



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

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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

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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

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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

Church Wardens

Elected PCC Members
- Revd Elizabeth Lowson

Viveca Dutt
Philip Petchey

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

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod

Deputy Warden

Deputy Warden

Treasurer

Secretary

Safeguarding officer
- Sarah Reynolds

John Wiltshire

Linda Wiskin

Anne Jones (until May 2023)

Jano Goodchild

Shirley Lai (from May 2023)

Adela Kay

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)

ST MARY WITH ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES WOODFORD

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

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rector@stmaryswoodford.org.uk

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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		

