elected as Lay Member.

3. Parochial Church Council Accounts

Phil Poole opened his presentation of the accounts, by thanking Michael Holland for all of his preparatory work. COVID-19 had made 2021 a challenging year, as it had a big effect on income, but the generosity of parishioners had resulted in £14,722 credit. He acknowledged the very generous legacy from Dr James Harper. There had been reductions in expenditure of £18,500, partly as both buildings had had periods of closure. The Parish Share had been reduced and the Great Bealings' contribution less than the previous year. VAT recovery occurred as a one-off event. The reserves balance was around £66,000, which he felt was a reasonable amount for the PCC to hold.

An increase in utilities costs was anticipated, with the gas contract increasing approximately twofold, as the former supplier had gone bankrupt. Maintenance costs were increasing and there would be a choir employee, but the picture appeared much better than had been envisaged a year before. The Parish Share would go up again.

David Berridge opined the importance of encouraging people to sign up to the Parish Giving Scheme, to provide a clearer indication of income and facilitate the claiming of Gift Aid. Donations had been down in 2021, but use of the PGS, would save volunteers' time. Applications could be made online, by post or on the phone and ticking the 'inflation box' meant that donations would rise in line with inflation.

The Donation Station was mentioned by Mary Hare, who cited Orford and suggested that our set amounts should be raised. It was suggested also that a 'How Much it Costs to Run Our Church for a Day' poster would be helpful in inspiring generosity. Some 'come and visit' leaflets spread around the town might also be useful. Exhibiting QR Codes more prominently could also be considered.

Adoption of the Accounts was Proposed by David Sharples

Seconded by Caroline Hawksley

Carried unanimously

Appreciation was expressed for Mr Poole's clear explanations.

4. Appointment of Account Examiners

Appointment of the LB Group as Independent Examiners of the Accounts for 2022 was

Proposed by David Sharples

Seconded by John Davis

Carried unanimously

5. The Electoral Roll

There were 198 listed, an increase of 4% on the previous year. Tony Hubbard felt that it did not reflect the numbers in the parish, which was disappointing and meant that there was work to do. He stressed that members can vote and they determine the size of the PCC and Deanery Synod representation, which influences national voting.

Thanks were expressed for Tony Hubbard's work in maintaining the Electoral Roll.

6. Review of The Year - PCC

Attention was drawn to the printed report, written by the PCC Secretary, who was thanked for her work.

7. Report of the Deanery Synod

Attention was drawn to the printed report, written by the Rural Dean.

8. Fabric and Ornaments

Mr Simon Morris said that the main concerns had been aspects of electricity, lightning conductor, a new bell rope, CCTV, improvements to microphones, livestreaming, sash windows. The Quinquennial Report recommendations would need to be addressed.

Mr Sharples had resolved to update the Inventory and Log Book and he mentioned the convening of a new Fabric Committee. Michelle Bullard was thanked for taking responsibility for Health and Safety. Mr Morris was thanked for his work, as was Stephen Saunders for his maintenance tasks.

9. The Rector's Review

Father Nigel opened by saying how the reports conveyed that the previous year had been hit so hard by the pandemic. The PCC had been tentative; we had been helped by communications, the magazine, livestreaming etc, but appeals had gone unheard. Katherine Lowe had taken on financial tasks, book-keeping and secretarial work, which had passed to the hands of Linda Rudland, who had assumed also responsibility for bookings of St Mary's House. Veronica Howe was thanked for previously doing that task.

Sarah Dodds had become the new organist and a choral director was being sought.

Future plans would involve taking ownership of the spiritual and the practical - sharing the load and not relying on a small handful of people. This would need to be stimulated by faith and prayer. New volunteers were needed for hands-on help.

The Platinum Jubilee would be very special.

St Mary's House would be a meeting point for the Ukrainian families in Woodbridge.

The St Mary's House Project, begun in 2013, now had a new architect on board - Henry Freeland, based in Cambridge. The Archdeacon was thrilled and plans for our two buildings would be presented soon.

Fundraising would need to begin in earnest and a new group would need to be formed. The group was currently led by Diane Milan; one or two applications would need to be repeated. Research would be needed - for the different requirements, dates, development, outreach to the community, etc. The church shop door would open onto the Market Hill.

The Rector thanked David Sharples for the work he had done and asked everyone to look around for people with skills to meet the needs of the project.

10. Any Other Business - Energy

- (a) Tony Waller suggested that roof panels should be considered and a possible whole session on energy was mooted for the PCC.

Concerns and information from various people included:

The flood-lighting was aging and timing awry

Outdoor sensor on chapel

Parish Office heating

Sponsor a solar panel

Eco-Church aim - to have zero net carbon buy 2030

Plastic cups not bought for 3-4 years

Several Churches already have Eco Church Bronze Award

Need a separate churchyard group

Need a group to pursue our 'Bronze'

(b) The Platinum Jubilee Service on 5th June would be at 11 am and there was some discussion about conveying that to all.

The Grace was said.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.38 pm.

Our Plan for Growth (PFG) Submission to the Archdeacon – Priorities 1, 2 & 3

Expand our Church and Community facilities/provision and widen our musical/concert outreach

Develop a First Communion programme for children (with some parental involvement) aged 7 years + across the benefice.

Consolidate our shared environmental priorities, including our working towards 'Silver' Eco-Award in both our churches and growing our 'Fairtrade' status.

Reports for 2022

Safeguarding

I took over from Stephen Cole as Benefice Safeguarding Officer in July 2022. Barbara Stear, who held the role from 2012 -2020, became Assistant Safeguarding Officer in January 2023. Owing to the covid pandemic restrictions the benefice has needed to put in new arrangements to comply with the Church of England's safeguarding requirements. These have changed in recent years and many people's safeguarding training needed to be renewed. I am pleased to report that enhanced DBS checks have now made for all those needing them, and that many church volunteers, including PCC members, have completed their Basic Awareness, Foundation, and Domestic Abuse training on-line. All Elders also have done the Leadership training course. Information about safeguarding has appeared in the pew sheet (e-mail) on two occasions in the past six months and posters about safeguarding, and whom to contact if people have a concern, have been put in toilets at St Mary's House and at Great Bealings. We still have some way to go to fulfil all the safeguarding guidelines provided by the Diocese, but I am hopeful that we will achieve this in the next year.

Submitted by: Jeremy Hawksley

Charities supported by St. Mary's in 2022

Throughout the year, within the parish individuals continued to pursue their own favoured charities - not least the food bank co-ordinated by the Woodbridge Salvation Army - and supported also from our own Harvest Festival. Some members continued to make donations to The Children's Society and discrete groups contributed to funds for

other needs. We supported the Ukrainian refugees, for social meetings and initially for English classes, until they needed more space. Housing was also offered.

Immediately after the Turkey/Syria earthquake, some members were instrumental in sorting the goods donated by the local community.

With the generous support of Cllr Caroline Page, there was the *Happy Toaster* Warm Room, which ran from December 2022 to March 2023.

Some of the products stocked in the Church Shop were from Fair Trade and other ethical and sustainable producers and companies, while we continued to serve Fair Trade coffee and tea throughout the year. At the time of writing, *Traidcraft* has collapsed, but viable alternative suppliers are being sought.

Other causes that benefited from specific monetary collections, or giving in kind, included:

The Bishops' 2023 Lent Appeal for Kagera

Christian Aid

The Royal National Lifeboat Association (for Sea Sunday)

Suffolk Refugee Support

East Anglia's Children's Hospices

Thus, there was support for a few of those needing it locally, within our County, the UK or much further afield.

Submitted by: Veronica Howe

Christian Aid Week 2022

Churches Together now has a settled routine of delivering only of envelopes encouraging donations in the envelopes or on line. Envelopes are returned to our shop or St. John's Old Vicarage. On line giving will have gone up as more and more people find that is the easiest way. We had 25 deliverers yielding just under £1900 of cash and cheques including gift aid. This included 4 donations of £100, one of £80 and three of £50. These facts are all encouraging indicators that it is well worth the effort. (If you would like to join the team for 2023 please email anjwaller@uwclub.net or ring 01394386786)

Submitted by: Tony Waller

St. Mary's PCC Secretary's Report 2022

Over the past year the PCC, as always, have discussed, debated and made decisions on a variety of topics, and they began the year last May by welcoming two new PCC members, Katharine Turner and Phil Poole. Phil had previously been co-opted onto the PCC as treasurer.

The churchyard is one area that many Woodbridge residents and visitors walk through, along with using the Church itself & St. Mary's House. Rita James took on the project of Eco Church, and with the help of Caroline Hawksley and David Sharples, St. Mary's was

awarded a 'bronze award', and with your help, Rita is aiming for St. Mary's to gain the next award of 'silver'.

Wildlife is also part of the area, and Woodbridge Swifts approached the PCC asking if we would consider swift boxes being attached to St. Mary's House. The PCC agreed, Woodbridge Swifts made an application to East Suffolk Council, and the boxes were installed just a few weeks ago.

The trees too are very much part of the churchyard, of which one had become quite large, and required sensitive trimming. Thank you to David Sharples for working with the council and organising the trimming, and also to the neighbour, who made a donation towards the work.

Within the church building itself, the fixed choir platforms have been removed, enabling the choir stands to be rearranged more easily and enhancing the space available for concerts.

The post of choir director remains vacant, however Sarah Dodds our organist has stepped up to lead the choir, and has invited outside musicians who have also helped the choir to expand its repertoire. If you know of someone who would be willing to direct the choir, please do let Fr. Nigel know.

At Christmas there was a diocesan initiative called 'Angels', with a pair of angel's wings in the church where you could have your photograph taken, the Christmas tree decorated in angels, and people in the community who go 'above and beyond' recognized for their work within Woodbridge.

Other community projects that St. Mary's have been involved in are the 'warm room' project over the winter months. A £2K grant was given to St. Mary's from Caroline Page, for this to buy equipment, food and pay for utilities. A thank you to Veronica Howe and the volunteers who ran this once a week on a Thursday.

St. Mary's House is used by many organisations and clubs, and there is room for more bookings. The Ukrainian community in Woodbridge, is one such group and has used St. Mary's House for several months, where English has been taught and a creche was supervised by Caroline Hawksley and Liz Prior. The gathering was so successful that the group outgrew the space available in St Mary's House and have since moved to Woodbridge School. The Ukrainian community thoroughly appreciated the use of St. Mary's House, that they gave St. Mary's a donation of £200 for social events.

The St. Mary's House Project is progressing forward having appointed a new architect, a new structural engineer and a new quantity surveyor over the past year. The latest plans have been presented to the parishioners; further news of the development will follow.

As with any organization, there is a business side too, which is not always seen. Members of the PCC carry out a whole variety of work, which is fed back to the PCC. The length of each meeting had become too great, so the PCC decided to increase the number of meetings to ten a year, which hopefully has proven beneficial. Every member of the PCC requires thanking for the voluntary work they do. Two important roles are 'safeguarding', which Jeremy Hawksley has taken over from Stephen Coles. We thank Stephen for his past work, and for Jeremy for ensuring that everyone who needs

'safeguarding' training is up to date. Also, a thank you to Michelle For taking on the role of 'health & safety' and for updating St. Mary's Health & Safety policy.

St. Mary's was involved in the commemoration of the Queen's life, and showed the Queen's funeral service in church on a large screen. Another occasion which was celebrated this year was the 40th anniversary of the ordination of Fr. Nigel.

Unfortunately, Fr. Nigel was unable to attend his own celebratory service, due to having contracted COVID, but Fr. Nigel was able to watch the bishop conduct the service via our live streaming.

Looking ahead St. Mary's will have another active and full year in 2023.

Submitted by Joanne Lovett

Altar Guild

This past year has seen a few changes in my wonderful team of Altar guilders who have responded by being in church every Friday morning. The care of the silver and linen used at the services has been well maintained and the cleaning of the High Altar area. The Epiphany chapel has been re-opened and great care taken to maintain a quiet chapel for prayer and meditation.

Please may I thank *Janice Poulson and Gillian Gurdon; Judy Foster and Joyce Parlett ; Anna Jenkins and Lesley Whitehead; Kirsten Berridge ; and Jean Waller* for their continuing service to the Altar Guild over the past twelve months. Grateful thanks as you make my job such a pleasure. During the past year Joyce has stepped down, on her 90th birthday, from the guild after decades of service. *A massive thanks to Joyce and best wishes in her retirement!* Jean has also left us after several years of loyal service and a big thank you. Lesley has joined us during the year and a great asset and Annie Lines is now with Kirsten on the 4th Friday of each month and a great help. A warm welcome to our new recruits and I am looking for two more helpers.

Submitted by: Barbara Stear

Bell Ringers

Without really trying, we have successfully recruited several new ringers to our team. We had originally planned to have an Open Day up the Tower to attract potential ringers to our ancient art, but, with the sad death of HM Queen Elizabeth II, this was cancelled. However, it turned out that with the prospect of being able to ring for the forthcoming event, namely the Coronation of King Charles III, four or five people have come forward expressing an interest in learning. Fortunately, both Jackie and Deana had earlier been on a course to learn how to teach new ringers, which has eased the pressure on me. Several of these recruits now ring with us on Sunday mornings, as well as on our Tuesday practice nights.

Submitted by: Dr Bruce Wakefield

Choir

The formal role of 'Choir Secretary' was established in November 2022, which involves meeting as part of the Choir working party to discuss plans and relaying this information

to members. Although I have done this kind of role with bellringing, it's been interesting to navigate this new position and find my feet. Thank you for being patient with me!

During the past year, the choir has continued to support and enhance the worship of regular services within the benefice. Highlights include singing for the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, the Patronal Festival services, Christmas and Easter. We have also sung Choral Evensong on three occasions throughout the year, and it was fantastic to be joined by guest directors, Richard Hubbard and Jennie Cassidy. Their knowledge and enthusiasm inspired some wonderful music making and this showed through in the worship. Going forward, we look forward to celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III on Sunday 7th May.

As a choir, we have benefitted from being joined by the 'Pop Up' choir to bolster numbers for key events. By extending the invitation out to the congregation, we have gained new regular members for the main choir. It would be wonderful to continue this initiative, with a view to focusing on recruiting some more support for the Tenor and Bass section (Sopranos and Altos are also very welcome!) We will also be looking to recruit a Choir Director to make the daily running of the Choir a more manageable task for the working party.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support during this year. I would also like to thank Sarah for her hard work and commitment to organising us, sourcing music, arranging music and liaising with our guest conductors to enhance our worship here in the benefice.

Submitted by: Ruth Munnings

Christian Meditation Group – St. Mary's

In January this year the Meditation Group celebrated its fourth Anniversary. We held 'Hybrid' meetings up to the middle of February this year and then reverted to meeting solely 'in-person' again after that.

Each session begins with a prayer and, those who wish to, take turns to choose an appropriate reading which they share with the group before and after each meditation session. Following the second reading there is time for reflection and sharing. 'The Grace' is said together at the end.

We are an 'open group' who meet in the main hall in St Mary's House each week and are always ready to welcome new members. Those who already attend use a variety of means to meditate and come to stillness during the half-hour between 5:15 and 5:45 each Tuesday afternoon. The group size varies from week-to-week but it is not unusual to have 12 or 13 attendees.

The group is mentioned on the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) website and there have been a couple of enquiries from this which has led to new members joining us from time to time.

The group has held occasional social gatherings throughout the year giving us a chance to get to know each other better.

Submitted by: Alison Davis

The Church Shop

Comments from customers:

“So great to see local artist cards in the Church Shop”.

“The Church Shop definitely has the best selection of cards in Woodbridge”.

“I can always get a suitable card in the Church Shop”

The Church Shop has continued to support local artists and printers - and we are pleased that our choice of greetings cards - birthday, thank you, sympathy, baptism, get well, new baby, new house, to name but a few - is well-liked and popular.

The Church Shop is a stockist for ‘Breaking Bread’, a recipe book written by refugees, who are supported by the SRS (Suffolk Refugee Support). The book features delicious and interesting recipes from all over the world - get yours in the shop. Purchases are supporting the refugee community in Ipswich and beyond. Sales have surpassed £400.

We were absolutely thrilled that the shop window was a winner in the Woodbridge Christmas window display competition. A winning display is an opportunity to look into St Mary’s and also for us to reach out.

Of course, the shop cannot function without a group of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers. You can always be assured of a warm welcome and a chance to chat. Over the year, we have had a few volunteers come along and lend a hand. What happens in the shop? - so much more than you would think - a chance to make a real difference, support and be part of a group of people who want to help. Come and join us!

Submitted by: Sue Todd

Churches Together

Over the last year church representatives from our 7 churches have met together four times. Woodbridge Quakers have withdrawn from having a representative on CTWA but hope to take part in faith events in the town when they can.

Big Family Day Out on Kingston playing fields went well.

Ambient Music Festival 24th September 2022. The document of the “Declaration of the Rights of the River” was carried the 7 miles from the mouth of the Deben to the Tide Mill accompanied by swimmers, paddle boarders, kayaks, the sea scouts and the rowing and yacht club. CTWA had an Eco-stall in the Whisstocks area, with leaflets and forms on how to become an eco-church.

Christmas Cards were printed and distributed to every household in Woodbridge, Melton and Great Bealings. Just 42 youth club provided some designs for the card, made by the children who attend their youth clubs.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Quay Street church had an evening event 18th January 2023

Walk of Witness on Good Friday. In 2022 pilgrims started the walk in Elmhurst Park and visited churches whilst carrying the cross throughout the town and return to the park for a short service.

Lent lunches have been held in various church venues this year. The takings will be given to the Ukrainian Hub.

Warm Rooms have been operating through the winter months with variable take up.

World Day of Prayer was well attended on 3rd March at Quay Street church.

Easter Day Sunrise service was led by Alan Hill Salvation Army chaplain.

Thanks to Lyn Spall, our chair, for her ongoing energy and support, which has kept our events “on the road” through

Submitted by Barbara Stear

Communications - Benefice Website, Social Media, Inside Out and St. Mary's Live-streaming

Benefice Website

The Benefice website provides our greatest scope for communicating with each other, both within and outside the Church. It provides online and digital information which can be accessed at home or on the move via smartphones.

Regular weekly updates provide details of what is happening in the Benefice - daily prayer, weekly e-news, links to service live-streams, transcripts of sermons, posters, dates and times of future events, current news, plus links to courses, videos, past live-streams etc. Our news blog would benefit from more people regularly uploading recent photos and brief news stories.

E-News

Conscious of not wanting to waste paper many parishioners now rely on the Benefice e-news which is emailed out each Friday. It can also be accessed via the website. Some printed copies are available in church on Sundays.

Live-streaming

All the main Woodbridge St Mary's services are live-streamed each week enabling those who are housebound, unable to come to church for other reasons or who live in other parts of the UK or overseas to join with us. We have 70 signed-up subscribers to our live-streams (up by 46%) and the number of people who watch on YouTube, either live or later, varies from 55 to 90, rising to higher numbers for church festival services.

'Tumbling into Light' Choral Evensong for Epiphany has been watched over 160 times, and the Candlelit Vigil on 24 February to mark the anniversary of the war in Ukraine was viewed by many Ukrainian guests from our local community and also linked them with their families in other European countries.

Inside Out Parish Magazine

Our 'Inside Out' print run of 3000 copies continues four times a year with issues relevant to liturgical and seasonal themes. Each magazine builds on Fr Nigel's editorial and provides an update of church projects and news under 'Here & There'. The six page (12 sides) format was increased to eight pages (16 sides) from the winter 2022 Issue to allow for an increasing number of advertisers. The A5 format combined with a different eye-

catching cover design makes each quarterly magazine an inviting alternative option in the wide range of free publications put through everyone's door, and provides a way for us to reach out and connect with the wider community by sharing news of some of the activities we are currently involved with or planning. Over the year we've had short articles about the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and the wonderful St Mary's Flower Festival celebration, the environment and climate change, Friends of St Mary's 10th Anniversary, our Guides' Centenary Anniversary, updates on our bells and the final installation of seven swift boxes on St Mary's House! The newsletter is delivered to every home in the Parish, as well as local public buildings, and is available to download from our website.

Social Media

St Mary's Facebook page is now active again and provides photo updates on recent activities and upcoming events.

Wide screen TV

A large screen Smart TV, acquired in the early part of 2022 has provided very useful extra facilities for in-person talks and discussion groups like our video based Lent courses (both this year and last). It has also widened the scope for illustrated fundraising events like John McCarthy's and Tim Curtis' reshooting of their film 'John McCarthy's Woodbridge', as well as enabling a focus for welcoming outreach within our church and wider community at times like the Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II and the Coronation of King Charles III when, for example, those living alone who would like to be in the company of others, are welcomed to join us at St Mary's (and also enjoy light refreshments).

Submitted by Rita James

Deanery Synod

Woodbridge Deanery Synod

Annual Report March 2022-March 2023

Rural Dean: Ven. Annette Cooper (up to end November 2022): Lay Chair: Mrs Mary Hare

Deanery Organiser: Mr Clive Willetts: Deanery Secretary: Mrs Linda Cooper

The Deanery Synod met 4 times.

1. 23rd June 2022, Butley Village Hall

Exploring the Fifth Mark of Mission: A presentation by Rev. Canon Mark Haworth.

'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth'

The Synod was reminded to Teach-Tell-Tend-Transform-Treasure.

The Diocesan website was referenced for a wealth of helpful information at

<https://www.cofesuffolk.or/for-parishes/your-church-and-the-environment/>

Deanery Parishes were encouraged to get involved with **A Rocha UK's Eco Church Scheme**

Deanery Pilgrimages: 2 walks were available on the Deanery Website.

Support for Ukrainian Refugees locally was encouraged.

2. 13th October 2022, Hasketon Village Hall.

Ministry Road Show: Led by Revd Stuart Batten: Diocesan Director of Ordinands.

Pilgrimage: A successful pilgrimage had taken place on 24th September beginning in Great Bealings and finishing at Eyke.

3. 17th November 2022: Melton St Andrews

A happy synod review and social gathering with home cooked meal was enjoyed. There was time to socialise and talk.

Ven Annette Cooper (retiring) was gratefully thanked for all the hard work she had undertaken as Rural Dean over the last 2 years helping the Deanery through multiple clergy appointments, updating parish inspections post-covid and setting the Deanery on a course for the future.

4. 2nd February 2023: St Felix, Rendlesham.

Growing Younger: Diocesan Children's and Families Officer, Mrs Hilary Wadsworth-Sewell and her colleague Mrs Barbara Norburn, Licensed Children and Families Minister gave a presentation. Non-Synod members interested in Children and Families work were welcomed.

Deanery and Parish Share: Clive Willetts thanked and congratulated all for achieving 100% Parish Share.

Eco Church and Website update; Rita James gave a presentation. Parishes were urged to aim for a Bronze eco award in the next year.

Signed: Mary Hare, Lay Chair, 28th February 2023

Eco Church

The General Synod of February 2020 recognised that there is a global climate emergency and called upon all parts of the Church of England to work to reduce emissions and produce a plan of action to achieve net zero carbon by 2030 - which is only seven short years away. Reports of floods and droughts, melting glaciers and wildfires will surely have made all of us more alert to the fact that climate change is happening right now. Our Diocese is committed to safeguarding the environment and mitigating the climate crisis and is encouraging PCCs and other Diocesan groups to take the necessary action, with the support of outside agencies, so that we can reach net zero carbon by 2030.

Each church within our Diocese is also encouraged to register with the Eco Church scheme run by the charity A Rocha UK. This scheme is designed to motivate and resource churches in establishing ways of caring for God's earth as an integral part of their everyday work and witness. It provides an online survey to help gauge what is already being done and what would help with decision making on the next steps.

There are five sections to the Eco Church questionnaire:

Our Worship and Teaching, How we look after our Buildings, How we look after our Land, How we engage with Community and Global environmental issues and campaigns. As individuals how do we engage with environmental issues in our daily Lifestyles.

The filling in of the online baseline survey highlighted what's already going on, where improvements are needed and what can be done. So far we've carried out actions that have allowed us to progress in our 'greenness' to the extent that we have qualified for the first level Eco Church 'Bronze' Award.

God created the world and wants us to be good stewards and look after it for the benefit of all people. Our next goal is to reach the next level - 'Silver' Award.

Submitted by Rita James

Elders

Safeguarding Training has been at the top of all churches' agendas, in the Church of England, Elders are required to complete three levels of training – Basic Awareness, Foundation and Leadership - and all are now well on the way in bringing their training up-to-date and, once completed, they will be in a strong position to share and demonstrate good practice in this regard.

Four of the ten Elders were recommissioned for a further three years in July 2022 and the remaining six were re-commissioned by Bishop Martin during a 10 o'clock service in January 2023

Elders continue to visit local Care Homes (Grove Court, Haughgate House, Seckford Care and Woodbridge Lodge) to administer Extended Communion, take Morning Prayer and lead services at Christmas and Easter. They also undertake home visits to members of our congregation who are too unwell / infirm to attend church in person. The e-news is shared either electronically or via delivery of a hard copy with all those mentioned above.

Our live-streaming of all the main services continues to offer a lifeline to those unable to attend church. In addition, Elders keep in regular 'phone and email contact with those who might for whatever reason feel isolated at home or in sheltered accommodation.

Throughout the past year our sister church of St. Mary's, Great Bealings has been supported by Elders leading a monthly 'Morning Prayer with Reflection' and this has been well received.

Weekly Saturday Morning Prayer has continued on Zoom and is led and regularly attended by Elders, plus a couple of other members of our congregation. This service continues to be invaluable enabling us to worship together regularly, keep in touch, support each other, as well as keeping us up to date with the names of members of our congregation who need our prayers.

Elders continue to welcome the congregation as they enter the church building at the start of services and, at the same time, to keep an eye out for new people and talk to and help them.

In addition to the above, Elders have continued to prepare and lead the intercessions in Sunday services, administer the chalice and some are also on the rota to read the Lesson. Elders have taken Evening Prayer and Compline, and occasionally acted as Verger at funerals as well as planning the funeral service of a much-loved elderly Elder, while also supporting the Rector as and when required.

Submitted by: Alison Davis

Electoral Roll

I took over as Electoral Roll Officer at the beginning of April just in time for the Annual Revision of the Electoral Roll, which was taking place between 16th April and 30 April. At the beginning of the period there were 196 people on the Electoral Roll. During the Revision of the Roll 7 names have been removed for various reasons and 27 additional names added. The total on the Electoral Roll is now 216.

Submitted by Margaret Davidson

Fabric Committee

The fabric committee, consisting of seven members of the church, have met for five meetings during the past year. The main areas of discussion are the Quinquennial Report, organ repairs and the churchyard. The work required on the church structure recognised by the Quinquennial report is waiting to go out to tender. The flint stone masonry especially around the North West corner of the church requires most attention. The organ repairs are underway. The Churchyard; design and structural details for St. Mary's gates being reset are underway and the chest tombs examined as regards their proximity to St. Mary's House extension.

New Health and Safety report produced by our Health and Safety officer and the Fire extinguishers all examined and certified for another year.

Looking ahead, most importantly, to tender a contractor to carry out the Quinquennial works in 2023.

We are grateful to *Darren Darby* for taking responsibility for Maintenance.

Church Cleaning (Dusting)

During 2022 and 2023 the care of the church pews has been done by five ladies on the dusting rota who have kept our wooden areas in the church beautifully clean. They work independently and are responsible for their own section of the church to dust twice monthly. May I take this opportunity to greatly thank *Michelle Bullard; Gillian Gurdon; Anna Jenkins; Sandra Schur and Caroline Hawksley?*

Brassware: In April 2022, Tommy Tucker, who polished and cared for the Brassware in the church for several years stepped down. Tommy served in the army for 33 years travelling to many parts of the world. When he retired from the service he became **Serjeant of Arms** for the Lord Mayor of London as one of his esquires for 14 years. I would like to thank Tommy for all those many hours of polishing. Two ladies are now our brassware carers. Judy Foster and Jenny Harris are excellent polishers.

Submitted by: Barbara Stear

Fire, Health and Safety;

- Updated Health and safety policy presented and approved at PCC meeting 22/11/22
- All fire extinguishers checked by Fire power 17/2/23
- PAT test for electrical equipment to be arranged for September

- Update of evacuation drill in the event of fire etc is in progress with a plan to hold a practice drill one Sunday in the summer months.
- Update of risk assessments for events in progress.

Submitted by: Michelle Bullard

Flower Group

We have fulfilled the requirements of the church calendar providing flower arrangements for Christmas, Easter and Harvest with an even smaller group of members.

In June we staged a flower festival in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee under the title of 'The Queen's Canopy'. It involved a lot of planning from January onwards and we received a lot of help from Fr. Nigel and David Berridge. David came up with some brilliant ideas for staging the festival and nothing seemed to be a problem or too much trouble. The displays represented different aspects of the Queen's year from Trooping the Colour to Christmas. Little did we know then that all too soon we would be arranging flowers to mark the Queen's passing. The festival was deemed to be a great success and whilst we didn't make a huge profit, we covered our costs with a little on top.

Unfortunately, shortly before the Queen died, our dear Treasurer, Pauline Fisher, died at the age of 92. She is much missed both as a talented arranger and for her unfailing good nature in handling the accounts. We are still in the process of taking on the accounts, which is being done by Helen Kidwell, who had assisted Pauline with the accounts, and was co-signatory. Sue Smith-Lyte has agreed to be co-signatory and although we have made several attempts to deal with the bank, it is proving as complicated as if we were running a large company!

We go forward to the next year with far fewer people, due the ill health and anno domini. Efforts to recruit younger people are proving fruitless at the moment. All suggestions welcome.

Submitted by: Sue Smith-Lyte

The Friends of St. Mary's Church

A big thank you to everyone who supported the Friends in 2022 and helped make it a year of celebration. Two highlights last year were our Celebrating 70 Art Exhibition - 70 portraits hung in church to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – and our 10th Anniversary gathering with a rescreening of the film John McCarthy's Woodbridge and a talk by John McCarthy himself. In all the Friends were involved in 12 events, bringing hundreds of people into church and raising £4000. Net income for the year came to £7000 and we agreed two donations, one made to the Suffolk Community Foundation (£500) and one agreed and in the process of being made to fund the refurbishment of the church organ (£12500). In 10 years the Friends have raised a total of £129,553 and gifted £118,000 to the church's fabric fund. This year we have already hosted a superb concert by the Chamber Choir of King's College School, Wimbledon and have the following events scheduled:

Tuesday 18th April, 6.30pm in the Church Centre - Friends AGM

Sunday 23rd April, 3pm in church – Afternoon Delight with Two flutes and a Piano plus Tango Innominado

Sunday 4th June, 3pm in church - Joyspring jazz

Saturday 10th June, 6-8pm - drinks in the garden of Jill Notcutt

Sunday 19th November, 3pm in church - Woodbridge Prom featuring singers and musicians from Woodbridge School

Watch your email ad notice boards for details!

Submitted by: Nick Cottam

Girlguiding - 2nd Woodbridge (St Mary's) Rainbows

This year has seen us continue to get back to our new normal regarding our weekly meetings. As I write we have a unit of 16 girls with a waiting list for when there are spaces. This year we started to take 4 year olds and have risen to the challenges and differences this has raised.

We have achieved as a unit 4 skill builder badges from four of the six themes our programme focuses on, and the girls have been tackling some of the 12 Interest badges at home. We have had one Gold, two Silver and several Bronze awards this past year. All the girls engage well with our varied programme, which has included a Town Trail where we looked at unusual things around the town centre, Outdoor cooking where S'mores were made and eaten with great delight, a couple of Science-based evenings, a Dinosaur evening, we have learnt about some of the Patron Saints and had a trip out to Foxburrow Farm to learn about Mini beasts and make Fairy dens. The girls, again, undertook being Kind and Helpful at home to raise money to fill a Smartie tube. Funds went to Children in Need. The girls also brought in donated items that went to a three local charity shops of the girls' choice. As a part of our programme we encourage them to take ownership of group decisions, rather than the adults making all the decisions.

It has been a year where challenges have arisen and we have risen to meet them head on. Lots of new skills have been learnt by the girls and the leaders. Most importantly we have had Fun whilst doing so!

The Unit, moving forward, is losing its current leadership team in March 2023, due to ill-health. There are promising murmurings that there are new volunteers who have come forward to take the unit forward from April 2023.

Submitted by: Sarah-Jane Gee

Girlguiding - 3rd Woodbridge (St Mary's) Rainbows

We started the Summer Term with 4 rainbows, after several had reached the leaving age and moved onto Brownies. The unit celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by making flags and sending a letter to the Queen. We joined the celebrations on Kingston Field for the Jubilee with the rest of the town. This was a lovely event joining all the organisations within Woodbridge trying to return to normality after covid, we managed to recruit some new rainbows during this event. The unit completed this recruitment of new rainbows by

holding an open evening welcoming friends of the girls already in the unit. We finished the term by going on a bug hunt, making fruit kebabs and taking our teddy bears on a picnic.

The Autumn term was packed, working on two skills builders' part of the Rainbow programme, we took part in the Button Challenge earning the girls a badge. We participated in the Remembrance service on Market Hill and one rainbow assisted to lay the Girlguiding wreath at the memorial, she did a fantastic job, making us all very proud of her. All but two rainbows joined us for our first sleepover at St Mary's House, the girls set up pop up tents in the BP room, so they felt like they were camping and completed activities related to Shaun the sheep, finishing the evening with hot chocolate and a bedtime story. At the end of the term, we held a special promise evening for the new rainbows inviting their families to watch.

The Spring Term saw our numbers increase and the girls had been very busy time doing interest badges at home, skills builders and unit meeting activities in their weekly meetings with a theme of Take Action and Know Myself. We celebrated Thinking Day; Chinese New Year and each girl planted a daffodil in a cup and gave it to someone who had helped them. We had been looking at the various different types of people in our lives, who help us. At the end of the term, we were very proud to be able to award five girls with their bronze awards in front of parents and family members.

The unit has had a change of leadership over the last six months with one leader taking a step back due to work commitments. We were very grateful to a mum who volunteered to assist us during the Autumn and Spring term. Another change in the Spring term with a new volunteer joining the leadership team. We have one young leader, who is invaluable to the unit. We are looking forward to the coming year.

Submitted by: Alison Lavender (Badger)

Girlguiding - 3rd Woodbridge (St Mary's) Brownies

Being part of St Mary's has given 3rd Woodbridge brownies opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have. During troubled times it has given a sense of family and stability that has been, and is, needed. We began the year meeting in person and learning first aid and emergency situations. Then came preparations for the Jubilee. We practised and sang the jubilee anthem with the choir. Thank you to them for their patience. Working to a goal inter-generationally enriched the 7-10 year old girls. The flags at Church Parade were a challenge, but we achieved our goal.

In July, 15 of us went on a coach to Hautbois Girlguiding activity centre. Brownies from all over Suffolk met for abseiling, zip wire, archery and other challenges in the land of make believe. This was the first large event and coach journey away from parents for most, who have spent so much time of their lives socially distanced.

In the Autumn term we explored different jobs. A parent helped at each meeting bringing their own skills, job conversations and outlook on life. For parliament week, our local Mayor braved one of our meetings and was grilled (very politely) by the inquisitive Brownies. He survived and the Brownies learnt a great deal about campaigning for what is important to them. Harvest church parade showed the many tasks that went together to make a church service happen, and a rose tree was planted afterwards.

An enjoyable and scary adventure in the dark and sleepover happened in St Mary's house. It's surprising how scary things can be by the light of glow sticks and torches. Joined by Melton Brownies they had a fabulous time (with little sleep).

Submitted by: The Owls; Carol Chamberlain, with Jess and Sally

Girlguiding – 2nd Woodbridge (St Mary's) Guides

With the arrival of 2022, the Covid restrictions were loosening further and we were able to extend our activities to include residential, so that a sleepover at Hollesley, Wet Weekend at Ramsholt and camp at Hallowtree all happened before the summer holidays, along with attendance at a 'Give It a Go Day' of outdoor activities tasters and participation as part of the *Girlguiding Seckford* District presence at the Platinum Jubilee event on Kingston Field.

We continued to meet mainly in the Hall and the churchyard, with our extended programme based around *Skills builder* clauses and some *Unit Meeting Activities*, while some girls chose to tackle *Interest Badges* too.

For Mothering Sunday, we prepared the posies available in church. Alongside other Sections, Guides led prayers and carried colours at the special Platinum Jubilee Eucharist, with the flower festival 'canopy' providing a particular challenge! We were also represented at Harvest Festival, when the trees were planted, and the Remembrance Day observations on Market Hill.

Some girls chose to attend the Thorpeness Water Day and most of us had a celebratory sleepover at St Mary's House to commemorate our centenary: 100 years of unbroken presence of Guides at St Mary's! We visited the Museum to look at some of the ways in which the town has changed since 1922, had a twilight walk along the River Wall and eventually enjoyed a ritzy breakfast, complete with bubbly (orange juice) and birthday cake.

As the year came to a close, we ran a stall and helped with an activity and competitions at the benefice Christmas Market and enjoyed an evening of ten-pin bowling.

It is very encouraging to note that three of our former members are working now as Young Leaders with local Units – Rainbows, Brownies and Guides – and our own leadership team has been strengthened further, with Amelia Owens joining us just before Christmas. I remain grateful to Alison Lavender and Meg Cooke, for their wisdom, expertise and humour.

The Unit continues to appreciate greatly the ongoing and invaluable support of the parish, which helps the Leaders provide a range of worthwhile experiences for the girls.

Submitted by: Veronica Howe

Junior Church - Children and Families

Since the last report of April 2022, we have been able to continue in our mission to provide activities for children every Sunday and an additional four 'Messy Church' events.

We have a regular attendance of children throughout the year, and we now also have four young people who act as 'young leaders'. These older children seem to enjoy the responsibility of supporting younger participants and will step into the role whenever they are available. We are hoping to develop this 'young leader' role.

The activities provided on Sundays are linked to that day's Gospel and to the liturgical calendar. The children listen to an age-appropriate adaptation of the day's Gospel story and have the opportunity to discuss, make cards, story boards, posters, write prayers, sing, and learn about the liturgy and patterns of the church. We have noticed a deepening of their understanding, which has been displayed by their ability to compare, link and recall previous events and Gospel stories. We believe that the parish enjoys the presence of the children in church, and enjoy hearing at each service about what they have learned about the Gospel.

Some notable events include:

- Easter Eve 2022, when the children came into the church grounds to make an Easter Garden and share in refreshments.
- The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in which the children joined in the celebrations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by making a mosaic of the Queen's face with butterflies and flowers. They also led 'parade-style' celebrations outside the church, waving ribbons and blowing bubbles.
- A well-attended 'Messy Church' session, entitled "Messy Outside", took place in the grounds of Great Bealings Church during the summer. The children and parents enjoyed activities relating to the immediate environment, including making bird feeders and a small pond.
- For Fr. Nigel's 40th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood, the children made a card and enjoyed very special cake afterwards.
- The Harvest Eucharist in October, at which there was a good attendance of eleven children. At this service, the children delivered the intercessional prayers.
- The church 'Bake Off' event in November was well-supported by the young families and parish. The 'Junior Baker' category proved popular. The event was attended by a good number of families and church members.
- Another 'Messy Church' event, 'Messy Angels', took place in Advent, was very well-attended and the children enjoyed activities based on the Angels theme which the parish was following, along with many other churches in the local area.
- At the 'Toy Service' on 4th December, the children dressed as St Nicholas and brought new toys to church for charitable distribution.
- Some of the Junior Church children joined the school choir in singing at Deben View just before Christmas and we took along our hand chimes to play.
- Approximately one hundred children attended the Crib and Christingle Service. They sang a song on their own accompanied by the hand chimes, and led a beautiful original Nativity reflection with, 'The Angel who won her Wings'.
- 'Messy Church' for Lent, 'Spring into Lent', was well-attended in March where the children made pancakes, Lent cards and seed bombs; all activities were linked to the theme of new life, and our young leaders led some of the activities.
- We had twenty-five children on Palm Sunday, carrying coloured drapes and branches. They led a Palm Procession song in the church, supported by the parish

choir. Many of the children joined us for the first time on this day, and they all worked hard on making their palm cross cards with a story in the hall during the service.

- On Easter Sunday, we were joined by 16 children who made cards and chocolate nests with eggs. They dutifully presented a chocolate nest to Fr Nigel and Brother Marc!

Liz attends St Mary's Primary School every Wednesday for Choir sessions, and this is proving to be a good bridge between church and school. The school children, as well as the Junior Church, all made the angel decorations which were displayed on the church Christmas tree, and some of the choir have joined us in church on various occasions to join in with the singing.

The parents are willing and enthusiastic in helping where they can with the children's activities, especially with Messy Church which requires much more support from adults. We held a parents' meeting in October, and ways in which we can develop and encourage children and young families were discussed. One idea, which proved to be especially popular, is the idea of a family service. As the first Sunday of each month is at 11am, we are trying to tailor this service towards children and families. Our vision is to see children more involved with the prayers, music, gospel, and Fr. Nigel's address.

Thank you to Liz, who proactively plans and resources each week's fun activities, maintains vital contact with parents of the parish and makes vital links between the church and school.

Thanks to Rachel who co-plans and shares the leadership in the children's activities and too many of the parents who 'muck in' when necessary. Thanks also to the ladies who happily run the kitchen for us on Messy Church days. We are now lucky enough to have our young leaders who are helping when they can: our thanks go to Mikayla, Juno, Ellie-Rose and Elsie.

The biggest thank you of course is to the children and young people who continue to bring joy to the parish.

We are sure that the parish enjoys the presence of the children in church and anyone wishing to get involved would be most welcome.

Submitted by Liz Prior and Rachel Wade

Mother's Union

'Back to normal'!! as far as our Branch Meetings were concerned, we were able to follow a full programme for 2022 and were treated to some lovely afternoons of good company, excellent speakers and thoughtful moments of reflection of events happening within the world.

One of our highlights was our 'Day Out' at The Hut in Felixstowe. A whole day of sunshine, smiling faces and the enjoyment of just being together. There was even swimming and paddling involved.

January's New Year's Lunch (kick started 2023) prepared by Jean and Tony Waller; we were able to invite Fr Nigel, Liz, Linda and Bob to this; along with the head-scratching quiz (and someone using their mobile!!) we all enjoyed ourselves.

As a branch we have been able to send our donations of Seaman's Hats & Drain Bags (for women having had breast surgery at Ipswich Hospital). We have also put together 10 Bags of Love – 2 x Weddings, 2 x Baptisms, 3 x Branch Members and 3 x Christmas Indoor Member Bags.

The Mothers' Union have contributed donations to various organisations throughout Ipswich and Bury.

We also donated a 'Toiletries Hamper' for the Church Christmas Fair, the excess donations were given to the Women's Refuge in Ipswich.

We remember those members we have lost in 2022:

Anne Kersley (15.03.22) and Joy Shipton (28.05.22)

Also... Queen Elizabeth II – who was Patron of the Mothers' Union.

We give thanks for Anne, Joy and our Queen for their lives and for all that they have done and given to family and friends throughout their time with us. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

On a serious note, St Mary's MU are facing a membership dilemma, yes we have 19 members but with members moving away, losing others through death and a very much 'older' age membership, our meetings normally average '9'!. Like all groups we need new members to bring up the rear which - unfortunately without - we will, at some time in the future, close, as some branches have unfortunately had to do in 2022.

Looking back over the records, our branch has been here for 33+ years. It would be lovely to make 50 years.

We have a varied programme throughout the year, please think about giving us a go and come along to one of our meetings. These are held on the 2nd Thursday in the month at 2:15pm in SMH.

We welcome everyone (men included).

Submitted by: Rachel Jolley and Jean Cobb

St. Mary's House

There continue to be regular weekly and monthly bookings from groups who have used the facilities at St Mary's House for a number of years, including our own Choir, Mothers' Union, Christian Meditation Group, Time to Reflect, Friends' of St Mary's, Rainbows, Brownies & Guides, and external users such as Poppy's Pantry, Browsers Poetry Group, and Co-op Bereavement, and although we have lost one regular Yoga Group, it has been replaced by another weekly group, and a monthly Women's Recovery Group.

The Professional Development Group continue to meet bi-monthly, and there have been a number of ad hoc bookings for private parties, a dance class, receptions following funeral or memorial services, annual general (or other) meetings, a highly successful series of teaching classes for the Woodbridge Ukrainian Hub (until it outgrew our facilities and moved to Woodbridge School), and most recently a four days a week for 6 weeks (possibly extending to 12 weeks) booking for a Princes' Trust personal development programme for young people, who will be using the Baden-Powell Room.

We also hosted a 'Warm Room' for several weeks in the Small Hall.

This year we started advertising the facilities at St Mary's House on www.yourhall.co.uk and propose, in future, to ascertain where each enquiry originated so that we can track the success of any advertising, and / or discover how people learn about our facilities.

It would be useful to have some up-to-date photographs that could be used for advertising purposes, including on Facebook and our own website, in order to raise awareness and encourage more hall and room bookings.

Submitted by: Linda Rumbold

St. Mary's House Project

The membership of this project team led by Father Nigel has changed throughout the year. David Berridge, Diane Milan, Simon Morris and Philip Poole stepped down on the basis that they will continue to oversee the work of the group as members of the PCC. Gerry Toplis, Patricia Ford and Katharine Turner have joined the team.

During the year, Henry Freeland of Freeland Rees Architects developed a range of different plans for the development of St Mary's House and the church building for discussion and modification by the PCC. He gave a formal presentation on the plans in October.

The plans were also shared over two Sundays in January with the congregation of St Mary's and as part of an initial engagement exercise - the first beyond the PCC.

The objective set for the year was to obtain planning permission as soon as practicable. A prerequisite for this has been the significant expansion and development of the statement of need prepared last year. At least three new and very detailed statements were produced during the year including a statement of significance; a statement of heritage and a statement of need.

Several essential surveys - also necessary for planning permission - have been commissioned and carried out, for example of drainage and the arboricultural environment. The findings of the surveys are likely to have implications for the proposed plans to ensure that the PCC is able to strike a balance between fulfilling its ambitious plans for the renovations of St Mary's House, which will allow for greater and more integrated use of the Church building with St Mary's House.

Submitted by: Katharine Turner

Servers

The Servants of the Sanctuary have continued to support Father Nigel and our Parish Clergy during the Celebration of the Eucharist, and at other Liturgies and Festivals when required.

We are a small and dedicated group of people, and it has been wonderful to see husbands, wives, mums, dads and daughters all serving together over the last year, sometimes at short notice.

Our Servers fulfil the following roles at St Mary's:

1. Crucifer: Is the Server who carries the processional cross and leads the procession in and out of the church, and the Gospel procession.
2. Acolytes: Are Servers who carry the candles behind the processional cross and illuminate the Gospel. They also receive the gifts from the congregation.
3. MC: Assists the priest, sets the table for communion, washes the celebrants hands, and carries the Gospel Book or Bible, and holds it open for clergy or deacon the during the reading of the Gospel lesson for the day.
4. Thurifer: Plays a vital role in helping the priest cultivate an environment in which worship may be celebrated with reverence and awe, by providing incense to symbolise our prayers rising to God.
5. Boat Person: Carries the incense boat which holds the incense that will be used during the service.

We are proud that our serving team continues to represent the diversity and life of our parish and would welcome more volunteers.

Serving is a wonderful vocation. It brings responsibility, teamwork, self-confidence, and perceiving what needs to be done and doing it; It helps to develop a deeper understanding of the Eucharist, by being part of it; And it supports the development of our church community, by being recognised, and recognising more and more people in the church, and building relationships.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the servers for their time, commitment and enthusiasm, and look forward to growing and developing the team as we move forward.

Submitted by David Sharples

Sidesmen

We are always very grateful to those who arrive early to sort hymn books and then leave after everyone else, having done several other jobs in the meantime.

Some of those who stepped back for a while have returned to their duties. For this we are very thankful. Others felt that their days of assisting had come to an end: we thank them for their help over the years. Some have moved elsewhere. Some, alas, are with us no longer.

However, we do have some new people on the rota and we are delighted to welcome them as they enjoy their new responsibilities.

There are currently 20 people helping on a permanent basis, with a further 6 as reserves.

As of 1st April 2023, the list of those available to help is as follows:

Jean Cobb
Stephen & Jane Cole
Geoff & Val English
Margaret Harper
Anna Jenkins
Janet Laight
Valerie Le Marchand
Sarah Lines

Reserves:
Anna Ashton
Michelle Bullard
Roger Burgess
Gill Cruickshank
Cilla Steed
Gerry Toplis

Andrew & Katherine Pickthorn
Sandra Schur
Jamie, Lucy & Emilia Symons
Katharine Turner
Stuart & Rachel Wade
Lesley Whitehead

Submitted by: Val English

Social Events

In some ways, 2022 provided somewhat of a watershed, with small steps being taken, towards resuming our pre-Covid level of activities.

It was a huge privilege to welcome Pip Hare one Sunday afternoon in February, to give us an entertaining illustrated talk on some of the highs and lows of her sailing career and experiences of the *Vendee Globe 2020*.

Refreshments were provided for the Pilgrim Cross (Essex Leg), throughout the four days of the Platinum Jubilee Flower Festival, at the screening in church of Queen Elizabeth II's funeral and on a planned basis after Sunday 8 am and 10 am Sunday services and monthly after the Thursday 10 am Eucharist.

A facility that started by way of experiment and developed – weather permitting - through most of the year was the early morning (free) 'Coffee Shop' at St Mary's School for busy parents/carers dropping off their children.

There was a 'bring-and-share' lunch in church to mark the Patronal Festival. The Summer Fete and Christmas Market were well supported, while the Singapore Evening - scheduled for September - was postponed until early 2023, when it proved a great success.

Towards the end of the year, we began the new 'Warm Room', which was supported from her discretionary funds by County Councillor Caroline Page.

If you are willing to become involved in helping to run our social events, please do come forward! This is a very important part of our life and a new co-ordinator would be most welcome.

Submitted by: Veronica Howe

Stewards

The practice of having our beautiful church 'staffed' (from May to September) happened again, with a small but very loyal band of volunteers taking on one (10.30 -12.30 or 2.00 – 4.00) session, or more if wished. They maintained a friendly, but unobtrusive presence for visitors.

The rota is established on a monthly basis to accommodate individual availability; more Stewards would be very welcome and indeed are *needed*. Names could be offered to a Churchwarden or left with Linda, the Benefice Secretary, please.

Submitted by: Veronica Howe

Time to Reflect Group

This year around 12-15 of us met on Monday mornings in St Mary's House and focussed on our spiritual development by reading two books that offered inspiration through different aspects of prayer and bible study. Daniel Wolpert's 'Creating a Life with God: the call of ancient prayer practices' gave us the opportunity to practise 12 different prayer practices varying from the Jesus Prayer, the prayer of examen, walking a labyrinth, praying with our body, and more in the company of 'travelling companions' from history, such as Ignatius Loyola and Julian of Norwich - individuals and groups whose lives were illuminated by these ways of praying. 'How to Eat Bread: 21 Nourishing Ways to Read the Bible' by Miranda Threlfall-Holmes was ideally placed to help us to read the Bible as part of our faith. We were encouraged to try out different ways of Bible reading and to draw on our rich heritage of how Christians have read the Bible down the ages.

Time to Reflect also organised a Quiet Day at the Rookery Barn, Eyke, on 14th September. We were invited to a day of contemplation on the theme 'Mary, of Bethany, at your feet'. An inspiring day was led by Andrea Skevington, a local Christian author, and concluded with Eucharist with Fr Nigel.

Throughout the year individual members have continued to work on being good stewards of our planet, and offered support to Climate Change initiatives organised by the Town Council, and the achievement of the Bronze Award for St Mary's as an eco-church.

Submitted by: Diane Milan

For further information please visit our website: www.stmaryswoodbridge.org

Or contact: St. Mary's Benefice Office, 11 Market Hill, Woodbridge, IP12 4LP

parish.office@stmaryswoodbridge.org

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Financial Review

Thankfully, 2022 saw a return to normality as Covid and associated Lockdowns that had impacted church activities in 2021, closing the church for part of the year, was behind us and aspects of the subsequent financial performance show some healthy evidence of this on the income side. In particular, the church shop were open again as was our Parish Hall (St Mary's House) for external hire, all of which helped bolster income.

The overall financial outcome for 2022 turned out to be better than we expected mid-way through the year. At that point, there had been slippage on the income side and expenditure had moved higher in a number of areas, signalling a need to keep a close eye on costs for the rest of the year. I'm pleased to be able to report that there was an improvement in the second half of the year so that the outcome turned out to be better than looked likely at the end of the first half.

Before addressing the key elements of the accounts, a couple of technical remarks to aid the understanding of their presentation. As in 2021, the accounts in this report are set out on three different bases: unrestricted or general funds, which can be used for any purpose; restricted funds that can only be used for specifically defined purposes and designated funds that are technically unrestricted but have been designated by the PCC for specific purposes, the most important of which relates to the project to refurbish St Mary's House and provide a linkage at ground level from the main church building to allow disabled access.

It is also worth noting that only activities and funds that the PCC is legally responsible for are included in the accounts so, for example, they do not include affiliated funds such as the bell ringers or the flower fund (see note 12 for a list of funds that are included). The Statement of Financial Activities which forms the first page of these accounts is a summary of the full picture and sums up to a net movement in funds across all of the funds and activities for which the PCC is responsible. The detailed breakdowns of expenditure and income are set out in notes 2 and 3.

Income

On the income side, voluntary income which is the most important category in terms of contribution, was down on 2021 coming in at 108,774 compared to 124,429 in 2021 and the fall in the underlying contribution was further compounded by the effect on our ability to claim gift aid which, where applicable, boosts the level of such contributions by 25% once basic income tax is claimed back from HMRC. There is a breakdown of the various categories of income in note 2. Legacies were also down on 2021 as funding from the very generous legacy from the James Harper Estate which the PCC has designated for the St Mary's House project, tapered off from the level in 2021. Taking all categories into account, voluntary income including legacies was down by close to £20,000.

The good news on the income side is that fund generating activities (concerts, events etc.) was sharply up on 2021 as was income from activities including the church shop and hire of the church and church hall while income from investments was also higher than in 2021. Gross profit from the church shop (the difference between the value of shop sales less the value of shop purchases for resale) was up from £5,903 in 2021 to £8,058 in 2022, an encouraging result. Given these positive developments, on a net basis, the fall in voluntary

income mentioned above was partly offset and total income in 2022 was only down by £5,383, which is a commendable result taking everything into consideration.

Expenditure

Expenditure items are set out in detail in note 3. Several categories of expenditure were up on 2021: ministry costs, church-related costs and St Mary's House costs all increased. The largest part of the overall increase in expenditure was on the St Mary's House project. This was up from £14,155 in 2021 to £56,861 in 2022, a reflection of professional fees paid to the newly retained architects (see the Rector's forward regarding this and other aspects of this important project) as well as for various surveys, work from the quantity surveyor and other expenditure necessary as preparatory work for seeking planning consent for the project which will provide ground floor linkage between St Mary's House and the Church, and new and refreshed facilities in the building for both Church and wider community use. The funding for these payments comes from the designated Harper legacy monies, not the general account.

During the year, St Mary's benefited from having a fixed contract for electricity supply which runs through to 2024 and while a new fixed price contract for gas involved higher prices than paid to our previous supplier which had gone bankrupt, we were also spared much of the subsequent sharp rise in gas prices following the onset of the war in Ukraine.

Overall Position

Putting income and expenditure categories together, there was an excess of expenditure over income totalled across all categories (unrestricted, designated and restricted) of £43,469. However, the good news here is that this was the result of deficits on the designated activities (the St Mary's House project) and not a deficit on the general/unrestricted fund. In fact, the general fund recorded a small surplus of £3,697. However, to put this into context, this surplus was effectively mirroring the lower proportion of the Benefice 'centenary share' paid to the Diocese by St Mary's as our partner church at Great Bealings increased their contribution towards this to 15% of the total.

Reserves

It is the policy of the PCC to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds to cover any unexpected expenditure that may arise. At the end of the year the balance of free reserves is considered adequate to maintain this policy.

The Trustees do not believe there to be material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Risk Management

The PCC examines major risks that the Parish faces each year during its normal business and establishes policies where appropriate.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the 2006 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charities Commission on public benefit.

Concluding Remarks

In conclusion, the full year outturn on the general account was better than appeared likely around mid-year and St Mary's financials remain in good shape with total funds carried forward of £872,968. In this context it is worth noting the positive contribution from events/fundraising and church activities including the shop and also the fact that our electricity and gas were supplied on fixed price contracts.

Looking ahead, while we will remain protected by these fixed price contracts for utilities, there will be ongoing increases in other costs reflecting the sharp rise in UK inflation. On the income side, the challenge continues to be to create a more predictable flow of income that will enable us to budget against expenditure and continue to balance our books on a day to day basis.

The Treasurer and PCC would like to thank and recognise the very significant contribution of Michael Holland in the production of these accounts and other finance-related activities throughout the year. We would also like to thank Parish Secretary Linda Rumbold and Hannah Pauly who assisted with the day to day bookkeeping for the Church.

PCC OF ST MARY'S, WOODBRIDGE

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted General Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Voluntary income excluding legacies	106,579	-	2,195	108,774	124,429	2
Fundraising, concerts and events	5,649	-	2,380	8,029	4,720	2
Church activities (including shop)	31,550	-	-	31,550	23,176	2
Income from investments	322	2,591	142	3,055	209	2
Other receipts	660	-	33	693	887	2
Total before legacies	144,760	2,591	4,750	152,101	153,421	
Legacies – general	6,000	-	-	6,000	5,196	2
Legacies – designated fund	-	4,631	-	4,631	9,498	2
TOTAL INCOME	150,760	7,222	4,750	162,732	168,115	2
EXPENDITURE						
Church activities (including shop)	78,874	-	6,663	85,537	72,624	3
St Mary's House project	-	56,861	-	56,861	14,155	3
Diocesan parish share	63,189	-	-	63,189	67,282	3
Major Church repairs	-	-	-	-	-	3
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	142,063	56,861	6,663	205,587	154,061	
NET INCOME/DEFICIT BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS	8,697	(49,639)	(1,913)	(42,855)	14,054	
(Loss)/Gain on revaluation of investments	-	-	(614)	(614)	668	
Transfer between funds	(5,000)	5,000	-	-	-	
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	3,697	(44,639)	(2,527)	(43,469)	14,722	
Total funds brought forward	115,120	695,643	105,674	916,437	901,715	
Total funds carried forward	118,817	651,004	103,147	872,968	916,437	

The notes to the Financial Statements form part of these accounts.

There were no movements on the Endowed Funds during the year which remain at £314,543.

PCC OF ST MARY'S, WOODBRIDGE

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2022

	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021	Notes
	£	£	
Land and buildings (St Mary's House)	314,543	314,543	
Church piano	21,000	21,000	
Church equipment	7,327	11,044	
	342,870	346,587	8
Investments – restricted fund	4,692	5,306	9
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	347,562	351,893	
Stock	5,680	6,010	
Debtors and prepayments	11,070	14,178	10
Legacy due at year end	5,000	8,000	10
Cash at bank and in hand	821,168	861,257	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	842,918	889,445	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(2,969)	(10,358)	11
NET CURRENT ASSETS	839,949	879,087	
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,187,511	1,230,980	
PARISH FUNDS			
Unrestricted general funds	118,817	115,120	12
Unrestricted designated fund	651,004	695,643	12
Restricted funds	103,147	105,674	12
	872,968	916,437	
Endowment funds	314,543	314,543	12
TOTAL PARISH FUNDS	1,187,511	1,230,980	

The notes to the Financial Statements form part of these accounts.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 15/03/2022 and signed on its behalf by the Reverend Nigel Prior, PCC Chairman, and Philip Poole as Treasurer.

Reverend Nigel Prior, PCC Chairman

Philip Poole, PCC Treasurer

PCC OF ST MARY'S WOODBRIDGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair" provisions, together with FRS 102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the (2016) version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP (FRS 102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of investments at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of Church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of Church members.

1.2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods

1.3 Funds accounting

Unrestricted funds

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for spending on a future project and which are not included in its "free reserves" as disclosed in the trustees' report.

Restricted funds

These are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

Endowment funds

These are restricted funds that must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend capital as income, and where the use of any income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted and unrestricted.

1.4 Incoming resources

Incoming resources are recognised in the financial statements when the PCC becomes legally entitled to the benefit of use of the resource, the inflow of economic benefit is probable and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

- Legacies are recognised when probate has been granted, the amount receivable can be reliably measured and the Executors have notified their intention to make a distribution.

PCC OF ST MARY'S WOODBRIDGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

1 Accounting policies (continued)

- Donations collections and planned giving are recognised when received.
- Gift aid is included in the financial statements when the income to which it is related is recognised.
- Grants are recognised when the formal offer in writing of the funding is received by the PCC and payment is certain.
- Gifts in kind for the PCC's own use are included at their estimated fair value on receipt and expensed over their useful life.
- Statutory fees for weddings and funerals are recognised when the office occurs.
- Income receivable in return for selling goods or providing services is recognised either when goods are sold or the service provided.
- Income from the hire of the Church or St Mary's House is recognised when the hire takes place.
- Investment income (interest and dividends) is accounted for when receivable.
- Realised gains or losses on the sale of investments are recognised when the investments are sold and unrealised gains and losses on investments held at the year end are accounted for in the Statement of Financial Activity.
- Government grants are accounted for when entitlement is established and the event giving rise to the grant has taken place before the year end.

1.5 Expenditure and liabilities

Expenditure is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation and settlement is probable and quantifiable.

- Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded where the award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.
- The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for on an annual basis and reflects the allocation agreed by the PCC with the Deanery.

1.6 Fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by Section 10(2) of the Charities Act 2011. Movable Church furnishing held by the Rector and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a Faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the Church's inventory which can be inspected but are not included in the financial statements.

All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and individual items costing under £500 are written off in the year they were incurred.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity are capitalised at cost (or the estimated value of donated goods) and that amount, less any currently anticipated residual fair value, written off to the Statement of Financial Activities over their estimated useful lives as follows;

Land and buildings and Church piano	Nil (held at fair value)
Church equipment - IT related	33% straight line
Church equipment – other	25% reducing balance

No depreciation is provided on freehold buildings and the Church piano as the useful economic life of these assets exceeds 50 years and residual values are so high that potential depreciation would be immaterial, and it is the PCC's policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. Provision will be made if regular impairment reviews indicate there has been any permanent diminution in value.

PCC OF ST MARY'S WOODBRIDGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date and variations from the last valuation recorded in the Statement of Financial Affairs.

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at their acquisition cost less any provision where sale is anticipated at a lower amount.

1.9 Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged as an expense on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

1.10 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

PCC OF ST MARY'S WOODBRIDGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

2 Income and endowments

	Unrestricted General Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Voluntary Income</u>					
Planned giving	70,608	-	-	70,608	78,193
Other donations	16,585	-	-	16,585	12,831
Other donations – restricted	-	-	2,083	2,083	10,739
Gift aid recoverable	19,386	-	112	19,498	22,666
Voluntary income excluding legacies	106,579	-	2,195	108,774	124,429
Legacies – general	6,000	-	-	6,000	5,196
Legacies - designated fund	-	4,631	-	4,631	9,498
TOTAL	112,579	4,631	2,195	119,405	139,123
<u>Activities for generating funds</u>					
Fundraising, concerts and events	5,649	-	2,380	8,029	4,720
TOTAL	5,649	-	2,380	8,029	4,720
<u>Income from Church activities</u>					
Shop sales	16,865	-	-	16,865	15,343
Hire of Church and St Mary's House	10,537	-	-	10,537	3,358
Fees for weddings and funerals	4,148	-	-	4,148	4,475
TOTAL	31,550	-	-	31,550	23,176
<u>Income from investments</u>					
Bank interest	322	2,591	2	2,915	72
Dividends	-	-	140	140	137
TOTAL	322	2,591	142	3,055	209
Other receipts – building grants	660	-	33	693	887
TOTAL income and endowments on all funds	150,760	7,222	4,750	162,732	168,115

There was no income received by the Endowed Funds during the year.

PCC OF ST MARY'S WOODBRIDGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

3 Expenditure

	Unrestricted General Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Ministry Costs</u>					
Clergy expenses	1,391	-	-	1,391	2,019
Salaries and honoraria	2,500	-	-	2,500	1,500
Other costs	1,980	-	-	1,980	1,635
Other costs – restricted	-	-	1,515	1,515	435
Other fundraising costs	172	-	-	172	192
TOTAL	6,043	-	1,515	7,558	5,781
<u>Church Costs</u>					
Utilities – current period	15,335	-	-	15,335	12,386
Utilities – prior periods recovery	-	-	-	-	(879)
Repairs and maintenance	6,312	-	-	6,312	1,366
Repairs and maintenance - restricted	-	-	1,871	1,871	5,734
TOTAL	21,647	-	1,871	23,518	18,607
<u>St Mary's House Costs</u>					
Utilities – current period	4,490	-	-	4,490	4,516
Utilities – prior periods recovery	-	-	-	-	(3,566)
Repairs and maintenance	3,814	-	-	3,814	3,277
Other costs	119	-	-	119	-
Shop purchases for resale	8,807	-	-	8,807	9,440
TOTAL	17,230	-	-	17,230	13,667
<u>Other Costs of Charitable Activities</u>					
Salaries and pensions	18,361	-	-	18,361	17,071
Newsletter	2,094	-	-	2,094	1,554
Office costs	4,887	-	-	4,887	5,702
Professional fees	1,544	-	-	1,544	1,759
Depreciation	2,944	-	3,277	6,221	5,693
Bank charges	731	-	-	731	775
Miscellaneous costs	3,393	-	-	3,393	2,015
TOTAL	33,954	-	3,277	37,231	34,569
TOTAL CHURCH ACTIVITIES EXPENDITURE	78,874	-	6,663	85,537	72,624
St Mary's House project	-	56,861	-	56,861	14,155
Diocesan parish share	63,189	-	-	63,189	67,282
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	142,063	56,861	6,663	205,587	154,061

There was no expenditure from the Endowed Funds during the year.

PCC OF ST MARY'S WOODBRIDGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

4 Staff costs

	Cost 2022	Cost 2021
Remuneration	£	£
Wages and salaries	17,983	18,062
Employer social security costs	-	-
Employer pension costs	378	411
Furlough support	-	(1,402)
Total staff costs	18,361	17,071

The average number of employees throughout the year was 2 (2021; 2).

No person received remuneration in excess of £60,000.

The Charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme for eligible employees. The assets of the scheme are held and administered independently of the charity.

5 Related parties

None of the Trustees, or any person connected with them, received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year. Any sums received by the PCC for the benefit of other groups or organisations are passed to the relevant body and not reflected in these financial statements.

Expenses paid to licensed clergy amounted to £736 (2021; £1,472).

There have been no payments to related charities during the year, but the PCC has received financial support from the Friends of St. Mary's (an independent charity) in respect of the cost of certain repair and building work to the Church. All donations are reflected within the relevant restricted fund.

The Churchwardens are Trustees of two independent Trusts set up to relieve poverty in the Parish. There were no transactions between the PCC and these trusts during the year.

From 1 January 2021 St Mary's, Woodbridge and St Mary's, Great Bealings were formed into a joint benefice. Each Church operates its own PCC and prepares separate accounts but, from time to time, transactions relating to one Church pass through the books of the other and such amounts are periodically settled with any amounts outstanding at the year end included in debtors or creditors. The Parish Share for the joint benefice is allocated between each PCC but some smaller administrative costs are borne by the PCC since any attempt at quantification is considered out of proportion to any benefit.

6 Governance

The Unrestricted Fund bears the cost of the Independent Examination of the financial statements. This amounted to £1,434 (2021; £1,500).

7 Operating lease

The charity is committed to a payment of £2,845 (2021: £2,845) per annum under an operating lease that expires in 2025.

PCC OF ST MARY'S WOODBRIDGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

8 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Church piano	Church equipment	Total Fixed Assets
	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation				
At 1 January 2022	314,543	21,000	36,954	372,497
Additions at cost	-	-	2,504	2,504
At 31 December 2022	314,543	21,000	39,458	375,001
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2022	-	-	25,910	25,910
Charge for the year	-	-	6,221	6,221
At 31 December 2022	-	-	32,131	32,131
Net book value				
At 31 December 2022	314,543	21,000	7,327	342,870
At 31 December 2021	314,543	21,000	11,044	346,587

The freehold land and buildings comprise St. Mary's House, Market Hill, Woodbridge and is stated at its 1997 fair value. Consecrated and benefice property is excluded from these accounts.

The PCC considers that the realisable value of the Church piano is in excess of the net book value shown above.

9 Fixed Asset Investments

	Restricted Funds
	£
Market value 1 January 2022	5,306
Revaluation deficit	(614)
Market value 31 December 2022	4,692

There was no change during the year in investments held, which continue to comprise COIF units acquired from a bequest.

PCC OF ST MARY'S WOODBRIDGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

10 Debtors

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
	£	£	£	£
Tax recoverable	6,156	87	6,243	5,368
Prepayments and accrued income	2,394	-	2,394	5,328
Other debtors	2,321	112	2,433	3,482
Debtors and prepayments	10,871	199	11,070	14,178
Legacy due at year end	5,000	-	5,000	8,000
TOTAL DEBTORS	15,871	199	16,070	22,178

The legacy due at the year end is accounted for as required by accounting policy 1.4. Probate was granted before the year end and the Executors have provided a reliable estimate of the amount to be received after the date of these accounts.

11 Creditors falling due within one year

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
	£	£	£	£
Accruals for utility and other costs	3,108	-	3,108	9,601
Other creditors	(139)	-	(139)	757
TOTAL	2,969	-	2,969	10,358

PCC OF ST MARY'S WOODBRIDGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

12 Statement of funds

Unrestricted funds are not subject to any donor restrictions and can be spent as the PCC decides. The PCC has designated all funds due from the Harper legacy for the upkeep, maintenance and improvement of St. Mary's House, and its linkage with the Church.

Restricted funds are required to be spent on specific purposes determined when created by the terms of their gift. The Restricted Funds and their purposes are: -

- Grace Howe Bequest - for Sunday School activities.
- Choir Fund - for the maintenance of choir equipment and music.
- Chapter Fund - for Churchware and plate to upkeep services.
- Fabric Fund - for major building works on the Church buildings.
- Vestment fund - for the repair and replacement of vestments.
- Church Sound System - for the maintenance of the Church sound system.
- Organ Fund - for repairs to the Church organ.

Endowment funds are required by the donors to be invested and the income spent on specific objectives. The Endowment Fund comprises St. Mary's House in Woodbridge.

Summary of all funds

Fund income and expenditure and final balances are as follows:

	Balances 1 Jan 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers/ Revaluations	Balances 31 Dec 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds					
General Fund	115,120	150,760	(142,063)	(5,000)	118,817
Designated Fund – St Mary's House project (Note 14)	695,643	7,222	(56,861)	5,000	651,004
TOTAL GENERAL FUNDS	810,763	157,982	(198,924)	-	769,821
Restricted Funds					
Grace Howe Bequest	8,734	142	-	(614)	8,262
Choir Fund	18,456	545	(2,295)	-	16,706
Chapter Fund	455	-	-	-	455
Fabric Fund	66,856	1,650	-	-	68,506
Vestment Fund	832	-	-	-	832
Church Sound System	4,541	(149)	(3,277)	-	1,115
St Mary's House project	-	2,380	-	-	2,380
Organ Fund	5,800	182	(1,091)	-	4,891
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	105,674	4,750	(6,663)	(614)	103,147
Endowment Funds					
St. Mary's House	314,543	-	-	-	314,543
TOTAL PARISH FUNDS	1,230,980	162,732	(205,587)	(614)	1,187,511

PCC OF ST MARY'S WOODBRIDGE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

13 Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	25,050	3,277	314,543	342,870	346,587
Fixed assets investments	-	4,692	-	4,692	5,306
Current assets	747,740	95,178	-	842,918	889,445
Current liabilities	(2,969)	-	-	(2,969)	(10,358)
TOTAL	769,821	103,147	314,543	1,187,511	1,230,980

14 St Mary's House Project

In 2020 the PCC was advised it had been left a substantial legacy and designated the amount to the St Mary's House Project to develop the linkage between St Mary's House and the Church. By 31 December 2022 a total of £722,020 (2021; £709,798) had been designated including a further legacy and interest on designated deposits.

Of these funds £71,016 had been expended by 31 December 2022 (2021; £14,155) on professional fees.

Unexpended funds at 31 December 2022 amounted to £651,004 (2021; £695,643).

PCC OF ST MARY'S WOODBRIDGE

Independent Examiner's Report

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS/TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL
CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S WOODBRIDGE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER
2022**