

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES, WOODFORD

England & Wales · Charity number 1127596

Details

Other names ST MARY'S CHURCH, WOODFORD

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-01-19

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: Religious Activities, Services to the Community

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Redbridge

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£176,973	£169,334	-	-
2023-12-31	£182,372	£228,177	-	-
2022-12-31	£200,987	£160,185	-	-
2021-12-31	£133,170	£156,299	-	-
2020-12-31	£142,683	£170,395	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Revd Dr Elizabeth Margaret Lowson	Chair	2021-02-04
Adela Kay		2020-10-11
Celestine Ekpenyong		2025-05-11
Heather Bickley		2025-05-11
Jano Elizabeth Goodchild		2020-10-11
Linda Jean Wiskin		2019-04-28
Michele Cecilia Henry		2025-05-11
PHILIP PETCHEY		2020-10-11
Renee Marcelle West		2025-05-11
Sheba Lockley		2025-05-11
Viveca Dutt		2020-10-11

Accounts



St Mary's Woodford

Annual Review 2024

Our Annual Report and Accounts



Annual Report 2024

In 2024 our theme has been Listening, Nurturing, Receiving and Feeding. We have explored and connected with this theme and what it shows us about God, one another and those around us, drawing on a wide variety of sermons and other events and visits, as we have continued to develop our approach to Growing God's Kingdom at St Mary's. Thank you for all that has been contributed to St Mary's and the lives of our communities, the ways God's love in Jesus has been shared and discovered, and how God has been glorified.

Significant events and changes during the year include:

- YACHT INC 13s-18s using a variety of venues for their gatherings, preparing the ash for Ash Wednesday while advising the Diocesan Director of Ordinands on how to develop resources about vocation and calling for young people.
- Marked Racial Justice Sunday in February with visiting preacher Elsie Akinsanya and making commitments to work to love our neighbours as ourselves, with particular attention to racial justice.
- Establishing a bi-monthly Communion service at Churchfields Nursing Home to complement Services of Word led there by Lay Reader Rowena Rudkin.
- Sessions during Lent and beyond about how we read, learn, mark and inwardly digest the Bible, drawing on Revd Miranda Threlfall-Holmes' 2021 book *How to eat bread: 21 nourishing ways to read the Bible*.
- Revd Dr Simon Cross visited from Oxford in March to speak and discuss with us the opportunities and threats posed by artificial intelligence from faith perspectives.
- Guli, Bishop of Chelmsford visited in April for a Deanery Chapter session.
- Three Pilgrim courses held this year have been well attended and appreciated.
- Many successful fundraising and community events and beautiful concerts including a Children in Need fundraiser for the first time (with thanks to the Memorial Hall Trustees who provided the venue without charge).
- Growth in the new gardeners' team which cares for the churchyard.
- A decision to offer the Prayers of Love and Faith for same sex couples during regular worship (with notice) and, after authorisation, stand alone services of Prayers of Love and Faith. This followed initial PCC discussion and a few weeks of discussion and congregational discussion during which all the views expressed were in favour of this decision.
- Establishment of a large bug hotel/church in the churchyard, nicknamed 'St Hairy's'.

- Two members of our ministry team have developed some support for bereavement staff at Barts Health NHS Trust in partnership with the chaplaincy team at Whipps Cross Hospital.
- A sleepover in church for young people the night before Ride London; we hosted community refreshments outside with the High Road closed to all but cyclists.
- A joyful Pentecost which included celebration of our many countries of heritage including a flag procession and the Lord's Prayer read in many languages.
- Gift Day/Month ran in June rather than October and was successful. We are promoting use of the Parish Giving Scheme which saves much volunteer time.
- In June, we hosted Hustings for Parliamentary Candidates for the Chingford & Woodford Green constituency at the Memorial Hall, in partnership with South Woodford Islamic Centre and East London and Essex Liberal Synagogue. The event was co-chaired by the Rector with Jewish and Muslim leaders.
- Our South Woodford Repair Cafe continues to grow and develop with new partners, workshops and new funding which should sustain the project for future years.
- Establishing wider recycling facilities in the foyer, using Recycling for Good Causes and other local partners; we have added recycling for spectacles, pens, empty medication blister packs, foreign and old coins/notes, jewellery, mobile phones, sat navs, tablets, watches.
- The Wardens, Rector and a fundraising volunteer have begun working with a community fundraiser to help us seek funds for our Greening St Mary's Project, which now has the working title Project Eden. This should also have other benefits alongside reducing our carbon footprint.
- In September, we held a Bag Blessing for everyday and school items.
- At her first celebration of Holy Communion here (at Michaelmas), Revd Rachel Summers dedicated a renewed altar cloth for the Chapel which retains the existing front piece.
- As Patron, the Rector was involved in the appointment and licensing of Revd Alexandra Podd as part time Vicar of St Paul's Woodford Bridge and Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands.
- We have implemented new systems for requesting to run church events and a new online bookings requests for both internal and external users.
- Successfully completed the first phase of our nature-based memory cafe in partnership with South Woodford Islamic Centre and East London Liberal Synagogue with funding from Colours of Redbridge; and secured second phase funding to develop this further (see separate report).

- An Advent spiral was provided for our Service of Light on the Longest Night
- Jackie Peacock left her role as Parish Safeguarding Officer and Linda Wiskin took up this role.
- Habiba Rye and Helen Hollinsworth left PCC; David Shave joined.
- David Shave became Deputy Warden.
- David Bird left his role as Director of Music and Organist in March and Douglas Knight took up this role in January 2025, while assisting in December 2024 and John Bradley directing and Chris Wooll playing the organ in the meantime.
- Janet Dunning started her role as Office Coordinator in January 2024 and works in a job share with Sam McCarthy.
- Revd Rachel Summers was ordained priest in Romford in September and serves as a pioneer curate in training here, at St Peter in the Forest and across the Mission and Ministry Unit. Rachel's first Communion services were at St Peter in the Forest and with us for Michaelmas.

All of the areas of church life mentioned in this report would be very glad of new people joining, bringing with them new ideas and approaches. Support and training, where needed, is available. If you or someone you know would like to support a particular area of church life, please contact the Rector or the church office (see page 26), or please contact the team leader if you know them to obtain further details of roles, support and safer recruitment processes.

The structure of this annual report reflects:

- **Worship & Life of Faith**
- **Community & Mission**
- **Financial Report**
- **Core Support**
- **Wider Faith Links**

Elizabeth Lowson

Worship & Life of Faith

Choir

Once again, 2024 was a year of change for St Mary's choir. The year started with David Bird as Music Director until March. As a consequence, I again became acting director of music, and Chris Wooll became our main organist. We were certainly blessed that Chris was able to take on the task of organist for us: not only is he a fantastic organist (particularly, for music that suits our organ – that of the organ's classical era), but an excellent collaborator for our choral music.

I was acting music director until the end of the year, and I was continually thankful that members of our small, but highly skilled, choir were able and willing to stick with me through this sometimes challenging period. We managed to perform a broad range of choral repertoire during this period, ranging from plainchant to 20th century music. Also, a partnership with Bill Cumber from All Saints proved to be fruitful: allowing us to participate in 4 high satisfying Choral Evensongs: two at All Saints, and two at St Mary's, with a choir made up of choristers from both churches as well as some other enthusiastic singers. In addition, we took part with Bill in the annual ecumenical Advent carol service which was hosted at St. Thomas's church in early December. All of us are much looking forward to an exciting new year under Douglas Knight's leadership. We have already experienced some inspired music making, and are excited about Douglas' many plans. One exciting prospect comes from Douglas's thoughts about how to engage with the young members of St Mary's!

John Bradley

Bellringers



We continue to have well attended practice nights supported by several ringers from Hornchurch and Walthamstow but struggle to have more than 4 on a Sunday morning.

Sadly our two teenage learners have drifted away but we have

recently welcomed a mature man who is keen to learn so fingers crossed we can persuade him to come along for service ringing in time.

We purchased two new ropes as one needed replacing as eventually they fray and wear out; only one has been used in 2024 but it's good to have a spare available for when needed.

As Remembrance Day fell on a Monday we left the muffles on and successfully rang a quarter peal to commemorate the day, we plan to ring a quarter in May 2025 to mark 80 years since the end of WW2. It would be lovely to ring for some weddings this year so let's hope some come along !

Kate Walker

Flowers

Time flies; another year, another summary. Flowers for various occasions are still very popular. There are not many weeks free most of the time. Sadly, like everything else the price of flowers has increased, so we shall have to ask for a little more cash. We would be keen to have more help if anybody is interested, just let us know, thank you.

Hazel Lovejoy



Sacristy

Another year completed, 2024 went quite smoothly with the same team of 4 ladies which have worked together now for six years. It's been a quiet year, ticking over well with no big events or visits from clergy, although we enjoyed the occasion of Rachel's first celebration of the Eucharist at the end of September. I feel however, it's quite noticeable that our congregation is very slowly increasing in numbers and that the taking of bread & wine is very slowly consequently rising.

One feature that has been renewed is the Chapel altar cloth. A faculty was granted earlier in the year and we found a lovely lady, Anna, to take on the job and it was blessed on 29th September. She made a brilliant copy of the previous one, attaching the decorative motif from the old one, and I hope very much that we will be granted a faculty to replace the cloth used for Nativity services in church this year.



Once again I am really grateful to the three other ladies Jean, Gwen & Jano that make our team up for the regular support I get throughout the year, insetting up & tidying away the pattern of services we cover. I do thank them very much.

Sally Phillips

Tech Team and Streaming

Our tech team support services through the sound system, slides at the 10.00am service and online streaming. We are increasingly providing live streaming for other services such as funerals, which is much appreciated by people who can't come. We are grateful for the donation for headphone microphones for the Ministry team. These have hugely enhanced the sound quality for people leading and assisting services, and when preaching.

Viveca Dutt

St Mary's Online

Our online presence continues to provide and share news, updates and information about our daily life to the St Mary's community and many wider friends and community groups.

We have tried to take some of the burden of our office staff and volunteers by using online forms for updating information such as the church directory and asking the congregation to nominate which charities we should support. This has worked well and we will extend this as much as possible while making appropriate arrangements for people unable to go online. We have also introduced an online system for booking the church space and Gwinnell room, which will also help reduce the administrative burden on our staff and hopefully increase the use of these spaces by the local community. If you want to use these spaces, you can check their availability on

<https://hallbookingonline.com/stmarys/>

Following recent international events, we are no longer posting on X (formerly Twitter).

Viveca Dutt

Junior Church

Our purpose: To nurture and encourage the faith journey and belonging of young people and families to be a core part of St Mary's and the wider community. We have benefited this year from additional leader support; thanks go to Clare, Adela, Jano, Linda and our great young leader Becky. JC have seen an increase in numbers this year with a strong core group attending regularly. Our young people range from 3 to 17 year old. A number of new families have been welcomed to our JC family. Those who attend are enthusiastic and contribute hugely to our sessions, to Church life and wider church community events. JC come together for fellowship, bible study and learning about God through creative thinking, activities, prayer and discussion on how the Bible relates to our lives today. Our session content follows the liturgical calendar, linking what the congregation are thinking about weekly to what JC are exploring. This works well with Junior Church reflecting and sharing what they have learnt with the congregation at the end of the service. We led some wonderful All Together services with great feedback from the congregation. At Harvest we had a quiz and learned a lot about the work of Fairtrade, and on Remembrance day we reflected with symbols and lighting candles, thinking about the past, the present and the future. And of course we held our annual Christmas Eve Nativity

Sarah Reynolds

2024 – YACHT INC (Young Adult Conversation Helping Thought In Church)
 YACHT INC continues to welcome a group of 13-17 year olds to volunteers' houses twice a month for conversation and fellowship. Our young people want more in-depth conversation than is possible in a limited time from Junior Church and they enjoy the relaxed atmosphere where they can question everything! We've covered lots of ground with them this year, they chew over ethics, world events, church politics and their own lives as Christians and we've moved away from creating a set topics list at the start of term to keep the conversation authentic. We have space for more young people and are looking forward to extending invitations to our almost 13 year-olds in the new year.

Clare Reeves

Junior Church



Pattern of Worship and Reflection

Worship has been offered in the church building every week on Sundays and midweek this year. Our 10am Sunday service has been livestreamed each week, as have several special services during Holy Week, Easter and Christmas and baptisms and funerals. 8am Sunday Communion services, Sunday evening services, Wednesday Communion services and Prayers for Wholeness and Healing services (bi-monthly on Sunday afternoons until July; monthly at 5.30pm on Sundays from August) have been well-supported, as well as all our special services, with especially encouraging attendance at Christmas. This year we repeated the Dawn service on Easter morning and service on the Longest Night in December which happened for the first time in 2023, and these were well supported. We also held a Watchnight service on New Year's Eve and we almost had too many people to fit in the Chapel.

Many people are involved in preparing and delivering our worship and thanks are due to those who read, preach, lead prayers and liturgy; who provide our sound, livestream and other technical needs; who offer bellringing, organ and other instrumental music and singing; and all who welcome, participate, support, prepare and offer refreshments and activities in so many different ways.

Elizabeth Lowson

Community and Mission

Outward Giving

Over the last couple of years, PCC has recognised value in reviewing how we conduct outward giving and also the difficulties sustaining Mission Committee in its existing form. All of our outward giving (both previously and currently, to mission societies and other charities) has been and continues to be via fundraising or requesting donations, rather than donations made from church funds. During 2024, PCC agreed Mission Committee would cease to exist in its previous form, while giving thanks to all those who have supported its work over many decades. PCC now has responsibility for funds distribution and collections and deciding which organisations we support and events we run and has agreed criteria for causes to be supported. For the Christmas charities, congregational and community nominations for causes were sought with PCC making the final decisions.

During 2024, the people of St Mary's and our wider community supported a wide range of charities locally, nationally and internationally. The Christmas Charity Bazaar proceeds were shared between six charities which collectively shared 80% and the remaining 20% went to St Mary's. Full details are available on page 31.

Elizabeth Lowson

Kenya

We continue to support the Church of the Good Shepherd, Muchunguri in Mbeere Diocese. Rev Jenard Nyaga Nthiga was moved in 2023 and the current Vicar is Ven Josphat Nthiga. They are still waiting for the Dispensary to be licensed by the health Authority. A new health committee has been set up to create cooperation between the congregation and the local community, which is going well. A large underground water tank is being constructed to catch roof water from the church roof for use in the dry season. The harvest has been poor and there is still difficulty in sending the monthly amount to the diocese so that the Vicar can be paid.

The St Michael and All Angels Childrens home at Makutano continues with 8 boys and one girl in Secondary school and four children in junior Secondary school. The vicar was moved at the end of 2024, he had been there for three years which is a long time for them. The new Vicar overseeing the home is Rev Dorcas Wawira Njeri. There is a need for additional water tanks to store water for when it rains.

Wendy Littlejohns

Eco Church

We are making progress on our vision for reaching net zero by 2030, but a good deal of 2024 was spent battling bureaucracy in the Diocese and Redbridge Borough to get permission for the solar panels on the flat roof. This will be the first phase of the whole project now with a working title of Project Eden. We finally have that permission from the Diocese and hope to make more significant progress in 2025. We also engaged an external professional fundraiser to help us develop our fundraising strategy.

We continue to make progress on living by our eco principles and we formally registered our commitment as a Fair Trade Church in September, marking Fair Trade fortnight.

We have continued to work on a churchyard plan that will help us develop the whole area in an environmentally friendly way while maintaining its sacred place as a burial ground and memorial garden.

Viveca Dutt

2024 – Sunflowers – Babies & Toddlers Group

2024 Has seen an increase in numbers at Babies & Toddlers and we have needed to come up with various ways to make sure anyone who is turned away from full groups is still made to feel welcome and welcome back!

We have said fond farewells to children moving up to preschool and made sure they know they are always welcome at St Mary's with their families. We were pleased to see B&T families at the Repair Cafés, Food and Fun Day and the children's Nativity Service.

We have been developing children's school readiness in line with a new government report that mentions the importance of toddler groups as a stepping stone into the school curriculum; things like sitting down to share snack time, joining in at song time and specific play activities geared to help them think about words, shapes, colours, mark making and problem solving. In response to encouraging families to come along to church on a Sunday and finding family arrangements usually get in the way of this we are working on a Babies & Toddlers "off shoot" group in the new year where adults can bring their children to play in church itself while the adults enjoy some spiritual (and literal!) refreshment.

Clare Reeves

Repair Café



The South Woodford Repair Café has fast become an established and popular community event. We organise it in partnership with the South Woodford Society and with ongoing support from the East London Waste Authority and Our Streets Redbridge. Local volunteers repaired many things in 2024 from musical

boxes to cherished radios and all manner of clothes. New volunteers came forward, we ran sewing and art workshops and many bikes got MOTS and repairs to make them safe again. We were the first Repair Café in East London to trial a pink bin where people could bring all manner of electrical items for recycling. And our toy swap kept toys and books circulating in the local community. All of which contributed to save items from landfill and made carbon savings.

Viveca Dutt

Friday Lunches

Friday lunches continued at 12.30pm on the first Friday of each month except August. They provide an opportunity for members of St Mary's and the wider community to meet for a friendly lunch, sometimes followed by a free concert in church at 2pm.

We remind our partner churches in the MMU before each lunch and put up posters in Derby Road Methodist Church, St Anne Line and Manor Court.



We provide three home-made soups, at least one of which is vegetarian, bread, cheese, cold meats, salads and fruit, followed by hot home-made puddings. We ask for a donation of up to £5 to cover costs plus a donation to church funds. During Lent we served a simpler menu and made a donation to the Bishop's Lent Appeal.

On average we had 24 guests, although at our pre-Christmas lunch 36 people joined us. This variation does make it difficult to decide how much food to buy! We are grateful to Mitzi Walker who welcomed guests and received donations, John Wiltshire for setting up and Sally Phillips for stepping in to help us in the kitchen. Thanks also to John Bradley and Chris Wooll for their popular post-lunch concerts.

Jean Lear and Kathy Wiltshire

Get Together Group



Gatherings have continued on the second Wednesday afternoon of each month with a good mixture of people who know each other well and those who are newer. Often we have met in the Gwinnell Room where we have enjoyed sessions about Getting to

know you and Love, hearts and more, a beetle drive, bingo and a film afternoon, talks from Nina Lewis about Colours of Cuba, from Mark Lewis about Easter Traditions and from Rachel Summers about Taiwan (where we sampled bubble tea) and much tea and cake. We also enjoyed a wonderful garden party nearby, a bring and share lunch, a Christmas lunch and a fascinating tour of the house and gardens at Copped Hall. We're always pleased to meet new people who'd like to join us regularly or occasionally.

Schools

There are three schools within the parish boundary: Churchfields Infants School (3-7 years), Junior School (7-11 years) and St Aubyn's School (2.5-13 years). The clergy have contributed to collective worship at Churchfields Juniors, and welcomed both Churchfields Juniors and St Aubyn's schools for Christmas services at St Mary's. Good communication has been maintained with Churchfields Juniors throughout the year and we have begun working together on our nature-based memory cafe which we hope will see children

and their adults participating in the memory cafe in care homes. Large numbers of St Aubyn's cadets and parents/carers joined the Civic Remembrance service at St Mary's.

Elizabeth Lowson

Girlguiding

2024 has been a busy year for Girlguiding in Woodford South as we enable girls and young women to achieve their full potential and try lots of new or different things. As well as our individual unit meetings we have come together to share Brownie Revels, a leap year / Olympics themed sports evening and our beloved annual disco. We have all had numerous creative fundraisers for charities such as Macmillan, Churchfields Nursing Home, Children in Need, and Haven House to name but a few as well as supporting girls and leaders in our District fundraise for overseas service opportunities. Gifts and donations have been given to Churchfields Nursing Home, Blythwood Care, St Mary's toy swap and the Salvation Army. You will have seen us taking part in the Food and Fun day and the Bazaar. The charities badge is a popular one amongst our units! We are finishing the year planning and rehearsing for a District Gang Show that will showcase our units' many and diverse talents. We are thankful to St Mary's for the help and support they give our units and leaders.

Clare Reeves

Memorial Hall

The Memorial Hall is a separate charity from St Mary's. Previously, all nine Trustees of the Memorial Hall were drawn from the church electoral roll. Following discussion over several years and a willing volunteer from beyond the electoral roll, on 15 December 2024, the existing seven Trustees voted to amend the Memorial Hall Trust Deed so that the two co-optative Trustees are not required to be on the church electoral roll. This allows wider community representation among the Trustees. Memorial Hall staff work hard to maintain the facilities, building and welcome to many community groups. Annual reports for Woodford Parish Church Memorial Hall can be found on the Charity Commission website at: <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/214670/charity-overview>



Elizabeth Lowson



We have a vibrant social events side to St Mary's with four main events throughout the year. Race Night is the first of these in February: an evening of family fun at the virtual races with dinner and entertainment and simple 1 in 8 chances of picking a winner to win a few bob from as little as a 20p stake. A great chance to spend a social evening with lots of friends, old and new while having a flutter as an excuse for raising some funds.



In May we have Food and Fun Day outside in front of the church with stalls selling all sorts of tasty treats, plants, a drinks bar, tea & cakes, games to enjoy like the ever popular coconut shy and splat the rat, plus a chance to go up the bell tower to learn about ringing, even see the bells close up and, topping it all, views across Woodford and East London from the open rooftop. Soul Night in September is an evening of partying and dancing in the Memorial Hall, entertained by our ace quality in-house live soul band, The Capones, that guarantee a great

swing along 'join in' atmosphere, and by DugOut Soul DJs who keep that dancefloor full and buzzing.

2024 saw us try an extra event put on by locals Brian and Louise Peters with the Events team, a disco and soul dance themed night as a fund raiser for Children In Need, with over a £1,000 raised.



Last of the four regular events, the Christmas Charity Bazaar in November brings together many of the hands and talents within the congregation to fill the Memorial Halls with stacks of stalls and a Father Christmas grotto for the youngsters to visit, hot Christmas lunches and tea & cakes galore.

Always a stirring effort over 2 days by so many to create an appropriately good will seasonal starter to the Yuletide festivities. What's not to like ?

Richard Walker

Bereavement Cafe

The bereavement café has continued from 2-3pm on the first Tuesday of the month throughout the year. There is currently a team of five volunteers and between three and six visitors from a wide variety of backgrounds attend each time. Some of these are 'regulars' and others only attend once. The volunteers are not trained counsellors but just offer friendship and a sympathetic, listening ear. Visitors often feel it easier to share their feelings of grief, sometimes accompanied by other emotions such as guilt, with a stranger than with a family member or close friend. Several visitors have seen the advertisement on the notice board outside St. Mary's or in the South Woodford Gazette.

Carol Bridson and David Hatch

Snaresbrook Crown Court Chaplaincy

A year of quiet consolidation for the Chaplaincy Team. The overall context of the Criminal Justice system is, if anything, more chaotic than ever before with a huge backlog of trials leading to difficulties which have been widely reported. However, we have now recruited nine new members from Our Lady of Lourdes and St Thomas of Canterbury which means that we can cover 90 minutes in the middle of the day five days a week. This means that we can provide a calm refuge and an opportunity to talk for everyone who would welcome this facility. The MMU clergy have been most supportive in leading the services in the Chapel; last year there were 14 of them, mostly Holy Communion on the first Thursday of the month and on Ash Wednesday, Wednesday in Holy Week and Ascension Day, as well as an Armistice Day Service and the Carol Service. Everyone is welcome to these services whether they are involved in Court business or not. For very understandable reasons we have had several retirements; one can't argue that 'great-grandparental commitments' isn't a compelling argument. However, we are currently in the unusual position where St Mary's is the only Church in the MMU which is providing volunteers, a situation we hope we can change in 2025.

Mark Spencer Ellis

St Mary's Quarterly Parish Magazine

The quarterly parish magazine is well-received for its wide variety of material, and acts as both out-reach via our parish website as well as a record of events and for our church family, past and present. We encourage everyone to contribute and all submissions will be acknowledged. We tend to be short of items for and/or by children and young people and so particularly welcome such items. We are looking for someone to share in the task of arranging material on the magazine and liaising with contributors of articles. Training on Microsoft Publisher would be provided if necessary. If you are interested then speak with the Rector or Peter Wall.

Peter Wall and Penny Freeston

Financial Report

Finance Review 2024

I am delighted to announce that for the first time since 2012, we did not rely on legacy or reserves to cover our General Fund expenditure. A huge thank you to everyone who made this happen.

Our planned giving increased by £16K (24%) and Gift Aid recovered by £4K (20%). Our expenditure is always under tight control, and we saved £4K (28%) from our new electricity contract. Also work for the maintenance of the piano and the organ which was budgeted for £3K did not go ahead; expenditure on the organ may be greater next year.

In contrast, on the down side, our Parish Share increased by £5K (6%) and we lost a few regular classes for the hire of Gwinnell Room £3K (24%).

The total 2024 income came to £176,973, against expenditure of £169,334, giving a surplus on general activities of £7,639. (In 2023 we had a £11,288 deficit). The General Fund Reserve excluding the balance of the monies earmarked for special purposes covers approximately four months expenditure.

I would like to thank Brenda Layzell-Smith for her help on payroll and welcome Tracey Bianchi and Migle Moisejeva to carry on her work.

I would also like to thank Anne Jones for submitting the paper work for tax recovery and pension purposes, Jane Fone and Michael Lovejoy for banking tasks and Elizabeth and the Wardens for the management of expenditure.

Shirley Lai (Treasurer)

Details of Bankers and Auditors :

Bankers

HSBC, The Co-operative Bank

Independent Examiner

Lorraine Catherine Purdy FCCA
Clay Ratnage & Co, Suite D, The Business
Centre, Faringdon Avenue, Romford, RM3 8EN

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Freehold Land and Buildings	4a	750,000	750,000
Investments	4b	93,627	90,883
Total Fixed Assets		843,627	840,883
CURRENT ASSETS			
Sundry Debtors	5	2,950	3,570
CBF Deposit		275,882	238,885
Bank Balance		11,239	27,754
		290,071	270,209
LIABILITIES			
Amount falling due within one year	6	9,660	13,137
NET CURRENT ASSETS		280,411	257,072
NET ASSETS		1,124,038	1,097,955
FUNDS			
Unrestricted			
General Purpose	9	970,808	960,425
Earmarked		119,316	115,736
Total Unrestricted Funds		1,090,124	1,076,161
Restricted Funds		33,914	21,794
TOTAL FUNDS		1,124,038	1,097,955

Signed: *Ehoulson*

W. J. J. J.

Dated *21/03/25*

21/3/25

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES			Note	2023		2024		Earmarked	Restricted	2024		2023
For the year ended 31 December 2024				GP Fund		GP Fund				Total		
				£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES			2									
Voluntary Income				144,718		132,158		150		132,308		144,718
Income From Charitable Activities				1,417		2,493				2,493		1,417
Other Income				29,083		34,077		26,814		60,891		33,026
Investment Income				7,154		8,245	5,960	453		14,658		12,519
Other Trading Activities												
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES				182,372		176,973	5,960	27,417		210,350		191,680
RESOURCES USED			3									
Grants								4,110		4,110		4,900
Activities Directly related to the Work of the Church				216,247		156,820	2,380	6,349		165,549		222,457
Fundraising and publicity								4,838		4,838		-
Church Management and Adminstration				10,087		10,639				10,639		10,087
Governance Costs				1,843		1,875				1,875		1,843
TOTAL RESOURCES USED				228,177		169,334	2,380	15,297		187,011		239,287
NET INCOMING/OUTGOING RESOURCES				(45,805)		7,639	3,580	12,120		23,339		(47,607)
Profit on Property Revaluation										-		-
Profit/Loss on Investment Revaluation				4,803		2,744				2,744		4,803
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS				(41,002)		10,383	3,580	12,120		26,083		(42,804)
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD				1,001,427		960,425	115,736	21,794		1,097,955		1,140,759
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD				960,425		970,808	119,316	33,914		1,124,038		1,097,955

Accounting Policies

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 view", provisions, together with FRS102 (2019) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2019 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and reporting by Charities (SORP (FRS102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except that the Curate's House is stated at a fair value as agreed by the PCC and investments which are stated at market value.

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC which are not subject to any legal restrictions regarding their use and are available for applications to the general purposes of the PCC. This category includes both the General Purposes Fund and funds earmarked for a particular purpose by the PCC.

Restricted funds are those funds which may only be used for the restricted purpose for which they were given or otherwise obtained.

The accounts include all transaction assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Incoming resources

Income from donors and other voluntary income

Planned Giving is recognised only when received. Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when received or when calculated and submitted for payment.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accountable for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Funds raised by the Charity bazaar and other events are accounted for gross unless related expenses are immaterial in amount.

Donated good are recognised at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the statement of financial activities. Monies received in relations to donated goods sold are included under the relevant heading in The Statement of Financial Activities when the good are sold.

Charitable trading

Fees for weddings are included in this caption and accounted for when due.

Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of the curate's house is accounted for when due

Income from investments

Interest on deposits is accounted for when receivable and any related tax recoverable is recognised at the same time.

Resources Used**Grants**

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over or when awarded if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly related to the work of the church The diocesan quota is accounted for when payable.

Fixed Assets**Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings**

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 Chapter 2, s.10(2)(C).

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings whether maintenance or improvement is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

Other land and buildings held for use in the work of the church. The curate's house is included under this caption. It is stated at a fair value as agreed by the PCC.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

Equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £5000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for any amounts that may prove to be uncollectable.

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

Note 2 Incoming Resources

	General Fund £	Earmarked Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 TOTAL £	2023 TOTAL £
Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving	81,443			81,443	65,447
Income Tax recovered	23,194			23,194	19,292
Loose Collections	6,046			6,046	6,183
Sundry Donations	13,194		150	13,344	18,266
Church Appeals	7,497			7,497	7,413
Floodlighting Donation	513			513	370
Magazine Donations	271			271	247
Legacies	-			-	27,500
Sub-total :	132,158	-	150	132,308	144,718
Income: Charitable Activities					
Fees - weddings etc	2,493			2,493	1,417
Other Income					
Rent - Curate's House	27,645			27,645	22,836
Churchyard Income	1,500			1,500	1,500
Fund Raising	4,932			4,932	4,747
Bazaar Fund Raising			4,775	4,775	3,943
Memory Café			2,810	2,810	-
Repair Café			19,229	19,229	-
	34,077	-	26,814	60,891	33,026
Investment Income					
Interest and Dividends	8,245	5,960	453	14,658	12,519
Other Trading activities					
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	176,973	5,960	27,417	210,350	191,680

Note 3 Resources Used

	General Funds £	Earmarked Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 TOTAL £	2023 TOTAL £
Grants					
Mission societies			1,710	1,710	3,200
Church Societies			1,450	1,450	1,000
Charities e.g. ELHAP			950	950	700
	-	-	4,110	4,110	4,900
Activities directly related to church work					
Diocesan Quota	97,097			97,097	91,785
Rector's Expenses	497			497	445
Music, Organ & Choir	11,402		-	11,402	11,424
Service Expenses	1,247			1,247	1,154
Heating/Light/Water	9,750			9,750	13,568
Cleaning	3,738			3,738	3,923
Routine Maintenance	5,379			5,379	5,499
Clergy house expenses	8,815	-		8,815	8,521
Churchyard Expenses	1,986			1,986	2,781
Insurance	3,610			3,610	3,459
Junior Church	261			261	357
Memorial Hall Contributions	6,180			6,180	6,000
Printing + stationery inc magazine	1,760			1,760	1,605
Sundries	69			69	163
Outreach inc family	4,579		6,349	10,928	8,574
Fabric Expenditure	390	2,380		2,770	1,182
Churchyard Access Road	60			60	62,017
Total directly related to Church work	156,820	2,380	6,349	165,549	222,457
Fund Raising and Publicity					
Stewardship Expenses				-	-
Memory Café			2,791	2,791	
Repair Café			2,047	2,047	
Total Fund Raising and Publicity	-	-	4,838	4,838	-
Church Management and Administration					
Parish Office and Telephone	10,639			10,639	10,087
Governance Costs					
Treasurers/Secretary Expenses	75			75	77
Independent Examiner Fee	1,800			1,800	1,766
	1,875	-	-	1,875	1,843
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	169,334	2,380	15,297	187,011	239,287

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

Notes 4 - 8

NOTE 4 FIXED ASSETS For Use By The PCC

NOTE 4a Freehold land and buildings

Freehold land and buildings comprise the "Curate's House" at 33 Elmhurst Drive.

The gross book value is based on a fair valuation as agreed by the PCC in 2022.

Note 4b INVESTMENTS	2024	2023
	£	£
CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund Income Shares		
Market Value at 31/12/23	90,883	86,080
Market Value at 31/12/24	93,627	90,883
Loss / Profit on revaluation	2,744	4,803

NOTE 5 DEBTORS	2024	2023
Other Debtors	2,950	3,570
Total	2,950	3,570

NOTE 6 CREDITORS	2024	2023
Accrued Expenditure	5,127	7,795
Prepaid Income	3,471	2,472
Agency Collections	1,062	2,870
Total	9,660	13,137

NOTE 7 STAFF COSTS

During the year, the PCC employed a Director of Music, family worker, two administration secretaries and a cleaner/caretaker. Employment costs are included in the respective expenditure heads. No present member of the PCC received remuneration or expenses. Salaries £34,808 (2023 £33,698)

NOTE 8 SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Restricted retiring collections for 2024 for which the PCC acted solely as a post-box amounted to £10,864 (2023 £10,753)

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

Notes 9 - 10

NOTE 9 ANALYSIS OF FUNDS AND NET ASSETS

Note	Fixed Assets £	Current Assets £	Liabilities £	Fund Balances £
General Purpose Fund	843,627	136,841	9,660	970,808
Earmarked Funds				
Fabric Fund		111,780		111,780
Clergy House Fund		7,536		7,536
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	843,627	256,157	9,660	1,090,124
RESTRICTED FUNDS				
Memory Café		19		19
Music Fund		5,612		5,612
Pinney Fund (a)		200		200
Mission Fund		4,957		4,957
Family Worker Fund		5,944		5,944
Repair Café (Note 10)		17,182		17,182
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS		33,914		33,914
TOTAL FUNDS	843,627	290,071	9,660	1,124,038

(a) The Pinney Fund is restricted to maintaining a War Memorial Plaque on the North Wall

Note 10 REPAIR CAFÉ

The PCC holds funds received from the National Lottery Community Fund which are for funding the Repair Café. These are shown as restricted fund because the money can only be used for this purpose.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2024

FUND NAME	Fund Balances	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains and	Fund Balances
	Brought Fwd	Resources	Resources		Losses	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	210,425	176,973	169,334		2,744	220,808
General Fund Property	750,000					750,000
Fabric Fund	108,569	5,591	2,380			111,780
Clergy House Fund	7,167	369				7,536
Memory Café		2,810	2,791			19
Music Fund	5,194	418				5,612
Pinney Memorial	200					200
Missionary Giving Fund	4,107	4,960	4,110			4,957
Family Worker Fund	12,293		6,349			5,944
Repair Café		19,229	2,047			17,182
Total	1,097,955	210,350	187,011	-	2,744	1,124,038

Endorsed

Restricted

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2024 which comprise the Balance Sheet, Statement of Financial Activities and related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the PCC's members you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

the accounts do not accord with those records; or

the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports)

Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Lorraine Catherine Purdy FCCA
Clay Ratnage & Co
Suite D, The Business Centre
Faringdon Avenue
Romford
Essex
RM3 8EN

Signed: 

Dated: 25/3/2025

Church Contact Details

Rector	The Revd Dr Elizabeth Lowson 020 8504 7981 rector@stmaryswoodford.org.uk
Parish Office	St Mary's Church 207 High Road E18 2PA 020 8505 3000 info@stmaryswoodford.org.uk
Authorised Preacher	Mark Spencer-Ellis
Lay Readers	Mark Lewis, Rowena Rudkin
Assistant Clergy	Revd Gill Hopkins,
Assistant Curate	Revd Rachel Summers
Ordinand	Fiona Macaulay
PCC Secretary	Adela Kay
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Linda Wiskin
Treasurer	Shirley Lai

Core Support

Secretary, PCC and Standing Committee

The PCC and Standing Committee continue to meet; we now have both meetings in the same month a fortnight apart. The work of the PCC is focussing on Growing God's Kingdom at St Marys and has been discussing a vision for St Marys. The PCC supports the Rector and Clergy in their Parish Ministry and has certain legal responsibility for the Church. Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Meeting of the Church in accordance with the Church Representation rules. During 2024 the following served as members of the PCC:

Rector Revd Dr Elizabeth Lowson Revd Rachel Summers
Church Wardens Viveca Dutt Philip Petchey
Elected PCC Members

- Renee West (From Sept 2024)
- Habiba Rye (until Jan 2024)
- Gemma Low
- Jane Fone
- Kathy Wiltshire

- Helen Hollinsworth (until July 2024)
- Anne Jones
- Deanery Synod John Wiltshire
- Deanery Synod Linda Wiskin
- Deanery Synod Philip Petchey
- Deputy Warden David Shave (From May 2024)
- Deputy Warden Jano Goodchild
- Treasurer Shirley Lai
- Secretary Adela Kay
- Safeguarding officer Jackie Peacock (Until August 2024 – continuing on PCC) Linda Wiskin from (September 2024)

Adela Kay

Electoral Roll

In May 2024 there were 181 names on the electoral roll. This compares with 173 in 2023.

Average Church Attendance	Adults	Under 16s	Online views 10am service
All Sunday Services	96	9	36

Pastoral Care

Much pastoral care has been given and received by individuals keeping in touch with each other and especially those within our fellowship on the Sunday prayer list for changed or acute needs and on the Prayers for Wholeness and Healing prayer lists or known to be in need. Prayer Ministry team members pray after each Sunday 10am service for those who write requests or who visit the chapel in person, and for any needs of which they are aware. Sadly, this has been a year with considerable pastoral need. There have been five people baptised (two adults, three children), one thanksgiving for the birth of a baby, three adults confirmed, one renewal of marriage vows, seven funerals in church, a further nineteen funerals conducted by the ministry team at a Crematorium and the committal for burial of ten individuals including eight sets of ashes in the memorial garden within the churchyard at St Mary's. Mark Lewis and Rachel Summers lead funerals in addition to the Rector. Five members of our Ministry Team take home Communion to those unable to attend church.

Elizabeth Lowson

Safeguarding

Safeguarding has great importance at St Mary's. Jackie Peacock stood down as Parish Safeguarding Officer in July after her able and diligent years in the role in July. Following a safer recruitment process, and training, I took over from her. The volunteer and employee Disclosure and Barring (DBS) has been maintained. The Rector and PCC have made safeguarding a priority to protect both the young and vulnerable members of the congregation, to ensure that our Church is a safe place. There is a report on safeguarding to each PCC meeting. Safeguarding Sunday was added to the Church calendar. It provided an opportunity for all to look at our responsibilities to each other. All volunteers are required to undertake the first two stages of the Diocesan safeguarding training. This thorough process both explains safeguarding and trains volunteers to enact safe practice. Different church groups such as the prayer ministry team and sidespeople, have met to go over safe practice and how to manage disclosures. Those involved in leadership in the church have a much longer and interactive online process with the Diocese that has to be completed every three years. More opportunities are being advertised to have either face-to face training with other local churches or online. Earlier trauma may resurface for some and we are here to support you. I would urge members of the congregation who volunteer to speak to either the Rector or myself for advice as we seek to ensure the safeguarding culture of our Church. The PCC has complied with the requirements imposed by the House of Bishops Code of Practice under section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

Linda Wiskin

Fabric and church building

The quinquennial (five yearly) report on the fabric completed in 2022 showed that the church was structurally sound. There were a number of recommendations for work in the report and these are gradually being addressed.

After a faculty was obtained, a skylight was installed to facilitate access to the flat roof of the church (before this we could only access the roof if builders happened to be around or with scaffolding). This is generally useful and in due course will facilitate the installation and maintenance of solar panels on the roof to the modern parts of the church. We have obtained a faculty for the installation of such solar panels but Redbridge LBC insist that they require planning permission; we are currently pursuing this.

Routine work was also carried out to clear the gutters and drains to the modern parts of the church.

We are aware of repairs that are needed to two memorials in the churchyard. As the churchyard is a closed one, we consider that these are the responsibility of Redbridge LBC. We are pursuing this.

An ultra-sound survey of the copper beech revealed that it should have many

years of life in front of it. However it does contain dead wood; this will be removed. We think that we will also have to do some kind of stability test on the tree; we are currently taking advice on this.

The other trees in the churchyard require pruning; consent for this from Redbridge LBC has been obtained and, by the time you read this, we hope that the work will have been done.

We have considered various ways of making the church more secure – both from intruders and to help church staff and volunteers feel safe while they are in the building. This is ongoing, but the front door bolts have been strengthened as a first step. Our gardening team continue to take very good care of the churchyard and new planting has enhanced its look especially at the back.

Viveca Dutt & Philip Petchey

Wider Faith Links

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod had three regular meetings and also held a special meeting in September regarding the Deanery's potential grant applications as part of the Diocese of Chelmsford submission to the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board. At the March meeting there was a presentation about Stewardship and Giving from Beccy Hills, Diocesan Parish Giving Advisor. At the June meeting, Bishop Lynne gave a keynote addressed followed by questions and answers. At the November meeting, Helen Mullis Kunda from The Christian Education Project presented, followed by Revd Becca Rogers regarding Chaplaincy to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people. We also had discussions about Deanery strategy. St Mary's Woodford was represented at Deanery Synod by John Wiltshire, Linda Wiskin, Philip Petchey and Revd Dr Elizabeth Lowson.

Elizabeth Lowson & Philip Petchey

Woodford Fellowship of Christian Churches

St Mary's, along with most other churches in the Woodford area, is a member of The Woodford Fellowship of Christian Churches. The fellowship provides opportunities for Christians of different denominations to meet, to talk, to worship, to witness to the faith, to pray and to share activities together. Our two main events, where there is a considerable public presence, are The Service of Prayer for Christian Unity and the Ecumenical Advent Carol service. In 2023 the Service of Prayer for Christian Unity was held at Derby Road Methodist Church. The theme was Be-Longing : Praying for Unity amidst Injustice. Materials were prepared by churches in Minneapolis. The Ecumenical Advent Carol Service was held at St Thomas of Canterbury on the second Sunday of Advent. We proclaimed the Advent message, sang Advent carols and prayed together. This was followed by tea, coffee and mince pies in the Becket Centre. The retiring collection was split equally

between Mary's Meals and the Salvation Army for the Redbridge Cold Weather Centre. Churches share details of forthcoming events including opportunities for prayer, concerts, Lent lunches and wider community events such as the Repair Café or the election hustings at St Mary's. Members of four local churches joined for a Good Friday Walk of Witness.

Cheryl Corney

John Green 100th Birthday

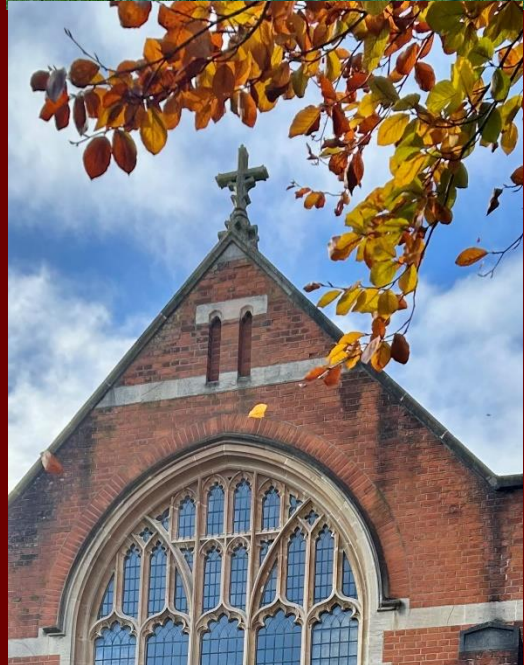


Thank You to Sheba



Generosity in numbers

Mission Societies	£	Appeals / Speakers / Fundraising	£
Church Mission Society	300	BBC Children in Need	1,144
Makutano	810	CDBF Lent Appeal	660
Medicine for Muheza	300	Christian Aid	250
The Leprosy Mission	300	DEC Collection	745
Mission societies total	1,710	Haven House (Cakes Sales)	195
		Makutano (Xmas 2023)	650
Church Societies		Redbridge Food Bank	787
Bible Society	200	Ripple Effect (including sent direct)	625
Christian Aid	250	The Children's Society	233
Church Army	200	The Manna Society (Harvest)	120
Church Urban Fund	200	Appeals / Speakers / Fundraising total	5,409
LMDC Charity	200		
The Children's Society	200		
The Manna Society	200	Funeral / Memorial Collections	
Church Societies total	1,450	Cancer Research	254
		Dementia UK	65
Charities		Donkey Sanctuary	15
A Rocha	100	London Air Ambulance	15
ELHAP	200	MS Society	95
Marie Curie	100	Redbridge District Scout	197
Redbridge Food Bank	250	RSPB (2 Funerals)	561
Samaritans	100	Haven House & The Dream Factory (W English)	143
Sightsavers	100	Funeral / Memorial Collections total	1,345
The Royal Assoc For			
Deaf People	100		
Charities total	950		
		Grand total	10,864
Total 2023 Bazaar Fund	4,110	Plus extra for online & other sent direct	



www.stmaryswoodford.org.uk
Registered Charity Number : 1127596

Accounts



Annual Review 2023

Our Annual Report and Accounts



In 2023 our theme has been Prayer and Pilgrimage and we have explored and connected with this theme in a wide variety of sermons and other events and visits, helping us to connect particularly with the Prayer dimension of Growing God's Kingdom at St Mary's. Thank you for all that has been contributed to St Mary's and the lives of our communities, the ways God's love in Jesus has been shared and discovered, and how God has been glorified.

Significant events and changes during the year include:

- YACHT INC 13sm-17s leading a service about prayer, including exploring difficult questions and using home-painted prayer stones; having a discussion with Lynne, Bishop of Barking about sexuality and the church; and preparing ash from palm crosses for the first time
- Re-establishing a monthly Communion service at Harts House care home in partnership between our ministry team and All Saints Woodford Wells
- Participatory ecumenical sessions about prayer during Lent at St Mary's, St Anne Line Roman Catholic and Woodford Methodist churches; and discussion of the Travelling Well Together resources from the Diocese of Chelmsford
- Guli, Bishop of Chelmsford and Lynne, Bishop of Barking visited in March as part of Bishop Guli's Lent Walking Pilgrimage and walked with us to Snaresbrook Crown Court Chapel
- Filming for a charity short video intended to reduce knife crime
- Film 'Love without Walls' featuring St Mary's was shown in local cinemas
- Medieval harpist Leah Stuttard visiting us in April and November to explore pilgrimage in contemporary practice and Margery Kempe and Sacred Fragments to prepare for Advent
- On Palm Sunday we processed outside and around the church building
- At Easter we held a well-attended Dawn Sunrise service followed by breakfast
- Three special services marking the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla
- St Mary's Sunflowers Baby & Toddler group now runs a second session on Thursdays 12-1.30pm in addition to the well-established 10-11.30am session
- Many successful fundraising and community events and beautiful concerts
- Re-establishing a team of St Mary's gardeners to care for the churchyard
- A sleepover in church for young people on the eve of Pentecost, which was the same day as Ride London; we hosted community refreshments outside with the High Road closed to all but cyclists
- A spring fundraising concert for Ukraine in June performed by Ukrainians

who live locally and raising money for British-Ukrainian Aid, followed by a large embroidery panel created by displaced Ukrainian women displayed in church for the next few weeks

- A major project in June, July and August during which the church drive was widened, resurfaced and lighting added. Memorial Hall drive was resurfaced together with a section near the South Porch.
- PCC approved in principle installation of solar panels, insulation and double glazed windows in the 1970s section of the church building
- In June, hosting the Redbridge Deanery Confirmation led by Lynne, Bishop of Barking with two baptisms (both St Mary's), two receptions into the Church of England and 14 Confirmations (three from St Mary's)
- Repair cafés with many other free features including toy swap in partnership with lots of local organisations in May and October and funding secured from ChangeX to run these quarterly
- HSBC staff volunteered time in the churchyard including planting spring bulbs to form a labyrinth
- A work experience student joined us for a few days in the summer and we have had two candidates for ministry on placement
- Pilgrimage visits to All Hallows by the Tower and St Julian's Church & Shrine, Norwich
- Establishing a baby bank donations box and candles/wax recycling box in the foyer
- Started a nature-based dementia memory cafe in partnership with South Woodford Islamic Centre and East London Liberal Synagogue with funding from We can create Colours of Redbridge
- Civic Remembrance during which a Hindu leader participated for the first time
- Holding two Community Christingle services on a Friday evening in December in addition to Sunday morning
- A simple service of Compline on the longest night of the year
- A young leader (under 18) was elected amongst the sidespeople
- A new set of five Communion Assistants was trained and authorised by PCC and are active
- Kate Adu Baah, Ian Layzell-Smith, Sarah Reynolds left PCC; Helen Hollinsworth+ Habiba Rye joined
- Anne Jones completed her term as Deputy Warden
- Jane Fone completed many decades of service as Treasurer and Shirley Lai became Treasurer
- Henry Metcalfe left his role as Director of Music in February and David Bird began his role as Director of Music and Organist in September, with John

Bradley directing in the meantime

- Sheba Lockley left her role as Office Coordinator at the end of December. Sam McCarthy joined the team in June and Janet Dunning was appointed to join the team from January 2024
- Rachel Summers and Fiona Macaulay joined the ministry team and Jeanette Meadway paused her ministry team role. Rachel was ordained deacon at Chelmsford Cathedral in September and serves as a pioneer curate in training here, at St Peter in the Forest and across the Mission and Ministry Unity. Fiona has begun ordination training and is with us on placement.

All of the areas of church life mentioned in this report would be very glad of new people joining, bringing with them new ideas and approaches. Support and training, where needed, is available. If you or someone you know would like to support a particular area of church life, please contact the Rector or the church office (page26), or please contact the team leader if you know them.

This structure of this annual report reflects:

- Worship & Life of Faith
- Community & Mission
- Financial Report
- Core Support
- Wider Faith Links



Worship & Life of Faith

Pattern of worship and reflection

Worship has been offered in the church building every week on Sundays and midweek this year. Our 10am Sunday service has been livestreamed each week, as have several special services during Holy Week, Easter and Christmas and baptisms and funerals. 8am Sunday Communion services, Sunday evening services, Wednesday Communion services and Prayers for Wholeness and Healing services (monthly on Thursday evenings until July; bi-monthly on Sunday afternoons from September) have been well-supported, as well as all our special services, with especially encouraging attendance at Christmas.

Many people are involved in preparing and delivering our worship and thanks are due to those who clean, maintain, decorate, prepare and organise the church spaces; who read, lead, prayers and liturgy; who offer bellringing, organ and other instrumental music and singing; and all who welcome, participate, support, prepare and offer refreshments and activities and so many different ways.

Sacristy Report

5

We as a team are now in our fifth year of service together and, as I pointed out in my last report, we have experienced many areas of change since I took over as Sacristan from Viveca in 2020, but I do feel we are just getting into a pattern & steady routine now.

Nevertheless procedures have had to change, numbers of attendance have dropped through Covid & having the services screened. The taking of bread & wine has also had to change but new ideas & procedures have been created.

As we share the Sacristy with other members of the flower club & those preparing refreshments for the congregation after service, we have to be mindful that all is kept clean & tidy, so that we can work comfortably together.

It has been quite a busy year for services we have had a few christenings & on the 18th of June we hosted a large congregation at a Confirmation Service lead by Lynne Cullens the Bishop of Barking of approximately 14 confirmations. It was also good to see that our many Christmas services were much better attended this year too.

I am for ever grateful to my team for their support and diligence in their sacristan work making sure that the altar is dressed, candles are lit & all other aspects of their work is dealt with as it is a vital part of helping worship to take place in a respectful & reverent manner.

Sally Phillips

Contemplative Prayer 2023

This year Roberta Flynn and Bryony Bennet, who had made a study of Julian of Norwich's, "Revelations of Divine Love", not only led a session on this, but also arranged a pilgrimage of eight people to the cell of Mother Julian in Norwich where a Eucharist was celebrated for the group.

Other meetings this year have mediated on the three theological virtues, (Faith, Hope and Charity), the purifying effect of fire, a Lectio Divina on the Good Samaritan including St Augustine's interpretation of the parable and the prayer of Jesus in St Luke's Gospel.

As the support for the Ash Wednesday meditation had been disappointing in 2022, we did not repeat it, although much of the theme was woven into the midweek morning Eucharist. We did hold the vigil for our work in Kenya on which Wendy Littlejohns brought us up to date.

The Good Friday meditation was on Christian attitudes to war but, because the harp recital by Leah Studdart had been arranged for the last Saturday in November, it was felt that the Advent Quiet Morning would be an overkill, so we discontinued it this year intending to revive the custom in 2024.

Rowena Rudkin

Flowers

The flower team has continued with a busy schedule in providing arrangements of flowers for many different occasions throughout this past year. Congregational support has made this possible for which we thank you. This short note gives me the opportunity to ask for helpers. We will be very pleased if anyone interested in flower arranging would join us.

Hazel Lovejoy.

Bellringing

We have managed to retain our four young learners for this year and with the help and support of ringers from other towers regularly coming to practice on a Monday night and offering their expertise.

All of the learners took part in the nationwide Ring for the King initiative and I'm delighted that three of them were available to ring on Coronation Day and were presented with certificates. They are all coming along very well getting used to ringing different bells in the tower and all taking part in call change ringing, the first steps towards learning methods.



We are hosting a training day in early March for local towers so hope our learners can benefit from this too. We had a successful and enjoyable open tower day in May and look forward to showing people up the tower again this year.



St Mary's Online and Technology

We have continued to offer our 10.00am service online and are pleased to welcome people, who, for whatever reason cannot come to church. There are also increasing requests for special services such as funerals and weddings to be streamed online, and it good to see people joining those from all over the world.

Our website and social media presence offer an immediate connection to followers for news and pictures of our events, and we are pleased to increasingly share news and information from our mission and ministry partners, the wider church and local community organisations,

We are continually looking to improve the technology we have within church and were pleased to enhance our ability to take donations by card and online.

We have also started to see how we can improve sound quality during services. This will be a focus for 2024.

Junior Church

7

Our purpose is to nurture and encourage the faith journey and belonging of children, young people and families to be a core part of St Mary's and the wider community, giving choice for all families, across all ages.

Our new format brings a more cohesive approach, with new learning resources and principles, which has been successful. JC are now a strong group of young Christians aged from 3 to 17 years old. The families who attend are all regular, enthusiastic and contribute hugely to our sessions and to Church life and wider church community events. A number of new families have joined our Sunday morning sessions. JC come together for fellowship, and learning about God through creative activities, and relating bible teachings to our lives today. Our session content following the



liturgical calendar. linking what the congregation are thinking about weekly to what JC are exploring, this works well with JC sharing what they have learnt with the congregation at the end of the service.

JC led some wonderful All Together services with lovely feedback from the congregation. Mother's Day, we thought about the cycle of life and reaching our true potential and released colourful wind up butterflies into the congregation to signify JC flying high. At harvest we gave thanks through activity stations symbolising; Harvest of the Garden for Patience, the Grain for Generosity and the Earth for Joy. Our Remembrance, service reflected on remembering and peace using stones and poppies. And there was, of course our annual community Christmas Eve Nativity service.



Sarah Hodges

Fabric and Church Building

Resurfacing the drive was a project that had been long in the planning but eventually came to fruition last year. The new surface to the drive is a great improvement upon the holes and cracks in the old; the opportunity was also taken to provide lighting to illuminate a demarcated pedestrian route to the church. This too is a great improvement. The contractors were very helpful and you may have noticed that they also did some resurfacing work to the tarmac to the south of the church and in front of the entrance to the tower.

The window that had been damaged in a break in attempt has been repaired and, at the same time, a number of other small panes, broken over a period of years, were replaced. There was a spate of church break ins at the end of last year (although not

at St Mary's). In the light of this we have reviewed and tightened our internal security arrangements and are considering whether anything further can sensibly be done external to the church.

Two monuments in the churchyard evidently will require some attention soon if only to keep them safe. Our advice is that they are primarily the responsibility of Redbridge LBC; the Council is currently considering what will be appropriate. The churchyard wall to the west of the church may also require some work but, again, this is not thought to be the liability of St Mary's.

There was significant water ingress in church when a lot of rain fell in a very short space of time. This showed the need for some roof works which were carried out.

We have attended to some minor matters identified in the Quinquennial; the tiling outside the Gwinnell Room remains the most important of the outstanding matter. We continue our work to improve our environmental footprint – the most difficult aspect of this will be fundraising!

We remain enormously grateful to David Mason for his work – not just on the day to day maintenance but in respect of suggestions and improvements to things which he is always alert to bring about.

The Fabric Committee has been brought “within” the Standing Committee, so that the Standing Committee now directly considers matters relating to the Fabric. This reflects the facts that the memberships of each committee had largely overlapped; and that all significant expenditure has to be approved by the Standing Committee in any event.

Philip Petchey

Community & Mission

Sunflowers - Babies and Toddlers

This year we have been blessed with regular returning adults and children and a steady stream of new guests. We see a mix of parents, grandparents and childminders from our local community and beyond. Despite often only having two helpers we have established a culture of regular guests welcoming new guests and involving them in play, fellowship and crucially keeping the group safe and clean for everyone to enjoy. We socialise with everyone, play with the children and extend our care into their daily lives through offers of prayer, spiritual advice and invitations to our church events and services. We have identified attendance at our Repair Cafe, Bazaar and Nativity Service as a direct result of inviting everyone at the group. We make a modest profit each session enabling those who wish to give, to give without limits and those who cannot give, a break from another expense. We are able to buy good quality refreshments and snacks, exciting fruit to try and to contribute towards the heating and lighting at the church.

Clare Reeves (Children & Families Ministry Coordinator)

Eco Church including Repair Café

Our first repair café was back in October 2022 and we are now in full swing with our quarterly community events. Thanks to generous sponsorship we have been able to offer free repairs for electrical items, textiles, bikes, spectacles and jewellery cleaning, and drinks and biscuits while customers wait. Local amenity groups,



charities and shops with a strong community focus have been able to make new connections.

Our thanks go to the South Woodford Society, our principal partner in this venture. We are always looking for anyone skilled in fixing things and for



volunteers to help welcome our customers. Please contact the office if you want to help in any way.

Toy Swap

The repair café is one example of trying to live our lives in a more sustainable way and into waste precious resources.

We have continued to work towards the greening of St Mary's through the way we live our lives, and we adopted a set of eco principles during the year covering recycling, free trade, reducing energy use among other things. We continue to work towards major work to insulate the church and move away from fossil fuels. We will be looking for major fund raising in these areas in coming months.

Bug Hotel



Schools

There are three schools within the parish boundary: Churchfields Infants School (3-7 years), Junior School (7-11 years) and St Aubyn's School (2.5-13 years). The Rector has contributed to collective worship at Churchfields Juniors, and welcomed both Churchfields Juniors and St Aubyn's schools for Christmas services at St Mary's. Good communication has been maintained with Churchfields Juniors throughout the year with a community concert by pupils in October and large numbers of St Aubyn's cadets and parents/carers joined the Civic Remembrance service at St Mary's.

Memorial Hall

The Memorial Hall is a separate charity from St Mary's with trustees drawn from the church electoral roll. Kate Adu-Baah, Gerry Everett and Martin Freeston were thanked for all their work as they finished Trustee terms this year; Dean Musk and Ian Strachan were welcomed as new Trustees this year and a third person is willing to serve; we are considering amending the Trust Deed to allow wider community representation among the Trustees.

Memorial Hall staff work hard to maintain the facilities, building and welcome to many community groups. Annual reports for Woodford Parish Church Memorial Hall can be found on the Charity Commission website at: <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/214670/charity-overview>

Snaresbrook Crown Court Chaplaincy

It's been extraordinary that so few of the serious issues affecting the process of criminal justice have been overtly raised in our encounters with visitors to the Chapel. The huge backlog of trials, sometimes with as much as a two year delay. Trials not going ahead because of there being no available barristers or interpreters. And this was already the case before the barristers' strike.

Yet so many of our visitors, though often stressed, seem to relish the calm our space provides in such a busy building. And it's been an unpredictable year. On some days there have been hardly any visitors, and on others the number is in double figures. Qualities which are needed in members of the Chaplaincy Team are the capacity for non-judgemental listening, and the ability to judge whether a visitor wants to engage with us or to have some time to be by themselves.

In 2023 we held 16 services, all except two lunchtime celebrations of Holy Communion led by the MMU incumbents. The other two services are the Armistice Day Service of Remembrance which is also attended by former pupils of Royal Wanstead School, and the Crown Court Carol Service.

In March we welcomed the Bishop of Chelmsford, Bishop Guli, who spent a day in Woodford and Wanstead, together with the Bishop of Barking, Bishop Lynne. The Resident Judge, HHJ Rosa Dean who is very supportive of the Chaplaincy, put on a light lunch for the visitors and for as many of us who could manage to be there. We were also joined by several Judges, and at least two members of the Chaplaincy accepted an invitation to spend the afternoon watching a trial.

On some days you need to have brought a good book but on others you leave the Chapel humbled and privileged to have heard visitors sharing their experiences and feelings.

Mark Spencer Ellis

Get Together Group

11

In March the long-established and much-valued Woodford Friends and Neighbours group (previously Woodford Wives) made a decision to cease being a membership group and Pat Smith was warmly thanked for her leadership over many recent years. St Mary's agreed to host a new community gathering on the second Wednesday afternoon of each month, which is now known as the Get Together group and welcomes men as well as women for a programme of talks, refreshments and other activities. This is a free to attend group with no booking needed and donations welcome.

Events Group 2023

Our group organises and puts on the 4 large secular social events in St Mary's calendar. Race Night in February, our chance to fill the Roberts Hall with friends old and new, your own drinks and nibbles before dinner is served courtesy of Leslie, Eric and helpers. The 20p tote



betting on horse & greyhound racing adds the spice to the night as cash is still king here, penny fortunes won and lost.

Food and Fun Day in May was blessed by another glorious weather Saturday and loads of fun and food had by lots of happy attendees. And that Pimms really does help make

for a funny, sunny day, especially with Daren as barman.

Soul Night on a roasting hot September evening this year was an absolute cracker with both a professional lighting and a sound engineer helping elevate the night to new heights. The Capones played an absolute blinder, the audience couldn't get enough singing and dancing along. DugOut Soul DJs kept that mood going in to the twilight zone. When the rhythm grabs you, you just gotta let it take you out onto that dance floor.



And then the Christmas Charity Bazaar rolled around again in November, ever the epitome of 'It'll be all right on the night'. Everybody loves it,



something for everyone to enjoy. And over 4 £grand made for charity too! This year we bought the last of the fabulous marmalades, jams and chutneys from the perennially industrious and fabulous Christina & John Strudwick. So a huge thank you to her for many, many years of making such beloved preserves; your jars of joy will be sorely missed Chris. If there's any wannabes in the wings who feel ready to pick up that mixing spoon do please let me know.

In fact we can always do with a few more organisers too if interested in joining us.

YACHT INC

We have grown by two members since our last annual report. All the young people are attending regularly and participating fully, to the extent that some have now felt able to lead sessions for their peers on subjects they feel passionately about or would like to know more about. Leading sessions involves researching and understanding topics and compiling thought-provoking questions to put to the group while regular clergy, myself and invited visitors such as Bishop Lynne are able to provide as much spiritual input as is required. Living In Love and Faith has been a special topic of interest for our group.



YACHT INC are also contributing to church life by taking active roles in services and Junior Church, we are working with church volunteers to enable them to consider whether they would like to have ad-hoc sidesperson duties, intercessions and prayer team experience in the future.

Clare Reeves
(Children & Families Ministry Coordinator)

Girlguiding (Rainbows, Brownies and Guides)

Girlguiding in Woodford South District is enriching the lives of girls ages 5-18 helping them develop skills for life. This year we have come together as a district to raise money to contribute to our hall rent with a Bingo evening, sold cakes for St Mary's chosen charities, enjoyed social events like Revels, Sports and a trip to the WOADS Pantomime.

We are grateful for our strong connection to St Mary's and the opportunities to learn more about the Church and Christianity as a part of our Promise to "develop our beliefs".

We have celebrated at civil services for Remembrance, Christingle as well as at Church Parade for Thinking Day. We have run stalls at Food & Fun Day and the Bazaar.

Clare Reeves



The PCC and Standing Committee continue to meet we now have both meetings in the same month a fortnight apart so that actions can be followed up from Standing Committee quite quickly and PCC approval given. The work of the PCC is focussing on Growing God’s Kingdom at St Marys and has been discussing a vision for St Marys. We have also been working on tightening systems within PCC so that reports are received in a timely manner.

The PCC supports the Rector and Clergy in their Parish Ministry and has certain legal responsibility for the Church. Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Meeting of the Church in accordance with the Church Representation rules. During 2023 the following served as members of the PCC:

Rector	Revd Elizabeth Lowson
Church Wardens	Viveca Dutt Philip Petchey
Elected PCC Members	Kate Adu-Baah (until May 2023) Ian Layzell-Smith (until May 2023) Gemma Low Jane Fone Kathy Wiltshire Helen Hollingsworth (from May 2023) Habiba Rye (from July 2023) Rachel Summers (from Sept 2023)
Deanery Synod	Sarah Reynolds
Deanery Synod	John Wiltshire
Deanery Synod	Linda Wiskin
Deputy Warden	Anne Jones (until May 2023)
Deputy Warden	Jano Goodchild
Treasurer	Shirley Lai (from May 2023)
Secretary	Adela Kay
Safeguarding officer	Jackie Peacock

Electoral roll. In May 2023 there were 173 names on the electoral roll. This compares with 166 in 2022.

Average Church Attendance	Adults	Under 16s	Online views 10am service
All Sunday Services	87	9	53

Finance Review 2023

In 2023, the total Income from General Activities was £154,872 (2022 £144,864) against General Expenditure of £166,160 (2022 £147,325), giving a deficit of £11,288 (2022 £2,461). In March 2023, the PCC re-affirmed its decision to go ahead with resurfacing and improving the drive, costing £62,017.

Although we received two generous Legacies, amounting to £27,500 (2022 £50,008), the £45,805 shortfall had to be funded from our Reserves.

Income from General Activities increased by 7%, including an increase in Sundry Donations £3,806; Church Appeals £1,834; Tax Recovery £1,688 and Interest & Dividend £2,690.

Regular planned giving dropped 3.7% first half of the year and finally recovered by the end of the year. We invested in a new Payaz machine and our new Parish Giving Scheme helped us to claim back Gift Aids automatically to reduce administrative burden.

In terms of our General Fund Expenditure, we suffered from high utility costs (+£5575, +70%). We also incurred a few high costs on much needed expenditures such as Auravisions Window repairs £1,299, the works at the Rectory £2,880 and William Drake organ repairs £3,996. The PCC also agreed a three years plan to spend a total of £5,000 on the organ repair from 2024 to 2026.

The General Fund Reserve excluding the balance of the Earmarked monies covers approximately four months expenditure. My thanks go to our Finance team: Anne Jones; Brenda Layzell-Smith; Jane Fone and Michael Lovejoy. I also thank Elizabeth, the wardens and everyone who has been helping for their continuous support.

Shirley Lai

Recent legacies

Name	Year Received	Legacy	Fund	Fund Type
Alison Clarke	2023	£25,000	General	Unrestricted
Rosemary Bennett	2023	£2,500	General	Unrestricted

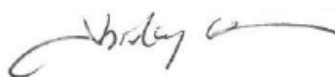
ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Freehold Land and Buildings	4a	750,000	750,000
Investments	4b	90,883	86,080
Total Fixed Assets		840,883	836,080
CURRENT ASSETS			
Sundry Debtors	5	3,570	18,015
CBF Deposit		238,885	258,340
Bank Balance		27,754	35,935
		270,209	312,290
LIABILITIES			
Amount falling due within one year		13,137	7,611
NET CURRENT ASSETS		257,072	304,679
NET ASSETS		1,097,955	1,140,759
FUNDS			
Unrestricted			
General Purpose	8	960,425	1,001,427
Earmarked		115,736	111,558
Total Unrestricted Funds		1,076,161	1,112,985
Restricted Funds		21,794	27,774
TOTAL FUNDS		1,097,955	1,140,759

Signed:

Ehanson



Dated

26/03/2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2022 GP Fund £	2023 GP Fund £	Earmarked £	Restricted £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
INCOMING RESOURCES							
Voluntary Income	2	158,958	144,718			144,718	159,293
Income From Charitable Activities		1,466	1,417			1,417	1,466
Other Income	9b	29,984	29,083		3,943	33,026	34,389
Investment Income		4,464	7,154	5,000	365	12,519	5,839
Other Trading Activities	9a						
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		194,872	182,372	5,000	4,308	191,680	200,987
RESOURCES USED							
Grants	3						
Activities Directly related to the Work of the Church	10	135,911	216,247	822	5,388	222,457	144,771
Fundraising and publicity		0	0			0	0
Church Management and Administration		9,618	10,087			10,087	9,618
Governance Costs		1,796	1,843			1,843	1,796
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		147,325	228,177	822	10,288	239,287	160,185
NET INCOMING/OUTGOING RESOURCES		47,547	(45,805)	4,178	(5,980)	(47,607)	40,802
Interfund Transfers		(15,000)				0	0
Profit on Property Revaluation		60,000				0	60,000
Profit/Loss on Investment Revaluation		(13,342)	4,803			4,803	(13,342)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		79,205	(41,002)	4,178	(5,980)	(42,804)	87,460
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		922,222	1,001,427	111,558	27,774	1,140,759	1,053,299
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD		1,001,427	960,425	115,736	21,794	1,097,955	1,140,759

Accounting Policies

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 view", provisions, together with FRS102 (2019) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2019 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and reporting by Charities (SORP (FRS102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except that the Curate's House is stated at a fair value as agreed by the PCC and investments which are stated at market value.

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC which are not subject to any legal restrictions regarding their use and are available for applications to the general purposes of the PCC. This category includes both the General Purposes Fund and funds earmarked for a particular purpose by the PCC. Restricted funds are those funds which may only be used for the restricted purpose for which they were given or otherwise obtained.

The accounts include all transaction assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Incoming resources

Income from donors and other voluntary income

Planned Giving is recognised only when received. Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when received or when calculated and submitted for payment.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accountable for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Funds raised by the Charity bazaar and other events are accounted for gross unless related expenses are immaterial in amount.

Donated good are recognised at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the statement of financial activities. Monies received in relations to donated goods sold are included under the relevant heading in The Statement of Financial Activities when the good are sold.

Charitable trading

Fees for weddings are included in this caption and accounted for when due.

Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of the curate's house is accounted for when due

Income from investments

Interest on deposits is accounted for when receivable and any related tax recoverable is recognised at the same time.

Resources Used**Grants**

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over or when awarded if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly related to the work of the church The diocesan quota is accounted for when payable.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 Chapter 2, s.10(2)(C).

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings whether maintenance or improvement is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

Other land and buildings held for use in the work of the church.

The curate's house is included under this caption. It is stated at a fair value as agreed by the PCC.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

Equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £5000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for any amounts that may prove to be uncollectable.

Note 2 Incoming Resources

	General Fund £	Earmarked Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 TOTAL £	2022 TOTAL £
Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving	65,447			65,447	64,197
Income Tax recovered	19,292			19,292	17,604
Loose Collections	6,183			6,183	6,334
Sundry Donations	18,266			18,266	14,460
Donation Earmarked	0			0	335
Church Appeals	7,413			7,413	5,579
Floodlighting Donation	370			370	390
Magazine Donations	247			247	386
Legacies	27,500			27,500	50,008
	144,718	0	0	144,718	159,293
Income: Charitable Activities					
Fees - weddings etc	1,417			1,417	1,466
Other Income					
Rent - Curate's House	22,836			22,836	22,950
Churchyard Income	1,500			1,500	1,500
Fund Raising	4,747			4,747	5,534
Bazaar Fund Raising			3,943	3,943	4,405
	29,083	0	3,943	33,026	34,389
Investment Income					
Interest and Dividends	7,154	5,000	365	12,519	5,839
Other Trading activities					
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	182,372	5,000	4,308	191,680	200,987

Note 3 Resources Used

	General Fund £	Earmarked Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 TOTAL £	2022 TOTAL £
Grants					
Mission societies			3,200	3200	2300
Church Societies			1,000	1000	1000
Charities e.g. ELHAP			700	700	700
	0	0	4,900	4,900	4,000
Activities directly related to church work					
Diocesan Quota	91,785			91,785	89,279
Rector's Expenses	425		20	445	466
Music, Organ & Choir	11,424			11,424	8,077
Service Expenses	1,154			1,154	453
Heating/Light/Water	13,568			13,568	7,993
Cleaning	3,923			3,923	4,051
Routine Maintenance	5,499			5,499	3,431
Clergy house expenses	7,699	822		8,521	4,360
Churchyard Expenses	2,781			2,781	3,139
Insurance	3,459			3,459	3,200
Junior Church	357			357	63
Memorial Hall Contributions	6,000			6,000	5,880
Printing and stationery inc magazine	1,605			1,605	1,483
Sundries	163			163	354
Outreach inc family	3,206		5,368	8,574	6,688
Fabric Expenditure	1,182			1,182	5,854
Churchyard Access Road (Note 10)	62,017			62,017	
Total directly related to Church work	216,247	822	5,388	222,457	144,771
Fund Raising and Publicity					
Stewardship Expenses	0			0	0
Church Management and Admin					
Parish Office and Telephone	10,087			10,087	9,618
Governance Costs					
Treasurers/Secretary Expenses	77			77	78
Independent Examiner Fee	1,766			1,766	1,718
	1,843	0	0	1,843	1,796
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	228,177	822	10,288	239,287	160,185

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

Note 4-7

NOTE 4 FIXED ASSETS For Use By The PCC

NOTE 4a Freehold land and buildings

Freehold land and buildings comprise the "Curate's Hose" at 33 Elmhurst Drive.

The gross book value is based on a fair valuation as agreed by the PCC in 2022.

Note 4b INVESTMENTS	2023	2022
	£	£
CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund Income Shares		
Market Value at 31/12/22	86,080	99,422
Market Value at 31/12/23	90,883	86,080
Loss/Profit on revaluation	4,803	-13,342

NOTE 5 DEBTORS	2023	2022
	£	£
Other Debtors	3,570	18,015
Total	3,570	18,015

NOTE 6 STAFF COSTS

During the year, the PCC employed a Director of Music, family worker, two administration secretaries and a cleaner/caretaker. Employment costs are included in the respective expenditure heads. No present member of the PCC received remuneration or expenses. Salaries 2023 £33,698 (2022 £27,195)

NOTE 7 SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Restricted retiring collections for 2023 for which the PCC acted solely as a post-box amounted to £10,753 (2022 £9,069)

Note 8 - 10

NOTE 8 ANALYSIS OF FUNDS AND NET ASSETS

	Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Liabilities	FUND BALANCES
	£	£	£	£
General Purpose Fund	840,883	132,679	13,137	960,425
Earmarked Funds				
Fabric Fund		108,569		108,569
Clergy House Fund		7,167		7,167
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	840,883	248,415	13,137	1,076,161
RESTRICTED FUNDS				
Agency				0
Music Fund		5,194		5,194
Pinney Fund (a)		200		200
Mission Fund		4,107		4,107
Family Worker Fund		12,293		12,293
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	0	21,794	0	21,794
TOTAL FUNDS	840,883	270,209	13,137	1,097,955

(a) The Pinney Fund is restricted to maintaining a War Memorial Plaque on the North Wall

Note 9

(a) The income from Other Trading Activities £Nil (2022 £Nil)

Note 10

The PCC re-affirmed its decision to go ahead with the resurfacing and improving the drive after discussions for over ten years. Three quotes were obtained. The work was completed in the Summer 2023 and 5% retention is being held and the amount accrued.

The project was supervised by our Chartered Architect Consultant, Donald Insall Associates. Both Bestco Surfacing Limited and Donald Insall are non-related third parties to St Mary's.

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER 2023**

FUND NAME	Fund Balances Brought Fwd	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Fund Balances Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	251,427	182,372	228,177		4,803	210,425
General Fund Property	750,000					750,000
Fabric Fund	103,883	4,686				108,569
Clergy House Fund	7,675	314	822			7,167
Music Fund	4,970	224				5,194
Pinney Memorial	200					200
Missionary Giving Fund	4,923	4,084	4,900			4,107
Family Worker Fund	17,661		5,368			12,293
Agency	20		20			0
Total	1,140,759	191,680	239,287	0	4,803	1,097,955

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023 which comprise the Balance Sheet, Statement of Financial Activities and related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the PCC's members you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

the accounts do not accord with those records; or

the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports)

Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Lorraine Catherine Purdy FCCA

Clay Ratnage & Co

Suite D, The Business Centre

Faringdon Avenue

Romford

Essex

RM3 8EN

Signed:



Dated:

28/3/2024 

Pastoral Care

Much pastoral care has been given and received by individuals keeping in touch with each other and especially those within our fellowship on the Sunday prayer list for changed or acute needs and on the Prayers for Wholeness and Healing prayer lists or known to be in need. Prayer Ministry team members pray after each Sunday 10am service for those who write requests or who visit the chapel in person, and for any needs of which they are aware. Sadly, this has been a year with considerable pastoral need. There have been four people baptised (one adult, one young person and two babies), one marriage and one marriage blessing in church, five funerals in church, a further twelve funerals conducted by the ministry team at a Crematorium and the burial of six sets of ashes in the memorial garden within the churchyard at St Mary's. Mark Lewis has begun to lead funerals and Rachel Summers assists with funerals and will soon lead. Five members of our Ministry Team take home Communion to those unable to attend church.

Safeguarding

This year we have updated our Safeguarding policy which can be accessed via our website and is available from the office. We have also introduced guidelines for group leaders, volunteers and lone workers.

As PSO I continue to meet regularly with the Rector to consider what support may be required in our parish and any other safeguarding issues.

We ensure that those holding office either paid employees or volunteers have the required level of DBS (Disclosure and Barring Checks) and all are encouraged to undertake training.

Safeguarding appears as a standard item on every PCC agenda in order to ensure that we keep up to date with requirements.

There is a blue poster 'Promoting a Safer Church' on display in the church entrance giving contact details for emergencies. There are also Safe Spaces posters in our toilets with a helpline number to call.

Best practice on safeguarding can be found on the Church of England's website: www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding

Jackie Peacock
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mission Committee

This year, the agreed list of Charities and Missions supported by the Church have been met. Stephen Wiggs continues to lead the work for Christian Aid and Wendy Littlejohns has arranged speakers with retiring collections. There have been special collections for emergency appeals. With a shortage of members and the personal circumstances of the ongoing members, we have been unable to run additional fund raising events this year. However we have supported and participated in the major charitable efforts such as the Bazaar. With the PCC in the process of reviewing the long term future of the committee, we look forward to a reshaping to support the essential elements of the role played by the committee. This includes highlighting the work of each organisation through the rotation of speakers and retiring collections and the distribution of funds raised by the Bazaar to the charities, missions and good courses supported by the Church. Last year, saw the return of our CMS partners, the Clare family to this country from Uganda. The commitment to a CMS partner is very large financial commitment and there are currently no plans to commit to a new partner.

Linda Wiskin

The Woodford Fellowship of Christian Churches 2023

Along with most of the other churches in Woodford St Mary's is a member of The Woodford Fellowship of Christian Churches. The Fellowship provides opportunities for Christians of different denominations in the Woodford area to meet, to talk, to worship, to sing, to work and to share activities together.

In January 2023 the Service of Prayer for Christian Unity was held at St Paul's, Woodford Bridge.



On the second Sunday of Advent the Ecumenical Advent Carol service was held at St Thomas of Canterbury. We enjoyed Advent readings and singing Advent carols. Choirs from All Saints, Loyola Prep School and St Thomas of Canterbury sang. Members of about ten local churches participated, offering reflections, readings and prayers. For the first time members of the newly opened Liberty Church in Woodford joined in. The service was followed by tea, coffee and mince pies in the Becket Centre.

The retiring collection was split between Mary's Meals and the Salvation Army for the Redbridge Cold Weather Centre. Churches share details of forthcoming events such as the Repair Cafes at St Mary's, concerts and Lent lunches. Members of four local churches joined for a Good Friday Walk of Witness.

Cheryl Corney

There have been three meetings of the Three Faiths Forum this year. The first, at which Elizabeth was one of the main speakers, was on fasting. Then, prompted by the King's Coronation oath, we considered whether faiths need special protection in the 21st century. The speakers were a lady judge on the Sharia court, a visiting Rabbi from Canada and myself. No vote was taken but subsequent discussion implied that special protections is needed but we do need to be vigilant. The third meeting was of a very different nature from our customary practice, informing us of the fate of those Ethiopian Jews who had been left behind when so many had been taken to Israel in 1995. This meeting included a streamed contribution from the only Ethiopian to have been a member of the Israeli Parliament, or Knesset. Rowena Rudkin.

MMU

We completed a pilgrimage walk starting at St Mary's this year going via St Peters in the Forest, Christchurch, Wanstead and St Mary's the Virgin and ending at Aldersbrook with tea and cake. It was a lovely afternoon with people from all 4 churches riding or walking all or part of the route. We continue to share our youth worker across three of the MMU churches and it is great to work in partnership with our neighbours. Adela

Redbridge Faith Forum

This group meets several times each year on weekday lunchtimes in Ilford and is seeking new Trustees and funding. Our Rector spoke about Holy Week & Easter as part of a spring session about Festivals. There were further, lively presentations and discussions later in the year about healthcare and eco matters. Sadly, given the situation in the Middle East the Walk of Peace did not go ahead in the autumn.

Church Contact Details

Rector The Revd Dr Elizabeth Lowson
020 8504 7981
rector@stmaryswoodford.org.uk

Parish Office St Mary's Church
207 High Road
E18 2PA
020 8505 3000
info@stmaryswoodford.org.uk

Authorised Preacher Mark Spencer-Ellis

Lay Readers Mark Lewis, Rowena Rudkin

Ordinand

Fiona Macaulay

PCC Secretary

Adela Kay

Treasurer

Shirley Lai

Bankers

HSBC, The Co-operative Bank

Independent Examiner

 Lorraine Catherine Purdy FCCA
 Clay Ratnage & Co, Suite D, The Business
 Centre, Faringdon Avenue, Romford, RM3 8EN

Giving

What your generosity did for those in need :

Mission Societies	£	Special Collections	£
Church Mission Society	2,000		
Makutano	900	Appeal for Marsabit	275
The Leprosy Mission	300	Bishop's Lent Appeal	317
Mission societies total	£3,200	British Ukrainian Aid	885
		Christian Aid	650
Church Societies		Crisis	983
Bible Society	200	DEC Collection	210
Church Army	200	ELHAP	187
Christian Aid	200	Macmillan Cancer	187
Church Urban Fund	100	Makutano	333
LMDC Charity	100	The Manna Society	367
The Children's Society	200	Medicine for Muheza	299
Church Societies total	£1,000	Ripple Effect	619
		The Bishop of Chelmsford Discretionary Fund	201
Charities		The Children's Society	133
A Rocha	100	Haven House & RBL on behalf of W English	207
ELHAP	200		
Marie Curie	100	Total Special Collections	£5,853
The Royal Assoc For Deaf People	100		
Sightsavers	100		
Samaritans	100		
Charities total	£700		
		Total Mission; Church; Charities and Special Collections	£10,753
Total	£4,900		



Accounts



St Mary's Woodford

Annual review 2022

including the Annual Report
and Accounts



St Mary's Woodford
APCM
Annual Report

Introduction:

2022 started with considerable concerns about the Omicron variant of Covid and ended with very encouraging attendance at Christmas services and events. It has been a difficult year with war in Ukraine since February, increasing concern about the climate, two British monarchs, three prime ministers, economic turmoil, rising inflation, and extreme weather of over 40 degrees in July and at least -6 degrees in December with snow and ice lying for a week. Through it all and in each individual and family crisis we have been reminded that God's love is stronger than all else and that in Christ, God is with us in every moment of our lives. Thank you for all that has been contributed to St Mary's and the lives of our communities and the ways God has been glorified.

Significant events and changes during the year include:

- The first fundraising Race Night, joint Choral Evensong and Soul Night in a few years in February, July and October respectively
- Ecumenical gatherings in January and during Lent with Methodists, Roman Catholics and other local churches for the first time in a few years
- YACHT INC 13s-16s leading a service for Racial Justice Sunday
- First Friday lunches, Second Sunday lunches, parish lunches and Christmas Day lunch fully re-established, the latter with support from community volunteers; Mission events returned
- Prayer Ministry team re-established on Sundays after the 10am
- Using Christmas as a theme for November's successful Charity Bazaar
- A fundraising concert for Ukraine in April with the choir of the Roman Catholic Ukrainian Cathedral, London
- Celebrating the 50th anniversary of re-consecration in June with Bishop Guli visiting, a community afternoon tea and exhibition about St Mary's Past Present and Future
- Becoming a hub for the Diocesan Communities for Ukrainians Scheme jointly with All Saints Woodford Wells in partnership with Citizens UK and supporting those hosting
- Hosting English as a Second Language lessons in the Memorial Hall from July for new arrivals from Ukraine
- Joining with South Woodford Baptist Church, Holy Trinity South

Woodford, Broadmead Baptist Church and Restore Church to pray for Ukraine in March and with an Easter Day popup stall in South Woodford

- Offering a bird seed prayer labyrinth in the churchyard in July
- Offering a book of condolence and special prayers and services following the death of her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, during September
- Offering our first Wave of Light service during Baby Loss Awareness Week in October
- Hosting our first Repair café in October with support from many local partners
- Offering our post-service coffee and Baby & Toddler group as warm spaces
- Civic Remembrance with Jewish and Muslim faith leaders' involvement for the first time
- Having our first community Christingle on a Friday afternoon in December
- Linda Wiskin finishing her term as church warden and being replaced by Philip Petchey
- Anne Jones becoming a deputy warden
- Clare Reeves being appointed as Children's and Families' Ministry Coordinator across the parishes of Woodford, Wanstead and Aldersbrook
- Jeanette Meadway joining the ministry team



We are continuing to work within the framework of Growing God's Kingdom at St Mary's (drawing on principles from Leading Your Church into Growth) with a developing focus on listening to God, listening to our communities and focusing all that we do on being sustainable and realistic, while offering opportunities to explore faith while serving all. Parochial Church Council had a vision away day in September with a follow-up discussion in November. Many groups within the church community have asked to discuss prayer and so the first six months of 2023 will focus on prayer and pilgrimage because this will help us in our listening and resting in God's love, attending to the development of values-based approaches centrally and locally within the Diocese of Chelmsford and supporting us in working towards a five year strategic plan for St Mary's. All of the areas of church life mentioned in this report would be very glad of new people joining, bringing with them new ideas and approaches. Support and training, where needed, is available. If you or someone you know would like to support a particular area of church life, please contact the Rector or the church office, or please contact the team leader if you know them.

Worship and Life of Faith

Music Report

As the Parish continued to emerge from the COVID-19 Pandemic, and last-minute changes were needed in response to the Omicron variant in Winter 2021, 2022 has allowed the musical aspects of parish life to grow into levels seen before the Pandemic. We are very lucky to have a choir that are not only committed to producing high levels of quality week by week, but are also dedicated to seeing the musical offerings of St Mary's thrive and grow to keep our inherited tradition alive. This year we have seen many great examples which can not all be mentioned here. In the Summer, we celebrated fifty years of the rededication of the church with a Festival Eucharist where we were joined by the *Godfrey Ensemble* of brass players, performed new commissions for the service, and acknowledged, and looked forward to, the journey of the Parish through music. The annual Festival of Lessons & Carols saw the choir joined by friends and a congregation for the first time since the Pandemic to expectantly observe the yearly occurrence of the Nativity of our Lord. It has also been a joy to work with other choirs both in St Mary's church and further afield. The ecumenical Passiontide service included a *come & sing* choir reflecting our links with other churches in the area. To celebrate the end of the choir year, singers from the MMU joined our choir for Choral Evensong – an arrangement that had not happened for quite some time. It was uplifting to

have so many singers from the MMU who share the same passion for music to join together and sing the traditional office with music that is an inherent part of the Church of England. It was also an honour to be part of the Woodford Churches together service in St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Church with choirs from across the area.

After agreement by the PCC, the contract for the maintenance of the organ has been moved to William Drake Organ Builders. During the first visit, the quality of the instrument was confirmed by the specialists, and we are soon to have work done to the organ which will greatly enhance the sound and safeguard this important part of the church for future generations. We have also been lucky enough to receive a new upright piano for the Gwinell Room from the now closed United Reformed Church. This has not only found improved Friday choir rehearsals, but has been welcomed by other musicians who use the Church.

Above all of these achievements, it is essential to note that the regular musical worship of the Parish has been unbroken. I must finish by thanking the choir for their support of this fundamental aspect of the Parish, but also the Rector, Churchwardens, and PCC for theirs too. Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you wish to be a part of this wonderful tradition we are lucky to have at St Mary's.

Henry Metcalfe
Director of Music

Bell Ringing

We started 2022 by holding the District Bellringing Meeting at St Mary's. It was lovely to invite visiting ringers to ring with us and enjoy tea and cakes and Rowena kindly celebrated evensong for us. We have managed a number of quarter peals throughout the year including ringing for the Queens Platinum Jubilee and then later in the year for her passing , tolling a bell just before her funeral and the ringing a half muffled quarter a few days later.

We enjoyed a busy food and fun day showing lots of people up the tower. We are fortunate to have three young learners at the moment who are not far off being able to ring on Sundays.

We finished the year ringing a quarter for Monty Hollinsworth's christening in December and his mother Helen has just come back to join us ringing again after her maternity leave , welcome back Helen !

Kate Walker

Flowers

The flower group have had a very busy year after two years of lockdown with no flowers in Church. Hopefully this is a good sign of better times ahead. We would be very pleased to welcome more help, it is an enjoyable job!

Hazel Lovejoy



Sacristy

Once again the last year has been one of constant change but one of coming back more to normal procedures and happenings.

Numbers have however dropped away since before Covid and the acceptance of bread & wine is still not back to normal as many parishioners are still only receiving in one kind not two. Work done by the Sacristan and her team is very varied and includes supplies of wine, wafers, candles etc. to be ordered, keeping vessels clean, linen washed & ironed, giving of their own time for preparation of services and be available for extra duties i.e. weddings, christenings, funerals and so on. All this is done on a regular basis & preparing services on a monthly rota.

I am blessed by my team of three who have once again proved to be reliable and most willing to take part and I do thank them very much for their efforts in keeping this vital work going.

Sally Phillips

St Mary's Online

We continued to develop our online services and were able to provide enhanced live streaming for example for the part of the Remembrance Sunday service held outside. We continue to look at ways of improving the quality of sound and audio visuals for the church and online congregations.

Our website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages are our main communication for latest news, and any last minute changes in services; and our weekly emails update readers on our events as well as those in partner churches, and the local community. We are pleased that the number of subscribers to the email list has grown over the last year.

Viveca Dutt



Junior Church

This is the first year of our New Junior Church; bringing a more cohesive approach and giving choice for all families and across all ages. Our purpose is to nurture and encourage the faith journey and belonging of children, young people and families to be a core part of St Mary's

and the wider community. This new approach has been a huge success.

The families who attend are all regular, enthusiastic and contribute hugely to our sessions and to Church life and wider community events. We have members ranging from 3 to 16 years old who come together for fellowship, bible stories and learning about God through creative activities, music and continue to focus on prayer as a theme, our sessions following the liturgical calendar.

We led some wonderful All Together services this year with lovely feedback from the congregation. Particularly well received services were Harvest, Remembrance, Christingle and a service on prayer where we shared the jelly Bean Prayer and handed out Prayer flowers to all.

In the Autumn term Linda Wiskin introduced some new style sessions

called Godly Play which the children are enjoying very much.

Our 13-16 year olds have a new group on Sunday evenings called **YACHT INC 13-16s** they discuss anything and everything about the church and God. They relate real world problems in the present to Jesus's lessons and teachings. As a youth group they are very open and honest with each other and their opinions in all of their discussions. Sarah Reynolds & Verity Kay



Pattern of Worship and Reflection

We have been pleased to offer worship in the church building every week on Sundays and midweek this year. Our 10am Sunday service has been livestreamed each week, as have several special services during Holy Week, Easter and Christmas and baptisms and funerals. 8am Sunday Communion services, Sunday evening services, Wednesday Communion services and monthly Communion with Prayers for Wholeness and Healing services have been well-supported, as well as all our special services.

Many people are involved in preparing and delivering our worship and thanks are due to those who clean, maintain, decorate, prepare and organise the church spaces; who read, lead, prayers and liturgy; who offer bellringing, organ and other instrumental music and singing; and all who welcome, participate, support, prepare and offer refreshments and activities and so many different ways.

Contemplative Prayer

We have become quite ecumenical. For some years a lady from Bridge Church has joined us and this year, not only has a gentleman from St Anne Line done so, but he has led a session on “Lectio Divina”. Other themes have been poverty, the refining qualities of fire, the Lord’s Prayer and the four practical virtues viz., prudence, temperance (moderation), counsel and justice. We also resumed our vigil for the work of the church in Kenya, initiated in 2019, but interrupted by Covid.

The attendance at the Ash Wednesday Meditation was disappointing but that for Good Friday was well supported as was our Advent Quiet Morning. On Good Friday we contemplated the Stations of the Cross illustrated by Mark Lewis’ graphite drawings while the theme of the Quiet Morning was, “Prepare ye the Way of the Lord”. This drew so many helpful comments and insights for those present that perhaps we should consider a different name for the future.

Rowena Rudkin

Financial Review

After two years of deficits, £18,116 (2021) and £10,171 (2020), we finally have a surplus of £47,547 in 2022 for our General Activities. We are very grateful for the generous Legacy of £50,008 from Mr A N Brown in early May, which relieves us of the pressure of having another year of shortfall. At the PCC meeting in January 2023, we agreed to transfer £15,000 of this surplus to the Fabric Fund.

HSBC has been introducing more bank charges and restrictions. In July 2022,

the PCC agreed to apply for a Current Account with the Co-operative Bank, with almost no bank charges and it will be in operation from 2023.

It is our Accounting Policy to re-evaluate the Curate's House every five years and in September 2022, the PCC agreed to value the property for £750,000 (£690,000 in 2017) based on the recent Sold Prices in nearby properties.

Whilst our property is appreciated in value, unfortunately our CBF Securities Fund dropped by 13.4% to £86,080 (£99,422 in 2021). In comparison, although FT100 gained 0.9%, our loss is in line with the Global Stock Market hit by the Ukraine War, Energy Crisis and the high inflation.

This is the first time I prepare the Report for St Mary's. I herewith thank Jane Fone for her time and effort during this transition period and our team for their continuous support. I would also like to thank Brenda Layzell-Smith who joined us for payroll from 2022.

Shirley Lai

Community and Mission

Eco Church

We continued our feasibility studies into longer term alternative heating for the church and other ways to improve our energy efficiency. There are many options and we are grateful for the help of an external consultant who is guiding us through the technical, financial and environmental complexities. We are also developing a set of guiding principles that can be the foundation of all our church activities as we strive to take better care of God's creation.

We have been pleased to develop our relationships with partner churches in the area through meetings to share knowledge and experience of how to approach the many ways of becoming greener.

Viveca Dutt



Mission

With the resumption of activities after Covid, Mission committee has been able to distribute the funds raised by the Bazaar to the charities, missions and good courses supported by the Church. Last year, the family Bingo Night took place in February and was well received by those able to attend. Harvest saw the support of the Manna Centre and a speaker for the Church Army in November. We continue to support our CMS Mission partners Tom and Verity Clare in their work in Uganda.

Please continue to pray for them; here are more details of how you can subscribe to their mailing list for regular updates: <https://mailchi.mp/7edda23d83b7/claresinuganda>

The Christian Aid collections are led by Stephen Wiggs who is always please to have help form volunteers in May.

“Send a cow” which so many support as an alternative to individual Christmas cards, has become “The Ripple Effect and the charity also benefitted from the resumption of the Big Breakfast in January. Thanks are due to Wendy, Roberta, Stephen, Lesley and Moira .We meet some three to four times a year. If you are interested in joining the committee or taking part in any events, we are always interested in welcoming new members.

Linda Wiskin

Kenya Report

Our partnership with Kenya continues. Our Link parish, The Church of the Good Shepherd, Muchunguri, the Vicar is now Ven Jenard Nyaga Nthiga, (who visited here in 2010), he has returned to Muchunguri having been moved on in 2007 by the bishop.

The Church congregations have all been manifestly affected by Covid19

just as we were. Lockdown closed all the churches for a while and even now many have not returned. Despite regular fundraising activities, they have still been short and we have helped on an occasional basis.

The Dispensary - they have now upgraded the dispensary and the government has inspected the premises and promised to employ staff to run the immunisation services that are required but no date has been set for when this should start.



(continued on page 23)

St Mary with St Philip and St James
High Road South Woodford E18 2PA

www.stmaryswoodford.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1127596



PCC and Clergy Report for 2022

The Parochial Church Council meets every other month: the Standing Committee meets in the alternate months to transact business requiring more urgent or detailed attention and decisions.

The Standing Committee comprises the Rector, Wardens, Deputy Wardens, Secretary and Treasurer. PCC receives periodic reports from the following committees:- Fabric, Eco-church, Mission, Children's & Young people's, Events, Trustees of the Memorial Hall, Deanery Synod members, Education Scrutiny, Neighbourhood Ward Panel and the MMU.

The PCC has continued to meet in hybrid style over the course of the last year with our summer and spring meetings in person and our winter meetings on Teams. This has worked well particularly when it was cold and icy outside. Standing Committee and the warden team has worked hard to deal with the challenges the last year has brought, particularly around the cost of living, as trying to manage the church finances has become even more complex.

PCC held an away day in September to think and pray about growing God's Kingdom and how we can develop a plan for the next few years.

Adela Kay



Finance Review 2022

After two years of running in deficits, £18,116 (in 2021) and £10,171 (in 2020), we finally have a surplus of £47,547 in 2022 for our General Activities. We are very grateful for the generous Legacy of £50,008 from Mr A N Brown in early May, which relieves us of the pressure of having another year of shortfall. At the PCC meeting in January 2023, we agreed to transfer £15,000 of this surplus to the Fabric Fund.

Our banking with HSBC was getting more difficult as they have been closing more and more branches but at the same time introducing a number of new bank charges and restrictions. In July 2022, the PCC agreed to apply for a new Community Direct Plus Current Account with the Co-operative Bank, with almost no bank charges and it will be in operation from 2023.

It is our Accounting Policy to re-value the Curate's House at 33 Elmhurst Drive every five years. At the PCC meeting in September 2022, we agreed to value the property for £750,000 (£690,000 in 2017) based on the recent Sold Prices in nearby properties of similar sizes. Whilst our property is appreciated in value, unfortunately our CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund dropped by 13.4% to £86,080 (£99,422 in 2021). This reflects the current economic situation.

The General Fund Reserve excluding the balance of the Earmarked monies covers approximately seven months expenditure.

I would also like to thank our team for their continuous supports: Jane Fone, Anne Jones, Brenda Layzell-Smith, Michael Lovejoy, Dave Snowdon, Pete Alderson, Sheba Lockley and the Wardens.

Shirley Lai

Church Contact Details

Rector	The Revd Dr Elizabeth Lowson 020 8504 7981 rector@stmaryswoodford.org.uk		
Parish Office	St Mary's Church 207 High Road, E18 2PA 020 8505 3000 info@stmaryswoodford.org.uk		
Authorised Preacher	Mark Spencer-Ellis		
Lay Readers	Mark Lewis, Rowena Rudkin		
PCC Secretary	Adela Kay	Treasurer	Jane Fone/ Shirley Lai
Independent Examiner	Lorraine Catherine Purdy FCCA		
Bankers	HSBC Suite D, The Business Centre Faringdon Avenue, Romford RM3 8EN		

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2022			
	Note	2022	2021
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Freehold Land and Buildings	4a	750000	690000
Investments	4b	86080	99422
Total Fixed Assets		836080	789422
CURRENT ASSETS			
Sundry Debtors	5	18015	6528
CBF Deposit		258340	222501
Bank Balance		35935	38930
		312290	267959
LIABILITIES			
Amounts falling due within one year		7611	4082
NET CURRENT ASSETS		304679	263877
NET ASSETS		1140759	1053299
FUNDS			
Unrestricted			
General Purpose	8	1001427	922222
Earmarked		111558	101004
Total Unrestricted Funds		1112985	1023226
Restricted Funds		27774	30073
TOTAL FUNDS		1140759	1053299
Signed: <u>E. Hanson</u> 16/04/23 <u>See true</u>			

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES For the year ended 31 December 2022

Note	2021 GP Fund £	2022 GP Fund	Ear- marked £	Restrict- ed £	2022 Total	2021 Total £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary Income	96565	158958			158958	96565
Income From Charitable Activities	1528	1466			1466	1528
Other Income	26407	29984		4740	34724	30078
Investment Income	2871	4464	1271	104	5839	2925
Other Trading Activities	2074				-	2074
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	129445	194872	1271	4844	200987	133170
RESOURCES USED						
Grants				4000	4000	2000
Activities Directly related to the Work of the Church	136680	135911	5717	3143	144771	143418
Fundraising and publicity	247	-	-		-	247
Church Management and Administration	8891	9618			9618	8891
Governance Costs	1743	1796			1796	1743
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	147561	147325	5717	7143	160185	156299
NET INCOMING/OUTGOING RESOURCES	(18116)	47547	(4446)	(2299)	(40802)	(23129)
Interfund Transfers	-	(15000)	15000	-	-	-
Profit on Property Revaluation	-	60000	-	-	60000	-
Loss/Profit on Investment Revaluation	(7076)	(13342)	-	-	(13342)	(7076)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(25192)	79205	10554	(2299)	87460	(30205)
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD	947414	922222	101004	30073	1053299	1083504
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD	922222	1001427	111558	27774	1140759	1053299

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Note 1

Accounting Policies

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 view", provisions, together with FRS102 (2019) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2019 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and reporting by Charities (SORP (FRS102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except that the Curate's House is stated at a fair value as agreed by the PCC and investments which are stated at market value.

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC which are not subject to any legal restrictions regarding their use and are available for applications to the general purposes of the PCC. This category includes both the General Purposes Fund and funds earmarked for a particular purpose by the PCC. Restricted funds are those funds which may only be used for the restricted purpose for which they were given or otherwise obtained.

The accounts include all transaction assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Incoming resources

Income from donors and other voluntary income

Planned Giving is recognised only when received.

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when received or when calculated and submitted for payment.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accountable for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Funds raised by the Charity bazaar and other events are accounted for gross unless related expenses are immaterial in amount.

Donated good are recognised at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the statement of financial activities. Monies received in relations to donated goods sold are included under the relevant heading in The Statement of Financial Activities when the good are sold.

Charitable trading

Fees for weddings are included in this caption and accounted for when due.

Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of the curate's house is accounted for when due

Income from investments

Interest on deposits is accounted for when receivable and any related tax recoverable is recognised at the same time.

Resources Used

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over or when awarded if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly related to the work of the church The diocesan quota is accounted for when payable.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 Chapter 2, s.10(2)(C).

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings whether maintenance or improvement is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

Other land and buildings held for use in the work of the church.

The curate's house is included under this caption. It is stated at a fair value as agreed by the PCC.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial

Activities includes net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

Equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £5000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for any amounts that may prove to be uncollectable.

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

Note 2 Incoming Resources

	General	Earmarked	Restricted	2022	2021
	Fund	Funds	Funds	TOTAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£		£
Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving	64197			64197	61586
Income Tax recovered	17604			17604	14483
Loose Collections	6334			6334	4160
Sundry Donations	14460			14460	8059
Donations Earmarked	-		335	335	-
Church Appeals	5579			5579	7445
Floodlighting Donation	390			390	365
Magazine Donations	386			386	467
Legacies	50008			50008	-
	158958		335	159293	96565
Income: Charitable Activities					
Fees - weddings etc	1466			1466	1528
Other Income					
Rent - Curate's House	22950			22950	22200
Churchyard Income	1500			1500	1500
Fund Raising	5534			5534	2707
Bazaar Fund Raising			4405	4405	3671
	29984	-	4405	34389	30078
Investment Income					
Interest and Dividends	4464	1271	104	5839	2925
Other Trading Activities	-				2074
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	194872	1271	4844	200987	133170

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

Note 3 Resources Used

	General	Earmarked	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Funds	Funds	Funds	2022	2021
Grants	£	£	£	£	£
Mission societies			2300	2300	2000
Church societies			1000	1000	
Charities e.g ELHAP			700	700	
			4000	4000	2000
Activities directly related to church work					
Diocesan Quota	89279			89279	92738
Rector's Expenses	486		(20)	466	146
Music, Organ & Choir	7893		184	8077	3652
Service Expenses	453			453	1014
Heating/Light/Water	7993			7993	4675
Cleaning	4051			4051	3703
Routine Maintenance	3431			3431	2817
Clergy house expenses	3795	565		4360	4987
Churchyard Expenses	3139			3139	3679
Insurances	3200			3200	3058
Interegnum ex-	-			-	116
Junior Church	63			63	-
Memorial Hall Contributions	5880			5880	5700
Printing and stationery inc magazine	1483			1483	1700
Sundries	354			354	93
Outreach inc family	3709		2979	6688	10215
Fabric Expenditure	702	5152		5854	2405
Churchyard Access Road	-			-	2720
Total directly related to Church work	135911	5717	3143	144771	143418
Fund Raising and Publicity					
Stewardship Expenses	-			-	247
Church Management and Admin					
Parish Office and Telephone	9618			9618	8891
Governance Costs					
Treasurers/ Secretary Expenses	78			78	75
Independent Examiner Fee	1718			1718	1668
	1796			1796	1743
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	147325	5717	7143	160185	156299

Notes 4 to 7

NOTE 4 FIXED ASSETS For Use By The PCC

NOTE 4a Freehold land and buildings

Freehold land and buildings comprise the “Curate’s House” at 33 Elmhurst Drive.

The gross book value is based on a fair valuation as agreed by the PCC in 2022.

NOTE 4b INVEST- MENTS	2022	2021
	£	£
CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund Income Shares		
Market Value at 31/12/21	99422	106498
Market Value at 31/12/22	86080	99422
Loss/Profit on revalu- ation	-13342	-7076
NOTE 5 DEBTORS		
Prepayments	-	625
Other Debtors	18015	5903
TOTAL	18015	6528

NOTE 6 STAFF COSTS

During the year the PCC employed a Director of Music, family worker, administration secretary and a cleaner/caretaker. Employment costs are included in the respective expenditure heads. No present member of the PCC received remuneration or expenses.
Salaries 2022 £27195 (2021 £22419)

NOTE 7 SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Restricted retiring collections for 2022 for which the PCC acted solely as a post-box amounted to £9069 (2021 £1467)

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**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER 2022**

FUND NAME	Fund Balanc-		Incoming		Outgoing		Transfers	Gains and		Fund Balanc-	
	Brought Fwd	Resources	Resources	Resources	Resources	Resources		Losses	Carried For-	Carried For-	Carried For-
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	232222	194872	147325	(15000)				(13342)		251427	
General Fund	690000	-						60000		750000	
Fabric Fund	92867	1168	5152	15000						103883	
Clergy House	8137	103	565							7675	
Music Fund	4758	396	184							4970	
Pinney Me-	200									200	
Missionary	4475	4448	4000							4923	
Family Work-	20640		2979							17661	
Agency			(20)							(20)	
TOTALS	1053299	200987	160185	-	-	-	-	46658	1140759		

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC at St Mary's Woodford

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2022 which comprise the Balance Sheet, Statement of Financial Activities and related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the PCC's members you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act;
or

the accounts do not accord with those records; or

the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Lorraine Catherine Purdy FCCA

Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills
Suite D, The Business Centre
Faringdon Avenue
Romford
Essex
RM3 8EN

Signed: 
Dated: 18/4/2023

Secretary's Report

The PCC supports the Rector and Clergy in their Parish Ministry and has certain legal responsibility for the Church. Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Meeting of the Church in accordance with the Church Representation rules. During 2022 the following served as members of the PCC:

Rector Revd Elizabeth Lowson

Church Wardens

Until April 2022	Linda Wiskin Viveca Dutt
From April 2022	Philip Petchey

Elected PCC members

	Gwen Wiggs (until April 2022)
	Stephen Wiggs (until April 2022)
	Sally Phillips (until April 2022)
	Kate Adu-Baah
	Jano Goodchild
	Ian Layzell-Smith
	Gemma Low (from April 2022)
Deanery Synod	Sarah Reynolds
Deanery Synod	John Wiltshire
Deanery Synod	Linda Wiskin (from April 2022)
Deputy Warden	Philip Petchey (until April 2022)
Deputy Warden	Jano Goodchild
Deputy Warden	Anne Jones (from May 2022)
Treasurer	Jane Fone
Secretary	David Snowdon (until April 2022)
Secretary	Adela Kay (from April 2022)
Safeguarding officer	Jackie Peacock (co-opted 2020, elected May 2022)

Electoral roll. In April 2022 there were 166 names on the electoral roll of which 95 were resident in the Parish and 71 non-resident, . This compares with 158 in 2021.

Adult Church attendance (October 2022 average)				
Sunday				Wednesday
8am	10am	10am Sung Eucharist	Evening service	10:30 am
in- building	in-building	online	In building	in building
10	76	40	18	14

At Makutano we support the St Michael and All Angels Childrens Home in the grounds of the Church at the other end of the Mbeere Diocese; a 90 minutes' drive away. We currently sponsor seven boys in Secondary education, who having passed their primary exams went on to various Secondary schools depending on their Exam results. We



continue to seek sponsorship for the children, especially now that three have completed their education and need to do post education courses to secure employment. Anthony Matheka Watheka is now in his final year doing a *Degree in Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality Management* course at Zetech University, (with our support) in Nairobi.

The Home now has nine children including two girls at Makutano. The Home has been refurbished . Only two children are now in Primary school and more children are likely to join very soon; they are waiting for registration of the home which will bring long term financial maintenance.

Wendy Littlejohns

Communities for Ukrainians



With so much concern for the people of Ukraine, in the spring we joined the Communities for Ukrainians scheme led by the Diocese of Chelmsford in partnership with Citizens UK and we formed a hub with All Saints Woodford Wells, while also keeping dialogue and support with people hosting locally in Aldersbrook, Wanstead, Walthamstow, as well as one St Mary's household. Together with local

churches, we created a #WoodfordPrays time of prayer for Ukraine at South Woodford Baptist Church and many of our local community contributed to a collection of items being delivered to Ukraine. A member of our congregation with links to the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Mayfair suggested a fundraising concert here and the Cathedral Choir's visit led to £4000 being raised for Ukraine in a very well attended concert, including civic dignitaries.

We were approached by a local host of people from Ukraine with English as a Second Language teaching skills and agreed to support three community volunteers running weekly beginner and intermediate language classes for people newly arrived in the UK, especially from Ukraine.

Local Links and Relationships

These continue to develop in positive directions. We are growing relationships with all who use the church buildings and offering a welcome from the Rector or a church warden at every concert and providing staff support. There was a positive response to including Muslim and Jewish leaders in the Civic Remembrance leadership. The ecumenical ecochurches network we host continues to be supportive and appreciated and it may become interfaith. We helped furnish a flat for someone with only a bed, donated microwaves and Christmas gifts to local food banks and held a free toy take and swap. Community volunteers seems to be an area of growth and much potential and is already much appreciated in the bereavement café, Baby & Toddler group as well as English as a Second Language lessons, and the Christmas Day lunch and Repair Café also benefitted from this. We continue to make good use of social media in communicating with the local community and hope to extend this further during 2023, including reflecting on how we communicate about our faith, how we can discover together with our communities more about God's love and action in the world and what we might fruitfully change.

Schools

There are three schools within the parish boundary: Churchfields Infants School (3-7 years), Junior School (7-11 years) and St Aubyn's School (2.5-13 years). The Rector has contributed to collective worship at Churchfields Juniors, and welcomed both Churchfields Juniors and St Aubyn's schools for Christmas services at St Mary's. Good communication has been maintained with Churchfields Juniors throughout the year with visits to church from all year groups, and large numbers of St Aubyn's cadets and parents/carers joined the Civic Remembrance service at St Mary's.

Memorial Hall

All the trustees for the Memorial Hall must be drawn from the church electoral roll and we are currently seeking three new Trustees, especially with finance, fundraising and buildings skills.

Memorial Hall staff work hard to maintain the facilities, building and welcome to many community groups. Annual reports for Woodford Parish Church

Memorial Hall can be found on the Charity Commission website at: <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/214670/charity-overview>

St Mary's Sunflowers - Babies and Toddlers Group

This year has seen a rise in numbers for us to the point where we are consistently up to the limits of the room. We have a large group of regulars as well as a steady stream of new families and we have loved getting to know them and their children well enough to plan activities and source play equipment they will particularly enjoy.

We received some lovely feedback at the end of last term that focussed on our warm welcome and our thoughtful rotation of toys and activities for the children.

We have introduced a separate imaginative play table for smaller groups which has been very successful and allows parents and carers to get to know each other better while they interact with their children.

We are lucky to have a small group of volunteers and supporters who help us with everything from refreshments to ideas and prayers and spreading the word for us among the community.

Going forward we are planning more themed sessions in response to the families enjoying our Red Nose Day, Ice and Chinese New Year themes. We also hope to play outside in the spring.

Clare Reeves

Regular Church Users

The church space and Gwinnell Room have been regularly used throughout 2022. We have a wide range of users from our mid-week ecumenical group through to children's groups such as Music Monsters. Modality choir returned to in-person rehearsals on a Monday evening and two well attended concerts in Summer and Winter. We have a new regular booking with Felicitas choir rehearsing on a Wednesday evening and are hosting their Summer concert in 2023. We welcomed a new weekly Pilates group and welcomed back the RSPB, Grove Townswomen and Woodford Friends and Neighbours who meet monthly. Our uniformed groups continue to use the Gwinnell Room on a Friday afternoon and we've supported some of their fund raising events with more to come in 2023.

It was lovely to see the Stratford Festival back with multiple choirs competing during a packed day in February with choirs warming up in the Memorial Hall and performing in church. This followed the Valentine Singers whole day

singing workshop held in January. We welcomed Evening Chorus and the Meljon singers who held concerts in church and who feel the space is wonderful and ideal for their performances. Trinity Laban held a student performance evening which was full of enthusiasm and talent while much younger students at St Aubyns and Churchfields held their end of term concerts here – enthusiastically supported by their parents.

We were really happy to see Yuki Negishi back, performing pieces she was taking on a concert tour, and John Bradley back with the St Mary's Chamber Music Ensemble including Deborah Aloba, our long standing singing teacher. Finally, we were able to host Redbridge Summer holiday club activities for children through the Free Your Mind charity including mini-masterchef thanks to our kitchen facilities, and an NHS away day which was much appreciated by a local NHS Psychology team.

Girlguiding at St Mary's



The 1st Woodford Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and the 9th Woodford Brownies meet every Friday of term time. The units are all recovering both financially and in terms of numbers of attendees and volunteers. That said, the year has been a busy one for all the units and Woodford South District; The girls take part in activities, challenges, games and crafts on the themes of Know Myself. Specific events of note for us this year have been; The Food & Fun Day where the

Guides sold a record number of hotdogs for charity, attending the civic Remembrance service at the war memorial where leaders offered crafts afterwards for all the families to enjoy, a civic Christingle where families were encouraged to join in with the girls celebrating, a private Odeon screening of Matilda the Musical before its general release date, a District Disco in the Pankhurst Hall and a trip to the wonderful WOADS Pantomime!

Our units have been lucky to have visits from Rev Elizabeth to talk about special events in the church calendar, they have been invited into church and had special sessions with Henry at the organ.

We have done some fantastic charity fundraising work and good turns with beneficiaries such as St Mary's, Macmillan, The Salvation Army and Churchfields Nursing Home.

Clare Reeves

Woodford Friends and Neighbours

Our first meeting was in February, we entertained ourselves with A Beetle Drive. The next month John Watkins gave us a very relaxing evening with beautiful nature photography called Living the Dream, in April we had wine and cheese afternoon. In May, Professor David Hatch gave a very interesting talk on the mission to rescue twelve boys and the coach "trapped underground, called The Thai Cave Rescue. June, we asked back Kate Poole for a talk called, "Grandad" , Samuel Bridge a man that missed the worst. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our afternoon cream tea in July.

We had our annual summer meal in August, and September was Bingo. Roger Torode gave us an illustrated talk in October, on London Transport in our local area.

In November Mike Payne, entertained us with a very interesting talk on Mysterious Meridians of Highams Park, and our Christmas meal was at the Cocked Hat.

Our group continues to have a very friendly, welcoming atmosphere.

Averil Gray died recently, she was member of our group ,and it was always pleasure to be in her company .

Many thanks go to the committee for their continued help.

Pat Smith (chairman)

Events Group 2022



2022 was a really successful year for all 4 big social events we put on, Race Night, Food & Fun, Soul Night and the Christmas Charity Bazaar. Not a clanger amongst them. Our

extra gig in June for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee evening BBQ for a communal concert watching party suffered somewhat in numbers from the inclement weather, but those who came enjoyed themselves.

Race Night was as popular as we'd like it to be for a winter's evening out for families and friends, it's simple formula appeal never wanes. A bargain too!



Food and Fun was a lovely sunny May day thankfully, busy with lots of local attendees, many first timers, young and not so young. We think we had more than ever before attending; tower viewing, coconut shy, cakes for sale, all a sell out as usual. If he shines on us it really is a 'Let my people come' enjoy the company sort of day.

Soul Night too excelled all expectations on attendance despite us charging an entry for the first time. As hoped it didn't deter, the opposite in fact. The Capones improve each year like a fine maturing wine! And the DJs sure know what buttons to press and tunes to choose to entertain a hall full of happy souls.



And lastly the Christmas Bazaar and a return of Father Christmas' grotto. What a hit! A few changes made worthy improvements, and we have another winner. Sold out Santa topped the bill along with stalls emptied of goodies and happy punters galore.

A big thank you to everyone that's been able to help make

our fellowship social event fund raisers the buzz they regularly are, and also to those that came and enjoyed them. Here's to more of the same in 2023.

Richard Walker

St Mary's Chamber Music Ensemble

Not many churches have an associated Chamber Music Ensemble, but here at St Mary's a group of amateur music makers get together about twice a year as friends to perform in concerts. The friends are all volunteers, and as a consequence, all money raised by the concerts is given entirely to the church and Memorial Hall.

In 2022 there were two concerts. The first was entitled *This England*, and was described as a "musical and literary garland". For it II worked with Penny Freeston, who selected a rich and varied selection of poetry to go with the

music. It included a group of well known songs from Shakespeare's plays, plus a work by Edgar Elgar, and a little known Piano Trio by the English composer Ethel Smyth. The second featured the music of Antonin Dvorak, and was entitled *From the People*, to reflect Dvorak's fascination and belief in the music of his people of Bohemia. It included his much loved *Dumky* Piano Trio and Piano Quintet, plus songs inspired by the Serbian and Gypsy folk traditions. First, I'd like to thank Peter Wall who has over the years participated in most the SMCME concerts, but also offered much leadership in various ways. Along with Peter and Penny, I'd like to thank Mark Lewis who participated in the readings, and (from outside the immediate St Mary's community), dear friend Deborah Aloba, John Suddaby, Nic Bilham, Martin Liebeck and Elizabeth Hart. We have two concerts planned for 2023: the first a Brahms programme for April 15th, and the second a programme of the music of Mozart and Haydn for the autumn. Do come!

John Bradley

Bereavement Café

Bereavement cafes have been held regularly throughout the year at St. Mary's on the first Tuesday morning of each month and at Christchurch Wanstead on each third afternoon. We are not trained counsellors or therapists, just using our own life experiences to offer supportive listening and to help people work through their own experience and feelings. Three members of the St. Mary's congregation form the regular team at St. Mary's, backed up by members of the Wanstead team when necessary. With everyone being prepared to cross-cover between the sites when needed, we probably have enough volunteers to meet current demand. Our thanks and best wishes must go to Judy Noble who is moving out of the district, and who has played such a leading role in the running of the cafes in recent years.

The number of people coming to us for support is less than before the Covid-19 lockdown, and there is an urgent need for more publicity. A new form of wording has been devised for use locally and we are listed regularly in the South Woodford Gazette. Volunteers leave cards in libraries and other relevant places, but other ideas would be much appreciated.

Judy Noble

Snaresbrook Crown Court Chaplaincy: St Mary's

It's fair to say that the Crown Court has become a much more stressful place in the last two years for just about everyone who works there or is otherwise involved in the Criminal Justice system. Even before Covid huge delays were mounting up, principally because of the major cuts in the budget made by the Ministry of Justice. As we come out of Covid almost all of the 20 courts are busy but some trials have already been scheduled for 2024.

One development since our reopening – though this is more of an impression than a numerical survey, is that we are having rather fewer conversations with visitors as they often just want to sit or pray somewhere peaceful. We see lots of busy people glancing in as they pass the Chapel, and some of them make the time to come in when they are next in Court.

One observation for which there is measurable evidence is that we are getting through lots more votive candles than we used to pre-Covid. There is no charge for them but there is a jar for donations, and regular and occasional visitors have contributed about £100 this year, which all points to the conclusion than many of the visitors to the Chapel are pretty stressed.

We also enjoy significant support from our liaison Judge, Laurie West-Knights KC, and from our administrative liaison, Helen Ainslie. Thanks to Helen the Chapel has had its first deep clean for many years.

Since Covid we have had some success in recruiting new members of the Chaplaincy Team, principally from St Gabriel's and from St Mary's. We also made a tentative start in trying to develop towards being an Ecumenical Chaplaincy with someone from St Thomas of Canterbury who has an encouraging track-record of recruiting volunteers.

Mark Spencer Ellis

Neighbourhood Watch

The Churchfields ward panel exists to provide a point of contact between local residents, neighbourhood watch and the local Met Police safer neighbourhood team. The Churchfields ward covers the area enclosed by the A406, Broadmead Rd, The Epping New Road and Chigwell Rd. Local councillors and members of Redbridge's Our Streets team often attend as well. The panel meets quarterly and hears updates on local crime from the police and can set the primary focus of the Safer Neighbourhood Team. Vehicle crime (theft of and theft from) is the most frequent crime in the area due to easy access to the A406 and the M11. However, burglary, sexual offences and anti-social behaviour are also an issue.

The current focus of the safer neighbourhood team is stamping out anti-social behaviour.

Dave Snowdon

Magazine

The magazine aims to contribute to the Growing God's Kingdom at St Mary's by reflecting and supporting fellowship and the spiritual development of the active worshipping community at St Mary's. The magazine also aims to reach out to the community more widely, largely through its availability on St Mary's website to those of other denominations and faiths as well as of no faith. We therefore don't assume all our readers know who people referred to in the magazine are and what they do. We like to feature items of local interest and concern, for example referencing local means of support for those facing difficulties. If you have a paper copy of the magazine why not share it with others.

Please do send in articles and ideas. Thank you for those of you who do so. Photographs, particularly those of children and young people (with permission to publish), are welcome: 'portrait' layout as well as the more usually sent in 'landscape' please. The magazine team aims to get the right balance of different types of articles. We love to hear your views on this. Penny Freeston and Peter Wall

Core Support

Secretary, PCC and Standing Committee

The PCC and Standing Committee continue to meet on alternative months, the PCC meets on odd months and the Standing Committee on even ones. The work of the PCC is now driving towards a five year plan with a view to focussing on Growing God's Kingdom at St Marys. We have in addition been discussing a vision for St Marys and trying to define our core goals going forward.

We regularly discuss the fabric of St Marys and going forward there are a number of faculties in place to do planned works.

Electoral Roll

Number at Annual Meeting 2022: 166 (up from 158 in 2021)

Pastoral Care

Much pastoral care has been given and received by individuals keeping in touch with each other and especially those within our fellowship on the Sunday prayer list for changed or acute needs and on the monthly Prayers for Wholeness and Healing prayer lists or known to be in need. Prayer Ministry team members pray after each Sunday 10am service for those who write requests or who visit the chapel in person, and for any needs of which they are aware. Sadly, this has been a year with considerable pastoral need.



There have been seven people baptised (all children), one marriage in church, five funerals in church, a further twelve funerals conducted by the ministry team at a Crematorium and the burial of three sets of ashes in the memorial garden within the churchyard at St Mary's. Mark Lewis has begun to lead funerals. Four members of our Ministry Team take home

Communion to those unable to attend church. With Ministry and Mission Unit colleagues, a pastoral care course ran in January & February for those engaged in pastoral care including bereavement café and Snaresbrook Crown Court Chaplaincy.

Safeguarding

We want St Mary's to be a safe place for everyone in our community and therefore follow the Church of England's policies and procedures rigorously. Safeguarding appears as a standard item on every PCC agenda in order to ensure that we keep up to date with requirements. As Parish Safeguarding Officer I meet regularly with the Rector and churchwardens when necessary. This year will be extra busy as everyone within our church who holds a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) certificate issued in 2019 and 2020 will require new checks this year if they are remaining in their role. DBS certificates issued in 2021 will require new checks during 2024. DBS checks will then be repeated on a three-year cycle.

I am pleased to report that members of our PCC and group leaders have undertaken various levels of safeguarding training recently. Some courses are available online whilst other have to be booked in advance. Anyone can complete the Basic Awareness or Foundation course online. If you are interested in doing so or would like to discuss any safeguarding matters with me my contact details are on the blue poster in the Church entrance, in the parish directory and on St Mary's website.

Best practice on safeguarding can be found on the Church of England's website:

Fabric and Church Building

This has been a year of routine maintenance. One or two areas of damp have been successfully addressed by clearing the gutters and minor repairs have been effected.

A faculty has now been granted for re-surfacing the drive in front of the church. This will involve modest widening and the provision of some form of lighting. The details are being sorted out and quotes sought but it may be that, by the time you read this, the PCC will have approved the work.

Every five years the Diocese pay for a survey of the church – usually referred to as *the Quinquennial* - to see what repairs and maintenance is required. Our Architect, Alan Frost, carried out a thorough inspection in September. The church building is essentially in good shape but some additional things have been added to our *To do* list. There will need to be some re-tiling work in the corridor outside the Gwinnell Room and we are currently investigating the extent of what will be required.

The church is indebted to David Mason: both for his hard work and for the wide range of skills he is able to use on our behalf.

Philip Petchey

Wider Faith Links

Deanery

St Mary's representatives John Wiltshire, Sarah Reynolds and Linda Wiskin. Deanery Synod is the collaboration and consultation forum that sits between parishes and the Chelmsford Diocesan Synod. St Mary's is part of the Redbridge deanery synod, which brings together the five MMUs. We are part of the West Roding Partnership MMU. The Synod give us a way to communicate with local churches as well as our diocese. There is a standing agenda, including reports from Treasurer, Education scrutiny, Children and youth, Vocations, Diocesan synod and General synod. In addition, each meeting has a key theme talk and discussion. Notable talks have been,

Growing Good – Polly Taylor, Church Urban Fund - Churches grow holistically (through their social action and other ministries) shared five characteristics: presence – perseverance – hospitality & generosity – adaptability (integrating different backgrounds and cultures) – participation (getting people involved as a pathway to discipleship)

Talk and Q&A with the Bishop of Chelmsford—Bishop Guli shared her upbringing in Iran, and the events that led to her family’s exile in Britain and how she came to be Bishop of Chelmsford and what she has found in the Diocese: there was weariness but also openness to change—she is confident that together we will discern the way forward: we need to journey well together. She sees the Diocese as a blessing and gift and she sees her role as empowering – we have a shared responsibility/accountability.

Sarah Reynolds



MMU

This year the MMU has held 3 committee meetings and in May held a pilgrimage walk which was very well attended. The pilgrimage started at Aldersbrook, went via St Mary

the Virgin, Christchurch, Wanstead and St Peter’s in the Forest before ending at St Marys Woodford with tea and cake. It was a lovely afternoon with people from all four churches riding or walking all or part of the route. We plan to do another pilgrimage walk in June 2023 doing the route in reverse ending at Aldersbrook this time.

In January we planned a joint Epiphany party which took place at St Peters, we hope that our links with our local churches will continue to grow and contribute positively to the communities around them.

Adela Kay



Three Faiths Forum

This group held two discussions during 2022. The first at Cranbrook United Synagogue regarded prayer where our Rector spoke about Christian prayer alongside Jewish and Muslim speakers – there was much recognition of what our prayer lives have in common and some good-natured joking about how often we pray within each tradition – Jews pray three times a day; Muslims pray five times a day; and Christians might pray seven times a day within monastic patterns but more commonly once or twice. Later in the spring, a discussion about welcoming refugees took place at Ilford Islamic Centre, where

Dr Mohammed Fahim, Lynne Bishop of Barking and the CEO of Refugees at Home gave interesting and challenging presentations and introductions to discussion. In late 2022, leaders of the network met and made plans to offer four meetings in 2023.

Redbridge Faith Forum

The Redbridge Faith Forum is an active partner of Redbridge Council, who fund their office and regularly consult on various community matters. Since I discovered its existence, I have reported my experience of meetings in the magazine, to encourage more engagement. Redbridge churches work tirelessly to make many positive contributions to the whole community, but hardly engage with the locally majority Faiths represented by the RFF.

It is not just the responsibility of St. Mary's. I meet few other Christians on Zooms or at meetings, but one meeting was held this year in Church in Ilford Vine United Reform Church and several Churches advertised their activities/openings in the information emails. And some other Christian denominations also recognise the need for Christians to engage. The RFF explores areas of agreement, such as care of the Elderly, or support for young people with mental health issues, and disagreement, such as the faith-based rights of fathers to choose their daughters' husbands. Important issues!

Bishop Guli thinks more engagement essential, on difficult as well as easy topics. I am moving to Cardiff. I'm hoping someone will read this, and decide to explore further. It is not always comfortable, but necessary to understand some of the social changes occurring during our adulthood, and to reflect on how we as a Christian Community, want to engage. Welcome to chat, if you're interested.

Judy Noble



Generosity in numbers...

Mission Societies	£	Special Collections	£
Church Mission Society	2000	Makutano	1122
Medicines for Muheza	300	Crisis	249
Mission societies total	2300	Manna Centre	180
		Marie Curie Cancer Care	155
Church Societies		DEC Ukraine	4838
Bible Society	200	DEC Afghanistan	649
Manna Centre	200	DEC Pakistan	445
Church urban Fund	100	Leprosy Mission	1011
Essex clergy Charity	100	Ripple Effect—Send-A-Cow	420
Christian Aid	200	(plus £450 sent direct)	
Church Army	200	Total	9069
Church Societies total	1000		
Charities			
Marie Curie	100		
Royal Society for Blind	200		
ELHAP	200		
Samaritans	100		
Royal Assn for Deaf People	100		
Charities total	700		
Total	4000		

Thank
You



Accounts



St Mary's Woodford

Annual review 2021

including the Annual Report
and Accounts



Annual review 2021

including the Annual Report and Accounts (pages 11–22)



Every year is unique. While 2020 will likely be remembered as the most unprecedented year in Covid terms, 2021 has also been rather unusual with its mix of challenges and hope. It has been another year in which the importance of our faith in God's love which is stronger than all else has been particularly apparent, with great thankfulness that Jesus Christ understands the vulnerability of being human from the inside, and that we are granted the presence of the Holy Spirit to strengthen us always.

The year started in Tier 4 before quickly returning to lockdown and then a gradual easing of Covid restrictions between March and July, before Plan

B from December as the Omicron variant surged. Worship in church was never illegal during 2021, but we complied with the strong recommendation of our local public health bodies not to gather in our church building during the Beta variant surge of early 2021. So many people from our church congregation, staff and community have displayed incredible resilience and worked very hard to allow us to continue gathering, communicating, praying, encouraging, worshipping and offering support and help within the law and our risk assessments. Thank you for all that has been contributed and the ways God has been glorified.

Significant changes during the year include:

- The licensing of our new Rector in February;
- Wendy Littlejohns finishing her interim term as church warden in July and being replaced by Viveca Dutt;
- Jano Goodchild becoming a deputy warden;
- Chris Winward becoming Reader Emeritus in July;
- Bev Alderson finishing with Seekers in July with the move to Epping;
- Becca Kemal leaving her role as Youth Worker jointly between Woodford, Wanstead and Aldersbrook churches in July;
- David Godwin leaving the ministry team as he and Jane moved to Gloucester in September;

- Henry Metcalfe joining us as Director of Music in October after John Bradley had been generously acting as Director of Music in a voluntary capacity and Chris Wooll had been our regular organist for over two years.
- Seekers and Quest groups for children and young people have become an umbrella Junior Church with more specific groups within it meeting on Sunday mornings, and a new evening discussion group has been developed for young people.

It was good to be able to mark each of these occasions and several more together during the year: tolling a bell each Sunday in Lent to remember those who had died with Covid; the Confirmation service in March in Aldersbrook; a silence and bell tolling for the Duke of Edinburgh following his death in April; Ascension Day at St Peter in the Forest; Pentecost with many of the congregation wearing red – participation of a different kind substituting for the singing which wasn't allowed; a delightfully sunny and joyful Food & Fun Day held in September rather than the usual May; Harvest Festival; celebration of our new bronze ecochurch status and Climate Sunday; Gift Day for St Mary's; a Thanksgiving service for Woodford & Wanstead 241 Squadron Air Cadets in October attended by representatives of local Jewish and Muslim congregations; All Souls at St Mary's; a November memorial service organised with W. English funeral director co-led with clergy from Woodford Methodist (Derby Road) and St Anne Line Catholic churches; civic Remembrance and Remembrance Sunday with congregation; and a very successful Charity Bazaar in November.

During 2021 there was also much looking to the future: a congregational survey in the spring sought interim possibilities as restrictions eased and missional and evangelistic ideas; in September we welcomed our MP Iain Duncan Smith to discuss climate change before the COP26 conference in Glasgow and from that discussion a new ecumenical ecochurches network has developed; many at St Mary's have made eco pledges and the PCC has requested further research about how to reach silver ecochurch status; a new walking fellowship group has emerged and met monthly; and we have begun planning for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and 50th anniversary of St Mary's



reconsecration in June 2022, with a visit planned from Guli, Bishop of Chelmsford. In October the Rector and wardens participated with others from the Barking episcopal area in an online weekend course 'Leading your Church into Growth' (full details of this evidence-based approach which other churches have found led them to spiritual and numerical growth at www.leadingyourchurchintogrowth.org.uk) and the PCC endorsed drawing on these principles in an approach called 'Growing God's Kingdom at St Mary's'. The intention is not to add more work, but to focus all that we do, to be open to God deepening and changing the faith of each of us, to be a place offering opportunities for people to come to faith in Christ or return to church. We hope and pray this will lead us into missional, spiritual and numerical growth as individuals, as a church and in engagement with our local community.

Growing churches have focused fruitfully on four key elements:

- **Prayer:** consistently, for growth within and numerically
- **Presence:** buildings, community, christenings, weddings, funerals
- **Proclamation:** church festivals, any event with Gospel sharing opportunities
- **Persuasion:** courses, questions/apologetics, witness/testimony, conversation

Given the importance of prayer in general and throughout this approach to God's growing kingdom, our initial focus has been prayer, and during 2022 we will develop further strands. We expect that Bishop Guli and the Diocese more broadly may give further direction during 2022, as will Lynne Cullen, who will become Bishop of Barking in spring 2022.

As we look forward, we are already employing more focused approaches in our management of storage within the church building; in how PCC works; we have identified that fewer coffee volunteers and sidespeople will be needed; and we know online worship, fellowship and communication will remain important.

This annual report is in many ways an interim one with the rest of the structure simply reflecting: Worship & Life of Faith, Community & Mission, Financial Report, Core Support & Wider Faith Links.

All of the areas of church life mentioned in this report would be very glad of new people joining, bringing with them new ideas and approaches. Support and training, where needed, is available. If you or someone you know would like to support a particular area of church life, please contact the Rector or the church office (see page 12), or please contact the team leader if you know them.

Revd Dr Elizabeth Lowson

1 *Worship and Life of Faith*

Music

Covid-19 continued to dominate musical affairs at St Mary's through a good part of 2021. Furthermore, St Mary's began the year without a Rector or a Music Director, and under a substantial lockdown that meant that services were again pre-recorded and digitally streamed, with music restricted to two hymns sung by a single voice with piano accompaniment. We've come a long way since then. Elizabeth was keen to re-establish St Mary's choral music tradition as it became possible, so things began to open up a little with some limited live singing by members of the choir during Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Later in the year the choir was again able to gather on Friday to record anthem music for use on Sunday morning. Finally, in September, the choir was able to sing live in services, and services resumed that were closer to what we had had pre-Covid, including service music and some hymn singing as well as an anthem.

During all this time, I have been acting Director of Music; leading the choir, with mostly Chris Wooll and occasionally William Layzell-Smith as organists.

However, the Rector was anxious for a new Director of Music to be appointed and set in train a process that has resulted in Henry Metcalfe being appointed, and starting in November. Henry is a young man with a view of choral music which fits very well with St Mary's, and he has a sensitive view of the place of music in liturgy. He is an extraordinary improviser on the organ. The choir has



been much enjoying his leadership, and we are all much looking forward to a music future led by him! Under his leadership all Sunday services have resumed: including morning and evening worship and Taizé. Already the choir has taken part in a full choral evensong on the first Sunday of Advent and led the music in an inspiring Christmas Carol Service a few weeks later – although the rise of the Omicron variant meant that the service had to be without congregation and was only available live-streamed. (Indeed, this writer was unable to participate, since I actually had Covid at the time myself).

Linda Wiskin reports on Joyful Voices: “During the year, Joyful Voices continued to have some rehearsals at 9am on Sunday mornings so they were able to contribute to worship. It was good to have Ella join Robyn, Jack, Verity, Josie and Lily. They contributed music by Rose and Wilby and some other contemporary composers. I was grateful for the choristers’ continued enthusiasm and the support of their parents in my caretaker role”.

Perhaps it is appropriate to mention other kinds of music that have happened at St Mary’s in 2021. Covid has disrupted things here too, but the St Mary’s Chamber Music Ensemble managed to present a concert of Schubert’s music in May, and Chris Wooll and his singing colleague also presented a wonderful reading of Schubert’s Winterreise shortly thereafter. Hopefully, more concerts of a broad range of musical styles as public outreach will be able to occur in 2022!

Once again I must thank the choir for their continued commitment to choral music at St Mary’s in spite of all that Covid-19 could throw at us. Also, to our wardens and readers who have made a consistent effort to make a place for music, in one form or other, in our services. I must also thank the rector who has worked hard to re-establish choral music at our church, and whose efforts are clearly bearing fruit! I also must thank Nina Lewis for her continued efforts to manage our substantial choral music library. And finally to Viveca Dutt who, through her technical wizardry, made it possible for music contributions to continue through much of this past year.

Finally, I must close with a comment that although our choir is made up of committed, and highly skilled, singers, we are now to the point where numbers are often at an absolute bare minimum to allow us to carry on providing service music of the kind St Mary’s has become accustomed. Please, if you can sing this kind of music, and if you value St Mary’s choral tradition, consider joining us! It is becoming close to urgent that you do so. Henry would be delighted to hear from you.

John Bradley

The Bells of St Mary's

We have continued ringing throughout this year whenever COVID has allowed. In April after the death of Prince Philip we tolled a bell for an hour at the time of his funeral, under the tuition of Dennis Ellisdon, one of our experienced ringers. Philip Petchey, Dennis and I tolled the heaviest bell in the tower attempting to stand the bell



at each stroke leaving an equal amount of time between each stroke, we got better at it as the hour went on! It was an honour to ring for this occasion. We were happy to have the tower open to visitors on Food and Fun day in September, it was a busy couple of hours talking to people and letting them enjoy the view from the top. One of our visitors was a lapsed ringer and he has happily joined our band.

We celebrated the tercentenary of the back six bells in November by ringing a quarter peal and were joined by Andrew Kelso the Master of the Essex Association, I'm pleased to say we got the quarter. A celebratory cake was shared with the congregation on the following Sunday.

Kate Walker Tower Captain

Flowers

It is not too long since our last report but circumstances have improved and Church has remained open for services so we have continued with flowers. Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas are always major dates for us in the flower calendar with more arrangements than usual. We shall soon be into Lent, with no flowers, then Easter with Church decorated. If you wish to contribute, we have a list in the foyer, or for donations a box in the wall. Thank you. **Hazel Lovejoy**



Sacristy

I have been in charge of the Sacristy Team since January 2020 taking over from Viveca Dutt. Within a couple of months

COVID took over & we were in “lockdown” which meant that services stopped completely for some months. Even in normal circumstances the work of the Sacristy team is very much “hidden” from the congregation but provides vital help to the Ministry team & we have had to adapt to the changed procedures & known routines on a regular basis. St. Mary’s is very fortunate to have a really reliable team of four to do this on a monthly basis. The Sacristy is not large & we have to “share” it with others so it is important that we keep an air of calm & cleanliness, tidiness & a high standard of hygiene within it. I do thank my team for their support & assistance in this work.

Sally Phillips

St Mary’s Online and Tech

We have continued to make use of online tools as our patterns of worship changed during the year.

In the early part of the year, we continued to pre-record worship for Sunday mornings, until we were able to resume services in Church. We were delighted to be able to live stream Revd Elizabeth Lowson’s licensing service with people joining us from around the world.

We have been pleased to continue live streaming for the 10.00am service as we re-opened for worship in church and have also live streamed a few special services. We have also started putting the words of services on screens in church which benefits both worshippers in church and the online congregation. Sunday evening prayer and worship was shared on Zoom until November when evening services restarted in church, and continued on Zoom on Tuesday mornings.

Our website and Facebook continue to be sources of information about what is going on in church and we were pleased to see members of the congregation contributing pictures to our Facebook page. We created an Instagram page in March and resumed posting regularly on Twitter. We have gained over 100 Instagram followers and around 60 Facebook followers taking us over 250 in total; and we have a total of 180 Twitter followers: all three of our social media pages are publicly available @stmaryswoodford with some good engagement figures. Our weekly email enables us to give information about our live streaming links and other useful information.

Viveca Dutt

Junior Church

Our Seekers group remained steady in numbers. The families who attend are all regular, enthusiastic and contribute hugely to Seekers and Church life. We also have some wonderful new young members that have joined our group.

2021 continued to be dominated by the Pandemic. However, we were happy to

be able to come together again in late spring. Meeting for fellowship, bible stories and learning about God through creative activities. Our weekly sessions now follow the liturgical calendar. We were unable to be involved in all services in church for much of the year due to restrictions. However, we returned with enthusiasm in September and have contributed to the Sunday morning services by sharing what we have learnt during the morning and asking and learning from the congregation what they have been focusing on in their morning service.



The PCC Set up a working group to review our current offering for families and young people. The group produced a report with recommendations of how St Mary's can best serve families and young people. This was submitted and approved at the September PCC. The full report is available for those who would like to read it. Thanks to all who worked on this.



What is Junior Church trying to do?

We want to nurture and encourage the faith journey and belonging of children, young people and families in St Mary's and the wider community.

- To support families, parents, carers and young people from ages 0-18 years
- Support all ages in their faith journey now and for the future
- Provide consistency of teaching and theological approach
- Teaching Materials to follow the liturgical calendar and where appropriate the lectionary
- Be a core part of St Mary's

In September we launched our New Junior Church, bringing a more cohesive approach and giving choice for all families and across all ages. From our Baby and toddler group (see page 26) our Sunflowers (under 3s with parent carers on Sunday mornings) Sunday morning Junior church, The philosophy and cake for the older teens (Sunday Evening) and encouraging young leaders.

Since then, Junior Church has taken an active part in our altogether services; Harvest, Remembrance & Christingle. Once again, we were unable to be in person with the wider community for the nativity service. However, our wonderful Junior Church did a fabulous job, singing and performing the story that was then streamed on Christmas Eve and is available to enjoy on you tube.

This new approach, style and format has been a huge success with worship, learning and fun activities being enjoyed by all age groups and, we look forward to building on this great start through 2022.

Sarah Reynolds

Confirmations

In March five people from St Mary's were confirmed: three adults who had completed the 'Just Looking' course in 2019 with our previous Rector Ian Tarrant; and two young people. The service was held at St Gabriel's Aldersbrook on Mothering Sunday and was led by Peter, Bishop of Barking. It was a joyful celebration of this step in faith despite all the safety measures: masks, limited numbers distanced in church with two people singing on behalf of everyone, and an online congregation praying supportively from locations near and far. In September, when congregational singing and refreshments were once more happening at St Mary's, we officially welcomed and celebrated our newly confirmed and we all renewed our baptismal vows together with abundant holy water.

Pattern of worship and reflection

We started the year with a pre-recorded service of the Word on YouTube and our website. These included readings, intercessions, singing, preaching and other content filmed in individuals' homes and were

(continued on page 23)

St Mary with St Philip and St James
High Road South Woodford E18 2PA

www.stmaryswoodford.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1127596



PCC and Clergy Report for 2021

The Parochial Church Council meets every other month: the Standing Committee meets in the alternate months to transact business requiring more urgent or detailed attention and decisions.

The Standing Committee membership comprises of the Rector, Wardens, Deputy Wardens, Secretary and Treasurer. PCC receives periodic reports from the following committees:- Fabric, Eco-church, Mission, Children's & Young people's, Events, Trustees of the Memorial Hall, Deanery Synod members, Education Scrutiny, Neighbourhood Ward Panel and the MMU.

We continue to explore and develop our relationship with our Ministry and Mission Unit partnership formalised as the West Roding Ministry Partnership and such projects as the Bereavement Café continue to be successful.

We continue to support Rowena Rudkin as Diocesan representative on the London Borough of Redbridge Education Scrutiny Committee. David Snowdon is a member of the Churchfields ward panel which acts as the interface between the local community and the Met Police safer neighbourhood team.

In 2021 we appointed both a new rector, Revd Elizabeth Lowson, and director of music, Henry Metcalfe. With the easing of COVID-related restrictions and the planned celebration of 50 years since the re-dedication of St Mary's we enter 2022 with renewed vigour and optimism.

David Snowdon



Treasurer's Report 2020

Accepting that 2020 & 2021 have not been normal years, the TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES in 2021 - £129445 is not sufficient to cover our EXPENSES DIRECTLY RELATED TO CHURCH WORK £136680, & in addition we have the administration costs £10881 to add. We have therefore had to take a further £18116 this year from Reserves after taking £10171 in 2020. As mentioned in 2020 the rental income £22200 is crucial in supporting the Church income.

The General Fund Reserve, excluding the balance of legacy monies, only covers approximately 6 weeks expenditure.

To continue to work as St Marys Woodford we must give much prayer & heed to our support of the church.

My sincere appreciation goes to the Stewardship Secretary Anne Jones, for her work with Gift Aid reclaims and Planned Giving; to Michael Lovejoy for banking tasks which have become a lot more difficult since HSBC closed locally; to the Wardens who assist in authorisation & management of expenditure & to all who are involved with the card donations via SumUp.

Jane Fone

Church Contact Details

Rector	The Revd Dr Elizabeth Lowson 020 8504 7981 rector@stmaryswoodford.org.uk		
Parish Office	St Mary's Church 207 High Road, E18 2PA 020 8505 3000 info@stmaryswoodford.org.uk		
Authorised Preacher	Mark Spencer-Ellis		
Lay Readers	Mark Lewis, Rowena Rudkin		
PCC Secretary	David Snowdon	Treasurer	Jane Fone
Independent Examiner	Yusuf Dedat FCA Suite D, The Business Centre Faringdon Avenue	Bankers	HSBC

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD			
Balance Sheet at 31 December 2021			
	Note	2021	2020
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Freehold Land and Buildings	4a	690000	690000
Investments	4b	99422	106498
Total Fixed Assets		789422	796498
CURRENT ASSETS			
Sundry Debtors	5	6528	-
CBF Deposit		222501	263934
Bank Balance		38930	27683
		267959	291617
LIABILITIES			
Amounts falling due within one year		4082	4611
NET CURRENT ASSETS		263877	287006
NET ASSETS		1053299	1083504
FUNDS			
Unrestricted			
General Purpose	8	922222	947414
Earmarked		101004	103751
Total Unrestricted Funds		1023226	1051165
Restricted Funds		30073	32339
TOTAL FUNDS		1053299	1083504
Signed: <i>Ehoulson</i> <i>Joe Joe</i>			
03/03/22 3/3/22			

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES							
For the year ended 31 December 2021							
	Note	2020 GP Fund	2021 GP Fund	Earmarked	Restricted	2021 Total	2020 Total
INCOMING RESOURCES	2	£		£	£		£
Voluntary Income		104065	96565			96565	111065
Income From Charitable Activities		1376	1528			1528	1376
Other Income	9b	25151	26407		3671	30078	25620
Investment Income		4179	2871	51	3	2925	4622
Other Trading Activites	9a	-	2074			2074	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		134771	129445	51	3674	133170	142683
RESOURCES USED	3						
Grants		-			2000	2000	2000
Activities Directly related to the Work of the Church		134321	136680	2798	3940	143418	157774
Fundraising and publicity		91	247			247	91
Church Management and Administration		8815	8891			8891	8815
Governance Costs		1715	1743			1743	1715
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		144942	147561	2798	5940	156299	170395
NET INCOMING/OUTGOING RESOURCES		(10171)	(18116)	(2747)	(2266)	(23129)	(27712)
Interfund Transfers			-			-	-
Profit on Property Revaluation			-			-	-
Loss/Profit on Investment Revaluation		3629	(7076)			(7076)	3629
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(6542)	(25192)	(2747)	(2266)	(30205)	(24083)
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD		953956	947414	103751	32339	1083504	1107587
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD		947414	922222	101004	30073	1053299	1083504

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Note 1

Accounting Policies

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 view", provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and reporting by Charities (SORP (FRS102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except that the Curate's House is stated at a fair value as agreed by the PCC and investments which are stated at market value.

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC which are not subject to any legal restrictions regarding their use and are available for applications to the general purposes of the PCC. This category includes both the General Purposes Fund and funds earmarked for a particular purpose by the PCC. Restricted funds are those funds which may only be used for the restricted purpose for which they were given or otherwise obtained.

The accounts include all transaction assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Incoming resources

Income from donors and other voluntary income

Planned Giving is recognised only when received.

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when received or when calculated and submitted for payment.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accountable for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Funds raised by the Charity bazaar and other events are accounted for gross unless related expenses are immaterial in amount.

Donated good are recognised at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the statement of financial activities. Monies received in relations to donated goods sold are included under the relevant heading in The Statement of Financial Activities when the good are sold.

Charitable trading

Fees for weddings are included in this caption and accounted for when due.

Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of the curate's house is accounted for when due

Income from investments

Interest on deposits is accounted for when receivable and any related tax recoverable is recognised at the same time.

Resources Used

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over or when awarded if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly related to the work of the church The diocesan quota is accounted for when payable.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 Chapter 2, s.10(2)(C).

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings whether maintenance or improvement is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

Other land and buildings held for use in the work of the church.

The curate's house is included under this caption. It is stated at a fair value as agreed by the PCC.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial

Activities includes net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

Equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £5000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for any amounts that may prove to be uncollectable.

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

Note 2 Incoming Resources

	General	Earmarked	Restricted	2021	2020
	Fund	Funds	Funds	TOTAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£		£
Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving	61586			61586	62924
Income Tax recovered	14483			14483	23991
Loose Collections	4160			4160	2520
Sundry Donations	8059			8059	4361
Donations Earmarked	-			-	7000
Church Appeals	7445			7445	-
Floodlighting Donation	365			365	425
Magazine Donations	467			467	538
Legacies	-			-	9306
	96565			96565	111065
Income: Charitable Activities					
Fees - weddings etc	1528			1528	1376
Other Income					
Rent - Curate's House	22200			22200	22200
Churchyard Income	1500			1500	1500
Fund Raising	2707			2707	1920
Bazaar Fund Raising			3671	3671	-
	26407	-	3671	30078	25620
Investment Income					
Interest and Dividends	2871	51	3	2925	4622
Other Trading Activities	2074			2074	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	129445	51	3674	133170	142683

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

Note 3 Resources Used

	General	Earmarked	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Funds	Funds	Funds	2021	2020
Grants	£	£	£	£	£
Mission societies			2000	2000	2000
Church societies					
Charities e.g ELHAP					
			2000	2000	2000
Activities directly related to church work	work				
Diocesan Quota	92738			92738	92540
Rector's Expenses	146			146	99
Music, Organ & Choir	3652			3652	2459
Service Expenses	1014			1014	787
Heating/Light/Water	4675			4675	3113
Cleaning	3703			3703	4125
Routine Maintenance	2817			2817	1456
Clergy house expenses	4594	393		4987	6123
Churchyard Expenses	3679			3679	2429
Insurances	3058			3058	3020
Interegnum expenses	116			116	798
Seekers / Mums & Tods	-			-	180
Memorial Hall Contributions	5700			5700	5580
Printing and stationery inc magazine	1700			1700	1333
Sundries	93			93	72
Outreach inc youth worker	6275		3940	10215	28715
Fabric Expenditure		2405		2405	3103
Churchyard Access Road	2720			2720	1842
Total directly related to Church work	136680	2798	3940	143418	157774
Fund Raising and Publicity					
Stewardship Expenses	247			247	91
Church Management and Admin					
Parish Office and Telephone	8891			8891	8815
Governance Costs					
Treasurers/Secretary Expenses	75			75	75
Independent Examiner Fee	1668			1668	1640
	1743			1743	1715
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	147561	2798	5940	156299	170395

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

Notes 4 to 7

NOTE 4 FIXED ASSETS For Use By The PCC

NOTE 4a Freehold land and buildings

Freehold land and buildings comprise the "Curate's House" at 33 Elmhurst Drive.

The gross book value is based on a fair valuation as agreed by the PCC in 2017.

NOTE 4b INVESTMENTS	2021	2020
	£	£
CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund Income Shares		
Market Value at 31/12/20	106498	102869
Market Value at 31/12/21	99422	106498
Loss/Profit on revaluation	-7076	3629
NOTE 5 DEBTORS		
Prepayments	625	-
Other Debtors	5903	-
TOTAL	6528	-

NOTE 6 STAFF COSTS

During the year the PCC employed a Director of Music, youth worker, administration secretary and a cleaner/caretaker. Employment costs are included in the respective expenditure heads. No present member of the PCC received remuneration or expenses.

Salaries 2021 £22419 (2020 £23280)

NOTE 7 SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Restricted retiring collections for 2021 for which the PCC acted solely as a post-box amounted to £1467 (2020 £1163)

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

Notes 8 & 9

NOTE 8 ANALYSIS OF FUNDS AND NET ASSETS

	Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Liabilities	FUND BALANCES
	£	£	£	£
General Purpose Fund	789422	136882	4082	922222
Earmarked Funds				
Fabric Fund		92867		92867
Clergy House Fund		8137		8137
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	789422	237886	-4082	1023226
RESTRICTED FUNDS				
Music Fund		4758		4758
Pinney Fund (a)		200		200
Mission Fund		4475		4475
Youth Worker Fund		20640		20640
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS		30073		30073
TOTAL FUNDS	789422	267959	-4082	1053299

(a) The Pinney Fund is restricted to maintaining a War Memorial Plaque on the North Wall

Note 9

The income from Other Trading Activities £2074 (2020 £Nil) is the amount received for computer equipment donated to the church and sold to non related third parties.

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER 2021**

FUND NAME	Fund Balances Brought Fwd	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Fund Balances Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	257414	129445	147561		(7076)	232222
General Fund Property	690000	-	-			690000
Fabric Fund	95225	47	2405			92867
Clergy House Fund	8526	4	393			8137
Music Fund	4756	2				4758
Pinney Memorial	200					200
Missionary Giv- ing Fund	2803	3672	2000			4475
Youth Worker Fund	24580		3940			20640
TOTALS	1083504	133170	156299		(7076)	1053299

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC at St Mary's Woodford

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2021 which comprise the Balance Sheet, Statement of Financial Activities and related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the PCC's members you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act;
or

the accounts do not accord with those records; or

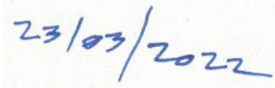
the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Yusuf Dedat FCA

Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills
Suite D, The Business Centre
Faringdon Avenue
Romford
Essex
RM3 8EN

Signed: 

Dated: 

Secretary's Report

The PCC supports the Rector and Clergy in their Parish Ministry and has certain legal responsibility for the Church. Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Meeting of the Church in accordance with the Church Representation rules. During 2021 the following served as members of the PCC:

Rector Revd Elizabeth Lowson

Lay Readers Mark Lewis , Rowena Rudkin, Chris Winward

Church Wardens

From April 2019 Linda Wiskin
 Until May 2021 Wendy Littlejohns
 From May 2021 Viveca Dutt

Deputy Wardens

Until May 2021 Viveca Dutt
 From October 2020 Philip Petchey
 From May 2021 Jano Goodchild

Deanery Synod Sarah Reynolds
 John Wiltshire

Elected PCC members

From April 2019 Gwen Wiggs
 Stephen Wiggs
 Sally Phillips
 From October 2020 Kate Adu-Baah
 Adela Kay
 Jano Goodchild
 Ian Layzell-Smith

Treasurer Jane Fone
Secretary David Snowdon
Safeguarding officer Jackie Peacock

Electoral roll. In April 2021 there were 158 names on the electoral roll of which 89 were resident in the Parish and 61 non-resident, 8 not known. This compares with 152 in 2020.

Church attendance (October 2022 average)					
			Sunday	Tuesday	Wednesday
8am		10am Sung Eucharist	6:30pm	9am	10:30 am
in-building	in-building	online	via zoom	via zoom	in building
9	78	49	10	3	12

carefully edited together and released each Sunday at 9am, so we could pray and worship together yet apart at any time during the week.

Ash Wednesday was marked with a pre-recorded service of Holy Communion and ashes available on the church drive. From Lent we added a Sunday evening service on Zoom: initially Compline sung by two cantors, and later Evening Prayer, both with time afterwards to chat. Tuesday Morning Prayer on Zoom also started in Lent and has continued most weeks. Holy Week was kept half on Zoom and half in church with livestream, with reflections via video monologue from three of Jesus' disciples in contemporary mode, and images of the Faces of Jesus from different cultures shown on Good Friday. On Easter Day we had four cantors singing on our behalf in church, children and young people created an Easter garden on the lawn which was later featured on Diocesan social media, Creme Eggs were taken home to enjoy, and for the final hymn we processed outside and sang together for the first time since March 2020: *Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son; endless is the victory, thou o'er death has won!*

From Palm Sunday we have held a weekly 10am Communion service in church with organ, masked congregation in the building and at home via livestream on YouTube and our website. Communion was received by the congregation in one kind only, reflection and discussion with the Communion Assistants was held, and a plan made to restart Communion in two kinds for all from Easter 2022. Music was initially anthems pre-recorded by the choir in church on Fridays, and then from August we added congregational hymns and from September choir in the building with the congregation, and coffee. 8am Sunday Communion restarted weekly in June and 10.30am Wednesday Communion from July. Contemplative Prayer and the new format Communion with Prayers for Wholeness and Healing (previously Prayers for the Sick) restarted monthly from the summer.

Sunday evening services restarted weekly from November and in December we were able to hold an Advent Quiet morning in church. At Christmas, we held services in church but coffee was paused again, lateral flow tests recommended and the largest services went online only: the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was held with only choir, clergy, readers and tech team live in the building; and the Nativity service was pre-recorded a few days early.

Contemplative Prayer

Despite intermittent Lockdowns it has been a good year. We have gained two new members, one who has become leader, and Elizabeth has joined when her other duties have permitted.

Unusually we met in August this year to make up for lost time.

Topics have included the duties of a Christian in the active life as described in Walter Hilton's medieval book on the Ladder of Perfection, peace, silence, the power of contemplation in healing and Hilda of Whitby.

On Good Friday Mark Lewis and I gave a face to face presentation of the many ways in which the Crucifixion is shown in the art of different places and cultures throughout the world, while our Advent Quiet Morning concentrated on St Joseph, without whom Mary would have been stoned. The morning ended with one of Mark's monologues of a present day father in Joseph's place.

Rowena Rudkin

2 Community & Mission

Eco Church

Our major achievement in 2021 was to achieve bronze status in the ARocha eco church awards. This reflects what we are already doing to care for God's creation, but is only a stepping stone to what we have to do to reach carbon zero by 2033; the Church of England target. The most important step we can take is to replace our gas boiler with an eco-friendly heating system, and we have started a feasibility study for this long-term project which will also be looking at insulation, energy use and possibly solar panels. We have started a series of conversations with the congregation about all the things we can do collectively and individually, and we were pleased to see many people making personal pledges about what they can do.

We have also made wider links. A group of churches met Iain Duncan Smith, our local MP to share concerns ahead of COP 26. We are now forming a wider network of local churches to discuss how we can campaign together and to see where we can work together and learn from each other. We have made links



with the South Woodford Society and attended meetings of the Redbridge Climate Forum.

Viveca Dutt

Mission Committee

Mission Committee has not met formally during the Covid period and we are looking for new members to join us since Jane and David Godwin have moved their residence to Gloucestershire and we have not been able meet with Jean Russell at her home as a group as we have for so many years. Grateful thanks to all three of them for their faithful service and efforts to support Mission on this committee. This year, we have been able to support our CMS Mission partners from the existing funds.

The generous collection of Harvest goods ensured we were able to continue to support The Manna Centre. Collections were taken for Christian Aid to support both the impact of the earthquake in Haiti and the Afghan Refugee Crisis.

Send a Cow was well supported at Christmas and there were retiring collections for Crisis at Christmas and the orphanage at Makutano which many of us have visited.

The work undertaken by so many to resume the Church Bazaar Events has enabled the replenishment of the funds to continue supporting the mission of the church and our charitable giving. With a slightly reduced group of charities and priorities identified two years ago, we added A Rocha to the list as the Church sought Eco status. It was good to see the development by the Eco group in this area and the achievement of the bronze award.

Please continue to pray for the Clare family who have returned to Uganda; here are more details of how you can subscribe to their mailing list for regular updates: <https://mailchi.mp/7edda23d83b7/clareshinuganda>

Linda Wiskin

Schools

There are three schools within the parish boundary: Churchfields Infants School (3-7 years), Junior School (7-11 years) and St Aubyn's School (2.5-13 years). The Rector has toured Churchfields Juniors and St Aubyn's, met the Heads and led sessions in school for collective worship or religious studies. Small groups of pupils have visited St Mary's for Remembrance and ecochurch audit purposes and both schools held Christmas services at St Mary's.

Memorial Hall

All the trustees for the Memorial Hall must be drawn from the church electoral roll. Memorial Hall staff worked very hard with continually changing Covid regulations and advice with hire income limited by those regulations. Annual

reports for Woodford Parish Church Memorial Hall can be found on the Charity Commission website at: <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/214670/charity-overview>

Baby & Toddler Group

Following a pause since March 2020 due to Covid, St Mary's Baby & Toddler group relaunched in September, with a new logo, a slightly new name and a new volunteer in-room team (Angkana Sales, Clare Reeves, Habiba Rye and Elizabeth Lowson), ably supported with refreshments by Kate Adu Baah, Carol Holdstock and Stephen Wiggs. We are grateful to be drawing on the expertise, documentation and equipment of previous leader Jean Lear and her team. We have been delighted to welcome many children from our local community of all faiths and none, from a few weeks to four years old accompanied by one or more relatives or childminders: sometimes we have been so busy we have used the Sunflower Room as well as the first floor Gwinnell Room. Each session finishes with action songs: sometimes there is a dog or a lion on the bus, and a firm favourite is 'Alice the Camel'. We have had lots of positive feedback about offering this for children who have spent the majority of their lives under Covid restrictions, and a few people wanting to discuss faith and christening and some children in awe of the organ.

Guides, Brownies & Rainbows

In September 2021 Simone, Jane and Young Leaders Anne, Chloe and Phoebe welcomed back 1st Woodford Rainbows to the Roberts Hall (every Friday 4.15-5.15). The girls have enjoyed fun and games, make and do, learning new skills and working together. Highlights have included a trip to watch Encanto at the Odeon cinema, meeting a hamster, sparklers and marshmallows for Bonfire Night and our Christmas party with Promise ceremony. If you would like to volunteer your time in any capacity, please visit the Girlguiding website for details.

The Brownies returned in September 2021 at a new time and venue. We changed the timings to 5.30pm to 6.45pm and we now meet in the Memorial Hall. Becky and Tilly returned to help and Simone (Rainbows' Leader) was kind enough to assist me and continues to do so. We



have had lots of fun in our first term and hope to continue to have fun. My Brownies enjoyed the cinema trip to see Encanto, the Christmas party and they enjoyed making the Poppy Wreath and the card for Margaret for her 100th birthday.

The 9th Woodford Brownies meet on zoom from January to July in 2021 and then returned to the meeting physically in the Pankhurst Hall in September. We had several new Brownies join us whilst on zoom and they made their promises over the internet with a parent pinning their promise badges on to their uniforms. Whilst on zoom each week each Brownie received a package of craft and challenges to do during the meeting time and we learnt several completely new games – for example passing a pencil between screens, playing scavenger hunts around the house to find ten green objects. We also discovered things we could not do in a physical meeting – we learnt about 6 famous artists and styles of painting for our Brownie Painter Badge and saw the different star constellations on the screen – which due to light pollution we could not see in the streets of South Woodford. We worked for our Mindfulness badges, trying out different yoga positions and making our own scented bath salts. Back in our hall we did 50 challenges to celebrate LaSERS 50th Birthday which ranged from how many Brownies would fit into one hula hoop to making up nonsense poems. We helped at the Food and Fun Day at St Mary's and we held our Christmas Disco.

In Sept 2021, the 1st Woodford Guides returned to meeting in person, limiting themselves to our remaining Guides for the first few meetings and bringing in newbies one or two at a time. It has been unusual to have 50/50 new and original Guides, and we have concentrated on settling in together and being mindful of the things that have made life weird for them. Mostly this meant having traditional activities which made us laugh perhaps more than those that made us think or learn. We took part in the Food n Fun n Craft Day as well as the Bazaar and put together gift bags of chocolates to take to the residents of Churchfields



Nursing Home, where we would, in normal times, have sung Christmas Carols with them.

Events

2021 was always going to be a tricky year for us in the Events Committee on the back of the Covid trauma and lockdowns of 2020, and so it proved to be. Being in lockdown over Christmas and January meant the prospect of holding our 21st annual Race Evening in February didn't even get to the start line. Food and Fun Day in May similarly stood no chance of happening before the Government were willing to open up society. So we decided to defer this until September in the hope the situation for events was much improved for our first of the year and Elizabeth's first social event at St Mary's, and luckily it was. Combining with a Craft Fair meant double the reason for people to come along and enjoy too. Good weather blessed us, always a concern for us organisers, but no need to worry. The tower once again had as many visitors as ever for clear viewing atop. The tight spiral staircase wasn't putting anyone off. Another favourite, the plant stall had to switch to autumnal planting and flowers, and was surprisingly popular. Plenty of tasty refreshments from cakes to hot food and snacks were available as usual. And having a Pimms stall certainly helped make a sunny afternoon amongst friends that bit more enjoyable. A great day outside. Our Charity Bazaar was less of a sure thing to happen in November. Ventilating the halls in cold weather and the necessity of mask wearing had to be contended with, plus trying to create more space between stalls for social distancing. We invited the Woodford WI to join us for a presence outside,



manning a hot mulled wine stall in front of the hall, giving the Bazaar a welcome winter fair feel. There weren't too many surprises, apart from Elizabeth in elf costume. All the usual stalls, including the late Peggy Renouf's Knitwits manned by her son Francis selling Peggy's knitted characters they still had left. It was nice that we made as much for charity as we did pre-Covid, thank you all. Looking ahead, without the storage had for many years future bazaars will be somewhat different as donated items can only be received just prior to the eve. We realise this may well reduce donations and therefore our charitable giving, but trust you'll understand.

Richard Walker

Bereavement café update

We restarted the cafés at St Mary's and Christchurch in April, at first by Zoom, and have kept going, now meeting in the Church buildings, and supporting each other. Last year, I asked:

- *Do volunteers all want to stay involved?* A few have been unable to go on supporting the cafés. We really need more volunteers!
- *Who wants this kind of support?* We don't know. No café since we reopened has had more than 3 visitors, although previously there were more, and more came regularly.
- *Does our café have something unique to offer?* The Church buildings are lovely peaceful places, and we think, when they get there, our visitors appreciate that, and the space to talk about difficult things.
- *How do we publicise what we want to do?* We need to do more, both within and outside the Churches. We have spread the word in Churches, funeral services, libraries, local Gazettes, etc.

We are at a crossroads. In general people seem to find the experience helpful, even cathartic. However, we hang by a thread... we need both more volunteers and more visitors. We need to get that message across also to people unconnected to the Church. We are struggling to do that.

Judy Noble

Parish Magazine

After a second year affected by Covid, we are getting a clearer picture of 'the new normal'. The availability of the parish magazine on St Mary's website has become more significant and not just because that reduces the need for printing copies. Just as having services on-line has meant



that access has extended to those not part of the regular church community, so it is for the magazine. As well as welcoming our new Rector, Elizabeth, to the magazine team we were also pleased to welcome Bryony Bennett. Elizabeth has been encouraging us to think about engaging with on-line readers and those who may visit St Mary's for the first time as well as for those who already know and love St Mary's. Please do send in articles and ideas and thanks, as usual, for those of you who do. If sending in photographs, particularly those of children and young people, it helps us if you also let us have written permission for the photographs to be used in order to meet safeguarding requirements. In the magazine team we think about getting the right balance of different types of articles. We love to hear your views on this.

Penny Freeston and Peter Wall

3 Core Support

Pastoral Care

The majority of pastoral care has been given and received by individuals keeping in touch with each other and especially those within our fellowship on the prayer list or known to be in need. Chris Winward continued his lockdown ministry of keeping in touch by telephone with many people, and especially those most in need, and later adding visits where possible. Chris formally became Reader Emeritus in July but has continued with some pastoral care as our new Rector has got to know the congregation. Four members of our Ministry Team take home Communion to those unable to attend church. Prayer ministry team met for prayer and reflection to discuss offering individual prayer after the 10am service from 2022. We were pleased to re-introduce naming people in our 10am Sunday intercessions from the autumn, now that permission is in place for these details to appear on livestream: the Prayer for Wholeness and Healing services and/or prayer with ministry team members is available for those who do not wish to be mentioned online. We also identified a need for more people to offer pastoral care more formally, and connecting with MMU colleagues decided to run a course early in 2022.

Safeguarding

I have been Parish Safeguarding Officer at St Mary's since 2018 and updated my training in 2021. I repeated the Basic Awareness and Foundation training and have successfully undertaken the Compressed Leadership Course. As a result I'm in the process of developing an action plan to ensure that I can fulfill all aspects of the role. Members of the PCC and Ministry team have also undertaken relevant training.

At St Mary's we want everyone to feel safe and cared for and it's important that we work closely together to ensure that this happens. We follow the Safer Recruitment and People Management procedures when recruiting and make sure that all those working with adults and children are DBS checked. (Disclosure and Barring Service) All future DBS certificates will expire after 3 years instead of 5. This is to bring the Church of England into line with other organisations. We now have a register of Eucharistic Assistants who were required to provide a reference as well as additional personal information.

I am always willing to be asked for advice around any concerns people may have and talk things through. My contact details are on the blue poster in the Church entrance, in the parish directory and on St Mary's website. Best practice on safeguarding can be found on the Church of England's website: www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding

Jackie Peacock

Fabric

This year we have welcomed the new warden Viveca Dutt and the deputy warden Philip Petchey to the committee together with Ian Layzell Smith as member from the PCC. In the summer we reviewed the last Quinquennial report and the current state of the buildings. We have been dealing with damp over a long period of time partially related to the hoppers not dealing with the water and some further investigation is now needed into the French drain which is not proving adequate to take the water away.

The electrical work has been done in the cupboard in the Chapel. This both relates to the faculty we had for the sound cupboard and for electrical work that did not need a faculty to ensure the circuitry was safe. Additional hard wiring to improve Wi-Fi in the Church was successfully undertaken by Dave Snowdon and Pete Alderson and our thanks are due to them for the improved ability to livestream services. Some work has been done to repair the flagpole so that we can fly the flag in this jubilee year.

David Mason has undertaken several pieces of work, not least the securing of the front steps and then pointing them up. His variety of skills are much appreciated. Sheba Lockley has also supported strongly in her role of administrator to support the work

Drakes, a specialist in our organ make, have resolved the coupling issues but going forward there has to be restricted access to the tower to avoid traffic behind the organ.

Planning permission has been achieved to widen the drive and we are applying for a faculty to widen the drive. Thanks are due to Jean Lear's persistence and support from Alan Frost, our Church architect.

The churchyard has been kept in better condition with employed gardeners. There continue to be challenges to maintain the building and seek improvements with the desire to be as Eco-friendly as we can possibly be. 2022 will see the next Quinquennial Inspection and there is much to achieve this year

Linda Wiskin

4 Wider Faith Links

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod is the collaboration and consultation forum that sits usefully in between parishes and Chelmsford Diocesan Synod. St Mary's is part of the Redbridge Deanery Synod, which brings together five Mission and Ministry Units (MMUs). St Mary's is part of the West Roding Partnership MMU, along with St Mary with Christchurch Wanstead, St Peter's in the Forest (which is in Waltham Forest Deanery) and St Gabriel's Aldersbrook.

The Synod gives St Mary's a way of communicating with both local churches and our diocese. It uses a standing agenda plus usually a main item on a current key topic. Regular progress reports include updates from the Diocese and the local Education Scrutiny Committee, on its finances and the parish share, on the state of vocations and news from the MMUs and parishes including our own. In 2021 the main issues included eco-church (climate change) commitments, suggesting that progress at St Mary's is encouraging. More recently we heard about the C of E's Living in Love and Faith initiative, which invites reflection and discussion about identity, sexuality, personal relationships, and marriage in the context of our faith. We learnt that this material is still being consulted on until 30 April 2022.

John Wiltshire & Sarah Reynolds

West Roding Mission Partnership

West Roding Mission Partnership is the parishes of St Mary's Woodford, St Mary's with Christ Church Wanstead, St Gabriel's Aldersbrook (all Redbridge Deanery) and St Peter in the Forest Walthamstow (Waltham Forest Deanery).

Much change has happened with new clergy for three parishes: in addition to our new Rector licensed in February; Alex Summers began as interim priest in charge for St Peter in the Forest from February; and Martyn Hawkes as part time interim priest in charge for the Wanstead churches from April, while remaining incumbent at St Gabriel's and Redbridge Area Dean. The parishes have continued to work together through the Partnership Committee, online in the first half of the year, and Woodford has hosted in the church building from September. Anne Jones finished her term as Woodford lay rep in the summer and was replaced by Adela Kay, serving alongside Linda Wiskin and Elizabeth

Lowson. Snaresbrook Crown Court chaplaincy and the bereavement cafes remain important; the three Redbridge parishes work together on youth work; we had a joint Confirmation at St Gabriel's in March; a joint Ascension Day service outside at St Peter's; and made plans for a joint pastoral care course, a joint social and other ideas for working together.

Redbridge Faith Forum

The Redbridge Faith Forum represents the seven major religions of Redbridge and is supported financially by the Council so it can be consulted on aspects of policy. While Catholics and Methodists are Trustees, the CofE is not always represented at meetings, although that may be changing.

This year the Council consulted on needs of different faiths for more land resources for burials, and it was also used to promote the importance of people completing their religion on the Census. The carrot is that Census data will be used to allocate & vary funding for Chaplaincy in hospitals & Prisons on a pro rata basis. There are financial implications.

The RFF has also hosted several zoom events on religious attitudes to social issues, such as bereavement, suicide, aging, domestic abuse, and how being thankful can help us maintain mental and spiritual health. There are some separate events for women.

The Autumn saw the Annual Faith Walk through Ilford, visiting the gurdwara and mosque, the newly Eco-refurbished Anglican church, temples and the Holocaust memorial. The theme was Redbridge's Climate change policies and 3 councillors spoke at different venues. It is growing to be an important partnership.

Judy Noble

Woodford Fellowship of Christian Churches

The W.F.C.C. provides opportunities for Christians of different denominations in the Woodford area to talk, to worship, to sing and to work together.

We were delighted that after a Covid absence in 2020 the 2021 Ecumenical Advent Carol Service took place once again at St Thomas of Canterbury, Woodford Green, on the second Sunday of Advent. We enjoyed singing Advent carols and the singing of choirs from All Saints' and from St Thomas of Canterbury. Members of about ten local churches participated, offering reflections, readings and prayers. Our rector Elizabeth led the intercessions. The service was attended by 110 people from local churches and was followed by tea, coffee and mince pies in the Becket Centre. In the retiring collection £660 was collected. This was split between Mary's Meals and the Salvation Army for the Redbridge Cold Weather Centre. We are looking forward to

hosting the 2022 Service of Prayer for Christian Unity at St Mary's. The theme of this year's service is "We saw His Star in the East". This year's service has been prepared by the churches of the Middle East. **Cheryl Corney**

Kenya

Our partnership with Kenya continues. Our Link parish, The Church of the Good Shepherd, Muchunguri, in Mbeere Diocese, started in 2004; the Vicar is now Ven Jenard Nyaga Nthiga, (who visited here in 2010), he has returned to Muchunguri having been moved on in 2007 by the bishop. Clergy tend to stay only a few years in one parish, sometimes as little as a year so as (according to the bishop) they do not become too friendly with the parishioners! Clergy commute to their parishes overall from their home as they do not live in the parish so can be moved at a moment's notice by the bishop and often do! With far more congregations than parishes it gives them flexibility.

The Church congregations have all been manifestly affected by Covid19 just as we have. Lockdown closed all the churches for a while and even now they are only partially reopened for 6-64 yrs olds. So, the very young and the elderly are unable to attend. This partial reopening has affected the giving very severely. Most church giving is by cash offerings on a Sunday from a rural economy. It has also been seriously affected by the drought situation which was severe last year. As here each church has a monthly parish share of nearly £600 to pay to the diocese, if they don't pay up then the vicar doesn't get paid. Despite regular fundraising activities, they have still been short of the monthly amount, we have helped on an occasional basis. Consequently, the clergy income is down, and some have been reduced to begging from friends and neighbours. Some Chelmsford diocesan friends have been supporting Jenard.

St



Johns Church, Kirimiri is a daughter congregation of Muchunguri and now has a stone-built building instead of a wattle and daub one

Emmanuel church at Mariari. Is now an independent parish with its own vicar Rev Esther Muriithi. Mariari wishes to remain part of our partnership There is a new congregation at Ngaari, which is nearby and now part of Emmanuel.

The Dispensary - We have been frustrated by the lack of progress; they were about to upgrade the dispensary when Covid struck so all work was put on hold but has now been completed. They have been waiting for some months for the government to inspect the premises before they can reopen.

At **Makutano** we support the St Michael and All Angels Childrens Home in the grounds of the Church at the other end of the Mbeere Diocese; a 90 minutes' drive away. The vicar is Rev Jackson (Jack) Njue Ngari, who has now left! We currently sponsor six boys and a girl in Secondary education, who having passed their primary exams went on to various Secondary schools depending on their Exam results. That is testament to the support they get from the home. We continue to seek sponsorship for the children, especially now that several have completed their education and need to do post education courses to secure employment. **Antony Matheka Watheka** completed a two-year *Diploma in Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality Management* course and is now upgrading to a degree course at Zetech University, (with our support) in Nairobi. During the pandemic all schools were closed for nine months March-December 2020 so nine months education has been lost. All the children were sent home to their relatives or guardians, so the home only had the caretaker living on the premises. The Home has now reopened with fourteen children including two girls at Makutano. The Home needs refurbishment and money raised in Christmas 2020 was sent for the refurbishments of the showers and toilets amongst other things. Seven children are in Primary school which is for eight years with Secondary education of four years. The government is still playing catch up by concentrating several short terms of ten weeks with only short holiday of two weeks in between. School leaving exams that should have been taken last October will now take place this March. **Wendy Littlejohns**



Generosity in numbers...

Mission Societies	£	Special Collections	£
Church Mission Society	2000	Bishops Lent Appeal	590
		McMillan Cancer Appeal	232
		Christian Aid	310
		Send-A-Cow	335
		(plus £799 sent direct)	
		Total	£1,467

Thank
you



Accounts



St Mary's Woodford

Annual review 2020

including the Annual Report and Accounts



V3.0

Annual review 2020

including the Annual Report and Accounts (pages 11-22)

As an outcome of Bishop Stephen's Transforming Presence initiative in 2012, in recent years the Archdeacons of the Diocese have written to every parish, asking for reflection on nine areas of church life. This year, again, we have laid out our review as responses to their nine questions, although some reports could fit under two or more headings.

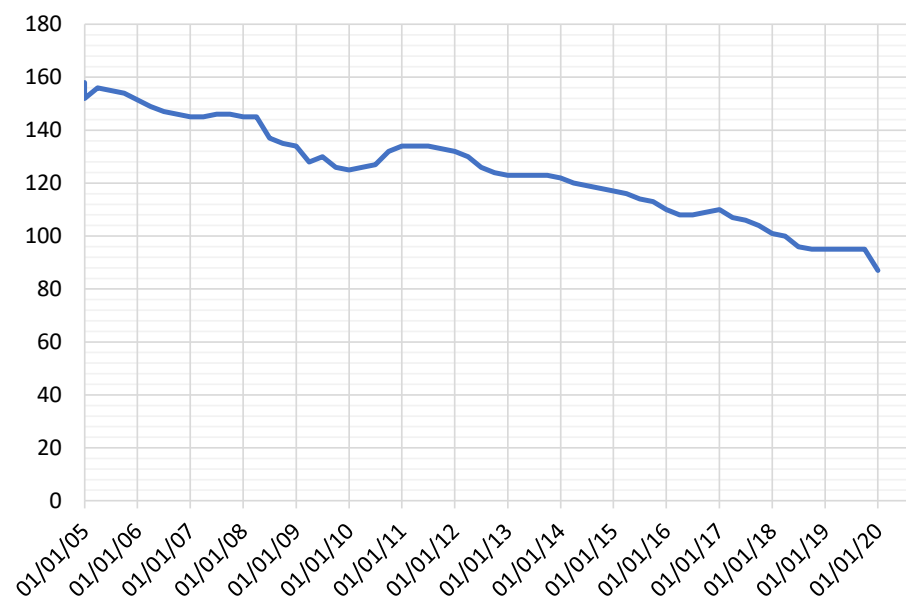
Any text not attributed to an author is probably the work of the PCC Secretary.

1 *Worship and Growth*

What are you doing to make worship the central focus of the life of the church?

Our main service continues to be the 10am on Sunday. Normally, this would be a sung Eucharist, however in 2020, due to Covid-19 precautions the choir was unable to sing in church. Additionally, we have had to rely on recorded or streamed services in order to reach the congregation.

Average morning attendance



Music

Well, 2020 has been a strange year: no doubt about that, and Covid-19 has suppressed the normal amount of music at St Mary's in the same way that it seems to have suppressed everything else!

Of course, at the beginning of 2020 nobody knew what was coming, and the year started with music at St Mary's largely in its full, normal flow. As it had been in the latter parts of 2019, we were coping without a music director. The choir was singing well and we continued to have fine organists playing for the morning and evening services.

Then Covid-19 struck, and this happened at the same time that Ian Tarrant left us for his new post in Gibraltar. Thus, starting in March for several months St Mary's services were constrained to be pre-recorded streamed morning prayer, ably organised and run by our fine team of readers and the wardens. We managed to provide some music in the form of pre-recorded hymns sung by a single voice with generally piano accompaniment, from a set of volunteers, mainly from the choir. A brief period of relaxation of restrictions over the summer and early autumn meant that the choir could meet to record anthems that could be incorporated into the mainly said public services. I must say that the level of commitment from the choir for this was exemplary, and we had a solid, enthusiastic, turnout from choir members throughout this period! We even managed to squeeze out (shortly after the November lockdown) a Christmas Carol service with, again, the enthusiastic support of the choir, Joyful Voices, and our organist Chris Wooll. Of course, lockdown struck again, and from Christmas to the time of writing of this report, we have had to revert to pre-recorded single-voice hymn singing.

A few words must be said about our junior choir, Joyful Voices. Linda Wiskin reports that they continued to rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9am in the early part of the year, making singing contributions to services. Since then it has been lovely to hear Robyn Low singing with mum, Gemma whilst services have been recorded. A great effort was made for the Remembrance service; we were grateful to Viveca for recording the children singing "Make me a channel of your peace" and "Everyone beneath the vine and fig tree" to contribute to worship. At the end of the year, the children recorded in family groups their Christmas music for the Nativity Service. We look forward to singing together again later in 2021.

I wish to thank the choir for their continued commitment to choral music at St Mary's in spite of all that Covid-19 could throw at us. Also, to our wardens and readers who have made a consistent effort to make a place for music, in one

form or other, in our services. And, particularly, Linda Wiskin who, as well as being committed to the music effort in general has arranged organist cover for those periods in 2020 when one was needed. And finally to Viveca Dutt who, through her technical wizardry, made it possible for music contributions to continue through these extraordinary times.

I hope and expect that our contribution of music will fully resume before the end of 2021. Hopefully, music for all Sunday services will resume: including morning, evening worship and Taizé. I'm sure that I would be joined by all music-makers at St Mary's in being thrilled to have our new Rector, Elizabeth Lowson, join us. She already shown a level of interest and understanding about music at St Mary's that bodes well for the future.

I shall close with what has become the usual last sentence of this review from past years: that once choral singing resumes, new members for both junior and senior choirs will be always most welcome!

John Bradley

The Bells of St Mary's

Bellringing ground to a halt in March 2020 at the beginning of the 1st lockdown much to everybody's disappointment. All the St Mary's bell ringers have kept well during the pandemic and are keen to come back as soon as we are allowed. We have been following the guidance from the Central Council Ringers who advise how many ringers are permitted to ring depending on lockdown rules

We have managed to ring just 4 bells (out of 8) during those periods when there were services in church, this allows us to have a 2 metre distance between us and ring every other bell. We are only able to ring call changes when doing this so more complex methods will have to wait till we can have six ringers.

We were lucky enough to ring at the wedding in October and I was able to toll a bell for the 3 minute silence on Remembrance Day.

One of our valued and experienced ringers is moving away which is a loss to our team so if anyone fancies taking up a new hobby when we can ring again you will be made most welcome. We hope you will all hear the bells of St Mary's again soon



Kate Walker Tower Captain

Flowers

This year has been very unusual, so we haven't been able to do all our usual requests, i.e. Anniversaries, birthdays, and other special occasions. We missed out on Christmas, as we went into lockdown again. Hopefully we shall be able to be back to some normality before long. Wishing everybody good health, we will be ready with our flower arrangements.

Hazel Lovejoy.

2 Spirituality

What are you doing to teach people to pray?

Like most church activities, the Contemplative Prayer Group was severely limited this year. We met in January when we meditated on the Jesus Prayer and held our customary meditation on Ash Wednesday, prior to the Evening Eucharist. Thereafter, we met only twice in September and October when the themes were the Hymn "At even when the sun was set" and "Peace". Lockdown prevented us from repeating the vigil for our work in Kenya and from holding either the Quiet Hour on Good Friday or the Advent Quiet Morning. However, Mark Lewis and I were able to transfer some of the thoughts and images from an earlier Quiet Morning, "The Many Faces of Jesus" to the live Eucharist on the 4th October, for contemplation by a greater number of people. This seems to have been much appreciated and we hope to repeat the experiment when normal services can be resumed.

Rowena Rudkin

3 Nurture

What are you doing to teach people the faith and help them in their discipleship?

Seekers

Our Seekers group remain steady in numbers with around 8-10 children per week. Our last 'in person' meeting prior to the first lockdown was Mothering Sunday. We created a floral heart display of daffodils and messages of love and thanks to our Mothers, Grandmothers and carers for all they do for us. This bright and cheerful display remained in the foyer of the Church through lockdown and became a lovely focal point and



reminder of better times together.

During lockdown seekers initially continued to meet via zoom, to worship together on a Sunday morning, this was led by Adela, Jano and Gemma and our thanks go to them for all they have done throughout this time to keep the children engaged, worshipping and meeting as a fellowship during this difficult time.

We learnt about Holy week by creating big pictures depicting the symbols of



Holly week bringing each of the children's lovely images together in a beautiful collage of colourful celebration of the Easter story.

It was fantastic that we were able to come together in person for Harvest festival, creating a splendid celebratory display for the foyer. Although we couldn't be together for

Remembrance Sunday,

Seekers created a beautiful poppy installation for the War memorial and made prayerful stones of respect that were placed on the memorial. The installation was enjoyed and admired by many people in the local community and we received many notes of thanks.

And finally, it was with sadness that we were not able to perform our annual family nativity service. However, not to be stopped by the pandemic, we wanted to ensure that we performed something together. We managed to come together to record Joyful voices and Seekers' performing some of their favourites Carols and brought the story together with Seekers narrating the Christmas story recorded from their homes, it was great that we were able to achieve this under such difficulty times.

Sarah Reynolds



Youth

In March we had one last weekly Tuesday Costa Youth Club of the year before Covid hit playing games, chatting together and praying for one another. March-April we adjusted to life online, offering a weekly Saturday games Zoom and our Sunday Small Group moved online at 2pm reading the Bible and praying together, studying scripture, discussing faith and playing games together. Some parents started a morning prayer Sunday Zoom and many young people contributed to the Sunday Services online across the MMU over the year. Becca took on a more pastoral role, checking in with young people across the Parishes.

In April, Becca & Revd Tom took over running both youth clubs online till July. Youth Clubs were offered fortnightly. Sunday small group and the parents' Morning Prayer Zooms continued through till July.



In October we recommenced meeting for Quest Sunday Ministry, and in October 2020 Becca presented a new Youth Vision of 'why we do what we do' to the Youth Ministry Development Group. This is: To glorify God, in unity across our MMU, to make followers of Jesus through the leading of the Holy Spirit. The hope is that as we seek to become a more coherent youth ministry in unity across our MMU. That

we will be able to provide exciting, fun and relevant ways to engage with young people in their faith journey as we seek to follow Jesus and together introduce others to be part of this amazing family of God.

In December Sunday Services resumed and the young people enjoyed contributing to various Christmas Services across the MMU. The Youth Music group played and sang at the St Gabriel's carol services and Crib Service. Cards and Christmas boxes were delivered across our Parishes as prepared by Red Balloon to celebrate Christmas together and we enjoyed Christmas parties for our last in-person youth clubs of the year. For more information contact Becca at wwayouth@hotmail.com or 07490 459850.

Becca Kemal

4 Evangelism

What are you doing to share the Christian faith with others, and what have the results been in the past year?

Communications Group

In February 2020 we started experimenting with live streaming our 10.00am services. We were hoping that anyone not able to be at St Mary's for any reason could still join us. As lockdown 1 closed our church buildings we had to rapidly rethink how we could continue as a worshipping community.

Thanks to the work of the wardens, John Bradley and members of the Choir, the agility of the Ministry team, help from many visiting clergy, and a steep learning curve for some of us in movie making software, including putting

remotely recorded music and voices together, we managed to offer recorded services for every Sunday during the year except for the immediate Sunday after Christmas Day. We were also able to record services for Holy Week and Easter and we were also very pleased to be able to prerecord a children's Nativity and Carol Service over Christmas. We were pleased to see that the numbers watching our live services is not that different to our regular numbers in church before lockdown1.

We also took some time during the summer to plan in more detail for live streaming. When we did have live worship again, we were able to share our services with all those who were not able to join us in church. This was possible thanks to the work of what is now the St Mary's Tech team: Pete Alderson, James Sales and Dave Snowdon. When we are fully back together in church, we will continue with live streaming our worship for anyone who is not able to be at church.

Online communication also became very important during the year. We are pleased that over 130 people have signed up to our email subscription and regular emails became an important way of sending links to our services, sharing important and urgent news about when we were open etc, and letting people know what our partner church and ecumenical neighbours were also doing during the year. The online form is on our website for anyone who still wants to sign up. Our Facebook page was also a very useful tool for news, links and for pictures of the activity that was still going at St Mary's during the year, even remotely. However, we were also conscious that there are a number of St Mary's folk who do not have access to the internet. Thanks to Sheba Lockley and a group of volunteers who have physically delivered hard copies of the newsheet to these people every week.

Viveca Dutt

Growth Committee

The growth committee has not met in the past twelve months because of the Covid-19 situation and is unlikely to do so in the foreseeable future, especially as several members have stepped down. It is hoped that an equivalent committee or working party will be set up in due course to examine some of the matters which we have considered. The original task of the Growth Committee was to help implement the Transforming Presence report, and any new group similarly will need clear objectives. One task which we achieved was to help arrange the parish forum meetings when all sorts of issues facing our parish were discussed, and we hope that another forum will be held when circumstances permit.

Stephen Wiggs



Parish Magazine

In the year of the interregnum and the Covid pandemic we have been very conscious and appreciative of the support across the fellowship of St Mary's for the magazine. With services having to go on-line the usual distribution arrangements for the magazine have had to be modified. Whilst most have accessed the magazine on-line from the parish website, hard copies have been printed and delivered to home addresses by Sheba Lockley, Richard Walker and Stephen Wiggs using a list maintained by Chris Winward. The magazine team is looking to extend involvement in the magazine both within and beyond the St Mary's congregation. To encourage this we have developed the practice of

inviting comments and photographs on a common theme. In seeking a balance of material in the magazine we particularly appreciate contributions from young people but are mindful that home schooling has put particular pressures on the time of young people and their parents. As we welcome the arrival of our new rector, Elizabeth Lowson and look forward to easier times regarding the pandemic the magazine team thanks you for your support and asks that, in what will hopefully be easier times, that continues.

Penny Freeston and Peter Wall

5 Vocation

What are you doing to nurture and develop the ministry of the whole people of God, including enabling people to come forward for authorised lay and ordained ministry?

We are constantly encouraging people to take on new roles in the life of the church. We try to avoid any role becoming a 'life sentence' so that different gifts and perspectives can be brought into play. Look for the tasks that have been done by the same people for many years - could you volunteer to take their place, and free them to do something fresh?

(continued on page 23)

St Mary with St Philip and St James
High Road South Woodford E18 2PA

www.stmaryswoodford.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1127596



PCC and Clergy Report for 2020

The Parochial Church Council meets every other month: the Standing Committee meets in the alternate months to transact business requiring more urgent or detailed attention and decisions.

The Standing Committee membership comprises of the Rector, Wardens, Deputy Wardens, Secretary and Treasurer. PCC receives periodic reports from the following committees:- Mission, Fellowship, Communication, Events, Trustees of the Memorial Hall, Deanery Synod members, Growth Committee and Neighbourhood Panel and the MMU.

Church finances and investment are an ongoing focus and discussion.

Our major fabric project this year has been widening the drive in front of the church. This has been challenging due to the conflicting advice we have received and the need to complete a planning application with Redbridge which has, unfortunately, required multiple attempts due to a lack of clarity from Redbridge.

Rebecca Kemal continues to develop the youth ministry, both at St Mary's and across the MMU and has made great progress with new approaches to working with young people, running wonderful events to grow and build fellowship.

We continue to explore and develop our relationship with our Ministry and Mission Unit partnership now fully formalised and re named as the West Roding Ministry Partnership and such projects as the Bereavement Café continue to be successful.

We continue to support Rowena Rudkin as Diocesan representative on the London Borough of Redbridge Education Scrutiny Committee. David Snowdon is a member of the Churchfields ward panel which acts as the interface between the local community and the Met Police safer neighbourhood team.

In 2020 we had the double challenge of finding a new rector for St Mary's, whilst dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this report shows that St Mary's has continued to prosper in spite of this and has explored new ways to communicate with and support the community. This work will continue to benefit us even when life has returned to normal. For example, now that we have the capability to stream services we will continue to do this so that people unable to get to church get still enjoy our services. The congregation owes an enormous debt to everyone who worked tirelessly to support the church, especially Jean Lear and Linda Wiskin as Church Wardens.

We now enter into 2021 looking forward to both the end of the pandemic and the guidance of our new rector Revd Dr Elizabeth Lowson.

Treasurer's Report 2020

With grateful thanks to our "Planned Givers" who gave almost £3000 more than 2019 despite COVID-19 problems which plus gift aid tax recovery, now up to date, added £24000 to the income. We also received a legacy from Jean Hill and the final instalment of Gwen Clarke's legacy. Obviously, our inability to use the Church premises resulted in a very significant decline in our income from concerts, fund- raising, loose collections & church use for meetings, rehearsals etc; overall a decline approaching £20000. The rent received from the curate's house is crucial in enabling our outgoings to be met. Looking at expenditure for the year, whilst many outgoings continued as normal- Insurance, Diocesan Quota, Maintenance- savings were made on Lighting & Heating and on Music as no Musical Director was in post. The General Fund Reserve, excluding the balance of legacy monies, only covers approximately two and half month's expenditure. My thanks go to our Stewardship Secretary, Anne Jones who gives valuable support with Planned Giving & Gift Aid claims and to Michael Lovejoy for banking tasks. I also thank the Wardens who assist in the authorisation & management of expenditure.

Jane Fone

Church Contact Details

Rector	The Revd Dr Elizabeth Lowson (from February 2021) The Rectory, 8 Chelmsford Road E18 2PL 020 8504 7981		
Parish Office	St Mary's Church 207 High Road, E18 2PA 020 8505 3000 info@stmaryswoodford.org.uk		
Authorised Preacher	Mark Spencer-Ellis		
Lay Readers	Mark Lewis, Rowena Rudkin, Chris Winward		
PCC Secretary	David Snowdon	Treasurer	Jane Fone
Independent Examiner	Yusuf Dedat FCA Suite D, The Business Centre Faringdon Avenue Romford RM3 8EN	Bankers	HSBC George Lane E18 2LX

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD			
Balance Sheet at 31 December 2020			
	Note	2020	2019
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Freehold Land and Buildings	4a	690000	690000
Investments	4b	106498	102869
Total Fixed Assets		796498	792869
CURRENT ASSETS			
Sundry Debtors	5	-	628
CBF Deposit		263934	279282
Bank Balance		27683	38742
		291617	318652
LIABILITIES			
Amounts falling due within one year		4611	3934
NET CURRENT ASSETS		287006	314718
NET ASSETS		1083504	1107587
FUNDS			
Unrestricted			
General Purpose	8	947414	953956
Earmarked		103751	106676
Total Unrestricted Funds		1051165	1060632
Restricted Funds		32339	46955
TOTAL FUNDS		1083504	1107587
Signed: <i>E. Hovson</i> <i>A. Faye</i>			
4.3.2021			

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES									
For the year ended 31 December 2020									
Note	2019	2020	Earmarked	Restricted	2020	2019	Total	2020	Total
	GP Fund	GP Fund					£		£
INCOMING RESOURCES	2	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Income	155932	104065	1000	6000	111065	188932			
Income From Charitable Activities	1637	1376			1376	1637			
Other Income	28594	25151		469	25620	32892			
Investment Income	5266	4179	423	20	4622	5975			
Other Trading Activities	12893	-			-	12893			
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	204322	134771	1423	6489	142683	242329			
RESOURCES USED	3								
Grants				2000	2000	3600			
Activities Directly related to the Work of the Church	146894	134321	4348	19105	157774	171025			
Fundraising and publicity	82	91			91	82			
Church Management and Administration	8366	8815			8815	8366			
Governance Costs	1715	1715			1715	1715			
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	157057	144942	4348	21105	170395	184788			
NET INCOMING/OUTGOING RESOURCES	47265	(10171)	(2925)	(14616)	(27712)	57541			
Interfund Transfers	-20000				-	-			
Profit on Property Revaluation					-	-			
Profit on Investment Revaluation	2254	3629			3629	2254			
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	29519	(6542)	(2925)	(14616)	(24083)	59795			
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD	924437	953956	106676	46955	1107587	1047792			
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD	953956	947414	103751	32339	1083504	1107587			

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Note 1

Accounting Policies

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 view", provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and reporting by Charities (SORP (FRS102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except that the Curate's House is stated at a fair value as agreed by the PCC and investments which are stated at market value.

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC which are not subject to any legal restrictions regarding their use and are available for applications to the general purposes of the PCC. This category includes both the General Purposes Fund and funds earmarked for a particular purpose by the PCC. Restricted funds are those funds which may only be used for the restricted purpose for which they were given or otherwise obtained.

The accounts include all transaction assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Incoming resources

Income from donors and other voluntary income

Planned Giving is recognised only when received.

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when received or when calculated and submitted for payment.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accountable for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Funds raised by the Charity bazaar and other events are accounted for gross unless related expenses are immaterial in amount.

Donated good are recognised at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the statement of financial activities. Monies received in relations to donated goods sold are included under the relevant heading in The Statement of Financial Activities when the good are sold.

Charitable trading

Fees for weddings are included in this caption and accounted for when due.

Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of the curate's house is accounted for when due

Income from investments

Interest on deposits is accounted for when receivable and any related tax recoverable is recognised at the same time.

Resources Used

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over or when awarded if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly related to the work of the church The diocesan quota is accounted for when payable.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 Chapter 2, s.10(2)(C).

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings whether maintenance or improvement is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

Other land and buildings held for use in the work of the church.

The curate's house is included under this caption. It is stated at a fair value as agreed by the PCC.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial

Activities includes net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

Equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £5000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for any amounts that may prove to be uncollectable.

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

Note 2 Incoming Resources

	General	Earmarked	Restricted	2020	2019
	Fund	Funds	Funds	TOTAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving	62924			62924	59986
Income Tax recovered	23991			23991	17718
Loose Collections	2520			2520	5982
Sundry Donations	4361			4361	18039
Donations Earmarked		1000	6000	7000	33000
Church Appeals	-			-	4448
Floodlighting Donation	425			425	380
Magazine Donations	538			538	513
Legacies	9306			9306	48866
	104065	1000	6000	111065	188932
Income: Charitable Activities					
Fees - weddings etc	1376			1376	1637
Other Income					
Rent - Curate's House	22200			22200	21850
Churchyard Income	1500			1500	2500
Fund Raising	1451		469	1920	4244
Bazaar Fund Raising	-			-	4298
	25151		469	25620	32892
Investment Income					
Interest and Dividends	4179	423	20	4622	5975
Other Trading Activities	-			-	12893
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	134771	1423	6489	142683	242329

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

Note 3 Resources Used

	General	Earmarked	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Funds	Funds	Funds	2020	2019
Grants	£	£	£	£	£
Mission societies			2000	2000	2200
Church societies					800
Charities e.g ELHAP					600
			2000	2000	3600
Activities directly related to church work					
Diocesan Quota	92540			92540	89576
Rector's Expenses	99			99	872
Music, Organ & Choir	2446		13	2459	9122
Service Expenses	787			787	1182
Heating/Light/Water	3113			3113	4994
Cleaning	4125			4125	6872
Routine Maintenance	1456			1456	2960
Clergy house expenses	4878	1245		6123	4869
Churchyard Expenses	2429			2429	6741
Insurances	3020			3020	3003
Interregnum expenses	798			798	-
Seekers / Mums & Tods	180			180	555
Memorial Hall Contributions	5580			5580	5472
Printing and stationery inc magazine	1333			1333	2094
Sundries	72			72	36
Outreach inc youth worker	9623		19092	28715	27187
Fabric Expenditure		3103		3103	5313
Churchyard Access Road	1842			1842	177
Total directly related to Church work	134321	4348	19105	157774	171025
Fund Raising and Publicity					
Stewardship Expenses	91			91	82
Church Management and Admin					
Parish Office and Telephone	8815			8815	8366
Governance Costs					
Treasurers/Secretary Expenses	75			75	75
Independent Examiner Fee	1640			1640	1640
	1715			1715	1715
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	144942	4348	21105	170395	184788

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

Notes 4 to 7

NOTE 4 FIXED ASSETS For Use By The PCC

NOTE 4a Freehold land and buildings

Freehold land and buildings comprise the "Curate's House" at 33 Elmhurst Drive. The gross book value is based on a fair valuation as agreed by the PCC in 2017.

NOTE 4b INVESTMENTS	2020	2019
	£	£
CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund		
Income Shares		
Market Value at 31/12/19	102869	100615
Market Value at 31/12/20	106498	102869
Profit on revaluation	3629	2254
NOTE 5 DEBTORS		
Prepayments	-	478
Other Debtors	-	150
TOTAL	-	628

NOTE 6 STAFF COSTS

During the year the PCC employed a youth worker, administration secretary and a cleaner/caretaker. Employment costs are included in the respective expenditure heads. No present member of the PCC received remuneration or expenses. Salaries 2020 £23280 (2019 £25239)

NOTE 7 SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Restricted retiring collections for 2020 for which the PCC acted solely as a post-box amounted to £1163 (2019 £4526)

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

Notes 8 & 9

NOTE 8 ANALYSIS OF FUNDS AND NET ASSETS

	Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Liabilities	FUND BALANCES
	£	£	£	£
General Purpose Fund	796498	155527	-4611	947414
Earmarked Funds				
Fabric Fund		95225		95225
Clergy House Fund		8526		8526
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	796498	259278	-4611	1051165
RESTRICTED FUNDS				
Music Fund		4756		4756
Pinney Fund (a)		200		200
Mission Fund		2803		2803
Youth Worker Fund		24580		24580
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS		32339		32339
TOTAL FUNDS	796498	291617	-4611	1083504

(a) The Pinney Fund is restricted to maintaining a War Memorial Plaque on the North Wall

Note 9

a, The income from Other Trading Activities £Nil (2019 £12893) is the amount received for computer equipment donated to the church and sold to non related third parties.

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER 2020**

FUND NAME	Fund Balances Brought Fwd	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Fund Balances Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	263956	134771	144942		3629	257414
General Fund Property	690000	-	-			690000
Fabric Fund	96944	1384	3103			95225
Clergy House Fund	9732	39	1245			8526
Music Fund	4749	20	13			4756
Pinney Memorial	200	-	-			200
Missionary Giving Fund	4334	469	2000			2803
Youth Worker Fund	37672	6000	19092			24580
TOTALS	1107587	142683	170395		3629	1083504

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC at St Mary's Woodford

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2020 which comprise the Balance Sheet, Statement of Financial Activities and related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the PCC's members you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act;
or

the accounts do not accord with those records; or

the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Yusuf Dedat FCA

Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills
Suite D, The Business Centre
Faringdon Avenue
Romford
Essex
RM3 8EN

Signed: 

Dated: 15/03/2021

Secretary's Report

The PCC supports the Rector and Clergy in their Parish Ministry and has certain legal responsibility for the Church. Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Meeting of the Church in accordance with the Church Representation rules. During 2020 the following served as members of the PCC:

Rector Revd Canon Ian Tarrant (until 1st March)

Lay Readers Mark Lewis, Rowena Rudkin, Chris Winward

Church Wardens

From April 2019 Linda Wiskin
From October 2020 Wendy Littlejohns
Until October 2020 Jean Lear

Deputy Wardens

From October 2020 Viveca Dutt
From October 2020 Philip Petchey
Until October 2020 Sarah Reynolds
Until October 2020 Jane O'Regan

Deanery Synod Sarah Reynolds
John Wiltshire

Elected PCC members

From April 2018 Karen Marsh (until October 2020)
Gemma Low
Anne Jones
From April 2019 Gwen Wiggs
Stephen Wiggs
Sally Phillips
Gerry Everett (until October 2020)

From October 2020 Kate Adu-Baah
Adela Kay
Jano Goodchild
Ian Layzell-Smith

Treasurer Jane Fone

Secretary David Snowdon

Safeguarding officer Jackie Peacock

Electoral roll. In April 2020 there were 152 names on the electoral roll of which 90 were resident in the Parish and 62 non-resident. This compares with 154 in 2019.

Church attendance								
2018 Sunday			2019 Sunday			2020 Sunday		
8am	10am Sung Eucharist	11.15am Said Communion	8am	10am Sung Eucharist	11.15am Said Communion	8 am	10 am Sung Eucharist	11.15 am Said Communion
9	89	49	9	85	56	7	87	49

6 Service

How is your church a blessing to the community you serve? And how is it witnessing to God's kingdom of justice and peace?

Bishop Stephen encourages us to be a *transforming presence* in our locality. This is the responsibility of each church member: to be salt and light among the people they meet each day. As a church however, we serve the local community in a number of ways.

Food and Fellowship

As many know, a lunch has been provided in the Gwinnett Room on the first Friday of each month for a good number of years. This was prepared by members of the congregation and both church members and those from the wider community came along. The last one was held in March 2020 and unfortunately, as with many other events, we have been unable to have any since then. It is hoped that we can begin offering these again as soon as we are able, following the end of lock-down restrictions and people feel comfortable about meeting in the Gwinnett Room again.

Jean Lear

Community Sponsorship



In January 2020 five churches got together to begin a project to bring a Syrian refugee family from Lebanon to Wanstead. Ten volunteers from St Gabriel's Aldersbrook, St Peter's in the Forest, Our Lady of Lourdes, Wanstead Parish and St Mary's Woodford met to plan and consider all the things we would need to

have in place to welcome and support a new family. We were supported by Reset UK and Chelmsford diocese and worked with the Home Office and UNHCR to meet all the government requirements. After months of work on our application, renovating accommodation, building relationships with Redbridge and researching language courses, we are really excited to be welcoming our new family at the end of February 2021.

Sheba Lockley

Hardship

In March 2020 a message left on the church office phone, led to a joint project to support a young family in Chingford who had suddenly fallen onto hard times. Working with All Saint's Woodford Wells (asww.org.uk/lyn), St Mary's helped the family to consider their outgoings, re-budget, and stall debt collectors and bailiffs. Talking to energy providers, universal credit and a variety of creditors, we negotiated manageable, regular repayments and gave the family strategies to keep on track. The interventions worked well and the family happily welcomed their new baby in October feeling more confident than before.

Sheba Lockley

Redbridge Food Bank

St Mary's continued to collect for Foodbank throughout the year and, when our building was closed, we promoted and supported Tin in a Bin – where a number of homes across Aldersbrook, Wanstead and South Woodford became collection points for foodbank donations. In November, we supported Redbridge Foodbank's reverse advent calendar where we were encouraged to give one item of food each day. In August 2020 an appeal from the mutual aid foodbank at Ray Lodge Church, brought generous donations from our local road and community.

Sheba Lockley

Woodford Parish Church Memorial Hall

The hall is a charity financially independent from the church, but managed by Trustees who are members of the Church and is therefore one of the ways in which we serve by the local community. The hall continues to be well managed by Tamsen Mann, supported by her team.

Whilst the hall was not able to be open, the furlough scheme was used for staff and made up to the full amount by the hall funds. The hall continues to derive a supplementary income from two flats at 4 Chelmsford Rd.



With a strong Risk Assessment in place, some groups were able to use the Hall in September until Tier 4 at the end of the year. Approximately 50% of lettings returned with the addition of baby ballet and mini athletics. Guidance is provided for all users of the hall

spaces and hirers are required to provide their own risk assessments in addition. The pre-school has been able to continue under the current rules and Seekers and Quest were able to use rooms whilst maintaining social distancing on Sundays in the autumn.

During the last twelve months, some improvements have gone ahead with the completion of the fire alarm & emergency lighting. There will be the need for some new Trustees in the coming months and the Church Wardens have chaired the Trustees in the absence of a Rector.

Linda Wiskin

St Mary's Toddler Group

Up until March 2020, Toddler Group was meeting each week during term time in the Gwinnell Room. The meetings provide an opportunity for babies and toddlers to have a stimulating time away from their own homes, and for their carers to chat and get to know others with small children. A simple craft activity offered each week (supervised by one of the organisers) helps the children to try out skills such as painting and gluing.

Unfortunately, the Group has not met since Spring 2020 and it is unlikely that it will be able to resume when 'lock-down' ends, as new volunteers are needed to support the provision of this opportunity for the community. Sue Head, who worked at the Group every week, can no longer do so and Jean Lear is unable to be there at every meeting. Volunteers who can commit their time every Thursday, are necessary for the safe and smooth organisation of Toddler Group.

Jean Lear

Guiding at St Mary's

In January, our Rainbows, Brownies and Guides attended the Pantomime at the Hawkey Hall and a lot of traditional good fun (he's behind you!) was had by all. In February Half Term many of us met in the Pankhurst Hall to celebrate Thinking Day with fun activities to provoke thoughts and ideas about the theme of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The 9th Brownies also fitted in a trip to Icando, at Girlguiding HQ in London, and an early Easter egg hunt at the last meeting.

When we could no longer meet, we kept in touch with the girls, some by email and some by WhatsApp, sending them links to the Girlguiding website where there were activities to try out, both indoors as well as to promote doing things that were different outdoors in nature.

As 9th Brownies have the technology, they have, since Autumn, used Zoom to meet. Tawny Owl has prepared quizzes and they have done various crafts and scavenger hunts. They deliver necessary materials to each Brownie's house and

have learnt how to mute and unmute and how to raise (and lower) their hands – digitally of course.

It has proved difficult for us to fit ourselves in to the staying at home life of the girls as they are already using such a large amount of screen time to do schoolwork, and because Guiding is so much about teamwork and social and practical skills. Each unit represents several 'bubbles' of children even when they go back to school, having girls from several different schools and age ranges in each unit, so this has been a major barrier to returning to meeting. Due to the actual ages of the children not being put on hold some will have moved on, without really knowing it, to the next age range's Waiting Lists and we all look forward to re-starting anew with new sets of girls whenever it becomes possible. Each Unit is likely to have about 10 new girls, which is quite exciting.

We very much appreciate the support of St Mary's in our part of the worldwide organisation of Girlguiding and unlike some around the country, the St Mary's (and Derby Road) Units all currently survive, and very much hope that we will be Guiding again soon.

Janet Dunning

Woodford Friends & Neighbours

In January, we spent the evening playing beetle drive and celebrating Louise Park's 90th Birthday. February we had an enjoyable evening with Georgina Green, speaking on Keepers, Cockneys, and Kitchen Maids, In March Sue Osbourne treated us to a flower arranging, little did we know we would not be meeting until 2021 (hopefully), so all our cosy coffee mornings and booked speakers were cancelled.

Keeping in touch by telephone, most members are alright, but not coping so well with the second lock down. We have lost two members recently, Peggy Renouf, we have so many happy memories, she was a member for so many years, she enjoyed reading, knitting and enjoying our tea parties and meals out. Margaret Fletcher also passed away after a long illness, she was a very gentle kind lady, who will be missed.

Pat Smith

Events Committee

We did have a successful Race Night last February in the end. We had full attendance and cleared £800 profit too. Think everybody enjoyed themselves as there were plenty of winners, as well as losers. Little did we know this would be the last social get together for such a long time, and when we're allowed to gather and socialise once again I'm sure we'll all appreciate it so much more than we realised what we were missing. Who thought I'd miss horse racing, even by a short head.

Richard Walker



Street Pastors

St Mary's provides a base for the Redbridge Street Pastors making their monthly Friday night patrol in South Woodford. One of our members takes part in these patrols.

East London Three Faiths Forum

Although a varied program of 7 subjects had been prepared for the 3 faiths Forum meetings for 2020, covering areas like 'Faith in the Workplace', or 'The Use and Abuse of Money within faith Communities', only the first took place.

For the 'Christmas, Channukah & Prophet's Birthday' meeting, our chair, David Hulbert from the Jewish community, arranged a very welcome Zoom. This included a talk from Ian Tarrant, our last rector, on his impressions of Gibraltar. There was also a talk by Prof Abulafia on his book 'The Boundless Sea' of 3 faiths trading and arguing together, and by Khola Hasan on her recent trip to Abu Dhabi to the 'Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies', interspersed with carols and songs.

St Mary's has been the Church most consistently to support this Forum, through Ian who was on the management committee. It may be time to review whether this area of work should be a high priority for this Church, in the next few years. It would widen the knowledge of its work, if another Church took over this responsibility, which should be shared. The current programme can always be found at www.eastlondon3faiths.org

Judy Noble

Bereavement café



The Bereavement café was able to run 5 fortnightly meetings, alternately in St Mary's and Christ Church, before the first Lockdown during March. As it is Drop-in, someone stood outside, in case someone came. In the Summer we explored the possibility of discussing our opening in future, but it was clearly too early to make

plans. Still it was good to touch base. In December before the 'New variant' was identified, we hoped to start thinking about 'where we go from here'. Among the personal and practical items we'll want to think about before we start are: Do we all want to stay involved? Whether some or all of the people who came previously will want to return? If we personally know of others, who would want this kind of support? Does our café have, or could have, something unique to offer, from amongst the other locally available café and bereavement resources? How may we publicise what we want to do? Are there any changes we would like to see?

Judy Noble

7 Hospitality

What are you doing to ensure that your church is a place of safety and welcome for all ages and for people of all backgrounds?

We want to welcome all kinds of people to St Mary's, modelling the welcome that Jesus offered. Each person is valuable to God, each person is valuable to us. This has to be reflected in the care that we offer each person, and in the maintenance of the environment where we meet.

Pastoral care

The focus of pastoral care has, as ever, been on members who are elderly, unwell or housebound. The past year has seen more practical needs to which

we have endeavoured to respond but, in most cases, these have been addressed through the amazing kindness of families, friends and neighbours.

Apart from the practical, there have been spiritual needs too which, at times of lockdown we have endeavoured to address by providing streamed and recorded services, by hand- delivering the weekly newsletter to those without internet access and through personal telephone contact.

In so doing, we hope that we have done the best we can in helping to maintain our spiritual lives and the pastoral concern that God has for us and for each other. As part of our wider pastoral care, along with fellow members from churches in our MMU we have been involved in the running of 'Bereavement Cafes' at Christ Church in Wanstead and here at St Mary's but, sadly, we have been precluded from meeting since February 2020.

We also support the chaplaincy team at Snaresbrook Crown Court, but the court was closed during lockdown and, when it was open during the summer, it was only twice a week for an hour a day. When open, we continued the pattern of holding a monthly service of holy communion. **Chris Winward**

Safeguarding

At St Mary's we are committed to safeguarding children, young people, victims/perpetrators of domestic abuse and vulnerable adults. We have adopted the Church of England's National Policy for Safeguarding. There is an A3 poster "Promoting a Safer Church" on display in the church entrance. This provides contact details and "Helpline" information. Safeguarding information is also available on our website.

We keep a record of Church members who have clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and ensure that it is kept up to date.



We recognize the importance of up-to-date safeguarding training and several members of our congregation and leaders have undertaken training.

Best practice on safeguarding can be found on the Church of England's website: www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding **Jackie Peacock**

Fabric Committee

During 2020 David Mason has continued with routine maintenance of the Churchyard, mowing the grass, tidying up paths, etc. A garden contractor has been employed (on an occasional basis) to keep the Memorial Garden in a more orderly shape and prevent it from becoming unkempt. It is suggested that this should continue in future, perhaps with regular visits, so that other areas of the Churchyard can be taken in hand. Work continued on the plans to widen and relay the drive, these having been delayed by the need to get planning permission. It is hoped that a faculty for the work will be granted in 2021. During the initial 'lock-down' there was some doubt at first about whether access to the Church was allowed but when this was cleared up, David continued with cleaning and routine work inside. The electronic screen has been moved from its temporary position in the office to the wall beside the doors into Church as intended.

As there were no services in Church in the spring and early summer, the Chapel ceiling was painted and repairs made to the lighting in there. The appearance of the dais has been much improved by the replacement of the carpet and although the colour is not quite the same as before, it blends very well with that of the pew cushions.

8 Interdependence

How are you working in partnership with other Christian communities in your locality and at diocesan, national and global levels?

Deanery of Redbridge

Anglican parishes in the London Borough of Redbridge constitute the Deanery of Redbridge within the Diocese of Chelmsford. In 2020 our lay representatives on the Deanery Synod were John Wiltshire and Sarah Reynolds. The Synod only met twice in 2020 due to COVID. With our representatives attending their first meeting in November. Much of this meeting was dedicated to the financial challenges facing the whole diocese as well as the continued focus and immediate call to action to tackle Climate crisis setting out the diocese's response and aspirations to achieve net zero carbon emissions. A scheme is to be put in place to encourage each parish to achieve at least Bronze level to

enable Chelmsford to become an eco-Diocese

The synod receives regular reports on vocations, youth, Education Scrutiny Committee, the 5 MMUs, Diocesan Synod and General Synod. A report and the minutes from Deanery synod are tabled at our PCC meetings. St Marys have three seats on the Synod and currently only have two reps, if anyone is interested in joining Sarah and John as St Marys' Reps please contact the Wardens.

Sarah Reynolds

West Roding Mission Partnership

The Parishes of Aldersbrook, Wanstead, Woodford, South Woodford and Walthamstow – St Peter in the Forest, Mission and Ministry Unit (MMU) – form the West Roding Mission Partnership. 2020 was a year of change for the MMU and Committee with the departure of three clergy, Ian Tarrant leaving St Mary's, Fr Jack Dunn leaving Wanstead and Fr Paul Trathen leaving the Parish of St Peter in the Forest. In addition, the Parish of Holy Trinity South Woodford left the MMU becoming linked to All Saints Woodford Wells.

A new Chair (Martyn Hawkes, Vicar St Gabriel's Aldersbrook) and Minutes Secretary (Amelia Hart, St Gabriel's) were elected to hold office with effect from September 2020 for a year. John Bradley stood down from the Committee and Jean Lear and Linda Wiskin joined Anne Jones as representatives for St Mary's. We would like to record our thanks to John Bradley for his contribution to the Committee over the last four years.

Regrettably, the pandemic has meant the suspension of joint face-to-face activities for the majority of 2020. The Committee has continued to meet online and share and promote information about services and activities whenever permitted and looks forward to working together in 2021.

Anne Jones

Kenya

Our partnership with Kenya continues. Our Link parish, The Church of the Good Shepherd, Muchunguri, in Mbeere Diocese, the Vicar is now Ven Jenard Nyaga Nthiga. The Church congregations have all been affected by Covid19 just as we have. Lockdown closed all the churches for a while and even now they are only partially reopened for 6-64 yrs olds. So, the very young and the elderly are unable to attend. This partial reopening has affected the cash giving very severely. Most church giving is by cash offerings on a Sunday. Each church has a parish share to pay to the diocese as here, if they don't pay up then the vicar doesn't get paid. Consequently, the clergy income is down and some have been reduced to begging from friends and

The retired Bishop Rt Rev Gideon Ireri, who died in January 2021, based the altar and kneeling area on St Mary's Woodford raised dais.



neighbours. Some Chelmsford diocesan friends have been supporting Jenard. St Johns Church, Kirimiri is a daughter congregation of Muchunguri and now has a stone-built building instead of a wattle and daub one.

Emmanuel church at Mariari. Is now an independent parish with its own vicar Rev Esther Muriithi. Mariari wishes to remain part of our partnership There is a



Muchunguri Dispensary

new congregation at Ngaari, which is nearby and now part of Emmanuel.

The Dispensary - We have been frustrated by the lack of progress; they were about to upgrade the dispensary when Covid struck so all work has been put on hold. There is electricity and water on site, the lack of which at one time made it more difficult to create an effective medical service there. A new Board of Management has been formed so we wait to see if there is any further progress.

At **Makutano** we support the St Michael and All Angels Childrens Home in the grounds of the Church at the other end of the Mbeere Diocese; a 90 minute drive away. The vicar is Rev Jackson (Jack) Njue Ngari. We currently sponsor four boys and a girl in Secondary education, who having passed their primary exams went on to Secondary schools. That is a testament to the support they get from the home. We continue to seek sponsorship for the children, especially now that several have completed their education and need to do post education courses to secure employment. **Anthony** Matheka Watheka completed a two-year *Diploma in Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality*



General view of Dining Hall & Dormitory that St Mary's have contributed to at Makutano



Anthony Matheka Watheka

Management course and was one of only 5 out of 50 to graduate and I was able to watch his graduation on YouTube, which was great. Unfortunately, Covid lockdown then happened at a very bad time to be looking for work. He is now considering returning to college to upgrade to a degree, another four years.

There are now twenty-one children including three girls at Makutano. The girls' dormitory needs refurbishment. Sixteen children are in Primary school which is for eight years with Secondary education of four years.

During the pandemic, all schools were closed for nine months March- December 2020 so nine months education has been lost. All the children were sent home to their relatives or guardians, so the home only had the caretaker living on the premises. The Home has now reopened.

Wendy Littlejohns

9 Generosity

What are you doing to ensure that your Church is showing signs of generosity towards the wider church and community as well as becoming financially secure?

Mission Committee

2020 activities came to an abrupt halt with the first Covid lockdown in March, but not before we had been able to welcome our new CMS Mission Partners Tom & Verity Clare and their four boys. Ezra, Eli, Simeon & Joel aged one to six, who visited us in February. A successful Saturday Bingo evening was enjoyed and the following Sunday the whole family introduced themselves during the service and the subsequent lunch. In addition, we had pledged to send £2000 from the Bazaar funds each year. We are so grateful for the support that was shown in support of their work now being done in Uganda. They arrived in Arua Uganda just days before their lockdown due to Covid. They have sent us regular updates on their work. Verity is home schooling the four boys and Tom is

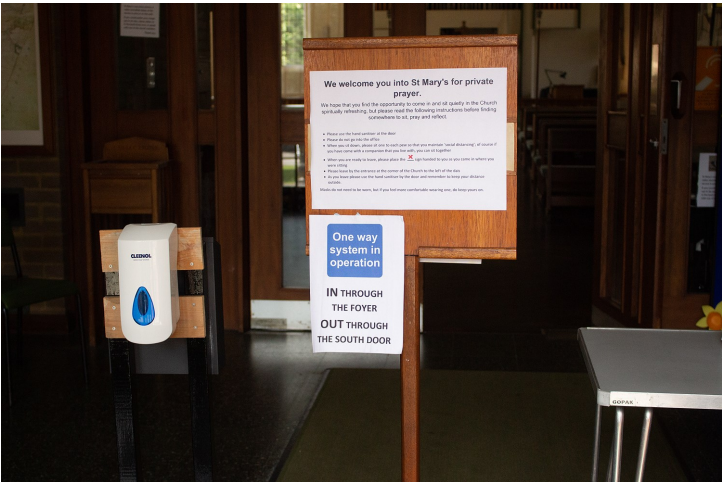
engaged in medical clinics amongst the Sudanese refugees in addition to the local Ugandan population. As there was no Bazaar in 2020, we saved the £4000 raised in 2019 for the Clare family in 2020 & 2021. We sent gifts from the Harvest Festival to the Manna Society including a sale of jams and chutneys. We look forward to being able to have our usual fund-raising events in the future.

Wendy Littlejohns



The Clare family

2020 presented many challenges but it's a testament to the resilience of the St Mary's community that we have adapted, and continue to support one another.



Generosity in numbers...

Mission Societies	£	Special Collections	£
Church Mission Society	2000	Send A Cow	215
		CMS Partnership	748
		Manna Centre	200
		Total	£1,163

Thank you

