THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD

England & Wales · Charity number 1127753

Details

Other names	PARISH OF WANSTEAD PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-01-28
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	c/o The Rectory 37 Wanstead Place London E11 2SW
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Activities

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

Activities: THE CHARITY IS THE PARISH OF WANSTEAD IN EAST LONDON, PROVIDING CHURCH SERVICES AND SUPPORT TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Classification

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

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Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£397,296	£337,710	-	-
2023-12-31	£329,578	£331,521	-	-
2022-12-31	£293,977	£286,912	-	-
2021-12-31	£384,724	£270,047	-	-
2020-12-31	£982,087	£295,783	£2,597,244	3

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev James Gilder	Chair	2022-10-06
Adrian Bakelmun		2025-05-18
Ann Betty Beryl Corne		2023-05-21
Ayorkor Djaama Davis		2025-05-18
Carry Green		2026-05-03
David James Lappano		2024-06-23
Davis Taylor Watson		2025-05-18
Gary Vickers		2026-05-03
James Alexander Boast		2023-05-21
James Paterson		2020-10-26
Janet Margaret Andrews		2023-05-21
Janet Teresa Watson		2024-05-19
Jennifer Ann Griffiths		2020-10-26
Jennifer Mary Ambler		2024-05-19
Jeremy Green		2019-04-28
Joanne Hayes		2025-05-18
Joshua Dickinson		2020-10-26
Lauren Johnson		2022-05-15
Lesley Ann Dennis		2023-05-21
Margaret Adams		2020-10-26
Mark Herring		2026-05-03
Philip Carnelley		2017-06-01
Preethi Audrey Premkumar		2024-01-11
Ralph George Hall		2019-04-28
Richard Messingham		2026-05-03
Robert Oxlade		2026-05-03

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST C

England & Wales - Charity number 1127753

Accounts

Wanstead Parish

St Mary with Christ Church

Annual report

and

Financial Statements

of the

Parochial Church Council

of the

Ecclesiastical Parish of

St Mary with Christ Church, Wanstead

for the
Year ended 31st December 2024
Registered Charity Number 1127753

Rector:
The Revd. James Gilder
The Rectory,
37 Wanstead Place,
Wanstead

Banks:
NatWest Bank
HSBC Bank
CCLA Investment Management Ltd

Independent Examiner:
Lorraine Catherine Purdy FCCA, Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills

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RECTOR'S REPORT

If I had to sum up 2024, I would do so by saying that it has been a year of us all pushing up hill!

It has been a delight to welcome Fr David to this parish as full-time curate for the next three years, and to see him very quickly grow into the role and become a wonderful asset to Wanstead. Likewise, the rest of the growing clergy team – now seven strong – has meant that we have been able to achieve far more than were you saddled with me alone. Mthr Anne Mackenna has accomplished very significant amounts of parish visiting this year, as have several other clergy, and I am confident that it would be hard to find a parish in England which paid greater attention to this important part of church life. Fr Charles has started several new learning groups this year, which have been well-attended often by younger parents, and have led to much spiritual growth. Revd Olive has started a spiritual direction course, and has continued her ministry to the high street. The number of clergy we have has meant that we are able to offer cover to other churches on a fairly regular basis, and this is much-appreciated by those less well-resourced than ourselves. I am hugely grateful to all the team, many of whom are volunteers and give of their time freely.

A significant amount of my year was spent co-ordinating the Christ Church Heritage Lottery Project and it was extremely satisfying to see many people (around 50 in total) volunteering to take part in the preparation for this very large and initially daunting task. Although we have yet to be successful in our bid, it is clear that we have the human resource and ingenuity to make such a project a great success, and already out of it have come several key partnerships – with the Weavers Company, with UCL – a group of masters students from which engaged with a week-long course about the parish and a site visit to both churches, and with members of the local community through the highly successful kneeler project masterminded by Su Allison. As we look forward to 2025, it is hoped that much of this good work will continue to bear fruit.

At St Mary's, we have enjoyed another very successful music festival including an opera written especially for us, and thanks must go to Alison Wells for doing so much to organise not only the music at St Mary's but also, for having taken over the Parish Choir in February and doing such an excellent job in building up their numbers and their skills. New vestments were purchased in time for Christmas, including a one-off copy of a beautiful Bodley chasuble made by Watts & Co, which it is hoped will be treasured for years to come.

It is with sadness that we lost several key members of our community this year, either to death or to removal. In particular, the deaths of Prinny Woolcock and Helen Bostock, and the moving away of Richard Williams and Ann Cheetham, have all made their mark - and we miss them.

Attendance numbers have held fairly steady across the board and we have been pleased to welcome a number of new church members, as well as electing Simon Morris and Mark Taylor to be authorised local preachers. Easter attendance figures across Maundy Thursday – Easter Sunday were particularly good in 2024, the best in at least a decade, and the Christmas card delivery and other good advertising throughout December meant another good year for Christmas figures, particularly at the carol service with 450 attending meaning a completely full house and standing room only!

We held a giving campaign at the end of October and it has been good to see a positive response to this, both in some people upping their giving and new people starting to commit to giving. The renting out of the vestry at Christ Church to Kare Plus has done much to help plug what would otherwise have been something of a black hole in parish finances.

A personal highlight of the year was the parish hosting Rachel and my wedding at the end of August. We were so grateful that everyone thoroughly 'pulled out all the stops' for what was possibly the first wedding of a sitting incumbent of Wanstead in a thousand years.

A huge thank you to everyone who volunteers in our parish, in whatever capacity. Over 100 people are active volunteers in one way or another, and you all put so much into making this parish what it is. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

So, where to next for this band of pilgrims who call the Parish of Wanstead home? That is of course down to God and, as they say – 'if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans'. Nonetheless, we do hope that 2025 will see a successful outcome for the building project at Christ Church coupled with developments in how we might best use the St Mary's site too. There are also opportunities from the central Church of England for funding for mission – something that we are seeking to lead the way on here, as we have applied to be a 'Genesis Church' for choral music – so, a church that can grow its own strength and help others to do the same. We hope to develop a children's choir here and that this may lead to wider engagement with the parish. Other ideas encompass a more imaginative approach to all age worship, and a major parish walking pilgrimage to Canterbury which will hopefully take place mid-2025.

My hope is that at the end of 2025 we will have reaped some reward for our labours, and that as a parish community we will have experienced some new ways of working, new ways of being together. Much of the organisational niggles and structural problems which perhaps faced the parish a few years ago have been ironed out and – for now at least – things are running fairly smoothly, so this is perhaps the time to experiment a little. I hope it will be a fun adventure for us all!

Fr James Gilder

CHURCH WARDENS' REPORTS

St Mary's

It has been a sparkling year for St Mary's with a number of spectacular weddings taking place during the summer.

Wanstead Fringe have identified St Mary's as their preferred venue for the opening and closing of their events. St Mary's is becoming a prominent venue for cultural events both within and without the Wanstead Fringe programme. In May, Alison Wells ran the now popular Music Festival over the bank holiday weekend. Fr Charles hosted a choir from Crowsland Abby in Lincolnshire.

The interest in Wanstead history continues to thrive and the role that St Mary's plays in that. Consequently, there are regular visits during our "open Saturdays" and the crypt tours remain a popular event during Wanstead Fringe.

Educationally, St Mary's is regaining its pre-Covid status with Forest School holding a concert here plus the resumption of Wanstead High School's art exhibition, which had the added compliment of the school's Jazz Band playing during the evening. Unfortunately, the weather caused the planned BBQ to be cancelled. Jenny Griffiths involved a group of foreign students from UCL in a 'history of the parish' day. Cranbrook Primary School made use of the churches historical resource with their students attending over two days. Wanstead Church School also made use of the church to enhance the pupils understanding of local history.

June 24th we held a 'St Mary's Day Service.' The intention was to grow the congregation and celebrate the consecration of the church in 1790. The congregation were asked for their favourite hymns, 3 of which were sung during the service. The service was followed by a champagne reception on the steps of the church.

We have seen a boost in numbers over the year and have had to purchase more hymn books to accommodate the rise in numbers. Service booklets for both Lay Led Services, Common Worship and B C P have been produced. We thank Julie Williams for designing and producing such high quality booklets.

All of the main pews, now have cushions. This has been made possible thanks to the John Sunley legacy. The painting of Christ, receiving the chalice in the garden of Gethsemane, which hangs in the chancel, has been cleaned and rehung.

Nine Lessons and Carols was held, and the church was full on this joyous celebration that is very much part of Wanstead Christmas tradition.

In the churchyard work continues to enhance the area, led by Phil Ryan and his dedicated team. A generous donation has been made to renovate and repair the Grade II listed railings to the north and northeast of the church. Work continues on raising funds for the crypt, thanks to James Paterson and his team. The south wall of the churchyard, which is leaning south, will be repaired and the cooperation of the new owner of the golf club is much appreciated in this

matter. A parish group are looking into the development of an area in the churchyard for interning ashes remains.

Tin in a Bin, the foodbank "wholesaler" continues to offer much needed support to those in need through around 10 local foodbanks from their base at St Mary's and it continues to welcome Duke of Edinburgh volunteers. Tin in a Bin have expressed their gratitude to the PCC for allowing St Mary's to be their base.

We have a new regular hirer, Everywhere Theatre, a youth theatre group.

The four teams of volunteers known at St Mary's as the "PODs" continue to open St Mary's every Saturday 10 – 1pm to welcome visitors, whilst also using any quite moments to clean the church. We are very grateful to all the volunteers for making St Mary's so welcoming and clean.

Thanks go to the amazing work the 'flower ladies' do throughout the year. It is always pleasant to finish a service with a coffee and a chat. Thank you to all who make the running of the church so smooth, welcoming and happy.

Ralph Hall

Churchwarden 2024

Christ Church

Regular Services

The 9.30 service has special provision for families and young people in the hall most Sundays and an all age eucharist in church on one Sunday each month. Clergy lead the prayers and activities for families with younger children. Our parish youth worker leads what is a growing young people's group for older children. Everyone comes together for communion and the final hymn (now shown on the screen), prayers and notices, followed by coffee and biscuits in the hall. Usually, well over 100 attend this service. Instead of a collection, we are trialling leaving a collection plate at the entrance and will monitor the outcome into 2025.

Sunday evening services offer a variety of worship, for example a healing service on the first Sunday of the month, and Jazz Vespers during the Wanstead festival. The Thursday morning Eucharist and 8 am Sunday service have small but very regular congregations too.

Church Building

The Fabric committee met regularly during 2024 and provided advice and support on a number of matters, for which I am very grateful. The Christ Church building remains on the at-risk register and the bell tower in particular continues to deteriorate and is cause for concern.

The heating is operating at less than half power, so it can be very chilly. Options to provide better, greener heating have been investigated in detail but none

proved practical so far and investigations continue, with the solution hopefully funded as part of the Heritage Lottery bid.

A large number of minor works and improvements have been undertaken e.g. improved lighting (thank you James and Eli), repairs to the leaking roof, improvements to the sound system and security. Alan Dowers has either done many of the minor repairs or overseen others and his help is truly invaluable. Anne Corne, our verger, continues to care for the silverware, linens, vestments, etc., and we are very grateful.

We had an Archdeacon's visitation, including inspection of Parish records. There were some minor recommendations made to bring us in line with best practices but overall it was a good outcome. Thanks go to Lorraine who has made a huge impact on our record keeping and maintained a routine maintenance schedule throughout the year.

You may remember the burglary on 10 December 2023. The insurance did pay out allowing for doors to be mended etc. Security has also been improved for the office. Sadly, the registers of baptisms, marriages and burials that were in the stolen safe have still not been found, so many thanks go to Jan Andrews and Lorraine Bucknell for all their hard work in recreating the registers and records of where ashes are interred. This was a difficult, tedious but necessary job.

One very positive change this year has been increased opening hours for Christ Church. It is surprising (to me at least!), but very gratifying, to see how many people wander in for a quiet reflective moment, light a candle, or just admire the interior of a building where they knew only the exterior. Even those who initially come to shelter from rain appreciate their surroundings.

Gardens

Steve and the gardening club have ensured that the Christ Church gardens remain a real asset to the whole of Wanstead, a huge thank you to Steve and all the gardening club, and to everyone who has picked up litter, for all your hard work. The gardens are enjoyed by huge numbers, which is a real blessing, though litter and minor vandalism remain a problem (as indeed it is for the main park).

Plans were made for changes to the Memorial Garden, thank you to Margaret Adams for leading the committee that investigated and recommended changes. These will be put in place once the relevant Church of England approvals are obtained (which may take some time). The main part of the plan is to install a fence or wall around three sides of the memorial garden lawn, around the flower beds, to provide somewhere for memorial plaques to be installed, along with better signage to indicate memorial garden status.

Outreach

In September, for the Wanstead festival, a concert was organised through Songhaven, kindly funded by Carrolle Jamieson. This was led by professional

musicians in a relaxed atmosphere, so ideal for those with dementia or neurodiverse. Around 100 attended.

The mental wellbeing support group, A Place, led by James Boast, continues on the first Sunday of each month and has been much appreciated. Monthly tea and fellowship afternoons have also started and been much appreciated.

Little Angels group for pre-school age children meets on Wednesdays in Christ Church at a nominal cost. A huge thank you to those who volunteer their support for this group.

Volunteers

Christ Church is blessed with very many volunteers who contribute a huge amount. That said, we do still need more in just about every area. So a very heartfelt thank you to all the sidespeople and welcomers, flower arrangers, those who change altar frontals, serve, support children's groups, manage the sound system, play the organ, spring clean (several times a year!), offer coffee after services, Eucharistic ministers, are on intercessors and readers rotas, set up before and clear up after services, count collections, tidy the church/vestry, sing in the choir, bell ringers, liaise about music, bring Tin in a Bin and other donations, support outreach, support the loss and bereavement café, parish giving organisers and safeguarding officers – I apologise in advance for missing any volunteers, there are thankfully just so many of you!

Barbara Hepworth Jones

Churchwarden 2024

LAY LEADERS REPORT

Lay leadership, which had been part of our worship in both our churches, continues to be appreciated by the congregation of St Mary's.

Since last year's report there have been no lay led services at Christ Church. The pattern of worship there, which started in Sept 2023 has continued. There is a 9.30am Eucharist service every Sunday. The lay leaders who worship at Christ Church are actively involved in the services by doing intercessions and readings but there have been no services.

The pattern of worship at St Mary's has slightly changed with the 5th Sunday now being a joint service at Christ Church at 9.30am. This happens 4/5 times a year. The congregation have fed back that they like the variety. The pattern is as follows: 1st Sunday Common Worship, 2nd Sunday Eucharist (clergy led), 3rd Sunday BCP and 4th Sunday Eucharist (clergy led); if there is a 5th Sunday, it's a joint service at Christ Church at 9.30am.

There continues to be very positive feedback from the congregation on the quality of the lay led services and the variety of homilies.

Alongside our Sunday services we have continued to enjoy Compline every Wednesday at 8pm. This is a short 15-minute service which offers an opportunity

for a re boot during the middle of the week. Primarily, this is led by Susan Holdham, and other Lay Leaders fill in when she is away. It is held every week except the week after Christmas and has a small dedicated following.

This year Susan led a very moving and reflective Good Friday service at St Mary's. Alison Wells our director of Music played the organ and sang Vexilla Regis with members of the church choir.

Christmas Compline, 'Angels and Songs', on 18th Dec was a beautiful service, designed by Susan and Alison. Many people commented on how well the service was put together with some very touching and thought-provoking poetry and musical pieces. The service was well attended.

Several of the lay leaders have been attending the Course for Christian studies. They have all done Year 1 and some will continue to do Year 2. There will be a service at Chelmsford Cathedral in 2025 where each course attendee will receive a CCS certificate for completing the first year.

A highlight for many of the lay leaders was being part of a Quiet Day at Aylesford Priory in October 2024 and everyone felt it would be good to find more opportunities to meet together. For 2025, there is a feeling that it would be useful to have another Away day / weekend to help with our spiritual growth and to challenge ourselves to develop further, particularly in finding interesting resources for the homily / reflection.

The Lay Leaders across the parish are committed to helping the Rector and the rest of our clergy team develop the spiritual life of our parish. We look forward to working more actively with the clergy team in the following years.

Carry Green

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Our main parish provision for young people has continued apace this year, with nursery church and junior church continuing to be popular each Sunday at Christ Church, and it has been excellent to see a steady uptick in numbers of primary age children continuing to attend and to engage with the church as the year has gone on. Little Angels has been much-aided by Fr David joining the team, as has the Bridge youth club, which continues to run on Friday nights and mainly serves the 11-13 age group. Fr Charles has assisted in teaching both Year 5 and Year 6 RE throughout the year and Fr James ran a successful confirmation group for Year 6 pupils, as well as the usual 'admission to Holy Communion' in Year 3. Many children participated in our 'Step into Easter' Holy Week children's activities and there were good numbers of children who attended at Christmas. A priority ought to be expanding the Junior Church offering on a Sunday, though this is a volunteer pinch-point. Much of our children and youth work was run by the Red Balloon charity, which sadly became insolvent in September 2024. We acted quickly to recruit Elizabeth Shaw, who used to work for Red Balloon, and this meant we were able to continue without any gap in provision.

Fr James

ACTIVITIES AND GROUPS

Prayer Group

Prayer Group is a small informal group which meets at Christ Church at 10am on Tuesdays in term time, either in the Lady Chapel or in the Vestry. We focus each week on a passage taken from the previous Sunday's readings. (A brief reflection on the chosen passage can be found in the pew sheet attached to the weekly parish email – a paper copy is available at the services, and at the Tuesday meeting.) Anyone interested in discussing and praying about these issues, or simply in finding out more, would be welcome to drop in – there's no need to make a regular commitment. Open discussion and the airing of new points of view are welcomed. The meetings typically last a little over an hour. We still use many of the prayers developed by Valerie Gritten, and we seek to honour her commitment to prayer as the "work of God" in the parish, and to developing our own prayer life.

Mark Taylor

Welcomers

Happily, 2024 was a fairly calm year for the Christ Church welcoming team, now that we have all settled into our Sunday service patterns. During the year we were very pleased to add some new volunteers to the team, and they have brought an enthusiasm and energy to the role which has been most valuable. The presence of welcomers at the beginning and the end of every service helps to ensure that all congregants, whether regular or visitors, feel comfortable and appreciated, and I am extremely grateful to everyone who agrees to take on this straightforward but rewarding volunteer role. We would always love to hear from anyone who would be prepared to help on just one Sunday a month, to ensure that our small but dedicated team remains viable in 2025.

Eleanor Taylor

A Place (Mental Health Support

A Place has been running for just over a year now. In 2024, our loyal group of hosts refined how the group operates to ensure it meets the needs of the community. We have settled into a good rhythm and have an offering that is of value. We have made efforts to spread the word about A Place, to ensure it reaches as many people as possible who may have a need. In 2025, we aim to continue our efforts to reach as wide an audience as possible and to learn and evolve A Place in order to continue to meet the needs of the community.

James Boast

Sunday Afternoon Tea and Chat

We have now been hosting the monthly Afternoon Tea and Fellowship for a year and on the whole these sessions are very well attended, filling two, sometimes three tables in the vestry. Those attending are a mix of members of the congregation and local folk who have become friends since joining us.

Those attending find that Sunday afternoon can be a difficult time if you are on your own for one reason or another. The Sunday afternoon get-togethers are bringing together those in need of a bit of company over tea and cake. The band of willing volunteers provide all the refreshments including delicious homemade cakes and treats and our emphasis is placed on socialising with the guests. We somehow always have a good number of volunteers, who come back time after time, as we all enjoy vibrant conversation and putting the world to rights. We sometimes have pet dogs visit too who are always a delight. Feedback from those who attend is that they really enjoy the time chatting, having somewhere local and friendly to go for the afternoon and meeting other people in the parish. All afternoons are held in the Vestry at Christ Church which works really well for us. We welcome anyone new who would like to come along and we update our flyer regularly with new dates in advance.

Caroline Kingswood

The St. Mary's Gardening Group

During 2024, the St. Mary's Gardening Group broadened its scope still further from gardening to landscaping, arboriculture and even some stonemasonry, all made much easier with the required strimming & mowing of the near-4-acre site by the Council's appointed contractors.

The rewarding results can be seen and appreciated by all those who now choose to visit the peaceful, open aspects of this historical haven, whether to visit deceased loved ones, research the fascinating history within, seek the resident fauna and renowned flora, walk their dog, read the morning paper or for some peace and quiet with or without their iPhone.

We appear to have lost some formerly avid members but have been compensated with new recruits & enthusiastic help from the younger generation involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Perspectives from North to South, West to East have been maintained, hedges and shrubs trimmed, the Northern flowerbed filled, ivy (specifically from headstone epitaphs) and brambles removed, as well as saplings from graves; we have built a sizeable compost heap and more beehives have been added close by the original site alongside the old Mortuary.

Newcomers are always welcome in our friendly all-age 'club'; the more the merrier. If you can cope with secateurs, you will have an impact worthy of compliments!

Phil Ryan

Christ Church Gardening Club

This season 2024 the hard pruned hedges that were layered have improved boundary visibility and the growth has disguised the scars particularly after clipping.

Dead shrubs have again been removed and replaced. As much grass cutting and shredded leaf fall as possible continues to be used as mulch around plants helping them survive during the hot summer months but watering remains essential and is difficult to achieve. The Berginia Cordifolia that thrives widely throughout the grounds did not survive once transferred to the barren area beneath the trees by the south gate. Bulbs have previously not survived here either and another solution must be found for this dry shady and trampled area.

The garden gives pleasure to many, is well used and appreciated but there is still a significant nuisance from the needless dropping of rubbish that is cleared first thing on every session and by other kind volunteers between times. The front drive and paths are regularly maintained but as they have not been relevelled ponding results and a permanent solution is required.

Volunteering remains very rewarding for all and more are encouraged to join the team to witness the benefits first hand. The gardening team is enthusiastic and is willingly supported by students who enjoy the experiences and valuable skills learnt.

We meet fortnightly on Saturday mornings between 09:00 and 12:30.

Steve Davenport

Night Shelter

A large team from Wanstead once again volunteered to provide the parish link for the Forest Churches Emergency Night Shelter both at the start and end of 2024, supplying meals and company each Tuesday night during the period October-March. Two particularly pleasing developments have been new people coming on to the team, and pupils and parents from each class at Wanstead Church School taking it in turns to provide cakes and baked goods for the service users and staff at the shelter. Thank you to all who have volunteered in any way.

Fr James

Walsingham Pilgrimage

A group of parish pilgrims enjoyed a successful trip to Walsingham in July 2024. Although the group was smaller than in previous years, we enjoyed good weather and a well-organised pilgrimage, culminating in a service on the Sunday at Walsingham Parish Church with the other groups who were there at the same time as us. As ever, the food was excellent and the setting within the beautiful shrine, first-rate. It was a delight to soak up some of the beautiful north Norfolk countryside and to have time for fellowship outside the normal parish

setting - a chance to recharge batteries and meet with other Anglican pilgrims from all over the country.

Fr James

Engelskirchen Link

The Parish pulled out all the stops for our German guests this year, visiting us as they did straight after Easter. Our ten guests were hosted by a number of parish families and despite some cold weather, they were treated to a number of delights – from an English wine tasting evening, hosted by Alison Wells and Terry Currans, a 'beer and songs' night, a trip to Mersea Island and a visit to the William Morris House and 'God's Own Junkyard' in Walthamstow. Fr James and Rachel were pleased to welcome Pastor Johannes and his wife Annette back to the UK later in the year to take part in their wedding. We look forward to a return visit by members of our parish to Engelskirchen in 2025.

Fr James

Flower Arrangers

The flower arrangers at St Marys have continued to provide the church with a variety of lovely arrangements to suit the season. These are variously fresh, silk and dried. The usual highlights are at Easter, when the church is decked with spring flowers including daffodils which light it up beautifully. At Christmas, there is the annual Christmas Carol service of nine lessons and carols which is a continuing and growing attraction for the congregation and visitors. However, this year had a different highlight in the form of the weddings held in the church this year and in particular the wedding of our own Rector, Revd James Gilder and his lovely bride, Rachel. All the flower arrangers from both churches were invited to take part and we were greatly assisted by the Flower Arrangers class from Wanstead House who made the pew ends. It was a wonderfully joyous occasion and a privilege to be able to take part. We would welcome any new arrangers who would like to join the rota and hope to run a session for any beginners who would like to join us. Help and support would be provided.

Margaret Thoresby

REPORT OF ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

At the end of 2024, the Parish Electoral Roll stood at 402. We had 14 people join the Electoral roll during the year and 3 people were removed due to passing away or moving from the area. The Electoral Roll is kept updated and preparation of a new Electoral roll will take place in 2025 as the last one was prepared in 2019. The new roll will be submitted for consideration at the APCM. Any parishioners wishing to join the Parish Electoral Roll, at any time, are welcome to fill in forms available either in both our churches or obtained from the Parish Office via email to wansteadparishadmin@uwclub.net.

Lorraine Bucknall

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

Baptism numbers have dipped quite significantly this year but we have still welcomed 13 families; 1 adult, 10 infants and 2 children were baptised, with 3 ceremonies being held at St Mary's and 10 at Christ Church. Again all have been greeted and welcomed by Yvy, Danielle, Lisa, and Phil. I am very grateful for their support in this important work.

Weddings have been a change from the norm as all six were at St Marys rather than the usual mix of both churches. We started and ended the year with quiet, very small, intimate services, one with our Music Director, and the other with a long standing Parish member; beautiful weddings both. We then went from the quiet to full throttle, with more Parish personnel involved. We had drones, drinks, brass ensemble for one wedding, followed by the historic when Fr James and Rachel tied the knot. We had a procession, loads of clergy, bells and whistles but what a joyous day. There were a few sleepless nights before that one, as it needed to be absolutely right in every detail. There were others in between as well and as a Parish we must have welcomed well over 500 people for these happy occasions.

Thank you to all who support me: Annabelle, flower arrangers, bell ringers, and Lorraine who always had a sensible and calming voice when I needed it.

Jan Andrews

During 2024 the ministry team carried out 8 funerals at either Christ Church or St Mary's and five elsewhere. There were three interments in total. One interment was carried out at St Mary's in the Memorial Garden and two in the Memorial Garden at Christ Church.

Lorraine Bucknall

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Background

The Charity operates under the Church Representation Rules, 2006 and other regulations of the Church of England. The Parochial Church Council, PCC, has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It has maintenance responsibilities for the only Grade I listed building in Redbridge, St Mary the Virgin, and for Christ Church, itself Grade II* listed. The Rector and Churchwardens are trustees of the Church School, which remains the only Aided Church of England School within the borough.

Operation of the Charity

All major decisions are made by the PCC during regular meetings; Standing Committee has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The Churchwardens, as the leading lay members of the parish, assist the incumbent in the day-to-

day administration of church affairs and have authority under canon law. Financial delegation is covered under the Finance Policy, which is displayed in both Churches, is displayed during the Annual Meeting and is generally available on request.

Charitable Trustees

The Trustees of the Charity are members of the PCC; they are either ex officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, or co- opted in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Candidates for election are required to complete the Trustee Declaration of Eligibility. Newly elected members are given printed information from the Charity Commission, which explains the responsibilities of trustees.

Membership of the Parish Church Council 2024

During the year to December 2024 the following served as members of the PCC:

Ex-Officio Trustees:

Priest in Charge:	Revd James Gilder
Curate:	David Lappano
Churchwardens:	Mr Ralph Hall,
	Mrs Barbara Hepworth Jones
Deputy Churchwardens:	Mrs Jenny Griffiths
	Mrs Lesley Wyness
Diocesan Synod Representative:	Mr Phillip Carnelley

Co-opted Trustee:

James Paterson Treasurer

Elected Trustees: (date in brackets is when term ends)

Eleanor Taylor Secretary (2025)
Jan Andrews (2026)
Equi Ajogbe (2026)
James Boast (2026)
Ann Corne (2026)
Sue Fitzgerald (2026)
Jem Green, Lay Vice Chair (2025)
Lauren Johnson (2025)
Jen Ambler (2027)
Jan Watson (2027)
Elected Trustees by virtue of being representatives on the **Deanery Synod:**

The three-year term of office ends for all in May 2026

Mrs Margaret Adams

Mr Joshua Dickinson

Mr Neil Hepworth

Maureen Medley

The PCC held five meetings in 2024 with an average attendance of 77%

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Standing Committee

Standing Committee is the only Legally required committee, and consists of the Rector, Lay Vice Chair, the two Church Wardens, the deputy Church Wardens, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and one observer from the PCC. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council

Diocesan Synod Report

Chelmsford Diocesan Synod is the regional assembly of the Church of England in Essex and East London, and is the main policy-making body of the Diocese. Members of Diocesan Synod are also members of the Diocesan Board of Finance, which is responsible for the custody and management of diocesan finances. Lay members are elected by parish representatives on Deanery Synod and serve for three years. The current elected members' terms expired in June; a new Synod was elected in July and first met in November 2024.

A key feature of the meetings is the opportunity to ask questions of the bishops and other leading members of the Diocesan organization, about policy and issues affecting the Church.

Diocesan Synod met only twice in 2024 (generally, there are 3 meetings annually). Important items included: Synod reviewed a report on the Diocese's journey to Net Zero; approved a new governance structure for property maintenance; approved the 2025 Budget and Parish Share Scheme; heard about next steps in the Church Buildings Support Conversation; received reports on General Synod, Bishop's Council and Finance Committee and the Diocesan Board of Education.

Meetings begin with Bishop Guli's presidential address: video recordings and transcripts of these are available on the diocesan website and well worth reviewing: reflective, thoughtful and profound. Full minutes of Synod meetings and related documents are also available on the diocesan website.

Philip Carnelley

Redbridge Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod exists primarily as an information conduit between parishes and the Diocese especially on financial matters. It can propose motions on

topics of concern such as governance or climate change to be discussed at Diocesan Synod. It also shares information regarding charities and acts as a catalyst for other initiatives. Members elect representatives to the General Synod and the Diocesan Synod.

The Redbridge Deanery Synod met three times in 2024. Topics considered at meetings during the year included:

Stewardship and Giving, Deanery Strategy, Chaplaincy to Gypsies, Traveller and Roma people and the work of the Christian Education Project in Redbridge.

Wanstead Deanery Synod representatives (who are also ex-officio members of the PCC) were Margaret Adams, Joshua Dickinson, Preethi Premkumar ,Neil Hepworth, Maureen Medley and Philip Carnelley (who is also Diocesan Synod representative).

Margaret Adams

Mission and Ministry (MMU) Report

The West Roding Mission and Ministry Unit partners (Wanstead, St Mary's Woodford, St Gabriels' and St Peter in the Forest) continued to meet in 2024 to exchange news and ideas. The Parish Representatives are Jenny Griffiths and Joshua Dickinson. The Parish clergy are also invited. The MMU meet three to four times a year to share parish issues/news, ascertain how we can support each other and share worship on some special days The MMU's work in the Bereavement Cafe and Snaresbrook Crown Court Chaplaincy continues. A second annual MMU pilgrimage between the four parishes took place and this looks to be becoming a regular fixture in diaries. The MMU shared worship in the form of a joint Ascension Day service held at St Marys' South Woodford and a pulpit swap. A confirmation service with Candidates from all five parishes took place on 19th May 2024 at Wanstead. A Quiet Day took place at Aylesford Priory in October 2004 with nearly 30 attendees.

Joshua Dickinson

Parish Music

2024 saw another active year for music in the Parish.

The parish choir has grown this year and currently stands at around 25-30 people. Attendance has been very good throughout the year, and we are very grateful to the choir members who give up their Fridays to come to choir practice. In January Alison Wells was appointed Director of Music of the Parish, following the resignation of David Chan. The choir has sung monthly evensongs at St Mary's in the winter, and at Christ Church in the summer. Congregations for these are growing and we hope that trend continues as Evensong provides a peaceful and contemplative interlude in our busy lives. A notable highlight was Evensong at Chelmsford Cathedral when the adult choir was joined by some of the Church School choir, who had been taught their music by the Rector. We very much hope this can happen more in the future.

The choir also sang at Advent Carols, the All Souls Service, Holy Week music, and the Nine Lessons and Carols. Choir members sing at the church of their choice on Sunday mornings.

A big event was the wedding of James and Rachel on August 31st, when we had a full turn-out of regular choir members and some friends of the happy couple joining in the singing of Linden Lea by Vaughan Williams.

The 2nd St Mary's Music Festival took place over the late Spring Bank Holiday weekend. The opening concert was given by Sax Collective, a wonderful sax quartet from Trinity Laban Conservatoire, led by and joined by Melanie Henry. Melanie lives in Aldersbrook , and one of the students is also local – maintaining a local connection. Sunday was the organ day, and we had a very interesting talk on past holders of the position of Director of Music, given by Davis Watson and Michael Tivey. This was followed by tea and a recital featuring our volunteer organists Martin Elliott, Michael Tivey, Richard Williams, and the Rector, who treated us to greatest hits from the Blackpool Tower. Monday saw a world premiere in Wanstead. Local composer Simone Spagnolo wrote a site-specific opera specially for our Festival. A choir of ghosts (members of our Parish Choir) led the audience around the churchyard, where they encountered six characters who are buried there. The solo roles were taken by young professional singers, some of them accompanied by flautist Mary Bell, and violinist Bradley Winand. All returned to the church for the grand finale accompanied on the organ by Alison Wells. Two performances took place in the festival, and two more were featured in the Wanstead Fringe in September. Plans are already under way for next year's festival.

The forget-me nots continued to grow, meeting every Wednesday led by Andy Richardson, Alison Wells, and the Rector. A wide variety of music is covered, from Christmas carols to Beatles, and all points in between. Singing at the Nine Lessons Service is always a special occasion and we were joined by Sue Fitzgerald on Flute and Ewan Parker on trumpet.

We are grateful to our volunteer organists Martin Elliott, Michael Tivey, Martin Wheatley and Alison Wells, and the Rector who cover most of our Sunday morning services. We have bid a sad farewell this year to Richard Williams, a long-standing member of the choir and the organists team as he has moved out of the Parish. We have had the benefit of some wonderful professional organists who have joined us for evensongs and special services.

Both instruments are looked after by Michael Blighton who visits twice a year to tune and carry out essential repairs.

Alison Wells

Parish Halls

Our weekend bookings for children's parties have increased immensely this year. We also hosted one market each month on a Saturday, and we continue to host many regular weekly classes, suitable for all ages.

The halls were used on Sunday 28th April, free of charge, for a fund-raising event for the people of Palestine. This was a great success with a huge amount of money raised. The Parish was advertised and thanked immensely for allowing this event to take place.

In May we provided space for the annual 'night-time walk' fundraiser for Haven House to meet in the grounds of our halls. They usually meet in the park, but the council wanted to charge them for this. Again, we were publicly thanked for allowing this to happen free of charge.

In September we had the annual Wanstead Festival. The Wanstead Fringe hired our halls for a Children's comedy afternoon and then for their annual Kinema event on the same evening. The Friends used the halls and grounds the following day for their fundraising event.

We hosted the annual beer festival in October, free of charge, all money raised went to various local charities. The Friends ran the barbecue at the event and all money raised from this was for the parish.

All in all, the halls are now generating a very strong income for the Parish.

Lauren Johnson

Mission and Outreach

The parish has strong links with the Forest Churches Emergency Night Shelter (FCENS), Tin in a Bin and The Wanstead Charity. Although these initiatives are not managed by the parish, there is a representative of each on this committee to facilitate communication between them and the PCC.

The Committee met regularly during 2024 and events were organised to engage with church members across the parish and the wider communty, socially and supportively and to raise funds for charities locally and nationally and internationally.

There was a Lent Lunch in spring that raised funds for the Ukraine Fund and a Harvest Supper in the autumn that raised funds for a local charity, Mill Grove. The Rector hosted a Christmas Dinner with a donation of food from a local business. In December Toy Sunday and Christmas Gifts appeals through the church and the wider Wanstead Community Hub resulted in generous donations and the redistribution of toys and gifts to the children and mothers at Hestia Women's Refuge and the young people at Barking & Dagenham Young Carers. Christmas Carols and the Nine Lessons raised a large donation to Centre Point for Young Homeless. Christingle raised a donation for the Children's Society. Parishioners and the Church School provided cooked meals and baked cakes for Homeless Adults at the Forest Night Shelter once a week from October to March. A Bottle Tombola run by Ralph Hall for "CHAOS" contributed to funds raised and distributed to charity.

The activity of the Committee is increasing in order to bring people within the the parish and the local community together with the aim of supporting others

through a growing number of events and activities. There is always more that can be done and a need for more people to volunteer and participate.

Beryl Darling

The Friends of St Mary with Christ Church

We had another successful year raising funds for the Parish, and held 7 events in total.

Our annual 'Burns night Cèilidh' was a massive success as always with 95 tickets sold.

We had the return of 'Rock me Baby' in March for the younger members of our parish with 67 tickets sold and lots of children and parents enjoying the event.

We held our annual Wanstead Village barbecue at St Mary's in June to celebrate the King's birthday/Trooping the Colour, with the annual spectacle of planes flying over on their way to the Buckingham Palace flypast. Many non-church going residents attended and enjoyed the fun and festivities with us.

The Festival in September was a great success and our highest profit maker. The barbecue was extremely busy; we sold all stock, and the kitchen and bar were busy along with the extra stalls we had for children's enjoyment. We had help from the parish Cubs and Scouts, who managed two of the children's games and managed to sell out of all prizes.

We joined in with the annual beer festival which is held in our halls in October. The beer festival is a not-for-profit event and raises money for various local charities. The Friends provided and ran the barbecue, and all money we raised from the barbecue was for the parish.

Merry Quizmas was well attended as usual. Our thanks to Andy Richardson for, as always, being a great quizmaster and this being his last one.

We have had much fun and managed to raise monies in the region of £8,000 net.

We also received a total of £4,926.16 in donations, mainly from Father James and Rachel's wedding and the selling of the Church hall's old wooden tables.

Lauren Johnson

HEADTEACHER'S REPORT, WANSTEAD CHURCH SCHOOL

At Wanstead Church School our vision is to empower every child to approach life with wisdom, compassion and strength so that they can shine in everything they do. We believe that Jesus is the light of the world and that we are called upon to let our light shine before others (Matthew 5:16).

2024 was another successful year for Wanstead Church School with another excellent Ofsted inspection which found many aspects of our work to be "outstanding". We were especially proud that the inspectors saw how "the

values of wisdom, compassion and strength are embedded in [our] small school and pupils thrive in its caring, happy community" and that "pupils behave impeccably both in and outside of lessons, they show kindness and they care for each other".

2024 saw the introduction of the University of Wanstead, a unique 6-week programme that provided all the children from Years 1-6 to enrol on a course of their choice and study something of interest beyond the curriculum. Courses included Photography and Film, Dance, Drama, British Sign Language, Comic Creation, Architectural Design and Rainforest Explorers. It was a real highlight in the year and the children are already excited to find out what they may be able to study in 2025!

Throughout 2024, there were many outings and visits to complement our ambitious curriculum including trips to the Kew Gardens, the Imperial War Museum, The Globe and the Royal Observatory. Our fabulous choir sang at Wembley this year, which was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and we welcomed the travelling farm to our school once again. The children loved the sheep, goats, rabbits and guinea pigs taking up residence in our playground for the day! The annual residential trip for Year 6 children to Danbury Outdoors took place once again in the summer term, and our Year 5 children had a wonderful time at Stubbers developing their teamwork skills and undertaking many adventures.

To further enrich our curriculum, we marked a number of special days and weeks, including Science Week, Neurodiversity Week, Children's Mental Health Week, Anti-Bullying Week and World Book Day. We also had the pleasure of welcoming Status Quo's drummer, Jeff Rich, to our school for an inspiring masterclass, and a particular highlight was when we had a planetarium in our hall for the day! Huge thanks go to our PTA for funding these two wonderful opportunities for the children.

Towards the end of 2024, we introduced a new way of thinking about spirituality, which the children and staff are really enjoying. To talk about spirituality is, essentially, to talk about something which is beyond words. The language of spirituality begins from a Christian understanding that everyone is a valued creation, individually and uniquely made by God, like pots made by a potter (Isaiah 64:8). Yet in life, things happen than impact on the physical "pot" of life and create cracks that provide a glimpse of something "beyond" the tangible. Christians would view this as an opportunity to relate to God. Cracks may be caused when something so good and breath-taking happens that the pot expands and cracks – the "wows" of life. Cracks may happen when something challenging happens and threatens the comfort of everyday – the "ows" of life. Cracks can also happen in the stillness and ordinariness of everyday – the "nows" of life, when a moment of stillness, a pause or prayer, creates a crack in the normal, physical everyday. In these special moments, there is a spiritual opportunity. Kintsugi, the Japanese art of mending broken ceramics with golden joinery or glue, creates something that has been broken into something even more beautiful. Using this metaphor, the wows, ows and

nows of life offer the possibility of cracks that are filled with gold and make the pot even more beautiful. The gold in the cracks reflect a little of the wonder of spirituality.

Our prestigious Tom Curry Award continued to be awarded on a termly basis in 2024, with Isla, Mete, Annabelle, Sofia, Lucas and Alice being worthy winners in 2023-24. We awarded Alva's Rainbow Award for the second time in 2024, in memory of Alva Fowler, a Wanstead Church School pupil who died in 2020. This year, John was the overall winner for the school.

Wanstead Church School's club provision continues to go from strength to strength, with our Wake Up and Wind Down clubs continuing to very busy every day. We are very pleased to be able to provide such vital childcare for our families, with the school being open to all children from 7.35am to 6.00pm on a daily basis. Our flexible booking system, including our ability to always accommodate last-minute bookings, is much appreciated by our parent community! Our wraparound care is in addition to our extensive club provision, which includes Drama, Science, Choir, Chess, Art and Sports clubs.

We were particularly pleased in 2024 to have a lift installed to enable wheelchair users to access the upstairs classrooms. This was in addition to some new ramps being installed and a pathway being resurfaced. 2024 also saw the installation of some new play opportunities in the infant playground, courtesy of our PTA, automated gates, roof repairs for our Nursery building and many other routine improvement works. We were also pleased to support Christ Church's heritage bid and look forward to being as helpful as possible in the second attempt.

In the summer of 2024, we said goodbye to Miss Browne and Mrs Jayasuriya and welcomed Miss Jamil, Miss Newton and Mrs Ahmed. Miss Grimmer's title was also changed from Assistant Headteacher to Deputy Headteacher, which was wonderful news. The staff team continues to shine every day and the school is a happy and friendly place to work. We welcomed some new governors to our board in 2024: Fr David, Mrs Moore and Mrs Wiskin. In the autumn of 2024, Mrs Seymour and Mr Aves were unanimously elected as Co-Chairs of Governors for the academic year ahead.

Wanstead Church School continues to empower the children to be Wise, Compassionate and Strong in everything they do and to live by our motto, "We Can Shine!".

Natalie Denchfield, Headteacher

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Wanstead Parish is committed to following the safeguarding procedures laid down by The Church of England to ensure all its parishioners are welcomed in a safe environment.

Training is an important part of a good safeguarding culture. All the clergy team have attended the training they are required to. The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) is required to attend training to support them in their role.

The Church of England's National Safeguarding Team provide two certified on line training courses Basic Awareness and Foundation. All members of the PCC, Lay Leaders and others holding posts in the church have attended the Basic awareness and many have completed the Foundation course as well. The parish holds a record of all who have been trained. Training is updated every 3 years to ensure it remains relevant and includes any necessary updates.

All paid posts in the church are appointed following Safer Requirement guidelines. DBS (Disclosure & Barring Scheme) certificates are required for all those who work within the church and especially with children. A DBS register is held, good practice is to renew a DBS every 3 years.

The PCC have adopted the Church of England Safeguarding Policy which will also be made available on the Parish Website.

A safeguarding culture must be upheld by everyone. If you see or hear something that worries you or makes you uncomfortable you must do something about it. Talk to the PSO, or ring the Safeguarding Team at Chelmsford. In safeguarding no question is too small or too unimportant.

Avril Carnelley, Wanstead Parish PSO

FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR THE FULL YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

The principal source of funds for the charity is the regular voluntary giving from our parishioners through planned giving and church collections; in 2024 this totalled £92,272, down about 2.1% over 2023. The reduction in planned giving was due to a few significant former donors who either moved away or, sadly, died, although towards the end of the year we saw a pleasing number of new joiners to the PGS Scheme in response to the Rector's appeal. Cash collections were up 4.6% on 2023.

By far the largest portion of donations still come from our planned givers through the Planned Giving Scheme (PGS) and Standing Orders, and the PCC's thanks go to all of the individuals who support us in this way; without these regular givers, we would have faced a very difficult financial year.

We continue to encourage givers to donate using the Planned Giving Scheme instead of standing orders as this significantly reduces the administrative time and costs for us and allows us to budget better for the year.

All the General Fund donations that were gift aided enabled the PCC to reclaim £22,296 from HMRC for 2024. We have been aided by the rule which enables us to claim Gift Aid on cash collections up to a maximum of £8,000 for each church in any one financial year. Gift Aid continues to be a critical part

of our income, as without recovering these funds, we would not be able to meet our day-to-day running costs.

In 2024, we were fortunate to receive a number of specific donations which enabled us to reclaim an additional £13,280 from HMRC, which makes a significant difference to the related projects, in particular the repair and refurbishment of the railings at St Mary's.

2024 saw a continued growth in bookings and revenue from the Parish Halls. Rental receipts were £86,363, up 15.5% on the previous year (which had been 20% up on 2022). The running costs through the General Fund (£28,694, down 15.6%) were more than fully met. Certain "one off" major repairs were also paid for from The Friends and Property Upkeep funds as well, and the Friends Fund paid for the purchase of new chairs and tables for the halls totalling just over £4,400.

The net income from the Halls of over £57,500 was a very important part of our 2024 financial performance, allowing us to fully cover our parish share, something we have been able to do every year since the pandemic years.

The Friends hosted a number of fund-raising events during 2024 which raised a net total of £8,060 net towards current and future works required at St Mary's and Christ Church. Donations of £4,926 were also received during the year, by far the largest part of which was donations in relation to Father James and Rachel's wedding, and the PCC's thanks go to them for their generosity. In addition, £1,036 was received in dividends and interest on past legacies and £466 was received as membership subscriptions.

The Friends also purchased a number of items including a new barbecue (meaning that each site has its own now) but these costs were still fully covered by the full refund on the defective barbecue bought in 2022.

The parish again benefited from a generous grant from the Cottages Trust, derived from property rental income, to support the work of the Parish with children, young people and families, initially using Red Balloon. Sadly, Red Balloon went into liquidation in 2024, but we have been fortunate to employ a new youth worker and the Cottages Trust kindly agreed to cover the additional expenses.

The PCC aims to keep a minimum reserve in liquid funds of £20,000 available at little or no notice for unforeseen contingencies that are not otherwise covered by the insurance policies in place on both our churches and other properties. At the year end the General Fund has net liquid reserves of £34,844.

Over the years, the parish has been fortunate to be the beneficiary of a number of legacies from past parishioners. In some cases, these legacies have been specifically "endowment funds", where the capital is invested and only the income derived from the fund can be used by the parish. In other cases, the legacy is not an endowment fund, but has been specifically left for a particular purpose in the parish, including two sizeable legacies which are restricted to St Marys and Christ Church respectively. In 2020, John Sunley left

the parish a sizeable legacy which is restricted to specific types of spend for both churches. During 2023, the John Sunley Fund enabled us to have new altar frontals and repair and replate silverware at Christ Church; at St Mary's, the bequest has enabled us to have new seat cushions in all the main pews on the ground floor and in the galleries. In 2024, the Sunley Fund was also used to purchase new vestments to replace old and badly worn garments. We are particularly grateful to John for his generosity in remembering the parish in this way.

Recent Legacies

Name	**Year Received**	**Legacy**	**Fund**	**Fund Type**
Ian Hartley	2021	£1,000	General	Unrestricted
Mary Colmer	2021	£500	Memorial Garden	Restricted
John Sunley	2020	House and £200,000	Sunley	Restricted
Pauline Walker	2020	£2,000	General	Unrestricted
Janet Lilian Marten	2020	£1,000	General	Unrestricted
Rose Clare	2019	£4,750	Distress Relief	Restricted
Barbara Joan Gower	2019	£1,000	General	Unrestricted
Joan Brown	2018 & 2019	House and £49,279	St Mary's	Restricted
Beatrice Smith	2018	£5,000	St Mary's	Restricted
Arthur Worwood	2018	£29,468	Worwood Music	Designated by the PCC

In addition to the above, we remain indebted to the generosity of Eileen Jolliffe, Elizabeth Howdill and Eileen and Muriel Jupp who kindly remembered the parish in their wills. These bequests enabled the purchase of the "Curates House", the restoration and redecorating of the interior of St Mary's and the purchase of a flat that generates income to look after Christ Church.

In a typical year, the parish regular income received continues to be very finely balanced with amounts expended on the running of the parish, meaning that any additional costs, particularly for larger projects, will continue to require substantial additional external funding or donations.

Parish Share

As reported in the Financial Review in 2023, the Parish Share for 2024 was set at £ 115,957 net. Despite being 11% higher than 2023, the 2024 parish share was paid in full in monthly instalments.

The Parish Share for 2025 has been increased by just over 1% to £117,281 net (after the discount for paying monthly).

In 2024, the planned giving and church collections totalled £92,272; gift aid reclaimed added £19,580, totalling £111,852. This means, for the first time since the pandemic, we have not been able to cover our parish share, even including using the reclaimed gift aid; to pay the difference and all the other expenses including utilities, we have had to rely on one-off donations and income from the hall.

Financial Position at year end:

The PCC ended the year with seemingly substantial reserves of cash and investments, but these are largely either designated for a particular purpose or formally restricted in use. The uncommitted general funds held are £34,844, a decrease on the previous year's £40,709, and not a huge surplus in an environment of ever-increasing costs. This indicates the fine balance we face and the reliance we have on the Hall income.

It was disappointing in 2024 to have our bid for the tower repairs and internal re-ordering at Christ Church turned down by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Nevertheless, in 2025 an amended bid will be submitted that will hopefully lead to the commencement of a project to begin the repair and restoration of the tower at Christ Church.

Conclusion

The priority for 2025 continues to be maintaining the effective work of the parish, providing adequate support to enable the ministry team to focus on developing the mission, evangelical, outreach and pastoral work of the church in Wanstead.

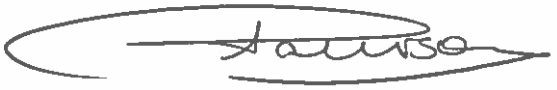
The current economic situation means that there are more calls on the parish for assistance, at a time when our income may also be constrained, but we must work to increase our regular planned giving through the Parish Giving Scheme and explore ways to diversify our income to enable us to continue to maintain the effective work we do.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its financial activities for that period. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- ❖ select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- ❖ make judgments and estimates that are reasonable & prudent;
- ❖ state whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the SORP, Statement of Recommended Practice, and with applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- ❖ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the charities act 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.



J.A. PATERSON
TREASURER

Signed on behalf of the Charity Trustees

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FULL YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

The financial statements appear on the following pages

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on the following pages.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees 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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants , which is one of the listed bodies.

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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. 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

Lorraine Catherine Purdy FCCA

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

Date: 28/4/2025

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE

ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	*Total 2023 £*
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income		141,393	68,053	-	209,446	*153,705*
Activities for generating funds		102,224	19,190	-	121,414	*102,322*
Investment income		2,980	53,568	2,559	59,107	*60,086*
Incoming resources from charitable activities		3,679	3,650	-	7,329	*13,465*
Total income	1	**250,276**	**144,461**	**2,559**	**397,296**	***329,578***
Resources used						
Cost of generating funds						
Cost of generating voluntary income		538	-	-	538	*622*
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other		32,348	6,646	-	38,994	*35,225*
Charitable activities		235,101	60,260	-	295,361	*292,278*
Governance costs		2,817	-	-	2,817	*3,396*
Total expenditure	2	**270,804**	**66,906**	**-**	**337,710**	***331,521***
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer		**(20,528)**	**77,555**	**2,559**	**59,586**	***(1,943)***
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in		8,000	19	-	8,019	*2,601*
Gross transfers between funds - out		(19)	(8,000)	-	(8,019)	*(2,601)*
Net income / (expenditure) resources before other gains/(losses)		**(12,547)**	**69,574**	**2,559**	**59,586**	***(1,943)***
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets		624	14,875	2,088	17,587	*275,009*
Net movement in funds		**(11,923)**	**84,449**	**4,647**	**77,173**	***273,066***
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward from 2023		**764,591**	**2,134,959**	**112,300**	**3,011,850**	***2,738,784***
Total funds carried forward		**752,668**	**2,219,408**	**116,947**	**3,089,023**	***3,011,850***

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

			2024	*2023*
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	5		671,100	*675,798*
Investment property	6		1,600,000	*1,600,000*
			2,271,100	*2,275,798*
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	7	4,025		*3,810*
Investments		458,906		*441,319*
Cash at bank and in hand		376,310		*310,971*
		839,241		*756,100*
LIABILITIES				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	21,318		*20,048*
NET CURRENT ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			817,923	*736,052*
TOTAL NET ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES			**3,089,023**	***3,011,850***
REPRESENTED BY				
Unrestricted funds			34,844	*40,709*
Designated funds			717,824	*723,882*
Restricted funds			2,219,408	*2,134,959*
Endowment funds			116,947	*112,300*
TOTAL FUNDS			**3,089,023**	***3,011,850***

Approved by the PCC on: 12th April 2025

Name: J.A. PATERSON
TREASURER

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Details of incoming resources

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	*Total 2023 £*
Voluntary Income						
Giving	92,272	-	66	-	92,338	*94,305*
Income tax recoverable	22,296	30	13,250	-	35,576	*23,119*
Donations, appeals etc.	7,569	326	54,737	-	62,632	*20,496*
Other income	17,150	1,750	-	-	18,900	*15,785*
	139,287	**2,106**	**68,053**	**-**	**209,446**	***153,705***
Activities for generating funds						
Events	7,261	-	2,766	-	10,027	*8,726*
Friends membership	-	-	466	-	466	*541*
Friends fundraising	-	-	15,958	-	15,958	*18,285*
Hall lettings	86,363	-	-	-	86,363	*74,770*
Income from renting church buildings	8,600	-	-	-	8,600	-
	102,224	**-**	**19,190**	**-**	**121,414**	***102,322***
Investment income						
Interest & dividends	1,993	987	1,978	2,559	7,517	*7,451*
Rental income	-	-	51,590	-	51,590	*52,635*
	1,993	**987**	**53,568**	**2,559**	**59,107**	***60,086***
Incoming resources from charitable activities						
Fees for weddings & funerals	2,535	-	644	-	3,179	*3,814*
Charitable other income	1,144	-	3,006	-	4,150	*9,651*
	3,679	**-**	**3,650**	**-**	**7,329**	***13,465***
Total incoming resources	**247,183**	**3,093**	**144,461**	**2,559**	**397,296**	***329,578***

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2 Details of resources used

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	*Total 2023 £*
Cost of generating funds/fundraising trading costs					
Church hall costs	28,694	-	6,646	35,340	*33,991*
Cost of generating voluntary income	538	-	-	538	*622*
Cost of fundraising events	3,654	-	-	3,654	1,234
	32,886	-	**6,646**	**39,532**	***35,847***
Charitable expenditure					
Giving	100	-	2,600	2,700	*1,518*
Parish share	115,957	-	-	115,957	*104,499*
Ministry team expenses	2,401	-	64	2,465	*2,096*
Wages	23,287	-	-	23,287	*23,481*
Choir & music	433	368	833	1,634	*6,663*
Parish training & mission	31	-	-	31	*1,416*
Education & young people	17,602	-	-	17,602	*14,516*
Upkeep of services	12,035	-	17,327	29,362	*56,003*
Insurance	8,273	-	-	8,273	*6,604*
Organ expenses	900	-	80	980	*5,970*
Residential property expenses	3,504	-	15,828	19,332	*17,230*
Works & maintenance	5,367	4,850	12,409	22,626	*14,791*
Light, heat & utilities	21,400	-	-	21,400	*10,102*
Office expenses	4,469	-	582	5,051	*5,321*
Friends cost of fundraising	-	-	7,897	7,897	*13,884*
Flowers etc.	230	425	-	655	*1,342*
Sundry expenses	1,337	-	-	1,337	*2,144*
Depreciation	-	4,698	-	4,698	*4,698*
Project costs	-	7,434	2,640	10,074	-
	217,326	**17,775**	**60,260**	**295,361**	***292,278***
Governance costs					
Accountancy & legal costs	2,817	-	-	2,817	*3,396*
	2,817	-	-	**2,817**	***3,396***
Total resources expended	**253,029**	**17,775**	**66,906**	**337,710**	***331,521***

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

3 Accounting policies

a Basis of preparation

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair 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 for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at fair value as agreed by the PCC and investments which are stated at market value.

b Funds

Unrestricted funds

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

Designated funds

These are funds that are for specific purposes but not restricted by document or deed to that purpose alone.

Restricted funds

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

Endowment funds

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

c Incoming resources

- Income from planned giving/donations and other voluntary income is recognised when it is received.
- Gift Aid and other tax claims are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis in relation to the date the donation it relates to was received.
- Legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of it's legal entitlement and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
- Rental income from the letting of PCC property is recognised when rents are due.
- The charity receives government grants in respect of the Job Retention Scheme. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.
- Investment income from interest on deposits and dividends earned are accounted for when receivable.
- Investment gains and losses includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

3 Accounting policies (continued)

d Resources used

- Costs are recognised when incurred and as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation and settlement of the liability is probable and quantifiable.
- Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts and costs of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.
- Grants payable are recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made externally and there are no pre-conditions still to meet for the entitlement to the grant which remain within the control of the PCC.

e Fixed Assets

- In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of "charity" by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.
- Tangible fixed assets for use by the PCC
  These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £5,000. They are valued at cost or else, for gifts- in-kind, at a reasonable estimate of their open market value on receipt.

  Property used by the PCC in the course of their work is included in the accounts at cost.

  Depreciation is calculated to write off the capitalised cost of fixed assets less their currently anticipated residual fair value over their estimated useful lives as follows:

  - Curates House Nil
  - Furniture & Fixtures 10 / 20 years
  - Computers Equipment 5 years
  - Alarm system 10 years

- Fixed asset investment property
  These are included at best estimate of market value as determined by the PCC.

f Investments

These are stated at market value at the balance sheet date with any gains or losses on revaluation or disposals throughout the year being recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

g Debtors and creditors; bank and cash

Debtors are stated at the amount owed to the PCC or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the PCC. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at realisable values.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

4 Staff costs

During the year the PCC employed an Organist, Clerical Assistant and a Hall Manager. A further Clerical Assistant carried out work for the PCC on a volunteer basis. Employment costs are included in the respective costs heads.

During the year, £8,274 was paid to the trustee Lauren Johnson in relation to services provided in her role as Hall Manager.

It is PCC policy to offer to reimburse members of the PCC and others involved in the administration of the PCC affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. With the exception of the details provided above, no member of the PCC was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the PCC, although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed where requested.

	2024	*2023*
	£	*£*
Gross Salary	40,655	*34,871*
Employers pension contribution	1,517	*1,371*
	42,172	*36,242*
Number of employees in the year	4	*4*

5 Fixed Assets

	Property	Furniture & Fixtures	Computer Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Gross book value at 1 January 2024	642,905	59,516	1,334	703,755
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-	-
Transfers between categories	-	-	-	-
Gross book value at 31 December 2024	642,905	59,516	1,334	703,755
Depreciation at 1 January 2024	-	26,623	1,334	27,957
Charge for the year	-	4,698	-	4,698
Depreciation at 31 December 2024	-	31,321	1,334	32,655
Net book value at 31 December 2024	**642,905**	**28,195**	-	**671,100**
Net book value at 31 December 2023	**642,905**	**32,893**	-	**675,798**

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

6 Investments	Investment Property £	Total £
Gross book value at 1 January 2024	1,600,000	1,600,000
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Transfers between categories	-	-
Revaluations	-	-
Gross book value at 31 December 2024	1,600,000	1,600,000
Net book value at 31 December 2024	**1,600,000**	**1,600,000**
Net book value at 31 December 2023	**1,600,000**	**1,600,000**

7 Debtors	2024 £	*2023 £*
Amounts falling due within one year		
Gift aid tax claim	4,025	*3,810*
Total debtors falling due within one year	4,025	*3,810*

8 Creditors	2024 £	*2023 £*
Amounts falling due within one year		
Accruals and deferred income	14,036	*15,653*
Funds received due to be paid (note 10)	7,282	*4,395*
Total creditors falling due within one year	21,318	*20,048*

9 Related party transactions

The only related party transactions in the year relate to the payment of wages to a Trustee in their role as Hall Manager, details are provided in note 4. No further related party transactions occurred in 2024.

10 For information only: Money received and passed on to External Organisations

	2024 £	*2023 £*
Balance brought forward from last year	4,395	*28,148*
Amounts Received - received for External Organisations	5,351	*3,613*
Amounts Received - passed to External Organisations	(2,464)	*(27,366)*
Balance still to be paid	7,282	*4,395*

11 Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF)

The PCC participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of CWPF for lay staff. The Scheme is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the assets of the schemes separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

The Church Workers Pension Fund has a section known as the Defined Benefits Scheme and a section known as the Pension Builder Scheme which has two subsections; a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic and a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

Pension Builder Scheme

Both sections of the Pension Builder Scheme are classed as defined benefit schemes.

Pension Builder Classic provides a pension, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Discretionary increases may also be added, depending on investment returns and other factors.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are the contributions payable (2024: £1,571, 2023: £1,371).

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2022.

For the Pension Builder Classic section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £34.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. At the most recent annual review effective 1 January 2025, the Board chose to grant a discretionary bonus of 6.7% to both pensions not yet in payment and pensions in payment in respect of service prior to April 1997; and a bonus on pensions in payment in respect of post April 2006 service so that the pension increase was 2.7% (where usually it would be calculated based on inflation up to 2.5%). This followed improvements in the funding position over 2024. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The next valuation is due as at 31 December 2025.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £8.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, the PCC could become responsible for paying a share of that employer's pension liabilities.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024 £	*2023* *£*
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	77,173	*273,066*
Adjustments for		
Depreciation charges	4,698	*4,698*
(Gains)/Loss on investments	(17,587)	*(275,009)*
Dividends, interest and rents received	(59,107)	*(60,086)*
(increase)/Decrease in debtors	(215)	*(1,066)*
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	1,270	*(33,690)*
Net cash used in operating activities	**6,232**	***(92,087)***
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends, interest and rents received	59,107	*60,086*
Net cash provided by investing activities	**59,107**	***60,086***
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	**65,339**	***(32,001)***
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	**310,971**	***342,972***
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	**376,310**	***310,971***
Represented by:		
Cash at bank and in hand	**376,310**	***310,971***

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

FUND MOVEMENT SUMMARY YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	01.01.2024	Resources Incoming	Resources Outgoing	Investment Gain/(Loss)	Transfers In/(Out)	31.12.2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General	40,709	247,183	253,029	(19)	-	34,844
Designated Funds						
Flowers	1,421	356	425	-	-	1,352
Hall Maintenance	709	-	-	-	-	709
St Mary Open days	1,433	-	-	-	-	1,433
Arthur Worwood Music	26,971	-	368	-	-	26,603
Property fund	665,233	1,750	4,698	-	-	662,285
Roof 2013	3,688	-	-	-	-	3,688
Bridge	312	-	-	-	-	312
Signpost	435	-	-	-	-	435
Property Maintenance	23,680	987	4,850	-	624	20,441
Christ Church Tower and Reordering Prc	-	-	7,434	8,000	-	566
	723,882	3,093	17,775	8,000	624	717,824
Restricted Funds						
Appeals and collections	2,344	-	-	-	-	2,344
Choir and music	2,660	-	-	-	-	2,660
Friends	81,703	22,636	20,908	(7,981)	841	76,291
Homeless and support	1,350	-	100	-	-	1,250
Memorial garden	1,211	35	60	-	-	1,186
Ministry candidates	209	-	-	-	-	209
Jazz Vespers	669	600	832	-	-	437
St Mary's garden	1,765	989	154	-	-	2,600
Christ Church Jupp bequest	424,220	17,825	11,383	-	-	430,662
Wanstead Winter night shelter	6,987	-	100	-	-	6,887
SMWR	9,595	2,931	2,640	-	-	9,886
Community choir	2,617	-	-	-	-	2,617
Distress relief	18,086	603	2,464	-	678	16,903
St Mary's Brown bequest	702,065	19,900	9,357	-	-	712,608
John Sunley bequest	879,478	13,865	18,908	-	13,356	887,791
Christ Church heating fund	-	1,250	-	-	-	1,250
Christ Church Tower and Reordering Prc	-	1,327	-	-	-	1,327
St Mary's railings	-	62,500	-	-	-	62,500
	2,134,959	144,461	66,906	(7,981)	14,875	2,219,408
Endowment Funds						
Bishops J Adams Memorial	5,829	-	-	-	-	5,829
Eileen Joliffe bequest	83,307	2,559	-	1,804	-	87,670
ST M Mem Gdn and Corp Beqs	12,432	-	-	284	-	12,716
Taylor Memorial 1992	10,732	-	-	-	-	10,732
	112,300	2,559	-	2,088	-	116,947

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST C

England & Wales - Charity number 1127753

Accounts

Wanstead Parish

St Mary with Christ Church

Annual report

and

Financial Statements

of the

Parochial Church Council

of the

Ecclesiastical Parish of

St Mary with Christ Church, Wanstead

for the
Year ended 31st December 2023
Registered Charity Number 1127753

Rector:
The Revd. James Gilder
The Rectory,
37 Wanstead Place,
Wanstead

Banks:
NatWest Bank
HSBC Bank
CCLA Investment Management Ltd

Independent Examiner:
Lorraine Catherine Purdy FCCA, Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills

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RECTOR'S REPORT

'Change and decay in all around I see' wrote the author of *Abide With Me*. The year 2023 certainly saw significant change within the Parish of Wanstead, but hopefully not too much decay! In last year's annual report, I stressed the need to for us as a parish to grapple with some of the issues that we face in looking to the future, and I'm very pleased to say that so many have responded to this challenge in an extremely positive way.

This has been the year when we have instigated a major change in service patterns; in which St Mary's church has increased the number of monthly Eucharists we have whilst retaining our lay-led services; and in which at Christ Church we have adopted a system of Sunday morning worship that has integrated adults, juniors and nursery-age children – a process which has been accomplished successfully and will now we trust, provide the bedrock from which to grow in strength, in fellowship and in number.

We welcomed Fr Charles Brown to this parish in September, and he has brought much joy, life and many ideas with him – settling in so well that it is hard to believe he has only been here a short while. We also welcomed Mthr Anne McKenna to the ministry team as our permanent deacon, and she has done a huge amount to assist with parish visiting. I am now confident that our visiting is of a standard and degree that would rival anywhere in the Church of England, and this is something we should be proud of. Revd Olive has done a huge amount of work as chaplain to Wanstead High Street, visiting every shop and business, and Fr Richard has continued to provide a very broad range of wisdom and organisation, for which I am most grateful. We are very blessed to have such a large and gifted ministry team and of course also our excellent team of lay leaders who have led worship magnificently.

Fr Chris McKenna and Mthr Anne have commenced our monthly healing service, which has followed on from our new 'A Place' mental health group, started by PCC member James Boast. This has been an imaginative response to an area of social need highlighted by our PCC, and is a welcome sign that we are looking out into the world, rather than merely inwards to ourselves. Likewise, our new regular Sunday afternoon 'tea and chat' for older members of the parish has proved popular, as was the Christmas Dinner on the 25th December.

PCC meetings have been joyful and productive, and it is wonderful that we now have such a large and varied PCC. I am grateful to all who serve, not only on PCC, but on our many committees and groups – and to The Friends, who have raised many thousands for the upkeep of our churches, and provided us with great entertainment along the way.

Christmas this year was a particular highlight, with personal cards being addressed and delivered to 2,500 properties in Wanstead, resulting in the best Christmas attendances in five years. Our choir represented the parish wonderfully well at Southwark Cathedral and both the music festival at

St Mary's and the flower festival at Christ Church brought hundreds if not thousands of visitors into our churches. The Grapevine magazine has flourished this year, growing from a distribution of 150 to 1000 by the end of the year, and gaining advertising along the way. We raised a very good amount for external charities and the inception of several events, such as the Pancake Party, were well-received.

The Rectory has seen more than a thousand parish guests throughout 2023, playing host to individual and group meetings as well as a fair few dinners and parties! New for this year were the Rectory Garden Party in summer, for all parish volunteers, and the well-attended August family barbecue, which rounded off the school year. It has been a delight to be able to invite so many of you into my home.

Other highlights of this year for me were the parish exchange to Engelskirchen in April, which was a lovely week spent with wonderful people who we look forward to hosting in Wanstead in 2024, and the hosting of Qampicha, Bishop of Marsabit in Kenya, during his UK tour. A personal highlight was being 'bumped up' to Rector from Priest in Charge. This was accomplished in the Bishop of Barking's study, where I took Stella Brown (who has seen more Rectors of Wanstead than anyone else) as my witness. Unfortunately, my car had broken down, but the bishop kindly gave us a lift home afterwards! One of my own proudest moments of the year was hearing of the number of people from this parish taking part in the Course in Christian Studies in 2024: we have a bumper crop meeting in the vestry each week.

This is all not to gloss over the sadder and more concerning parts of this year. We said goodbye to several of our very longstanding and loyal church members, with our parish mourning the deaths of Pen Garlick, Margaret Manser and John Eyre particularly, and we also bade farewell to several who have moved away. Their gifts of love remain with us, but we feel their loss nonetheless.

The burglary at Christ Church in December was a shock to the system and although the wider community of Wanstead was wonderful in rallying round – more than replacing the stolen collection for the Children's Society (indeed, raising more than £2,500 for this cause) – the loss of many of our parish baptism, wedding and funeral records are proving very difficult to replace. Youth and children's ministry remains an area in which improvement is required, despite much effort by many. And the fact that we minister to a world which largely isn't very interested, is of course the largest challenge we face: there is an ever-more urgent need to grow younger in terms of our volunteers, and this is proving a very difficult nut to crack; and likewise, the need to reach people with the good news of Jesus is always our key task.

The care and maintenance of two historic buildings remains a constant challenge, although we have seen steady progress this year in addressing much of what we need to. Our buildings also present opportunities, and there is now a new team in place, applying for Heritage Lottery Funding to transform

Christ Church's building, as well as great progress in fundraising for the work necessary to improve access and security at St Mary's crypt.

Reading the various contributions made to this annual report, it is clear that we have done a lot in 2023. The Spirit is moving here, for sure – and 2024 will no doubt be a year where we see the development of many of the things we have set in place this year, as well as some extra 'new' things, which will no doubt surprise us along the way. This parish is always a busy one, but we must remember to be Mary at least as much as we are Martha. In our work and in our business, let's always remember our fundamental purpose – to worship God. Without this – without the work of prayer, praise and rest – our efforts will prove fruitless.

Thank you to you all. This is a wonderful place and it is a privilege to be your Rector.

Fr James Gilder

CHURCH WARDENS' REPORTS

St Mary's

2023 has seen a continuation of building the place of the church within the community. Involvement with non-church goers, through such things as the Forget Me Nots singers, classic car shows, Tin in a Bin and activities during Wanstead Fringe are developing local engagement. We are hoping to further develop our strong relationship with the organisers of the Fringe and make more use of the church over the coming years. The changes to services within the parish have helped to establish Sunday services, as the church is no longer closed one Sunday a month. Attendance has remained steady over the year and the variety of services now on offer in the parish reflects well on the energy of our Rector and his team.

A number of projects at St Mary's continue to develop. James Paterson has continued to work hard on enhancing the entrance to the crypt, raising money for the project by giving tours during Wanstead Fringe and entertaining 'Heritage London' visits. The DAC visited the crypt together with the Rector and we will be moving forward to contactor bidding phase during 2024.

Over the past few years, we have had to remove many ash trees, which were suffering from Ash Dieback. We now have space to replant and have started on a replacement schedule. Three further trees have had to be removed from the north perimeter as they were damaging the Grade II listed railings adjacent to Overton Drive. Sadly, during the summer, the Poppy Trail was damaged by vandals and many poppies had to be replaced. A new, stronger, version of the poppies will be installed in 2024.

With the help of Phil Ryan's team, the Churchyard remains well kept and accessible, as well as developing as a nature reserve of some note.

The ashes interment plot in our churchyard has just eight positions remaining, and a new area is to be identified to allow for future interments and accompanying remembrance plaques.

The disabled access lift is beyond economic repair; while a permanent solution is being developed within the plans for the south wall restoration, a temporary ramp system has been purchased and works well. It is deployed for major services and events, and when we are pre-notified that there is a need for step-free access.

Smith of Derby continue to care for the tower clock at St Marys. Some of the linkage system that chime the bells had stretched and fallen apart resulting in missed chimes. James Paterson managed to make repairs and his work was complimented by 'Smiths' when they came to service the clock. The interior clock, which I believe to be quite ancient, remains in good order.

The Organ at St Mary's celebrated 100 years of installation in May and Alison Wells arranged a very successful music festival over the anniversary weekend to commemorate the installation.

St Mary's, being a historic navigation point on the occasions of a Royal Fly-Past, gave us the opportunity to open the grounds and church to the local community for the Trooping The Colour celebrations, affording a grandstand view of the spectacular arial display and an opportunity for us to engage.

The Harvest Supper was held in the drive of the church. The event is well supported and is eagerly anticipated each year. The Rector arranged for musical accompaniment, engaging talent from within the congregation. This was well received.

A new, adjustable organ bench has been donated by a generous benefactor. Both of our churches have benefited from this donation and our thanks go out to our anonymous donor. The benches are well made and should still be in use when our organ celebrates its bicentenary.

Pew cushions have started to appear at St Marys. The completion of comfortable seating within the church should be fulfilled in early 2024. We are grateful to the late John Sunley who made it possible to enhance the seating within the church due to the legacy he left to the parish.

During Lent, as part of her Lent Pilgrimage, Bishop Guli paid us a visit, attending Wanstead Church School, Christ Church and St Mary's. On her walk, Bishop Guli was accompanied by the Bishop of Barking and children from the Church School. At St Mary's the school choir sang for the bishops.

On Good Friday, Alison Wells put together a choir to sing, 'Stainer's Crucifixion'. It was a memorable event, which was still being spoken about at Christmas. The 'Nine Lessons and Carols,' candle lit service was back to pre-covid attendance numbers with over 350 people in the congregation.

The Wednesday evening service of Compline is now well established and is an enjoyable short service to end the day. Thank you to Susan Holdham for organising and running this service throughout the year.

Thank-yous go to the wonderful people who keep our Parish Church working well:

Our team of talented organists, who play without financial reward: Alison, Martin, Michael and Richard.
Our coffee team organised by Maureen Medley.
The PODs, organised by Suzanne Paterson. Keeping the church open and clean.
The flower power team: Margaret, Rachel and Penny.
Our wonderful choir whose talents lift our Sunday worship.
The readers, sides people, intercessors and Eucharistic Ministers.
Out in the cold and rain we thank our gardening team organised and run by Phil Ryan.
And, of course, our Lay Leaders, to whom we owe so much.

It is a joy to glance around the congregation on a Sunday and note that almost everyone plays a role in running our church and services. Looking at our rota for services, there are 31 names on it.

Thank you, one and all for all that you do.

Ralph Hall

Churchwarden 2023

Christ Church

At the start of the year, the Sunday 9 am family Eucharist continued to be a vibrant service, with around 100 attending each week, slightly more children than adults. The 10.30 Sung Eucharist service was also busy, usually around 60 attendees. The Thursday morning Eucharist has had a small but very regular congregation too.

The pattern of Sunday worship changed during the year so that the 9.00 and 10.30 services were combined, with special provision for families and young people in the hall most Sundays and an all-age eucharist in church on one Sunday each month. Everyone comes together for communion and the final hymn, prayers and notices, followed by coffee and biscuits in the hall.

Sunday evening services also changed so that a variety of worship could be offered, for example a healing service on the first Sunday of the month and occasional Jazz Vespers.

These changes have been very well received and the hard work from our clergy team and Red Balloon to support this new pattern of worship is hugely appreciated.

The Fabric committee met regularly during 2023 and provided advice and support on a number of matters, for which I am very grateful. In 2021, an expression of interest was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to reorder Christ Church, make it greener and able to be used more by the community. The HLF replied saying that the parish was not being invited to submit a Round 1 bid, which was a huge disappointment. The expression of interest had been for a substantial amount and the HLF stated the reason for their decision was "... ***because the proposal is unlikely to strongly meet our mandatory outcome to involve a wider range of people in heritage. For an application of this size, there would need to be more activity and clearer presentation of the new audiences that would be engaged***". A new expression of interest submission that is smaller and more focused will be submitted in 2024. The Christ Church building remains on the at-risk register and the bell tower, in particular, continues to deteriorate and is cause for concern.

The heating is operating at less than half power, so it can be very chilly. The Oasis church of Seventh Day Adventists had been renting Christ Church for their services on Saturdays since 2020. This has been a useful source of income and enabled us to build links with a church very different from our own. Sadly, the inadequate winter heating led them to end their agreement in October and move to alternative premises.

Options to provide better, greener heating have been investigated in detail but none proved practical and investigations continue. It seems likely the boiler will have to be replaced with another gas boiler made to order, which is disappointing from an environmental perspective but will be very welcome for the congregation now used to wearing big coats in winter.

A large number of minor works and improvements have been undertaken; for example, clearing gutters, removing pigeons from the bell tower and deep cleaning, repair of broken pews. Alan Dowers has done many of the minor repairs or overseen others and his help is invaluable. We are very grateful for the amazing new altar frontal and kneelers funded by the Sunley bequest. Ann Corne, our Sacristan, has organised significant repairs and refurbishment to the silverware, linens, vestments, etc. that have been in dire need of some care and attention, and we are very grateful.

There were two major security issues. First, two people took up residence in the South Porch towards the end of winter. While initially our sympathies tended to be with the homeless in cold weather, their drug dealing became a cause for concern to the local police who asked us to evict them in May. Huge thanks to Father James and Neil Hepworth who had the unenviable task of clearing some extremely unpleasant refuse. Better security for the south porch door was subsequently installed.

In the early hours of December 10, Christ Church was broken into by 2 men who took the office safe. This contained a few hundred pounds from recent collections, including the Christingle service collection in aid of the Childrens' Society. A Just Giving appeal raised £2,520 for this charity and it was heartwarming to read the messages of support from our local community who

clearly hold the church in great affection. Sadly, the registers of baptisms, marriages and burials that were also in the safe have not been found. This was one of a series of burglaries of churches in the area.

Steve Davenport and the gardening club have ensured that the Christ Church gardens remain a real asset to the whole of Wanstead, a huge thank you to Steve and all the gardening club, and to everyone who has picked up litter, for all your hard work. The gardens are enjoyed by huge numbers, which is a real blessing, though litter and minor vandalism remain a problem (as indeed it is for the main park).

In September, for the Wanstead festival, a concert was organised through Songhaven, kindly funded by Carrolle Jamieson. This was led by professional musicians in a relaxed atmosphere, so ideal for those with dementia or neurodiverse. Around 100 attended the concert, timed to coincide with the flower festival, so the church was looking particularly beautiful. The theme for the flower festival was holidays, and Wanstead Church School pupils were also able to share their flower arrangements, many visitors over the festival and at the concert complimented the flowers.

A new mental wellbeing support group, A Place, led by James Boast, started on the first Sunday of each month. Monthly tea and fellowship afternoons have also started and been much appreciated.

Little Angels group for pre-school age children meets on Wednesdays in Christ Church at a nominal cost. A huge thank you to those who volunteer their support for this group.

Cleaning at Christ Church is undertaken by a combination of a professional cleaner and volunteers . The need for church refurbishment continues to make the cleaning task challenging. The opening of the church on Friday mornings has been successful in enabling volunteer cleaners to access the church and have support in this role. It is hoped that more volunteers will take up this opportunity which is vital to the life and success of the church on a daily basis.

Christ Church is blessed with very many volunteers who contribute a huge amount. That said, we do still need more in just about every area. So a very heartfelt thank you to all the sidespeople and welcomers, flower arrangers, those who change altar frontals, serve, support children's groups, manage the sound system, play the organ, spring clean (several times a year!), offer coffee after services, Eucharistic ministers, are on intercessors and readers rotas, set up before and clear up after services, count collections, tidy the church/vestry, sing in the choir, bell ringers, liaise about music, bring Tin in a Bin and other donations, support outreach, support the loss and bereavement café, parish giving organisers and safeguarding officers – I apologise in advance for missing any volunteers, there are thankfully just so many of you.

Barbara Hepworth Jones

Churchwarden 2023

LAY LEADERS REPORT

Lay leadership, as part of our worship in both our churches, continued to be appreciated and in 2023 we welcomed both Charles Llewellyn and Diana Middleditch to the team as new Lay Leaders.

Many Lay Leaders have shared that they have really valued working in a pair with others to lead services and learning something new each time from the other person. Many of the Lay Leaders lead at both churches and this has proven to be very successful. For those Lay Leaders who worship predominantly in one of our churches it has been a way to get to know the congregation of our other church better

Christ Church:

Lay Leaders led the worship once a month up to Sept 2023. The last service was in August and it was well attended. The pattern of services at Christ Church changed at the beginning of September and there is now a 9.30am Eucharist service every Sunday.

For 2024 Father James is keen to get Lay Leaders across the parish involved in the services again at Christ Church, including encouraging Lay Leaders to 'have a go' at preaching using their own reflections. He is thinking of potentially re introducing a lay led element once a month at Christ Church. to be piloted in Feb 2024.

At Christ Church the a/v system has been used to enhance reflections with images and music adding a new and much appreciated dimension to worship. In 2023 Lay Leaders took the opportunity to look at some significant anniversaries of people who have made great contributions to our church life and worship such as Vaughan Williams, William Byrd and Christopher Wren.

St Mary's:

Earlier in the year the congregation were asked to vote on what they wanted the pattern of services to look like for the coming year. Essentially:

- should the pattern remain the same, with one Eucharist, two lay led services (one BCP and one Common worship) plus one joint service at CC on the third Sunday, with any fifth Sunday being lay led (Leader choosing BCP or CW); or
- did the congregation want the pattern to change?

The result was that most of the congregation voted to keep the pattern of worship as it was, people continued to worship happily at all services and the feedback was that they enjoyed the variety, although a strong preference was voiced for more Eucharists.

In July 2023 Bishop Guli, in response to a request from the Rector, removed the special legal status applied to St Mary's by the former Bishop of Chelmsford which thus allowed more options for Eucharist services. The general monthly

pattern at St Mary's is now alternating lay led services (one CW and one BCP) and Eucharists, with any 5th Sunday being a joint parish service at Christ Church.

The congregation have adapted well to the changes and have made it clear that they appreciate the lay led services as much as the Eucharist.

Alongside our Sunday services we have continued to enjoy the office of Compline every Wednesday at 8pm. This is a short 15 minutes service which offers an opportunity for a re boot during the middle of the week. Primarily, this is led by Susan Holdham, and other Lay Leaders fill in when she is away. It is held every Wednesday except the week after Christmas and has a small dedicated following.

Father James has produced a Lay Leaders newsletter termly, which has been helpful.

The Lay Leaders across the parish are committed to helping the Rector and the rest of our clergy team develop the spiritual life of our parish. We look forward to working more actively with the clergy team in the following years.

Carry Green

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Little Angels, *The Bridge* Youth Club and Junior Church have continued to meet throughout the year, with the former two organisations meeting principally in term time. All three organisations have been run by the Red Balloon Foundation and we are grateful to the Wanstead Cottages Trust for funding this important work. The level of provision for our young people has remained steady throughout the year, although attendance has been mixed.

At *The Bridge*, certain events, like the overnight trip to a Christian youth festival and the Christmas outing, proved very popular. Weekly attendance has been mixed, but a core group remain and *Youth Alpha* has been running, which has provoked interesting questions and good feedback.

Little Angels has suffered somewhat from competition from other toddlers' groups in the locality and numbers are significantly down from the post-covid high of 2022. The temperature and general lack of flexibility of the space at Christ Church has not helped matters. However, the provision is being renewed with fresh activities and a slightly different format, and it is hoped that this will attract new attendees.

Junior Church continues to be provided at 9.30am at Christ Church and has benefitted from the new service pattern, with a steady number of about ten attending most weeks. We are looking into providing a new 'Infant Church' group for 4-7s, and retaining Junior Church for older year groups, and it is hoped that volunteers to run this might be found from within our young parents.

We are hoping to stage a 'Step into Easter' event for children at the school and any others who wish to join, during Holy Week. It is hoped that this will be

an immersive experience that helps children of all ages to better understand the Easter story and its implications.

Fr James Gilder

ACTIVITIES AND GROUPS

Prayer Group

Prayer Group has changed and developed since the summer. It still meets at Christ Church at 10am on Tuesday, either in the Lady Chapel or in the Vestry, but its focus now is on a passage taken from the previous Sunday's readings. (A short outline and questions for reflection on the chosen passage can be found in the pew sheet attached to the weekly parish email – a paper copy is available at the services, and at the Tuesday meeting.) Anyone interested in discussing and praying about these issues, or simply in finding out more, would be welcome to drop in – there's no need to make a regular commitment. Open discussion and the airing of new points of view are welcomed. The meetings typically last a little over an hour. We still use many of the prayers developed by Valerie Gritten, and we seek to honour her commitment to prayer as the "work of God" in the parish, and to developing our own prayer life.

Mark Taylor

Welcomers

2023 was an eventful year for welcomers at Christ Church, as we managed a number of changes and unexpected events. The return of some traditional elements of the service, such as processing with the elements, has increased the number of volunteer roles needed during the service. The change to our service pattern over the summer also required changes, and the break-in suffered in December meant we needed to adapt again and run the service from the South door rather than the North. From greeting the congregation and handing out hymn books, to taking round the collection plate, and inviting the congregation to communion, there are a number of jobs which need doing every week to ensure the service runs smoothly. We are always short of volunteers to help with these straightforward but important tasks, and would love to hear from anyone who would like to be added to the rota.

Eleanor Taylor

A Place (Mental Health Support

We have set up a mental well-being support group, A Place, at Christ Church. Much of 2023 was spent researching what similar groups do and shaping the proposition, to ensure a safe offering. We settled on offering a group session, where we explore psychological material and what the Bible tells us about struggle, as well as meditating on a specific theme each month. Individuals are invited to speak freely, without judgment or obligation, and irrespective of outlook on faith.

We have recruited a fantastic team of volunteers who help to run A Place. We run it in The Vestry on the first Sunday of the month. We held our first session in November 2023 and have been pleased with the response so far.

Our ambition for 2024 is to publicise A Place more widely and to build partnerships with other organisations who support mental health, so that we can further learn and build, to ensure we continue to offer a safe space for the benefit of our community.

James Boast

Sunday Afternoon Tea and Chat

Sunday afternoon can be a difficult time if you are on your own for one reason or another. This was the reason we set up the Sunday afternoon get-togethers to bring together those in need of a bit of company over a cuppa and cake. We have now been running these monthly occasions since September. The band of willing volunteers provide all the refreshments including delicious homemade cakes and treats and our emphasis is placed on socialising with the guests. Feedback from those who attend is that they really enjoy the time chatting, having somewhere local and friendly to go for the afternoon and meeting other people in the parish. The dates for the next three months are: Sunday 28th January, Sunday 25th February and Sunday 24th March, and are all in the Vestry at Christ Church.

The St. Mary's Gardening Group

2023 has been an eventful period for the dedicated regular members of the group and has seen further significant developments in the management of the churchyard

Several saplings including Rowan, Silver Birch and more recently Horse Chestnut and Oak were donated and planted to enhance the vistas from the eye-catching new benches. The beehives' industrious inhabitants produced the first batches of commercial honey.

Meanwhile we continue to focus on the native flora & fauna of the churchyard with a management programme for the relentless ivy and brambles, provision of log piles, bird boxes and hedgehog 'hotels'.

We welcome new volunteers who can plant bulbs, shrubs or saplings, trim, prune or use loppers or bush saw!

Following discussions with the Council's contractors and new schedules set for cutting the site's grass, we look forward to a productive and inspiring 2024 for St. Mary's peaceful, historical haven.

Phil Ryan

Christ Church Gardening Club

This season 2023 the hard pruning and layering to improve sight lines through the boundary caused an unsightly appearance until the mountain of arisings could be cleared and new growth appeared.

Dead shrubs have been removed and replaced with transplanted or donated specimens. As much grass cutting and shredded leaf fall remains on site for mulching around plants giving them a chance of survival during the hot summer months. The Berginia Cordifolia that thrives in the grounds is being moved into a barren area beneath the trees by the south gate.

The garden gives pleasure to many, is well used and appreciated, but anti-social behaviour and littering remains a nuisance. The front drive and paths regularly pond and a solution is required.

Volunteering is very rewarding for all ages and more are encouraged to join the gardeners and witness these benefits first hand. The gardening team is enthusiastic and is ably supported by students who enjoy the experiences and valuable skills learnt.

We meet fortnightly on Saturday mornings between 09:00 and 12:30

Steve Davenport

Night Shelter

The parish has continued its involvement with the Forest Churches Emergency Night Shelter (FCENS). Despite the transition to the provision being based at the YMCA in Walthamstow, this year new volunteers have come on-board, both from our own congregations and from the wider community of Wanstead. We have had sufficient Wanstead volunteers to staff all Tuesdays throughout the winter, providing food and company for the service users. It is hoped that next year may see further volunteers come forward to continue our link with FCENS.

Fr James Gilder

Walsingham Pilgrimage

A bumper crew of 15 Wanstead pilgrims of all ages visited Walsingham in July 2023, including several people who had never been before. It was good to meet up with our old friend Peter Gaston and to share in worship with other churches. Amongst the activities were the Holy Mile (nobody walked barefoot!); Stations of the Cross; Holy Hour and Benediction; and a wonderful Sung Mass at the beautiful St Mary's Parish Church. We had excellent fellowship at the bar each night and several managed to find their way to the seaside too. As always, the Walsingham hymn was sung with gusto and we look forward to returning in 2024.

Fr James

Engelskirchen Link

For the last fifteen or so years our parish has shared with Wanstead URC in a long-established link with Christuskirche (Christ Church!) Engelskirchen, a town in Germany to the east of Cologne. The purpose of the link is to develop friendship and understanding between our communities. Its main expression is an annual visit in Easter week. Last year it was our turn to visit Germany, where our hosts put on a full and interesting programme of activity. A notable treat was a 'Planwagenfahrt', a journey in horse drawn covered wagons, through the pretty, hilly countryside which surrounds the town. We returned home on the Sunday after Easter, after a church service at which Fr Richard preached and Fr James spoke, both in German, and a fine buffet.

This year, we shall be hosting our German friends. Anyone interested in participating in this friendship by offering hospitality to our visitors or otherwise helping with their visit should contact Margaret Adams or Fr Richard.

Fr Richard

Cathedral Visiting

In recent years Fr Richard has organised a series of autumn day trips to cathedrals around London. This year our destination was Rochester, not one of the grandest of our cathedrals, but one of the oldest, with a fine Norman east front and nave, and much to see. The approach to the city from London is across the river Medway, from which there a fine view of its two landmark buildings, the cathedral and a well- preserved Norman castle.

We followed our usual formula of a guided tour followed by time for further exploration of the cathedral and the small city. Unfortunately, our tour booking had got lost in the system, but a lady stepped up who gave us an excellent 75-minute tour without notes or hesitation!

The natural conclusion for these visits is choral Evensong. Unbeknownst to us no choir was on hand, so we said it ourselves!

Fr Richard

Flower Arrangers

The flower arrangers at St Mary's have continued to provide a selection of arrangements for the church in their own individual styles using both fresh and artificial materials. The church itself is such a beautiful setting to display flowers that it is a pleasure to provide these. The highlights of the year for the flower arrangers are the Christmas Carol service of Nine Lessons and Carols and the Easter Day service. On these occasions members of the congregation assist the flower arrangers in providing greenery and support in doing additional arrangements, which are very much appreciated. Any new volunteers to help with the flowers would be very welcome and can contact any of the flowers arrangers (Margaret Thoresby, Rachel Richardson and Penny Bickerstaff).

Margaret Thoresby

Report of Electoral Roll Officer

At the end of 2023, the Parish Electoral Roll stood at 392. We had 7 people join the Electoral roll during the year and 8 people were removed due to passing away or moving from the area.

The Electoral Roll is kept updated and a revised roll submitted for consideration at the APCM.

Any parishioners wishing to join the Parish Electoral Roll, at any time, are welcome to fill in forms available either in both our churches or obtained from the Parish Office via email to wansteadparishadmin@uwclub.net.

Lorraine Bucknall

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

The annual numbers show the Parish is continuing to welcome families through baptism and stay pretty constant from year to year. Our twice monthly services are booked several months in advance in general, often with two families at different times.
Wedding numbers are fairly similar to previous years but as in many Parishes are historically less than we would hope.

My thanks go to my willing Baptism rota helpers, Phil, Yvy, Danielle and Lisa who always cheerfully support me and the ministry team welcoming families and guests on the day. More offers of help would be gladly appreciated. Likewise thanks to Annabelle for joining me to assist at weddings where she excels at shouting up the tower to get bellringers started for the couples exit!! I love what I do for the Parish.

During 2023 the ministry team carried out 11 funerals at either Christ Church or St Mary's and five at the City of London Cemetery. There were six interments in total. Three interments were carried out at St Mary's in the Memorial Garden or existing family graves and three in the Memorial Garden at Christ Church.

Jan Andrews and Lorraine Bucknall

The Parochial Church Council

Background

The Charity operates under the Church Representation Rules, 2006 and other regulations of the Church of England. The Parochial Church Council, PCC, has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It has maintenance responsibilities for the only Grade I listed building in Redbridge, St Mary the Virgin, and for Christ Church, itself Grade II* listed. The Rector and Churchwardens are trustees of the Church School, which remains the only Aided Church of England School within the borough.

Operation of the Charity

All major decisions are made by the PCC during regular meetings; Standing Committee has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The Churchwardens, as the leading lay members of the parish, assist the incumbent in the day-to-day administration of church affairs and have authority under canon law. Financial delegation is covered under the Finance Policy, which is displayed in both Churches, is displayed during the Annual Meeting and is generally available on request.

Charitable Trustees

The Trustees of the Charity are members of the PCC; they are either ex officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, or co- opted in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Candidates for election are required to complete the Trustee Declaration of Eligibility. Newly elected members are given printed information from the Charity Commission, which explains the responsibilities of trustees.

Membership of the Parish Church Council 2023

During the year to December 2023 the following served as members of the PCC:

Ex-Officio Trustees:

Priest in Charge:	Revd James Gilder
Associate Priest(s):	Revd Olive Thursby
Churchwardens:	Mr Ralph Hall,
	Mrs Barbara Hepworth Jones
Deputy Churchwarden:	Mrs Jenny Griffiths
Assistant Churchwarden:	Mrs Lesley Wyness
Diocesan Synod Representative:	Mr Phillip Carnelley

Co-opted Trustee:

James Paterson Treasurer and Lay Vice Chair

Elected Trustees: (date in brackets is when term ends)

Eleanor Taylor Secretary (2025)

Jan Andrews (2026)

Equi Ajogbe (2026)

James Boast (2026)

Ann Corne (2026)

Djaama Davis, Assistant Treasurer (2024)

Sue Fitzgerald (2026)

Jem Green (2025)

Lauren Johnson (2025)

Sue Oldham Assistant Secretary (2024)

Elected Trustees by virtue of being representatives on the **Deanery Synod:**

The three year term of office ends for all in May 2026

Mrs Margaret Adams

Mr Joshua Dickinson

Mr Neil Hepworth

Maureen Medley

The PCC held six meetings in 2023 with an average attendance of 71%

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. Committee members are The Rector, Lay Vice Chair, Churchwardens, Deputy Churchwarden, Treasurer and Secretary. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Standing Committee

Standing Committee is the only Legally required committee, and consists of the Chair of PCC, the two Church Wardens, the deputy Church Warden, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and one observer from the PCC, chosen at the previous PCC meeting.

Diocesan Synod Report

Chelmsford Diocesan Synod is the regional assembly of the Church of England in Essex and East London, and is the main policy-making body of the diocese. Members of Diocesan Synod are also members of the Diocesan Board of Finance, which is responsible for the custody and management of diocesan finances. Lay members are elected by parish representatives on Deanery Synod.

Meetings begin with Bishop Guli's presidential address: video recordings and transcripts of these are available on the diocesan website and well worth reviewing: reflective, thoughtful and profound. A key feature of the meetings is the opportunity to ask questions of the bishops and other leading members of the Diocesan organization, about policy and more.

Diocesan Synod met three times in 2023. Important items included: Synod approved the Diocesan Environmental Policy and net-zero carbon route map; discussed the implications of the Living in Love and Faith debates and decisions; debated and approved revisions to the Parish Share scheme; approved new constitutions for the DAC and Deanery Synods; and it received reports on the Diocesan Board of Education and the Diocese's approach to Estates Ministry.

Full minutes of meetings and related documents are available on the diocesan website.

Philip Carnelley

Redbridge Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod exists primarily as an information conduit between parishes and the Diocese especially on financial matters. It also shares information regarding charities and acts as a catalyst for other initiatives. Members elect representatives to the General Synod and the Diocesan Synod.

The Redbridge Deanery Synod met three times in 2023. Topics considered at meetings during the year included: The role of Citizens UK, a faith-based organisation which uses networking and collective action to influence decision- makers. The work of the Anna Chaplaincy which ministers to older people both emotionally and spiritually. Lastly work began on development of the future strategy for the Deanery.

Wanstead Deanery Synod representatives (who are also ex-officio members of the PCC) were Margaret Adams, Joshua Dickinson, Neil Hepworth, Maureen Medley and Philip Carnelley (who is also Diocesan Synod representative).

Margaret Adams

Mission and Ministry (MMU) Report

The West Roding Mission and Ministry Unity partners (Wanstead, St Mary's Woodford, St Gabriels and St Peter in the Forest) continued to meet in 2023 to exchange news and ideas. The MMU's work in the Bereavement Cafe and Snaresbrook Crown Court Chaplaincy continues. A second annual MMU pilgrimage between the four parishes took place on a very hot 11th June and this looks to be becoming a regular fixture in diaries. The MMU shared worship in the form of a joint Ascension Day service held at St Gabriels' and a pulpit swap in January 2024 has been arranged.

Jenny Griffiths

Parish Music

Music continued to play an important role in Parish life throughout 2023 with several notable events

The Parish Choir continued to sing on Sundays – the membership divided between St Mary's and Christ Church.

The monthly Choral Evensongs at St Mary's (winter months) and Christ Church (summer months) were held on the 2nd Sunday of the month apart from August and December and were well attended. There were guest preachers at some of them.

The Choir sang Choral Evensong at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 11th November

On Good Friday a choir made up of members of the Parish Choir, members of the Forget me not choir, and some visiting members from the community and from neighbouring churches – some 40 singers in all, joined together to give a performance of Stainer's Crucifixion at St Mary's. This was conducted by Alison Wells and accompanied by Joe Waggot on the organ. Joe left his post as Organist of the Parish after Easter to concentrate on his new career as a paramedic.

David Chan was appointed to the post of Organist in May and later as Director of Music.

Advent Carol Service in Christ Church, and Nine lessons and Carols in St Mary's, were very well attended.

May 26-29 saw the first presentation of a Music Festival at St Mary's. There is a plaque on the organ which commemorates the 1923 restoration of the organ, and it was suggested that we have a concert to celebrate that. We had 4 events in the end : Sonare, a quartet of young professional singers gave a concert of songs for spring and summer encompassing a wide range of musical styles, on the 27th we had an organ concert which included a talk about the organ from Michael Blighton who looks after the maintenance of the organs in the Parish, and several of the volunteer organists as well as David Chan, played in a recital which followed ; Players were, Martin Elliot, Michael Tivey, Alison Wells, Martin Wheatley, Richard Williams.

Sunday saw a chamber music concert given by local professional musicians Jane and Clive Miller, John Garner, Susan FitzGerald, Alison Wells, Jonny Fong and Jacqueline Li with a variety of music by Poulenc, Brahms and others. Martin Wheatley held a ukulele workshop on the Monday, attended by 21 people who learnt 4 songs and had tremendous fun. A huge thank you to all involved.

The Forget me not choir enjoyed another year of fun and companionship as well as singing. Numbers are now at between 25 and 30 every week. They sang at a festival on Christ Church Green during Wanstead Festival, took part in Carols at the War Memorial, and sang in the Nine Lessons and Carols too. The choir are grateful for the Parish's support, and look forward to another year in the company of Andy Richardson and Alison Wells.

Parish Halls Committee

Our bookings for Childrens' parties increased on the previous year alongside all day Saturday bookings for Markets. We continue to hold many weekly classes, suitable for all ages.

Alcoholics Anonymous continue to meet each Sunday, we now a host Cocaine Anonymous meeting. I am told, both are a great community success.

September saw the start of Nursery Church and Sunday school meeting in the halls each Sunday at 9.30am and we continue to meet for coffee following our Sunday Eucharist.

We held six Friends events, two more than the previous year.

We hosted a beer festival in October, free of charge, all money raised went to various local charities.

The hall floor is still not perfect in one hall, following our problems the previous year, but the repair which has been made has ensured the hall can still be hired out

We changed from using a cleaning company to hiring a local lady to look after our halls, which, I am happy to say has a made a positive impact on our outgoings.

The halls are now generating a good income for the Parish.

Lauren Johnson

Mission and Outreach

The Committee met quarterly during 2023 to discuss the outreach activity in the Parish. In accordance with the aim of the committee events were organised to engage with church members across the parish and the wider community, socially and supportively and to raise funds for charities locally, nationally and internationally.

The general view of the committee is that post pandemic we managed to successfully revitalise our social events and fund raising, despite the financial recession.

Several events were held during the year and donations to charities raised as follows.

Funds Donated to Charity 2023

- Lent Lunch: Raised £465 for DEC Syria/Turkey
- Christian Aid Week: Raised £363.89
- Pancake Party: Raised £880.76 for Tin in a Bin
- Harvest Supper: Raised £917.51. With an additional top up of £282.49 from Parish Funds, £500 was donated to Mill Grove and £700 gifted to St Paul's Church Hall, Hainault
- Christmas Appeal/Toy Sunday: Donated Gifts for 17 Children and 19 Gifts for Adults to Hestia Women's Refuge - Hestia were very happy to be able to provide their residents with gifts to celebrate Christmas. More gifts & Gift Vouchers were provided to Redbridge Young Carers and Centre Point received £1,772.54 from a number of Christmas collections.

- Christingle: the £150 raised was stolen when Christ Church was burgled, however £2,520 was then raised through Just Giving. Thanks to Barbara Hepworth Jones for organising that appeal.
  First Funds Raised for International Charity Marsabit Kenya: £40. This is a small start for this charity, expected to develop and increase in 2024.

Tin In A Bin based at St Mary's The parish, continues to provide support to Tin in a Bin. Parishioners have been generous in bringing donations of food and other household essentials through the year to both churches. These are added to donations from the fifty plus site TinaB network, collated and redistributed through more than five local foodbanks throughout the year with additional appeals at Harvest, Christmas and times of crises.

In the year ahead the Committee aims to continue and, if possible, to increase, funds raised for local and national charities. The Committee is also discussing additional ways to engage with more people in the church and community, of all ages, who may be lonely or infirm and those seeking social companionship, fun and entertainment.

Beryl Darling

The Friends of St Mary with Christ Church

Since taking over as Chair of the 'Friends' in September, we have had a successful few months raising funds for the Parish.

We held a barbecue at St Mary's to celebrate the King's birthday flypast. Many non-church going residents attended and enjoyed the fun and festivities with us.

The Festival in September was a great success until the rain came! It was good having the flower displays back in church which brought many people into the grounds. The barbecue, kitchen and bar were all busy along with the extra stalls we had for children's enjoyment.

Our Halloween party had a massive turnout, lots of families enjoying the disco, bar, and hotdogs.

Merry Quizmas was well attended as usual. Our thanks to Andy Richardson for, as always, being a great quizmaster.

We held a 'Christmas Carol' performance at St Marys which also had a good turnout.

Since September we have had much fun and during the year managed to raise (net) funds in the region of £5000.00.

Lauren Johnson

HEADTEACHER'S REPORT, WANSTEAD CHURCH SCHOOL

2023 at Wanstead Church School began with an Ofsted inspection, which was very successful and very complimentary of the excellent work of the school. The inspection team praised the school's strong sense of community, how ambitious leaders are for the children and how proud our children are of their school. We were very pleased with the report, in particular the fact that the areas to develop were things we had already identified to work on.

The school year is always full with church events, like Remembrance, Candlelit Carols and Songs of Praise, and in 2023 we had two extraordinary events that we were delighted to be a part of. The first was when Bishop Guli visited Wanstead in March. The whole school walked with her to St Mary's Church where the school's Worship Council children led a fantastic service. Bishop Guli was particularly impressed with the children's wonderful singing. The second was when the Bishop of Marsabit in Kenya visited Wanstead with his wife. They could not believe how talented and welcoming our children were because they had learnt a song to sing to them in Swahili!

Throughout the year, there were many outings and visits to complement our ambitious curriculum including trips to the Science Museum, the British Museum, the Royal Observatory and St Paul's Cathedral. One particular highlight was when our choir sang at the Royal Albert Hall alongside other schools from Redbridge. The annual residential trip for Year 6 children to Danbury Outdoors took place once again in the summer, and we were delighted to reinstate the Year 5 residential trip in 2023. This was to a new location, Stubbers, and the children had a truly wonderful time.

To further enrich our curriculum, we marked a number of special days and weeks, including Science Week, Neurodiversity Week, Children's Mental Health Week, Anti-Bullying Week and World Book Day. We also had a very special day to launch the move of our Languages curriculum to Spanish, which was very exciting.

2023 was another special year in the United Kingdom, with the coronation of King Charles III. The children and staff marked this historic occasion with a whole day of celebration, including a street party lunch on the playground and a Royal Parade of handmade royal items of clothing and regalia.

Our prestigious Tom Curry Award continued to be awarded on a termly basis in 2023, with Leopold, Sivuno, Phoebe, Lottie, Alice and Lucas being worthy winners in 2023. We introduced a new award, Alva's Rainbow Award, in memory of Alva Fowler, a Wanstead Church School pupil who died in 2020. Alva was kind, friendly and brave and the new award was presented to one child in each class who demonstrated these qualities. The overall winner of the first Alva's Rainbow Award was Holly, Alva's best friend.

Wanstead Church School's club provision continues to go from strength to strength, with our Wake Up and Wind Down clubs being very busy every day. We introduced new clubs including Drama, Spanish and Science to add to our

existing Choir, Chess, Art and Sports clubs. Pleasingly, almost three-quarters of our children attend at least one club in the week.

Improvements to our building have continued to be prioritised and we were delighted to install Teaching Walls in all of our junior classrooms in 2023. We also had new pumps installed on our boilers, and works began to improve the accessibility of our school. So far, this has included an improved pathway and a new ramp, and will culminate in the installation of a lift in 2024.

In the summer of 2023, we said goodbye to two members of staff and welcomed in their place Miss Begum, Mrs Kareem, Mrs Seehra, Mrs Dhillon and Ms Krasteva. The staff team continues to shine every day and the morale of the team as a whole continues to be excellent. We also welcomed some new governors to our board in 2023: Mr Aves, Mr Ellwood, Ms McTaggart, Dr Sanusi and Dr Zeeshan. In the autumn of 2023, Mrs Turbet and Mrs Seymour were unanimously elected as Co-Chairs of Governors for the academic year ahead.

Wanstead Church School continues to encourage the children to be Wise, Compassionate and Strong in everything they do and to live by our motto, "We Can Shine!".

Natalie Denchfield, Headteacher

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

The Parish formally adopted the Church of England's Safeguarding Policies in 2022, meaning that there is no longer a separate parish safeguarding policy. During 2023 Wanstead Parish has adhered to the above and accompanying practice guidance.

Responsibility for safeguarding young people and vulnerable people is everyone's in the parish. However, the co-ordination of such safeguarding rests with the Designated Parish Safeguarding Officer, Gary Vickers, who liaises with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team where necessary. Gary Vickers' contact details are displayed on the parish website and in the parish magazine. Lorraine Bucknall is the parish's DBS recruiter and verifier.

The PCC has complied with their duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, to have due regard to the House of Bishops Guidance on Safeguarding Children and Young Adults.

Three recruiters from within the parish have undertaken the Church of England's Safer Recruitment training and two new members of staff have been recruited using the Safer Recruitment Guidelines.

One concern was raised to the Parish Safeguarding Officer and a referral was made to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

All clergy have completed the necessary suite of Level 3 Safeguarding Training.

A priority will be ensuring all new members of PCC receive Level 1 training, and that current members undertake the refresher course withing the next three months.

FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR THE FULL YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

The principal source of funds for the charity is the regular voluntary giving from our parishioners through planned giving and church collections; in 2023 this totalled £94,285, up about 4.4% over 2022. There was an increase in donations received from planned giving (+3.5%). By far the largest portion of donations still come from our planned givers through the Planned Giving Scheme (PGS) and Standing Orders, and the PCC's thanks go to all of the individuals who support us in this way; without these regular givers, we would have faced a very difficult financial year.

We continue to encourage givers to donate using the Planned Giving Scheme as this hugely reduces the administrative time and costs for us and allows us to budget better for the year.

All the donations that were gift aided enabled the PCC to reclaim £23,119 from the Inland Revenue for 2023. We have been aided by the rule which enables us to claim Gift Aid on cash collections up to a maximum of £8,000 for each church in any one financial year. Gift Aid continues to be a critical part of our income, as without recovering these funds, we would not be able to meet our day-to-day running costs.

2023 saw a continued growth in bookings and revenue from the Parish Halls. Rental receipts were £74,770, up 20% on the previous year, and even above pre-pandemic levels seen in 2019 (£66,100). The running costs (£33,991) were more than fully met (despite one-off costs for plumbing and electrical work).

The net income from the Halls of over £40,000 was a very important part of our 2023 financial performance, allowing us to fully cover our parish share, something we were not able to do in pandemic years.

The Friends hosted a number of fund-raising events during 2023 which raised a total of £5,040 net towards current and future works required at St Mary's and Christ Church. The Friends also purchased a number of items including halogen hobs and another new barbecue but were fortunate to receive a full refund on the defective barbecue bought in 2022 meaning the net cost of the "one-offs" was covered fully. In addition, £541 was received as memberships.

The parish again benefited from a generous grant from the Cottages Trust, derived from property rental income, to support the work of the Parish work with children, young people and families, predominantly using Red Balloon. In February, we also received a grant from the Chelmsford Diocese towards higher energy costs.

The PCC aims to keep a minimum reserve in liquid funds of £20,000 available at little or no notice for unforeseen contingencies that are not otherwise covered by the insurance policies in place on both our churches and other properties. At the year end the General Fund has net liquid reserves of £40,709.

Over the years, the parish has been fortunate to be the beneficiary in a number of legacies from past parishioners. In some cases, these legacies have been specifically "endowment funds", where the capital is invested and only the income derived from the fund can be used by the parish. In other cases, the legacy is not an endowment fund, but has been specifically left for a particular purpose in the parish, including two sizeable legacies which are restricted to St Marys and Christ Church respectively. In 2020, John Sunley left the parish a sizeable legacy which is restricted to specific types of spend for both churches. During 2023, the John Sunley Fund has enabled us to have new altar frontals and repair and replate silverware at Christ Church; at St Mary's, the bequest has enabled us to have new seat cushions in all the main pews on the ground floor and in the galleries. We are particularly grateful to John for his generosity in remembering the parish in this way.

Recent Legacies

Name	**Year Received**	**Legacy**	**Fund**	**Fund Type**
Ian Hartley	2021	£1,000	General	Unrestricted
Mary Colmer	2021	£500	Memorial Garden	Restricted
John Sunley	2020	House and £200,000	Sunley	Restricted
Pauline Walker	2020	£2,000	General	Unrestricted
Janet Lilian Marten	2020	£1,000	General	Unrestricted
Rose Clare	2019	£4,750	Distress Relief	Restricted
Barbara Joan Gower	2019	£1,000	General	Unrestricted
Joan Brown	2018 & 2019	House and £49,279	St Mary's	Restricted
Beatrice Smith	2018	£5,000	St Mary's	Restricted
Arthur Worwood	2018	£29,468	Worwood Music	Designated by the PCC

In addition to the above, we remain indebted to the generosity of Eileen Jolliffe, Elizabeth Howdill and Eileen and Muriel Jupp who kindly remembered the parish in their wills. These bequests enabled the purchase of the "Curates House", the restoration and redecorating of the interior of St Mary's and the purchase of a flat that generates income to look after Christ Church.

In a typical year, the parish regular income received continues to be very finely balanced with amounts expended on the running of the parish, meaning that any additional costs, particularly for larger projects, will continue to require substantial additional external funding or donations.

Parish Share

As reported in the Financial Review in 2022, the Parish Share for 2023 was set at £ 104,500 net. This had been somewhat reduced due to a new method of calculating how much different parishes pay to support the work here and in the wider diocese. The 2023 parish share was paid in full in monthly instalments.

The Parish Share for 2024 has, however, been increased by 11% to £117,000, and will be £116,000 after discount for paying monthly, so back to the high 2022 level.

In 2022, the planned giving and church collections totalled £94,277; gift aid reclaimed added £23,093, totalling £117,370. This demonstrates how we are only just able to cover our parish share by using the reclaimed gift aid; to pay the other expenses we have to rely on one-off donations and income from the hall.

Financial Position at year end:

The PCC ended the year with seemingly substantial reserves of cash and investments, but these are largely either designated for a particular purpose or formally restricted in use. The uncommitted general funds held are £40,709, an increase on the £29,232 in 2022, but not a huge surplus in an environment of ever-increasing costs. This indicates the fine balance we face and the reliance we have on the Hall income.

2024 will also see the commencement of a project to begin the repair and restoration of the tower at Christ Church. A survey is being commissioned currently which will give a better idea of how bad the situation is and what calls on our limited funds will be made for this and other issues at Christ Church which require urgent attention.

Conclusion

The priority for 2024 continues to be maintaining the effective work of the parish, providing adequate support to enable the ministry team to focus on developing the mission, evangelical, outreach and pastoral work of the church in Wanstead.

The current economic situation means that there are more calls on the parish for assistance, at a time when our income may also be constrained, but we must work to increase our regular planned giving through the Parish Giving Scheme and explore ways to diversify our income to enable us to continue to maintain the effective work we do.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its financial activities for that period. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable & prudent;
- state whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the SORP, Statement of Recommended Practice, and with applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the charities act 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

James Paterson
Lay Vice Chair

Signed on behalf of the Charity Trustees

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FULL YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

The financial statements appear on the following pages

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on the following pages.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees 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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants , which is one of the listed bodies.

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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. 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

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

Date: 24 April 2024

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	*Total 2022 £*
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income		151,549	2,156	-	153,705	*132,220*
Activities for generating funds		78,107	24,215	-	102,322	*94,007*
Investment income		3,110	54,661	2,315	60,086	*50,240*
Incoming resources from charitable activities		13,315	150	-	13,465	*17,511*
Total income	1	**246,081**	**81,182**	**2,315**	**329,578**	***293,978***
Resources used						
Cost of generating funds						
Cost of generating voluntary income		470	152	-	622	*431*
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other		35,225	-	-	35,225	*35,575*
Charitable activities		200,433	91,845	-	292,278	*248,385*
Governance costs		3,396	-	-	3,396	*2,520*
Total expenditure	2	**239,524**	**91,997**	**-**	**331,521**	***286,911***
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer		**6,557**	**(10,815)**	**2,315**	**(1,943)**	***7,067***
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in		1,478	1,123	-	2,601	*3,825*
Gross transfers between funds - out		(1,478)	(955)	(168)	(2,601)	*(3,825)*
Net income / (expenditure) resources before other gains/(losses)		**6,557**	**(10,647)**	**2,147**	**(1,943)**	***7,067***
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets		1,852	263,800	9,357	275,009	*(44,940)*
Net movement in funds		**8,409**	**253,153**	**11,504**	**273,066**	***(37,873)***
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward from 2022		**756,182**	**1,881,806**	**100,796**	**2,738,784**	***2,776,657***
Total funds carried forward		**764,591**	**2,134,959**	**112,300**	**3,011,850**	***2,738,784***

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

			2023	*2022*
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	5		675,798	*1,050,550*
Investment property	6		1,600,000	*1,000,000*
			2,275,798	*2,050,550*
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	7	3,810		*2,744*
Investments		441,319		*396,256*
Cash at bank and in hand		310,971		*342,972*
		756,100		*741,972*
LIABILITIES				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	20,048		*53,738*
NET CURRENT ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			736,052	*688,234*
TOTAL NET ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES			**3,011,850**	***2,738,784***
REPRESENTED BY				
Unrestricted funds			40,709	*29,232*
Designated funds			723,882	*726,950*
Restricted funds			2,134,959	*1,881,806*
Endowment funds			112,300	*100,796*
TOTAL FUNDS			**3,011,850**	***2,738,784***

Approved by the PCC on: 15th April 2024

Name: James Paterson
Lay Vice Chair

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Details of incoming resources

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	*Total 2022 £*
Voluntary Income						
Giving	94,305	-	-	-	94,305	*90,322*
Income tax recoverable	23,094	-	25	-	23,119	*20,836*
Donations, appeals etc.	18,365	-	2,131	-	20,496	*10,387*
Other income	14,035	1,750	-	-	15,785	*10,675*
	149,799	**1,750**	**2,156**	**-**	**153,705**	***132,220***
Activities for generating funds						
Events	3,337	-	5,389	-	8,726	*4,903*
Friends membership	-	-	541	-	541	*581*
Friends fundraising	-	-	18,285	-	18,285	*26,273*
Hall lettings	74,770	-	-	-	74,770	*62,250*
	78,107	**-**	**24,215**	**-**	**102,322**	***94,007***
Investment income						
Interest & dividends	2,245	865	2,026	2,315	7,451	*5,190*
Rental income	-	-	52,635	-	52,635	*45,050*
	2,245	**865**	**54,661**	**2,315**	**60,086**	***50,240***
Incoming resources from charitable activities						
Fees for weddings & funerals	3,664	-	150	-	3,814	*6,335*
Charitable other income	9,651	-	-	-	9,651	*11,176*
	13,315	**-**	**150**	**-**	**13,465**	***17,511***
Total incoming resources	**243,466**	**2,615**	**81,182**	**2,315**	**329,578**	***293,978***

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2 Details of resources used

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	*Total 2022 £*
Cost of generating funds/fundraising trading costs					
Church hall costs	32,903	1,088	-	33,991	*35,294*
Cost of generating voluntary income	470	-	152	622	*431*
Cost of fundraising events	1,234	-	-	1,234	281
	34,607	**1,088**	**152**	**35,847**	***36,006***
Charitable expenditure					
Giving	1,019	-	499	1,518	*300*
Parish share	104,499	-	-	104,499	*114,792*
Ministry team expenses	2,041	-	55	2,096	*4,694*
Wages	23,011	470	-	23,481	*23,381*
Choir and music	5,215	1,032	416	6,663	*2,030*
Parish training & mission	1,027	-	389	1,416	*1,049*
Education & young people	14,516	-	-	14,516	*7,182*
Upkeep of services	4,069	300	51,634	56,003	*9,944*
Insurance	6,604	-	-	6,604	*8,250*
Organ expenses	910	70	4,990	5,970	*749*
Residential property expenses	3,873	-	13,357	17,230	*16,178*
Works and maintenance	8,210	-	6,581	14,791	*22,392*
Light, heat & utilities	10,102	-	-	10,102	*7,731*
Office expenses	5,321	-	-	5,321	*4,572*
Friends cost of fundraising	-	-	13,884	13,884	*19,086*
Flowers etc.	1,342	-	-	1,342	*693*
Sundry expenses	2,104	-	40	2,144	*664*
Depreciation	-	4,698	-	4,698	*4,698*
	193,863	**6,570**	**91,845**	**292,278**	***248,385***
Governance costs					
Accountancy and legal costs	3,396	-	-	3,396	*2,520*
	3,396	**-**	**-**	**3,396**	***2,520***
Total resources expended	**231,866**	**7,658**	**91,997**	**331,521**	***286,911***

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

3 Accounting policies

a Basis of preparation

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair 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 for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at fair value as agreed by the PCC and investments which are stated at market value.

b Funds

Unrestricted funds

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

Designated funds

These are funds that are for specific purposes but not restricted by document or deed to that purpose alone.

Restricted funds

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

Endowment funds

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

c Incoming resources

- Income from planned giving/donations and other voluntary income is recognised when it is received.
- Gift Aid and other tax claims are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis in relation to the date the donation it relates to was received.
- Legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of it's legal entitlement and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
- Rental income from the letting of PCC property is recognised when rents are due.
- The charity receives government grants in respect of the Job Retention Scheme. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.
- Investment income from interest on deposits and dividends earned are accounted for when receivable.
- Investment gains and losses includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

3 Accounting policies (continued)

d Resources used

- Costs are recognised when incurred and as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation and settlement of the liability is probable and quantifiable.
- Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts and costs of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.
- Grants payable are recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made externally and there are no pre-conditions still to meet for the entitlement to the grant which remain within the control of the PCC.

e Fixed Assets

- In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of "charity" by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.
- Tangible fixed assets for use by the PCC

  The PCC have agreed a change in accounting policy in respect of tangible fixed assets for use by the PCC with the new policy requiring capitalisation where an item costs at least £5,000 as opposed to the previous policy which stated a cost of at least £1,000. The new policy reads as follows:
  "These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £5,000. They are valued at cost or else, for gifts- in-kind, at a reasonable estimate of their open market value on receipt".
  The PCC feels that the increased level at which an item is capitalised is better representative of todays prices whilst still ensuring that the PCC is not overburdened with the administrative efforts that would stem from a lower cost and more importantly not detracting from a readers understanding of the accounts.

  As a result of this change in policy, costs totalling £6,840 have been expensed directly to the Statement of Financial Activities. These costs related to a lawn mower, ramp and handrail of which no single item cost in excess of £5,000.

  Property used by the PCC in the course of their work is included in the accounts at cost.

  Depreciation is calculated to write off the capitalised cost of fixed assets less their currently anticipated residual fair value over their estimated useful lives as follows:

  - Curates House Nil
  - Furniture & Fixtures 10 / 20 years
  - Computers Equipment 5 years
  - Alarm system 10 years

- Fixed asset investment property

  These are included at best estimate of market value as determined by the PCC.

f Investments

These are stated at market value at the balance sheet date with any gains or losses on revaluation or disposals throughout the year being recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

g Debtors and creditors; bank and cash

Debtors are stated at the amount owed to the PCC or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the PCC. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at realisable values.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

4 Staff costs

During the year the PCC employed an Organist, Clerical Assistant and a Hall Manager. A further Clerical Assistant carried out work for the PCC on a volunteer basis. Employment costs are included in the respective costs heads.

During the year, £8,279 was paid to the trustee Lauren Johnson in relation to services provided in her role as Hall Manager.

It is PCC policy to offer to reimburse members of the PCC and others involved in the administration of the PCC affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. With the exception of the details provided above, no member of the PCC was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the PCC, although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed where requested.

	2023	*2022*
	£	*£*
Gross Salary	34,871	*26,322*
Employers pension contribution	1,371	*1,489*
	36,242	*27,811*
Number of employees in the year	4	*4*

5 Fixed Assets

	Property	Furniture & Fixtures	Computer Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Gross book value at 1 January 2023	1,012,959	59,516	1,334	1,073,809
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-	-
Transfers between categories	(370,054)	-	-	(370,054)
Gross book value at 31 December 2023	642,905	59,516	1,334	703,755
Depreciation at 1 January 2023	-	21,925	1,334	23,259
Charge for the year	-	4,698	-	4,698
Depreciation at 31 December 2023	-	26,623	1,334	27,957
Net book value at 31 December 2023	**642,905**	**32,893**	-	**675,798**
Net book value at 31 December 2022	**1,012,959**	**37,591**	-	**1,050,550**

The residential property, St David's Court, was recognised as no longer needed in the Churches activities and therefore has been rented out on a commercial basis. The property has been transferred to Investment Property in the accounts.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

6 Investments	Investment Property £	Total £
Gross book value at 1 January 2023	1,000,000	1,000,000
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Transfers between categories	370,054	370,054
Revaluations	229,946	229,946
Gross book value at 31 December 2023	1,600,000	1,600,000
Net book value at 31 December 2023	**1,600,000**	**1,600,000**
Net book value at 31 December 2022	**1,000,000**	**1,000,000**

7 Debtors	2023 £	*2022 £*
Amounts falling due within one year		
Accrued income	-	*1,166*
Gift aid tax claim	3,810	*1,578*
Total debtors falling due within one year	3,810	*2,744*

8 Creditors	2023 £	*2022 £*
Amounts falling due within one year		
Accruals and deferred income	15,653	*25,590*
Funds received due to be paid (note 10)	4,395	*28,148*
Total creditors falling due within one year	20,048	*53,738*

9 Related party transactions

The only related party transactions in the year relate to the payment of wages to a Trustee in their role as Hall Manager, details are provided in note 4. No further related party transactions occurred in 2023.

10 For information only: Money received and passed on to External Organisations

	2023 £	*2022 £*
Balance brought forward from last year	28,148	*27,544*
Amounts Received - received for External Organisations	3,613	*7,907*
Amounts Received - passed to External Organisations	(27,366)	*(7,303)*
Balance still to be paid	4,395	*28,148*

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

11 Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF)

The PCC participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of CWPF for lay staff. The Scheme is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the assets of the schemes separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

The Church Workers Pension Fund has a section known as the Defined Benefits Scheme and a section known as the Pension Builder Scheme which has two subsections; a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic and a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

Pension Builder Scheme

Both sections of the Pension Builder Scheme are classed as defined benefit schemes.

Pension Builder Classic provides a pension, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Discretionary increases may also be added, depending on investment returns and other factors.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are the contributions payable (2023: £1,371, 2022: £1,489).

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent was carried out as at 31 December 2019.

For the Pension Builder Classic section, the 2019 valuation revealed a deficit of £4.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. At the most recent annual review effective 1 January 2024, the Board chose to grant a discretionary bonus of 6.7% to both pensions not yet in payment and pensions in payment in respect of service prior to April 1997; and a bonus on pensions in payment in respect of post April 2006 service so that the pension increase was 5% (where usually it would be calculated based on inflation up to 2.5%). This followed improvements in the funding position over 2023. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £5.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The next valuation is due as at 31 December 2022. Calculations for this are currently under way.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, the PCC could become responsible for paying a share of that employer's pension liabilities.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
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STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023 £	*2022* *£*
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	273,066	*(37,873)*
Adjustments for		
Depreciation charges	4,698	*4,698*
(Gains)/Loss on investments	(275,009)	*44,940*
Dividends, interest and rents received	(60,086)	*(50,240)*
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(1,066)	*1,617*
Decrease in creditors	(33,690)	*(9,520)*
Net cash used in operating activities	**(92,087)**	***(46,378)***
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends, interest and rents received	60,086	*50,240*
Net cash provided by investing activities	**60,086**	***50,240***
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	**(32,001)**	***3,862***
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	**342,972**	***339,110***
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	**310,971**	***342,972***
Represented by:		
Cash at bank and in hand	**310,971**	***342,972***

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

FUND MOVEMENT SUMMARY YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	01.01.2023	Resources Incoming	Resources Outgoing	Investment Gain/(Loss)	Transfers In/(Out)	31.12.2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General	29,232	243,466	231,866	-	(123)	40,709
Designated Funds						
Flowers	1,298	-	-	-	123	1,421
Hall Maintenance	1,797	-	1,088	-	-	709
St Mary Open days	1,433	-	-	-	-	1,433
Arthur Worwood Music	28,843	-	1,872	-	-	26,971
Property fund	666,329	1,750	4,698	1,852	-	665,233
Roof 2013	3,688	-	-	-	-	3,688
Bridge	312	-	-	-	-	312
Signpost	835	-	-	-	(400)	435
Property Maintenance	22,815	865	-	-	-	23,680
Outings	(400)	-	-	-	400	-
	726,950	2,615	7,658	1,852	123	723,882
Restricted Funds						
Appeals and collections	2,344	-	-	-	-	2,344
Choir and music	2,660	-	-	-	-	2,660
Friends	72,580	21,368	15,430	3,185	-	81,703
Homeless and support	1,626	6	282	-	-	1,350
Memorial garden	2,542	83	1,414	-	-	1,211
Ministry candidates	202	7	-	-	-	209
Jazz Vespers	960	125	416	-	-	669
St Mary's garden	1,107	490	-	-	168	1,765
Christ Church Jupp bequest	388,508	18,170	12,404	29,946	-	424,220
Wanstead Winter night shelter	7,363	-	376	-	-	6,987
SMWR	3,681	5,914	-	-	-	9,595
Community choir	2,617	-	-	-	-	2,617
Distress relief	16,283	554	40	1,289	-	18,086
St Mary's Brown bequest	600,327	18,960	17,222	100,000	-	702,065
John Sunley bequest	779,006	15,505	44,413	129,380	-	879,478
	1,881,806	81,182	91,997	263,800	168	2,134,959
Endowment Funds						
Bishops J Adams Memorial	5,319	-	-	510	-	5,829
Eileen Joliffe bequest	74,161	2,315	-	6,831	-	83,307
ST M Mem Gdn and Corp Beqs	11,522	-	-	1,078	(168)	12,432
Taylor Memorial 1992	9,794	-	-	938	-	10,732
	100,796	2,315	-	9,357	(168)	112,300

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2024

31st December 2023

	2023 Annual Budget	Actual to 31-Dec-23	Budget 2024
INCOME			
Planned Giving	85,000	79,573	82,500
Income Tax recovered on Gift Aid	21,250	23,094	23,100
Church Collections	10,000	14,712	14,000
Contribution from Hall	65,000	74,770	74,500
Other Receipts	12,500	28,714	15,000
Rental Income	10,500	8,930	600
External Financial Support	8,280	13,673	11,550
Legacies	0	0	0
Total Income	212,530	243,466	221,250
CHURCH ACTIVITY			
Parish Share	104,499	104,499	115,957
SALARIES & EXPENSES			
Rector's expenses of office	1,500	874	1,000
Staff expenses	4,000	1,167	4,100
Cost of properties	2,000	3,873	1,000
Parish training	500	162	200
Parish Office	3,500	5,321	3,500
Salaries and honoraria	14,500	14,864	15,000
Choirmaster and organist, incl assoc. direct	9,000	8,148	9,000
Education & young people	13,700	14,516	13,000
Upkeep of services	2,500	3,615	3,200
Choir & Music	500	5,215	875
Flowers	500	1,342	1,200
Mission expenses	200	865	200
CHURCH RUNNING EXPENSES			
Organ / piano tuning or servicing	0	910	1,000
Clock Servicing	0	0	0
General Maintenance and upkeep	3,000	6,447	5,000
Gas	7,000	4,148	7,000
Electricity	6,000	5,669	6,000
Water	250	285	300
Insurance	8,250	6,604	9,250
Christ Church Garden and SM churchyard	0	675	0
Marketing and Website	2,000	1,994	3,000
Sundry expenses and miscellaneous payments	300	2,267	2,200
Legal fees	0	720	0
Independent Examiner	2,500	2,676	2,800
HALL RUNNING EXPENSES			
Hall Cleaning	10,000	10,659	10,000
Hall Running	9,000	12,990	8,000
Hall Utilities and Waste	2,500	4,894	4,500
Hall Major Repairs & Projects	0	5,448	0
Mission Giving	150	1,019	150
Major Repairs & Projects	0	0	0
Total expenses	207,849	231,866	227,432
TOTAL OF ORDINARY INCOME	212,530	243,466	221,250
TOTAL OF ORDINARY EXPENSES	207,849	231,866	227,432
SURPLUS / DEFICIT - GENERAL FUND	4,681	11,600	-6,182
2023 General Fund Balance			40,830
Resulting General Fund Balance			34,648
Min Required			20,000
Excess (Deficit) Reserve			14,648

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST C

England & Wales - Charity number 1127753

Accounts

Wanstead Parish

St Mary with Christ Church

Annual report

and

Financial Statements

of the

Parochial Church Council

of the

Ecclesiastical Parish of

St Mary with Christchurch, Wanstead

for the
Year ended 31st December 2022
Registered Charity Number 1127753

Priest in Charge:
The Revd. James Gilder
Christchurch,
Wanstead Place, Wanstead

Banks:
NatWest Bank, High Street, Wanstead
HSBC Bank, Electric Parade, George Lane, South Woodford
CCLA Investment Management Ltd, Cheapside, London EC2

Independent Examiner:
Lorraine Catherine Purdy FCCA, Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills

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Introduction

2022 saw the end of the Covid pandemic, and while Covid continued to affect many people, the introduction of new vaccines meant that the effect was less devastating, with the result that by the end of the year our churches were open for normal services, and all the activities we had previously enjoyed were reinstated.

In May Revd Chris Taylor, the House for Duty priest, left to return to Cumbria. The Parish thanks him for all his work and wishes him well in his retirement. The Revd Canon Martyn Hawkes continued to act as Interim Priest in Charge until October, the Parish benefitting greatly from his quiet wisdom and to whom we also give our thanks. In May Revd James Gilder joined the parish to help out our severely overworked ministry team. Fortunately, he liked the Parish enough to apply for the post of Priest in Charge, and on October 6th he was duly Licensed and Installed.

Thanks are due to Revd Olive Thursby and Revd Richard Wyber, who work so hard to minister to the needs of the Parish, and to Revd James Gilder as he begins his ministry with us. Hopefully 2023 will see the appointment of a new House for Duty Priest to join the team

Rector's report

Although I was only licensed some six months ago, my presence in the parish now extends to more than a year and it has been a good experience to see how far we have travelled in this time.

If one was to think of an appropriate analogy for the Parish of Wanstead, it might be that of a mighty ship that was launched onto the world's oceans many years ago. The crew and passengers have changed many times over those years, and all have made their mark in steering, guiding others and themselves journeying in this vessel, through both calm and rough seas, and the occasional storm.

In some ways, this has felt like a year where we have been required to take our ship into dry dock in order to make some much-needed repairs, before relaunching it again. There has been a necessary focus on shoring- up those parts which were letting in water; mending the rigging and (sometimes literally) repainting the exterior! The new captain is taking a little time to get to know his crew rather than seeking to make any vast changes to the schedule at this point, and it feels to me that we are managing relatively-successfully to put HMS Wanstead back into the sea again, without too many people having fallen overboard, jumped ship or found themselves forcibly marooned.

It has been good this year to see increased congregations across our services, admittedly still recovering from the low-point of Covid. There has been a flourishing of interest in our Lent groups and this needs now to be a launching pad for other small groups to take into account our younger adult congregations, some of whom were confirmed during the year. Our lay ministry has gone from strength to strength and the challenge will now be to encourage people to take this further, possibly by running the Christian Studies Course ourselves.

We have re-instigated choral evensong and the choir has now hopefully been set on a secure course, with the challenge now being to develop this service as something that people new to London might like to travel here to attend, given its increasing scarcity. Jazz Vespers has continued to attract a different crowd to church. Our Reach Out Committee has been extremely active in fundraising and organising community work, and our Friends have been equally busy. Our young people's work has increased in numbers this year, with far-better participation in Junior Church and very steady numbers at youth club and Little Angels. Christmas attendances were good and we were commended in the wider community for our response to the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II, which drew many people to church. There are now committed teams at both our churches, charged with the responsibility of keeping the church buildings looking loved. The parish magazine has made a comeback, attempting to bring people together and keep the parish informed, and a new website is on its way.

There have, of course, been difficult times too – and there always will be. We have lost key people who have moved away or sadly died. Not all the hurt that exists from times past has yet been healed. I occasionally feel overwhelmed with the workload. Despite these difficulties, what we must keep in mind is that we have a dual focus: welcoming those who find a home with us whilst nurturing them and their faith, and looking beyond the walls of our buildings to see what God is doing in the world and how we might best join in. I hope that we can also weave into this a healthy dose of fun and friendship, which is what every good parish thrives on.

Whereas repairing small boats and changing their course is a relatively simple exercise, the task of doing so on a larger vessel is considerably more difficult. Occasionally it can feel like a task that is beyond us. However, we ought to remember that it tended to be small changes that Jesus effected during his ministry, which made the most difference to people's lives. The suggestion to Simon Peter and his brother to cast their nets over the other side of the boat was so ridiculously simple as to be laughable, yet it was this small change that, with God's help, yielded their boat's biggest catch. As we sail ever-onwards let us be alive to what God is telling us in the small things as well as the large.

There are far too many people whom I might well use this space to thank. You make this is a wonderful place. I am hugely grateful to all of you who willingly give up your time to help make our parish what it is. I love being your priest and I regularly pray for you all, often individually by name. It is a privilege to do so.

Yours,

Fr James Gilder (i.e. The Cap'n)

Church Warden's Reports

St Mary's

It has been a busy year as we came out of Covid and returned to a version of normality.

The church has a service each Sunday except for the third Sunday of each month. The first Sunday of each month is a Eucharist. The following week is a Lay Led service from the book of Common Worship. The fourth Sunday we take our service from the Book of Common Prayer. Each Wednesday evening there is a service of compline at 8pm.

We have a strong and talented group of Lay Leaders who have enhanced our services on our return to a type of normal, after the Covid break. The music direction of our services is guided and led by Alison Wells.

Our Organists are mainly unpaid, so I thank, Martin Wheatly, Michael Tivey, Richard Williams and Alison Wells for their dedication and talent which enhances our services. Thanks also to Joe Waggott who has been a marvellous Director of Music and parish organist.

It would be a very long list of names if I were to thank everyone individually who is a vital part of the life at St Mary's as it is practically every member of the congregation.

The number of people who would say that they are regular attendees is over 80 persons. The average attendance each Sunday is c 40.

The church is well cared for by a number of volunteers who ensure the church is kept clean and tidy. The Saturday morning groups are referred to as PODs. These are arranged and looked after by Sue Paterson. We also have an active group of gardeners who ensure the churchyard is kept neat and tidy. We thank Phil Ryan who organises a dedicated group and plans the necessary seasonal works that need to be undertaken. The Sunday Coffee rota is run by Maureen Medley and is well supported. Margaret Thoresby organises the flower arranging team.

We are blessed with a rather talented choir which is overseen by Alison Wells and Fr James.

Our church office is managed by Lorraine Bucknall. Loraine organises the annual servicing of equipment and supports by producing the printed items that we require for our services each week.

Appreciation and thanks to Jan Andrews who is responsible for arranging our Christenings, Weddings and Funerals.

We have a large compliment of sides-people, readers, intercessors and sides people who are all marshalled by Sue Paterson.

Lynette Baptist is our sacristy minister and oversees the monthly Eucharistic service.

Christopher Parkinson and co-author Dr Penny Hebgin-Barnes are compiling a catalogue of stained glass up to 1800 in Essex using the original county boundary so as to allow inclusion of much fine glass now in the eastern London Boroughs. This

Catalogue is for the Corpus Vitrearum Medii Aevi, a charitable academic group based at York University. They were particularly interested in Francis Eginton's two heraldic panels in the east windows of the North and South aisles dating back to 1790. Once their catalogue is published, I am hoping to have copies available for the parish.

We have begun to plant trees to replace the diseased Ash trees which had to be felled.

Easter services were well attended and the walk on Psalm Sunday from Christ Church to St Mary's was well populated which included a stop outside the George pub for us to sing a few hymns.

Development of the 'Poppy Trail': during the pandemic further research was undertaken in the churchyard, furthering the work of Phil Ryan and others, we were surprised to find that, far from the 17 graves memorialising victims of war that we had previously known about, there are actually over 70 victims of various wars buried or remembered at St Mary's, including civilians. Thanks to the generosity of a parishioner, we are now marking these graves with a simple red poppy on a steel stem and this has created a poppy trail through the graveyard which will be supplemented, when possible, by a guide to those commemorated.

During the year, four new benches have been placed in the churchyard donated by parishioners.

The disabled access by lift has been condemned. A temporary solution is in hand.

As part of the Queens 70th Jubilee celebrations, a day of merriment was held in the churchyard to coincide with the RAF fly past. St Mary's is used as a navigation point on these occasions, so makes for a unique view point of the spectacle. It is estimated that close to a thousand people visited the Churchyard that day.

Our links with Wanstead High School resumed with several visits of their students to engage with the history of the area and our church.

The summer of 2022 was one of the hottest on record. With the danger of fire in the churchyard due to the dry grass, much of the foliage along the south wall of the church was removed as a precaution.

HM the Queen passed away on 8th September 2022. Books of condolence were set up for people to leave tributes to her late majesty. The bell was tolled for a full hour at the same time as bells were being rung across the country. Following so quickly from the celebrations of her jubilee, there were many visitors who lit candles and left their thoughts in a book of remembrance that was then forwarded to King Charles.

Open House and Wanstead Fringe: we again opened the doors of St Mary's for the annual Open House event. During the 'Fringe' which lasted two weeks, we opened the crypt to afternoon and evening tours on seven separate days. The tours raised valuable donations toward the improvements planned to the crypt entrance and to install lighting inside. Discussions have started with the parish architect to further this project.

Lucy Crow and Joe Walter's concert, called 'Fanfare to the Fringe', was held on the 9th Sept. The well attended concert started in church and moved outside after the interval with Lucy & Joe performing from the portico steps. The Taco truck and bar were provided by The Duke. All money raised was donated to Haven House Children's Hospice.

A well-attended, Harvest Supper was held in the driveway of the churchyard to excellent musical accompaniment.

The Aldersbrook Community Choir laid on a musical event, 'East London's Lost Palace' as a narrated concert celebrating the history of Wanstead House. Funds were donated to the continuing repair and upkeep of St Mary's.

The organ at St Marys has undergone tuning and repairs which should have it in good condition for its 100th birthday in 2023.

November 2022 saw the reintroduction of Evensong in the parish.

The electricity board have replaced the regular meter with a 'Smart Meter' at St Mary's.

Working with the community, St Mary's made part of the churchyard available for Christmas Tree sales. Christmas trees were donated to St Mary's and the Rectory by the sellers, and profits went to a local charity.

Thanks to the 20 + personnel who helped decorate St Mary's for the Christmas services. A good fun day of hard work, mince pies and hot wine.

The Nine Lessons and Carols service returned in full this year with well over 300 persons attending.

An account of the Music at St Mary's will be commented on by Alison Wells in another section of this report

We continue to be thanked for the warm welcome that worshipers receive at the church.

Ralph Hall

Christ Church

As normality has returned post-Covid and with the arrival of our new Priest in Charge, Christ Church usually holds 2 services on a Sunday and a one on a Thursday. The 9.00 Family Eucharist is very busy with around 90 adults and 60 children, usually supported by Deputy Church Warden Jenny. The 10.30 Eucharist has around 70 adult worshipers. The Thursday Eucharist is a very important service for older members of the parish. The 10.30 service does vary some Sundays: on the first Sunday of the month, it is lay led Morning Prayer, the third Sunday sees St Mary's joining for a joint Eucharist and on the last Sunday of the month, there is a joint Family Eucharist at 9.30 replacing the other two services. Additional services at Easter and Christmas were very busy and the church was used for several Christmas concerts.

Many thanks to the lay leaders, organists, flower arrangers, money counters, choir, readers, servers, welcomers, coffee makers, bell ringers and intercessors – too many

to mention individually, but whose contributions are much valued and without which our services would not be the same. Many thanks also to Joe Waggott for his contribution as Director of Music and parish organist.

I am delighted that Ann Corne has recently taken up the challenging position of Sacristan, vacant for some time, and has started to catch up with a backlog of minor maintenance and work so the linens, silverware, etc. are returned to full glory.

We also have an active group of gardeners who ensure our gardens are kept neat and tidy, a real resource for the community and an extension of the park that surrounds it. Unfortunately, the large cedar tree on the lawn by the south porch died in the hot summer of 2022 and must be felled.

The Friends were able to run several events in the hall and gardens which not only raised money for the parish, but also brought people into our church. Jazz vespers also returned as part of the Wanstead Festival. The Seventh Day Adventists continue to worship in Christ Church on Saturday morning and their rent is very welcome.

Father James and I happened to be in a church meeting at the announcement of the sad death of Her Majesty the Queen in September, so we were able to toll the church bell to mark the sad occasion.

Many people have found it difficult to source reliable tradespeople for small works in 2022 and Christ Church is no exception, but progress has been made with several essential small works, often kindly undertaken or overseen by Alan Dowers, with support from the Fabric Committee. The tower remains in a precarious condition and will be the subject of a further lottery bid in 2023. The heating system is working on less than half power and has been supplemented with an electric heater in the coldest weather, thank you to all for your patience and putting on your big overcoats. Huge thanks too to the volunteer group who repainted and mended the South Porch: Gary Owen, John Garlick, Ed Fosbrook, Neil Hepworth, and Phil Carnelley.

I totally back up Ralph's report and thank yous, and while I hesitate to pick out some special people by name because I will undoubtedly forget someone important (there are just so many of you!) a huge thank you to Ann Cheetham who led our poppy appeal, Sue Fitzgerald for taking on the 10.30 coffee rota (she keeps promising gin but it hasn't materialised yet...), Margaret Adams for organising deep cleans of the church at Lent and Advent etc, Avril Carnelley for the reading and intercessor rota, Lauren Johnson who goes above and beyond including mending the hall floor, Beryl Darling who chairs Reach Out, and Eleanor Taylor for the sidespeople/welcomers rota.

They say it takes a village to raise a child, and it most definitely takes an entire village to maintain a Victorian building and 1960's hall, as well as a busy programme of services, for which I am deeply grateful.

Barbara Hepworth

Lay Leaders Report

The Lay Led services both in St. Mary's and Christ Church, have continued to be well received by the congregation, who have been complimentary about both content and delivery.

The team is growing; we are grateful now to have Jenny Griffiths and Howard and Eleanor Smith joining us which helps to spread the load but we are always keen to encourage anybody who feels called, to join the team and lead services in either or both churches.

Alison Wells has kindly continued to manage the rota, coordinating with Avril Carnelley on the Christ Church side. A positive development has been that more Lay Leaders who predominately worship at one church, are happy to help lead in both churches, which is a welcome step forward.

As well as the Sunday services, we have continued to enjoy the office of Compline every week on a Wednesday at 8.00pm at St. Mary's. Susan Holdham has led this service from the outset and continues to do so, for which we are all very grateful. It offers an oasis of serenity, reflection and the chance to spiritually "reboot" in the middle of the week.

Besides Compline, the lay leaders (largely) read at our Christmas poetry and music service, building on previous similar services for Christmas, Pentecost and Palm Sunday.

With the recent addition of monthly Evensong, Lay Leaders now have the opportunity to try their hand at preaching, offering their own thoughts and observations, more fully than the homily/reflection of the regular Sunday Lay Led services.

In November, the Lay Leaders enjoyed an "Away Day" at the House of Retreat at Pleshey. This was a valuable opportunity for the Lay Leaders to all gather together and worship together.

We had an introduction from Revd Olive of the parish resources available to the Lay Leaders and discussion about further resources online, followed by a presentation by Fr James, setting our liturgy in history and context. Then followed Compline and a well-deserved trip to the pub!

On the Saturday morning, we had a service led by Philip Carnelley with a homily by Fr Richard, then breakfast before the rest of the program.

We enjoyed a session led by Caroline Harding, Diocesan Lay Ministry Adviser, where she discussed how the diocese valued lay leadership. With her description of the wider diocese, we quickly realised how lucky we are in Wanstead, to have the number of people willing to volunteer for Lay Leadership and Caroline congratulated us on our efforts and success. Other parishes are not so lucky!

We also learned about further possibilities which were open to those who felt they wanted to undertake courses in ministry and theology.

The proceedings closed with a session led by a good and longstanding friend to the parish, Revd Chris Mackenna. He both informed, entertained and moved us with stories from his past, whilst discussing how we might attend to our own spiritual nourishment.

It was a splendid way to wind up the retreat!

Lay Leadership has over the last couple of years, become an important part of the worship of this parish and as we move forward with a new Rector, we look forward to contributing in whatever way we can, as the demands of the parish change and grow.

Lay Leadership Team

Children and Youth

Our work with children and young people across the parish has continued to enjoy a good degree of uptake and interest, albeit with a somewhat lesser degree of commitment from parents to assist or join in.

The Bridge Youth Club was relaunched in September and I am grateful for the help of Fr Tom Britt and of Clare Reeves, our Children and Families' Liaison, in making this a success. We will be taking the young people on a summer camp and I propose to scrap the unpopular Youth Eucharist in favour of a new Sunday evening group called 'Prayer and Pizzas', which will be held for young people once a month at the Rectory.

Junior Church has been moved to the 9am service, and this has meant a far better attendance, as this tends to be the service that younger families attend. This has meant that there is little provision for younger people at the 10:30am CC service – something of a challenge. St Mary's have been discussing how better to provide for younger people at our 11am.

The clergy team are in the Church School each week, taking assemblies, and I have run two successful handbell clubs this year, as well as teaching some lessons in Years 6 and 2. The challenge is now to reintegrate the school with the parish, to the extent that there are services where the school attends.

The majority of work with children and young people in this parish has been accomplished by the Red Balloon Fellowship. This brings benefits of experience, flexibility and resources. However, it poses the challenges of management of an external agency and a lack of connection between those leading the groups and the parish as a whole. We ought to recognise that, whilst RBF do a good job, it is a sign of our weakness rather than a strength that all our work in this regard is essentially contracted-out, because it means we are not currently growing the right leaders in this area from our own congregations. This is a challenge that many churches have, and is one we need to address.

Fr James Gilder

Little Angels

Little Angels meet on Wednesday mornings in Christ Church from 10am to 11.15am in term time. We attract up to twenty-five children and twenty-five adults. The session follows the pattern of a bible story, songs and an activity. It is an example of a parish community initiative and has been running for a number of years. We attract young children, parents, grandparents and carers including church families but mostly families from the community of Wanstead and the local area. We have had a very successful year, including a Christmas party and a Teddy Bears Picnic in July in the Church Garden. We continue to build relationships with everyone. We are always looking for volunteers to help with refreshments in this very important outreach work in the parish.

Revd Olive

ACTIVITIES AND GROUPS

Prayer Group

Prayer Group continues to meet on Tuesday at 10 am in Christ Church. There is a nucleus of people who attend regularly, and others who drop in from time to time. New members or visitors are always welcome. It was inspired by the much-missed Valerie Gritten; we still follow her basic format and use her set prayers. (We often find it helpful to ask what she would have said or done about some issue.) She wanted it to contribute through prayer to the life and work of the parish, and to give group members an opportunity to learn more about prayer and develop our prayer life.

We begin with a brief round-up of our week, focusing on areas where we feel the need of prayer in our lives, or that are affecting our prayer life. A short reading on prayer brought by one of the group members (these are quite diverse – we have had readings by the comedian Frank Skinner and the poet Malcolm Guite among others) is followed by discussion. The set prayers help to centre and ground us; they lead into a period of silent reflection, and then intercessionary prayers (for the local church and community, for the wider world, and for ourselves, our friends and our families), the Lord's Prayer, and a reflection on short bible texts (Lectio Divina), ending with the Grace. We aim to do all this in about an hour and 20 minutes. We vary the approach from time to time; for example, the programme for Lent 2023 focuses on Ignatian Prayer.

Lin Taylor

The Community Sponsorship Scheme

The members of the Core Group are Avril Carnelly (The Parish of Wanstead), Paul Godin (Our Lady of Lourdes), Katherine Jacques (The Parish of Wanstead), Sheba Lockley (St Mary's South Woodford), Fionnuala Manzie (Our Lady of Lourdes), Diana Middleditch (The Parish of Wanstead), Michaela Mouquet (Our Lady of Lourdes), Eleanor Taylor (The Parish of Wanstead), Anna Tivey (The Parish of Wanstead), Deborah Dickinson (The Parish of Wanstead).

This ecumenical group continued to work supporting the family with the legal requirements of the scheme, and social inclusion in our community. The main focus during this year has been transition planning to support the family in independent living. The group met fortnightly at the beginning of 2022 moving to monthly meetings during the year. The group continued to: meet Home Office requirements; liaise with RESET; engage with/ attend training courses and advise another church group beginning their sponsorship application.

Deborah Dickinson Lead Sponsor

Bell Ringers

Last year I reported that we had hoped to keep the bells going as much as possible and to prioritise Sunday morning service ringing. Regretfully, I have to report, that this objective has not been properly achieved and the bells for the most part have remained silent. After some earlier progress, it has become difficult to regularly get

sufficient numbers of ringers for the Sunday service, other than for the odd occasion. This is largely due to the legacy of Covid, and to several ringers being involved with other church duties. In this respect, again, our thanks must go to Sian Paterson and Jem Green, for combining ringing with their duties at St Mary's. We are also very grateful for the continuing support of Andrew Barham, who is an ace ringer, and has helped us all to progress in the art of change ringing. Andrew has organised, and is continuing to organise, practice sessions for learners at St Marys Woodford on Monday evenings. One of our potential Christ Church ringers, Pat Sharp is currently learning at Woodford. As is the case with many towers, owing to the pandemic, it has been difficult to generate enough numbers to hold regular practise nights. We have however on occasions welcomed members from other nearby towers to enable ringing of the full eight bells to take place.

However, it is not all doom and gloom, and there are some positives. Firstly, I believe Fr James has organised a handbell ringing programme for the school children, which it is hoped will lead to more youngsters becoming interested in change ringing. Secondly, we were able to fulfil ringing for all the scheduled weddings last year and will do so again this year. Thirdly, we rang for the Queens jubilee and later for her funeral. Lastly, in September, we successfully hosted a district ringing competition and meeting. In addition, it should be mentioned that we held a very enjoyable Christmas social celebration, with a meal at the Eagle.

As has been the case for previous years, we all owe a continuing debt of gratitude to Christine Wyatt for her efforts in keeping the Church Clock fully wound and operational throughout the year. I would also like to thank John Eyre, who although unable to ring at present, continues to take a keen interest and contributes with his very valuable advice regarding ringing matters.

Going forward, it is still our aim to keep the bells ringing as much as possible, and to prioritise Sunday morning service ringing. In the short term, we will make a concerted effort to ring on Easter Day, and then have to consider arrangements for the King's Coronation. In this respect, the national directive, is for bells to be rung at every tower in the country. It is however obvious, that to maintain ringing at Christ Church in the fashion that we in the parish have long been accustomed to, we are going to need more ringers and a supporting training plan. I reported last year, that with the closure of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, who had inspected and cared for our bells over many years, we would need to make alternative arrangements. I believe such arrangements have now been made, and an inspection will soon take place.

Robert Wallis

The St. Mary's Gardening Group

The past year has seen an almost uninterrupted fortnightly Saturday morning churchyard gathering of enthusiastic and energetic members of the above group who have consequently extended their skills profile from gardening to landscaping, tree surgery, restorative stonemasonry and more recently to carpentry and joinery...

Our work is of course entirely voluntary but however many of our 17 members attend, one thing is certain, there will be an immediately visible and rewarding impact on the churchyard!

The vistas across the site have been opened to the perimeter railings and walls, we've continued the battle against the pernicious brambles and ivy whilst maintaining some undergrowth for the native fauna. Snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils have been planted around the site to add to the Spring glory of the resident flora with further planting to maintain the composted flower beds...

The beehives have been enclosed by an 'Alan Dowers' oak fence and most recently a sizeable compost bin built from leftover pallets. The perspective along the southern path behind the church has been transformed by felling the majority of the bay trees which were encroaching on the gallery windows.

We continue to acknowledge the vital support from Redbridge Council who are responsible for the strimming and mowing of the grass, the heavier arboricultural work and recently the collection of a significant amount of our excess botanical debris for recycling! Thanks to the generosity of Parishioners, benches and saplings have added to the attraction of this historical site as a haven for a few minutes of rest and reflection...

Naturally, we are ever eager to add to our numbers of stalwart volunteers so if you're between Secondary School age and delivery of the King's telegram and can hold a pair of secateurs, do join us or contact Phil via 01707 876151 or phil.ryan47@gmail.com. All are welcome in the peace, quiet and beauty of our Georgian Gem Churchyard!

Christ Church Gardening Club

The year 2022 presented less challenges for the team than the impacts of the pandemic the previous year but presented new demands on the core team due to the loss of a number of valuable volunteers. The limited numbers meant the team simply focussed upon the essential maintenance and once again resulted in some rougher edges to the gardens. In particular the boundary hedges were unable to be kept under control and lead to a subsequent demand for these to be hard pruned to improve sight lines.

We are grateful for the continued enthusiasm of the elder members of the team and are blessed with the continued attendance of younger members who also brought friends, and all have enjoyed their experiences and gained valuable skills.

This year gave us the long hot summer (now a distant memory) but this was not good for the plants and shrubs as the limited water supply killed a number of specimens that, while having been given a chance to recover, will need to be replaced.

The focus for the gardening club continued to maintain the lawns ensuring availability for all to enjoy. Hedge trimming again avoided the bird nesting season and the secondary areas of the gardens were again allowed to wild to ensure the best environs for wildlife but in fairness these became rather ragged with the hot

conditions. The wildlife is returning to this area where the buddleias are encouraged to grow tall and provide nectar for the many butterflies.

Without the compost facility on site the green waste remains a constant problem with one of the team of volunteers kindly carrying the green waste we cannot manage to the local recycling centre. As much grass cutting and other green material remains on site as possible by being chopped and munched by the mowers or shredded where possible. While the plants were mulched the summer was too harsh for this to be effective. This chopping by the mowers is taking its toll upon their performance and replacements are urgently required.

The mixed hedge along the south path is slowly establishing but has yet to prevent pedestrians walking through gaps and trampling young growth. Adjacent to the south gate the muddy area where little grew was a blaze of tulip colour in the spring following the bulb planting the previous season. This remains work in progress and our attention will once again be upon this to improve the appearance.

The memorial garden suffered damage from a tree that fell across the boundary from the Christchurch green. Rather than awaiting the local authority to arrange the necessary repairs to the fence the team members undertook this and should be congratulated for returning security to the boundary. The rambler rose Auguste Gervais planted in memory of a past member suffered from trampling where the tree fell and though still small it is hoped this will establish on the repaired fence next year and provide good colour.

Unfortunately, the magnolia dug into the memorial garden in early 2021 has not survived but is still being given the chance to burst back into life or will be removed in 2023.

The bug hotel has received many insect visitors and remains an attraction for children of the community.

The small team of dedicated Volunteers continue to be the very dependable resource and deserve a big thankyou from the Church and wider communities for their efforts. The budget continues to be underspent due to the reduced activity and minimal fuel and consumable expenses and the careful use of the vintage mowers.

The garden gives pleasure to many, is well used and appreciated by the wider Community but the anti-social behaviour and littering remains a nuisance that spoils this space. It may not be recognised but the first job that is undertaken every session by the gardening club volunteers is to pick up and dispose of this litter. The time spent doing this obviously reduces time available for the maintenance of the gardens.

The gardening club members regularly clear the perimeter drains around the church. Without this maintenance the fabric of the church would deteriorate. The front drive is badly affected by poor falls and inadequate drainage but is not a job for the gardening team to undertake and a solution to this annual problem must be sought.

The Duke of Edinburgh scheme is a good vehicle for children to gain life experiences and their community contribution element can easily be gained by working along with the gardening team and parents are invited to consider promoting this for any

children and any parents should they wish to keep an eye. There are many benefits of this volunteering to assist the gardening club including better health and well-being without the need for particular skills and more are encouraged to join and witness these benefits first hand. The club meets fortnightly Saturday mornings between 09:00 and 12:30 with coffee about 10:30.

Steve Davenport

Flowers

Christchurch

The flower arrangers at Christ church are now a small team of 5 after we sadly had to say goodbye to Sheila de Beer, who moved away last year. We are grateful to the hard work Sheila put into her arrangements and the careful attention and personal touch she gave to wedding flowers. Thank you to all our flower arranging team for all the work they do.

We managed to hold a flower festival last year and we are hoping to do the same this year to coincide with the Wanstead Festival in September.

We have two pedestals in church, at the high altar and in the Lady Chapel and for weddings it is our intention to have an arrangement in the porch particularly whenever there is a wedding. We do quite often have artificial flowers with fresh foliage at the high altar to try and save money and for the arrangements to be in place for a number of weeks. We as a team have noticed that there has been an increase in the cost of flowers recently so this may have an impact on what flowers we have in church in the future.

One of the Christmas trees at Christ Church was kindly donated by Jacks DIY, we were very grateful for their generosity.

We would like to be able to offer flowers in church in memory of a loved one to commemorate perhaps an anniversary in exchange for a donation towards the cost of the flowers. We would need a few more arrangers before we advertised this but it would be lovely to do this at some point in the not too distant future.

We would welcome anyone who would like to get involved in flower arranging, no previous experience is required!

Lorraine Bucknall

St Mary's

It was a pleasure to have the rota of flowers in St Mary's return to normal in 2022. At Christmas in 2021, the church was decked out for the annual carol service and this was repeated and improved in Christmas 2022. It was a joy to see so many people in the church and to hear their compliments and appreciation of the flowers. These were all thanks to the work and effort of the flower arrangers along with the additional help from other members of the congregation as well as the donations of foliage, which are always welcome.

At Easter 2022, the church was filled with spring flowers beautifully arranged by the flower arrangers and it was a joy to behold.

I am immensely grateful to the other three regular flower arrangers for their commitment and energy as well as their beautiful arrangements. We would always welcome newcomers to join the team. No experience is necessary as you can always work with one of the team and learn on the job!

Margaret Thoresby

After Covid; getting going again.

Fr Richard writes

Although the virus is still with us it has been good to resume some activities which were not possible in 2020 and 2021.

Walsingham pilgrimage

Thus we were able to resume the annual parish summer pilgrimage to Walsingham. It was notable that Rev'd Olive, a regular participant in the pilgrimage for many years, attended for the first time as a priest. The Shrine has not been entirely supportive of women's ministry, so it was good that she was able to play a fairly full part in her new role. Notable on the return journey was that Fr Richard and his party had to divert from the main road route and that Chris Cummins calmly and expertly navigated us through unfamiliar countryside to Cambridge, whence the M11 and home.

Engelskirchen Link

Another consequence of the virus was that it had not been possible in 2020 and 2021 to exchange hospitality with our link church in Germany, a link shared with Wanstead URC. When the lockdown started it had been our turn to host. Whilst visiting has normally taken place in Easter week, we were keen to get going again, as long pauses are not helpful to such carefully nurtured friendships. So it was that a party from Engelskirchen stayed with us between 1 and 5 October. Among other things we took our guests on a walk through the Royal Parks, touching on places which had been much in the news since the Queen's death, followed by Evensong at St Martin's in the Fields. Now we look forward to a return visit to Engelskirchen at Easter 2023.

Fr Richard would welcome expressions of interest in both the Walsingham pilgrimage and the Engelskirchen link, especially from younger members of our Parish community.

Report of Electoral Roll Officer

At the end of 2022, the Parish Electoral Roll stood at 392. We had 23 additions during the year and 2 leaving the Electoral roll who had sadly passed away.

The Electoral Roll is kept updated and a revised roll submitted for consideration at the APCM. The right to vote at the APCM will be limited to those parishioners who are on the electoral roll on 28th April 2023.

Any parishioners wishing to join the Parish Electoral Roll, at any time, are welcome to fill in forms available either in both our churches or obtained from the Parish Office via email to wansteadparishadmin@uwclub.net

To join the Electoral Roll you need to have been baptised and live in the Parish or if resident outside the Parish you need to have worshipped with us for at least 6 months. Completed forms should be handed back to the Parish Office.

Lorraine Bucknall

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

Following the lifting of Covid 19 restrictions, no weddings in 2022 were subject to legal restrictions on the number of attendees. We married seven couples at Christ Church, and one at St Mary's (eight couples in total).

A total of 22 baptisms were held in 2022, of which 18 were infants, three were children and one was an adult. One baptism was held at St Mary's with the rest being held at Christ Church.

There were 14 funerals in 2022, of which five were held at Christ Church, three at St Mary's and six elsewhere. Six interments also took place in 2022, of which five were at St Mary's and one was held elsewhere.

Jan Andrews

The Parochial Church Council

Background

The Charity operates under the Church Representation Rules, 2006 and other regulations of the Church of England. The Parochial Church Council, PCC, has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It has maintenance responsibilities for the only Grade I listed building in Redbridge, St Mary the Virgin, and for Christ Church, itself a Grade II* building. The Rector and Churchwardens are trustees of the Church School, which remains the only Aided Church of England School within the borough.

Operation of the Charity

All major decisions are made by the PCC during regular meetings; Standing Committee has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The Churchwardens, as the leading lay members of the parish, assist the incumbent in the day-to-day administration of church affairs and have authority under canon law. Financial delegation is covered under the Finance Policy, which is displayed in both Churches, is displayed during the Annual Meeting and is generally available on request.

Charitable Trustees

The Trustees of the Charity are members of the PCC; they are either ex officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, or co- opted in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Candidates for election are required to complete the Trustee Declaration of Eligibility. Newly elected members are given printed information from the Charity Commission, which explains the responsibilities of trustees.

Membership of the Parish Church Council 2022

During the year to December 2022 the following served as members of the PCC:

Ex-Officio Trustees:

Priest in Charge:	Revd Canon Martyn Hawkes January to October;
	Revd James Gilder October to December
Associate Priests:	Revd Richard Wyber,
	Revd Olive Thursby
Churchwardens:	Mr Ralph Hall,
	Mrs Barbara Hepworth Jones
Deputy Churchwarden:	Mrs Jenny Griffiths
Diocesan Synod Representative:	Mr Phillip Carnelley

Elected Trustees: (date in brackets is when term ends)

Ms Equi Ajogbe (2023)

Mr. Gary Owen (2023)

Ms Patience Rusinga (2023)

Ms Djaama Davis, Assistant Treasurer (2024)

Mrs Sue Oldham, Secretary (2024)

Ms Lauren Johnson (2025)

Mr Jem Green (2025)

Ms Eleanor Taylor, Assistant Secretary (2025)

Elected Trustees by virtue of being representatives on the Deanery Synod:

three year term of office ends for all in May 2023

Mrs Margaret Adams

Mr Joshua Dickinson

Ms Jenny Griffiths

Mr Neil Hepworth

Mr James Paterson, Treasurer and Lay Vice Chair

Co-opted Member of PCC

Mr Peter Schaefer, Chair of Friends

The PCC held six meetings in 2022 with an average attendance of 71%

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. Committee members are The Rector, Lay Vice Chair, Churchwardens, Deputy Churchwarden, Treasurer and Secretary. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Lay Vice Chair's Report

As I reported last year, we were blessed to have Father Martyn Hawkes appointed interim Priest in Charge to help steer the parish through some challenging times and the interregnum following Father Jack Dunn's departure. We were further blessed in early 2022 to have Father James Gilder join our Ministry Team; James was a welcome support at the time when Dr Chris Taylor was winding down, with his term as House-for-Duty Priest coming to an end in May 2022. My thanks go to Father Martyn and Dr Chris for their contributions to the parish during these difficult times, which also included the pandemic.

In the summer, the PCC decided to advertise for a new full-time Priest in Charge (technically, the parish was still in "suspension" by the Bishop, a state required when an interim Priest in Charge is appointed); it was fully contemplated that, as soon as the parish was ready, the suspension would be lifted and the Priest in Charge would be able to become the Rector of the Parish of Wanstead.

We were very fortunate that Father James Gilder successfully applied for the position, and James was licensed as Priest in Charge to the Parish of Wanstead on 16th October 2022. It is expected that Father James will become the Rector once formalities are completed to lift the suspension in 2023.

As we had a Priest in Charge of the parish, the Lay Vice Chair role was much simpler than it would ordinarily have been during an interregnum. With Father James now established in Wanstead, the next chapter of the Parish story has begun!

James Paterson

COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

Standing Committee

Standing Committee is the only Legally required committee, and consists of the Chair of PCC, the Lay Vice Chair, the two Church Wardens, the deputy Church Warden, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and one observer from the PCC, chosen at the previous PCC meeting. Standing Committee met six times in 2022, usually the month before the full PCC meeting.

Redbridge Deanery Synod

The Redbridge Deanery Synod met four times in 2022. it exists primarily as an information conduit between parishes and the Diocese especially on financial matters. Members elect representatives to the Diocesan Synod. It also shares information regarding charities and acts as a catalyst for other initiatives.

Topics considered at meetings during the year include the Deanery's motion to support The Church of England's commitment to environmental change and an introduction to the 'The New Quinquennium' published by the General Synod in 2022. A highlight of the year was the visit of Bishop Guli, Bishop of Chelmsford in December 2022.

Wanstead Deanery Synod representatives (who are also ex-officio members of the PCC) were Margaret Adams, Joshua Dickinson, Jenny Griffiths, Neil Hepworth and James Paterson.

Mission and Ministry (MMU) Report

The Mission and Ministry Unit seeks to develop and enhance ministry and mission in our community in partnership with our five local churches.

The West Roding Mission Partnership committee met three times in 2022. Our Parish was represented by Jenny Griffiths, Joshua Dickinson, Revd Olive Thursby and Fr Martyn Hawkes (January 2022- October 2022) and Fr James Gilder (October 2022 – December 2022)

Much of the Partnership's work and discussions in 2022 centred on supporting each other and sharing plans for continuing ministry and building communities.

The parishes in the MMU continue to work together to support the Bereavement Café and Snaresbrook Crown Court Chaplaincy. More volunteers for both these initiatives are always welcome. A four part Pastoral Care basics course took place in January 2022, led by Revd Elizabeth Lowson (St Mary's Woodford) and Bernard Eaton (St Peter). A confirmation service was conducted.

There was a very successful MMU pilgrimage walk/cycle between all four parishes in May, starting in Aldersbrook, and finishing with tea, cake and a short service at St Mary's Woodford. This was a great opportunity for us to get to know our neighbours in a more informal way, and the MMU hopes to make this an annual event.

We remain hopeful that we will see more joint activities and a key focus for 2023 is how we can work together to share worship.

Jenny Griffiths and Joshua Dickinson

Staffing & Governance Committee

Did not meet in 2022. The work of this committee has been assumed by Standing Committee during 2022, and this committee will therefore cease to exist in 2023.

Parish Music

The choir at St Mary's and Christ Church have continued to thrive despite an uncertain 2022 with the departure of our music director. But with the support and direction of Alison Wells and Father James and our team of organists, music has continued to be a strong, important and much loved part of parish life.

2022 saw a busy year in musical activities at St Mary's. Liturgically the music within Sunday services continued to develop. The small choir sing an anthem every week at the lay-led services and at the Communion service. We adopt a flexible approach to repertoire as the numbers aren't always predictable, but the anthem is much appreciated by the congregation. Psalm singing carries on, in Common Worship services we have a responsorial psalm sung by cantors – usually Sian Paterson or Alison Wells, and we have begun to sing the psalm to Anglican Chant in the BCP services, with congregation joining in both these formats. Music at our services is supported by a good band of volunteer organists apart from the 1st Sunday of the month when the Parish organist plays for the Eucharist. Thanks are due to Michael Tivey, Alison Wells, Martin Wheatley, and Richard Williams for generously giving their time and skills.

Compline is said every Wednesday and accompanied by one of the volunteer organists. A meditative service of Music and Poetry for Christmas with vocal and instrumental music took place on 21st December.

In additional to the musical events at St Mary's, the choir has continued to play a huge role at services and events at Christ Church including Father James's licensing and for various services throughout the busy Christmas period.

The annual Nine Lessons and carol service in December saw a capacity congregation for the first time since Covid. The Parish Choir, led by Fr James Gilder sang a variety of choral items and led the congregation in the carols.

Apart from music in the services, The Forget-me-not Choir continues to grow. The number of members is now 20, and regular attendance is 15-18, even through the very cold winter we have seen. The FMNs sang a set of songs at the Garden party at Christ Church in May for the older members of the Congregation. They also sang at the Nine lessons and Carols service in December.

In July Alison Wells gave a vocal masterclass at St Mary's, working with six lovely singers. A good attendance and drinks were enjoyed outside in the lovely weather. Profits went to parish funds.

Harvest Supper in September had a good attendance and entertainment was provided by a band featuring Martyn Hawkes, James Gilder, Martin Wheatley and Lee Hayes.

During the Wanstead Festival in September, star soprano Lucy Crowe, with Joe Walters and friends gave a concert at St Mary's which was very well attended and received. They raised funds for Haven House Hospice

Aldersbrook Community Choice presented The Lost Palace: The Rise and Fall of Wanstead House 28th September, we had good numbers and donation to parish funds.

Other musical events at Christ Church included the flower festival where Sue FitzGerald organised a Sunday of back to back musical performances. This included flute, violin, piano and organ recitals and also performances from a string quartet and a piano duo.

December saw the return of the East London Chorus at Christ Church who performed a festive concert for all the family. That month Christ Church also hosted Forest School's Christmas services as well as 2 concerts from Redbridge music School.

A well-attended Jazz Vespers made a welcomed comeback for the new year with hopes for more services in 2023/2024.

Alison Wells and Sue Fitzgerald

Parish Halls Manager

The Parish halls are becoming more popular since COVID and the numerous lockdowns that were imposed on us.

The beginning of the year started slowly, we only had 2 or 3 weekend bookings then from March onwards we returned to our pre pandemic busy schedule.

Our weekly classes have returned and I now have 17 classes that use the halls over a numerous amount of hours throughout the week.

From September we had a new club, for both adults and children of all ages, start and they hire the halls for 7 hours a week.

We also now have a regular AA meeting, which, I am told, is a great success for the community.

The halls are used weekly after the Sunday 9am Family Service, and for coffee following the monthly Parish Eucharist.

Our regular Parish events gradually returned we hosted six Friends events during the year;

We also hosted 'The Wanstead Fringe' annual outdoor Kinema event in September.

We had five Saturdays that were hired out to the 'Local Makers Market', which is an increase on previous years.

The halls were closed for 2 weeks in August to have the parquet flooring sanded and re-varnished. Unfortunately, in November, due to humidity and condensation, some of the blocks started lifting. With help and guidance from Alan Dowers I was able to make some temporary repairs, which enables us to safely continue hiring out the hall without a loss of income to the Parish.

I would like to thank Alan for his time and patience.

Our parish halls remain busy and well used by people of all ages in our community.

Lauren Johnson

Reach Out! – the Committee covering Mission and Outreach

The Parish continues to have strong links with the Refugee Sponsorship Project, Forest Churches Emergency Night Shelter (FCENS), Tin in a Bin and the Corner House Project. Whilst these initiatives are not managed by the Parish, there is a representative of each on this committee is to facilitate communication between us..

The Committee met regularly during 2022 to revitalise the outreach activity in the Parish, post pandemic. In accordance with the aim of the committee, events were organised to engage with church members across the parish and the wider community, socially and supportively and to raise funds for charities locally, nationally and internationally.

The first event held in March was a Lent Lunch, bringing church members together socially for a shared meal and raised £450 for the Afghan Disaster Appeal.

A Harvest Supper took place in September and raised £568 for Mill Grove. Mill Grove also received Harvest donations of food and other household goods.

In November the Poppy Appeal raised £152 for the British Legion.

The parish continues to provide support to Tin in a Bin which is based at St Marys. Parishioners have been generous in bringing donations of food and other household essentials through the year to both churches. These are added to donations from the Tin in a Bin network (consisting of over 50 local sites), collated and redistributed through more than seven local foodbanks throughout the year with additional appeals at Harvest, Christmas and times of crises.

In December the Toy Sunday and Christmas Gifts appeals through the church and Wanstead Community Hub resulted in generous donations and the redistribution of gifts to Hestia Women's Refuge, Barking & Dagenham Young Carers and other community groups.

Christmas collections raised £1,800 for the Centre Point charity for young homeless people and Christingle raised £530 for the Children's Society.

The Forest Churches Emergency Night Shelter (FCENS) operation accommodated homeless people in a hotel in Ilford. Volunteers from this parish cooked and delivered evening meals and a continental breakfast every Friday from November 2022 and continued through to the end of March 2023.

To conclude, in the year ahead the Committee aims to continue and, if possible, to increase, funds raised for local and national charities. The Committee are also discussing ways to engage with people in the church and community who may be lonely or infirm and seeking social interaction.

The Committee proposes to develop an ongoing supportive link in the forthcoming year with an international project and to initially discuss this with the PCC.

Beryl Darling

Records, Archives and Data Management Committee Did not meet in 2022. This committee only meets on an ad-hoc basis.

The Friends of St Mary with Christ Church Wanstead

The Friends is a membership group set up as the fundraising arm of the PCC to maintain, repair, restore, improve, and preserve the fabric, monuments, fixtures, fittings, furniture, stained glass, ornaments, and other chattels, of the Churches of St Mary the Virgin and Christ Church Wanstead.

With Covid a not too distant memory, I am happy to report that we were able to hold all our planned events in 2022. Our Burns Night, Rock me Baby Disco and Merry Quizmas events all sold out in record time and with glowing reviews we are looking forward to holding them again. We were able to host the Wanstead Village Dog Show in May, the first time in four years; while the event ran smoothly, it was rained off so wasn't as successful as it has been in previous years but will be bigger and better in 2023. We were able to hold an extra event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June, with the Fly Past and fantastic weather, the event was a massive success with all our offerings sold out with St. Mary's providing a tremendous back drop. We also held our inaugural Halloween's Party for under 8's that sold out in five days.

Friends' Secretary Julia Saul-Watts resigned in September due to work commitments so we thank Jules for all her enthusiasm and hard work over the years. Very happy to report that James Gilder has agreed to become the Friends Secretary so the post is in good hands. At the time of writing, Aimee Johnson has agreed to become Friends Treasurer in 2023, so we welcome Aimee and are thankful to Ed Fosbrook for his service over many years and are very grateful to have Ed's continuing involvement in the Friends. After seven years of Friends involvement, the last three as Chair, 2023 will be my last full year as Chair due to returning to full time work. Like Ed, however, I shall continue to help out Friends events.

From only holding two events in 2021 raising £4,000 to holding eight in 2022 raising £8,500, here's hoping we will be able to hold all of our planned events in 2023 to get back to raising at least £10,000 each year for the general upkeep and maintenance of our beautiful churches.

All our events are truly community events that are promoted in the wider community through social media as well as in print in the monthly Wanstead Village Directory, in addition to the usual parish communication channels.

The Friends would like to thank all those who have supported us in 2022 including all who gave up their time and energy setting up and packing away events. Noted, it took over 20 volunteers to ensure the successful running of our Wanstead Fayre event, half of whom were current or past parents of WCS. Also to those members of our Parish & community who supported our events enabling us to raise £8500 for the upkeep of our Churches. It is also right to acknowledge the ongoing support of local businesses Petty, Son & Prestwich, Edwards Duthie Shamash and the Purbani Restaurant who kindly and generously sponsored & supported our events. Last but not least we thank all our Friends members who ensure we can hold reasonably priced events for our Parish and community alike.

Peter Schaefer, Chair of the Friends

Safeguarding and Health and Safety

Did not meet in 2022. The parish has a Safeguarding Officer who reports to the PCC and to the Diocese, so this committee will be discontinued going forwards.

HEADTEACHER'S REPORT, WANSTEAD CHURCH SCHOOL

As I've looked back over the past year, it seems unbelievable to think that we started 2022 still in COVID times.

Our children were still existing in "bubbles" and spent the first part of 2022 having to stay at home whenever they came into contact with someone who had COVID. Thankfully, as the year progressed, things improved and we were able to reinstate much normality for the children at school.

It was a busy and exciting year in which the teaching staff undertook a huge project to overhaul our curriculum. This was a task that had originally begun in the first lockdown and really came to fruition throughout 2022. By September, the new and improved curriculum was ready to go with lots of exciting and challenging opportunities for the children to enjoy. We have even included Wanstead Church School-specific topics, such as a unit on the history of Wanstead Church School within our history curriculum to make the most of our unique and wonderful school.

Our working party with staff and parents reviewing the diversity, equality and representation within the curriculum continued with some deep and difficult conversations taking place as a matter of course between staff and parents. Long-term commitments were made as a school to ensure this is not just a "project" but a meaningful pledge to ensure all our children are included and represented within their learning experiences.

As the year progressed, we took great pleasure in enjoying the events that the children had missed for so long. We were able to take the Year 6 children on their residential trip for the first time in two years. This was to a new venue in Danbury, Essex, where the children had four action-packed days of adventure and fun. Trips

gradually began to be included in the children's provision once again, including a wonderful trip for Year 5 to see The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe in the West End. We even had a travelling farm come to visit the children, with a selection of goats, sheep and guinea pigs spending the day in our playground!

We welcomed audiences back in school for shows and performances, including the Year 6 children's leavers' production in the summer and later the full suite of nativities and productions at Christmas. The snow very nearly ruined Christmas for the third year when many schools were forced to close. Fortunately, Wanstead Church School remained open to the children throughout the terrible weather, with the small change of hosting the junior children's Christmas Tableau in school rather than in Church, where it was rather too cold!

We have loved reinstating our Sharing Assemblies, where the children have showcased their best work and favourite songs and learning to their families on a Thursday afternoon. Our Open Class sessions have continued to be a huge hit where families are enjoying the children's work on a regular basis, visiting the classrooms and looking at the books.

A particular highlight of the year was the revival of the Tom Curry Award, an award that has been given for many years in honour of an ex-Wanstead Church School pupil who died in service in Afghanistan. The first winners were Jessica in Year 5 and David in Year 6, who were considered by staff to uphold the values of the Marines to an excellent standard.

Wanstead Church School's club offer significantly increased over the course of 2022, including the introduction of our own before and after school clubs, run in school by school staff. Wake Up Wanstead and Wind Down Wanstead have proven very popular with children complaining that they do not want to go home when their parents come to collect them! We've also started working with a new sports provider, Sport-Savvy, who are providing a range of exciting sports clubs. Our new chess club has taken off a storm as has our hand-bells club, run by Father James.

Improvements to the physical buildings of Wanstead Church School continued throughout 2022, most notably with the erection of a brand-new flat roof, new high-level windows, new ceilings in the cloakrooms and new flooring downstairs. We were also able, through Diocesan funding, to install lockers for all the children, which has been a brilliant space-saving introduction into our tiny school.

Another notable event in the year of 2022 had to be the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, where the children enjoyed a whole week of celebration. They took part in a very exciting Royal Variety Talent Show, history lessons about the Queen's life and reign and story writing about the Queen. Parents came into school to make crowns with their children, then after a street party lunch there was the grand crown parade where every child paraded the playground wearing their handmade crowns proudly. Of course, later in the year the Queen's passing also became an event of significance. The children paid their respects graciously and learned to sign the National Anthem as "God save the King".

There was much change within the staff team in the summer of 2022 and lots of fresh new faces joined the Wanstead Church School family in September. This included

the introduction of a new Assistant Headteacher, Miss Grimmer, and a new SENCO, Mrs Jayasuriya. One of the existing Co-Chairs of Governors, Ms Spencer Ellis, became the sole Chair of Governors, and Miss Williams became our new staff governor. Very importantly, we celebrated the appointment of Father James into the role of Rector in the Parish of Wanstead and, by default, onto the governing body of the Church School.

Wanstead Church School continues to encourage the children to be Wise, Compassionate and Strong in everything they do and to live by our motto, "We Can Shine!".

Natalie Denchfield, Headteacher

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The principal source of funds for the charity is the regular voluntary giving from our parishioners, which totalled £90,323, up about 2.3% over 2021. There was a reduction in donations received from planned giving, but this was outweighed by a bigger increase in plate collections. The largest portion of donations still come from our planned givers through the Planned Giving Scheme (PGS) and Standing Orders, and the PCC's thanks go to all of the individuals who support us in this way; without these regular givers, we would have faced a very difficult financial year. We continue to encourage givers to donate using the Planned Giving Scheme as this hugely reduces the administrative time and costs for us and allows us to budget better for the year.

All the donations that were gift aided enabled the PCC to reclaim £20,837 from HM Revenue & Customs for 2022. We have been aided by the rule which enables us to claim Gift Aid on cash collections up to a maximum of £8,000 for each church in any one financial year. Gift Aid continues to be a critical part of our income, as without recovering these funds, we would not be able to meet our day-to-day running costs.

Fortunately, 2022 saw the Parish Halls being able to be used without restriction, but the years of uncertainty during the pandemic mean that it has taken time to rebuild bookings. Rental receipts were £62,250, more than double the previous year's number, and nearer to pre-pandemic levels seen in 2019 (£65,447). The running costs were fully met (despite a one-off water bill of £4,000) from hall income, and we have taken steps to reduce the cost of hall cleaning in 2023 which will make a significant difference.

The net income from the Halls of around £27,000 played an important part in our 2022 financial performance, allowing the parish to return to paying 100% of our parish share, something which looked unlikely in early 2022.

The Friends were able to host most of their fund-raising activities during 2022 once again and raised a total of £7,187 net towards current and future works required at St Mary's and Christ Church. The Friends also replaced their barbeque (the last one had faithfully served us 7 years!).

The parish benefited from a grant from the Cottage Trustees, derived from property rental income, which supported the cost of the Parish work with children, young people and families, predominantly using Red Balloon.

The PCC aims to keep a minimum reserve in liquid funds of £20,000 available at little or no notice for unforeseen contingencies that are not otherwise covered by the insurance policies in place on both our churches and other properties. At the year end the General Fund has reserves of £29,230.

The PCC holds a number of financial investments arising from past legacies which, instead of being held as cash deposits, are invested with Central Board of Finance unit trusts. All of these funds are Endowment Funds, which means that the PCC benefits from the income but cannot use the principal amount. We continue to be indebted to those faithful parishioners who give a lasting legacy to the parish.
Recent legacies

Name	Year Received	Legacy	Fund	Fund Type
Ian Hartley	2021	£1,000	General	Unrestricted
Mary Colmer	2021	£500	Memorial Garden	Restricted
John Sunley	2020	House and £200,000	Sunley	Restricted
Pauline Walker	2020	£2,000	General	Unrestricted
Janet Lilian Marten	2020	£1,000	General	Unrestricted
Rose Clare	2019	£4,750	Distress Relief	Restricted
Barbara Joan Gower	2019	£1,000	General	Unrestricted
Joan Brown	2018 & 2019	House and £49,279	St Mary's	Restricted
Beatrice Smith	2018	£5,000	St Mary's	Restricted
Arthur Worwood	2018	£29,468	Arthur Worwood Music	Designated

In a typical year, the parish regular income received continues to be very finely balanced with amounts expended on the running of the parish, meaning that any additional costs, particularly for larger projects, will continue to require substantial additional external funding or donations.

Parish Share
As reported in the Financial Review in 2021, the Parish Share for 2022 was set at £116,154 (£114,792 net of fee credit). This is somewhat reduced due to a grant applied by the Diocese. The PCC has budgeted initially to pay £5,000 per month for the first few months and the position was reviewed in August; the monthly amounts paid were increased and a lump sum was also paid to ensure that by the end of December, we had paid the Parish Share in full.
Even in a typical year, the planned giving we receive does not cover this expense and we require reclaimed tax (gift aid on giving) and some of the hall income to cover the balance.

The Parish Share for 2023 has again been reduced, and will be £104,500 after fee credit. However, the PCC will use every endeavour to make additional payments when the parish position is known towards the end of 2023, to make up for amounts not paid prior to 2022.

Financial Position at year end:
The PCC ended the year with seemingly substantial reserves of cash and investments, but these are largely either designated for a particular purpose or formally restricted in use. The uncommitted general funds held are £29,230, a significant decrease from £49,832 in 2021. This indicates the fine balance we face and the reliance we have on the Hall income.
Conclusion

The priority for 2023 continues to be maintaining the effective work of the parish, providing adequate support to enable the ministry team to focus on developing the mission, evangelical, outreach and pastoral work of the church in Wanstead. The current economic situation means that there are more calls on the parish for assistance, at a time when our income may also be constrained, but we must work to increase our regular planned giving through the Parish Giving Scheme and explore ways to diversify our income to enable us to continue to maintain the effective work of the parish.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its financial activities for that period. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to

Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.

Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable & prudent.

State whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the SORP, Statement of Recommended Practice, and with applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the charities act 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Charity Trustees

JAMES PATERSON
LAY VICE CHAIR

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on the following pages.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees 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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants , which is one of the listed bodies.

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:

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

2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3. 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 Lorraine Catherine Purdy

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

Date: 28th April 2023

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	*Total 2021 £*
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income		129,867	2,353	-	132,220	*296,776*
Activities for generating funds		62,757	31,250	-	94,007	*36,429*
Investment income		2,641	45,243	2,356	50,240	*39,549*
Incoming resources from charitable activities		16,891	620	-	17,511	*11,935*
Other incoming resources		-	-	-	-	35
Total income	1	**212,156**	**79,466**	**2,356**	**293,978**	***384,724***
Resources used						
Cost of generating funds						
Cost of generating voluntary income		287	144	-	431	*325*
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other		35,575	-	-	35,575	*16,176*
Investment management costs		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities		193,302	55,083	-	248,385	*251,536*
Governance costs		2,520	-	-	2,520	*2,010*
Other resources used		-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	2	**231,684**	**55,227**	**-**	**286,911**	***270,047***
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer		**(19,528)**	**24,239**	**2,356**	**7,067**	***114,677***
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in		-	3,825	-	3,825	*45,136*
Gross transfers between funds - out		(3,825)	-	-	(3,825)	*(45,136)*
Net income / (expenditure) resources before other gains/(losses)		**(23,353)**	**28,064**	**2,356**	**7,067**	***114,677***
Other recognised gains / losses						
(Losses)/Gains on investment assets		(3,304)	(30,574)	(11,062)	(44,940)	*64,736*
Net movement in funds		**(26,657)**	**(2,510)**	**(8,706)**	**(37,873)**	***179,413***
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward from 2021		**782,839**	**1,884,316**	**109,502**	**2,776,657**	***2,597,244***
Total funds carried forward		**756,182**	**1,881,806**	**100,796**	**2,738,784**	***2,776,657***

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

		2022		2021
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	5		1,050,550	*1,055,248*
Investment property	6		1,000,000	*1,000,000*
			2,050,550	*2,055,248*
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	7	2,744		*4,361*
Investments		396,256		*441,196*
Cash at bank and in hand		342,972		*339,110*
		741,972		*784,667*
LIABILITIES				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	53,738		*63,258*
NET CURRENT ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			688,234	*721,409*
TOTAL NET ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES			**2,738,784**	***2,776,657***
REPRESENTED BY				
Unrestricted funds			29,232	*49,832*
Designated funds			726,950	*733,007*
Restricted funds			1,881,806	*1,884,316*
Endowment funds			100,796	*109,502*
TOTAL FUNDS			**2,738,784**	***2,776,657***

Approved by the PCC on: 26th April 2023

Name: JAMES PATERSON
LAY VICE CHAIR & PARISH TREASURER

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Details of incoming resources

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Voluntary Income						
Giving	90,322	-	-	-	90,322	*88,289*
Income tax recoverable	20,805	25	6	-	20,836	*21,023*
Donations, appeals etc.	8,040	-	2,347	-	10,387	*18,700*
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	*65,034*
Other income	8,925	1,750	-	-	10,675	*103,730*
	128,092	**1,775**	**2,353**	**-**	**132,220**	***296,776***
Activities for generating funds						
Events	507	-	4,396	-	4,903	*725*
Friends membership	-	-	581	-	581	*626*
Friends fundraising	-	-	26,273	-	26,273	*8,631*
Hall lettings	62,250	-	-	-	62,250	*26,447*
	62,757	**-**	**31,250**	**-**	**94,007**	***36,428***
Investment income						
Interest & dividends	1,058	783	993	2,356	5,190	*4,622*
Rental income	800	-	44,250	-	45,050	*34,927*
	1,858	**783**	**45,243**	**2,356**	**50,240**	***39,549***
Incoming resources from charitable activities						
Fees for weddings & funerals	5,735	-	600	-	6,335	*3,538*
Charitable other income	11,156	-	20	-	11,176	*8,432*
	16,891	**-**	**620**	**-**	**17,511**	***11,970***
Total incoming resources	**209,598**	**2,558**	**79,466**	**2,356**	**293,978**	***384,724***

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2 Details of resources used

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	*Total 2021 £*
Cost of generating funds/fundraising trading costs					
Church hall costs	35,294	-	-	35,294	*16,176*
Cost of generating voluntary income	287		144	431	*325*
Cost of fundraising events	281	-	-	281	*-*
	35,862	**-**	**144**	**36,006**	***16,501***
Charitable expenditure					
Giving	300	-	-	300	*12,429*
Parish share	114,792	-	-	114,792	*102,906*
Ministry team expenses	4,694	-	-	4,694	*2,767*
Wages	22,991	390	-	23,381	*19,849*
Choir and music	746	84	1,200	2,030	*984*
Parish training & mission	870	-	179	1,049	*-*
Education & young people	7,182	-	-	7,182	*13,545*
Upkeep of services	2,937	-	7,007	9,944	*342*
Insurance	8,250	-	-	8,250	*7,157*
Organ expenses	749	-	-	749	*4,106*
Residential property expenses	3,597	-	12,581	16,178	*12,431*
Works and maintenance	7,362	-	15,030	22,392	*14,743*
Light, heat & utilities	7,731	-	-	7,731	*3,296*
Office expenses	4,572	-	-	4,572	*4,812*
Friends cost of fundraising	-	-	19,086	19,086	*4,370*
Flowers etc.	554	139	-	693	*40*
Sundry expenses	664	-	-	664	*768*
Depreciation	-	4,698	-	4,698	*3,368*
Project costs	-	-	-	-	*43,623*
	187,991	**5,311**	**55,083**	**248,385**	***251,536***
Governance costs					
Accountancy and legal costs	2,520	-	-	2,520	*2,010*
	2,520	**-**	**-**	**2,520**	***2,010***
Total resources expended	**226,373**	**5,311**	**55,227**	**286,911**	***270,047***

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

3 Accounting policies

a Basis of preparation

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair 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 for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at fair value as agreed by the PCC and investments which are stated at market value.

b Funds

Unrestricted funds

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

Designated funds

These are funds that are for specific purposes but not restricted by document or deed to that purpose alone.

Restricted funds

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

Endowment funds

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

c Incoming resources

- Income from planned giving/donations and other voluntary income is recognised when it is received.
- Gift Aid and other tax claims are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis in relation to the date the donation it relates to was received.
- Legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of it's legal entitlement and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
- Rental income from the letting of PCC property is recognised when rents are due.
- The charity receives government grants in respect of the Job Retention Scheme. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

3 Accounting policies (continued)

c Incoming resources (continued)

- Investment income from interest on deposits and dividends earned are accounted for when receivable.
- Investment gains and losses includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

d Resources used

- Costs are recognised when incurred and as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation and settlement of the liability is probable and quantifiable.
- Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts and costs of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.
- Grants payable are recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made externally and there are no pre-conditions still to meet for the entitlement to the grant which remain within the control of the PCC.

e Fixed Assets

- In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of "charity" by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.
- Tangible fixed assets for use by the PCC

  These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000. They are valued at cost or else, for gifts- in-kind, at a reasonable estimate of their open market value on receipt.

  Property used by the PCC in the course of their work is included in the accounts at cost.

  Depreciation is calculated to write off the capitalised cost of fixed assets less their currently anticipated residual fair value over their estimated useful lives as follows:
  - Curates House Nil
  - Furniture & Fixtures 10 / 20 years
  - Computers Equipment 5 years
  - Alarm system 10 years

- Fixed asset investment property

  These are included at best estimate of market value as determined by the PCC.

f Investments

These are stated at market value at the balance sheet date with any gains or losses on revaluation or disposals throughout the year being recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

g Debtors and creditors; bank and cash

Debtors are stated at the amount owed to the PCC or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the PCC. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at realisable values.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

4 Staff costs

During the year the PCC employed an Organist, Clerical Assistant and a Hall Manager. A further Clerical Assistant carried out work for the PCC on a volunteer basis. Employment costs are included in the respective costs heads.

During the year, £6,933 was paid to the trustee Lauren Johnson, appointed on 15 May 2022, in relation to services provided in her role as Hall Manager.

It is PCC policy to offer to reimburse members of the PCC and others involved in the administration of the PCC affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. With the exception of the details provided above, no member of the PCC was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the PCC, although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed where requested.

	2022	*2021*
	£	*£*
Gross Salary	26,322	*25,512*
Employers pension contribution	1,489	*919*
	27,811	*26,431*
Number of employees in the year	4	*3*

5 Fixed Assets

	Property	Furniture & Fixtures	Computer Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Gross book value at 1 January 2022	1,012,959	59,516	1,334	1,073,809
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-	-
Gross book value at 31 December 2022	1,012,959	59,516	1,334	1,073,809
Depreciation at 1 January 2022	-	17,227	1,334	18,561
Charge for the year	-	4,698	-	4,698
Depreciation at 31 December 2022	-	21,925	1,334	23,259
Net book value at 31 December 2022	**1,012,959**	**37,591**	-	**1,050,550**
Net book value at 31 December 2021	**1,012,959**	**42,289**	-	**1,055,248**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

6 Investments

	Investment Property £	Total £
Gross book value at 1 January 2022	1,000,000	1,000,000
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Revaluations	-	-
Gross book value at 31 December 2022	1,000,000	1,000,000
Net book value at 31 December 2022	**1,000,000**	**1,000,000**
Net book value at 31 December 2021	**1,000,000**	**1,000,000**

7 Debtors

	2022 £	*2021 £*
Amounts falling due within one year		
Accrued income	1,166	*1,167*
Gift aid tax claim	1,578	*2,105*
Prepayments	-	*1,089*
Total debtors falling due within one year	2,744	*4,361*

8 Creditors

	2022 £	*2021 £*
Amounts falling due within one year		
Accruals and deferred income	25,590	*35,714*
Funds received due to be paid (note 10)	28,148	*27,544*
Total creditors falling due within one year	53,738	*63,258*

9 Related party transactions

The only related party transactions in the year relate to the payment of wages to a Trustee in their role as Hall Manager, details are provided in note 4. No related party transactions were incurred in 2021.

10 For information only: Money received and passed on to External Organisations

	2022 £	2021 £
Balance brought forward from last year	27,544	*19,204*
Amounts Received - received for External Organisations	7,907	*22,854*
Amounts Received - passed to External Organisations	(7,303)	*(14,514)*
Balance still to be paid	28,148	*27,544*

11 Church Workers Pension Fund

The PCC participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of CWPF for lay staff. The Scheme is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the assets of the schemes separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

The Church Workers Pension Fund has a section known as the Defined Benefits Scheme, a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic and a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

Pension Builder Scheme

The Pension Builder Scheme of the Church Workers Pension Fund is made up of two sections, Pension Builder Classic and Pension Builder 2014, both of which are classed as defined benefit schemes.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are the contributions payable (2022: £1,489, 2021: £919).

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent was carried out as at 31 December 2019. The next valuation is due as at 31 December 2022.

For the Pension Builder Classic section, the valuation revealed a deficit of £4.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. At the most recent annual review, the Board chose to grant a discretionary bonus of 10.1% following improvements in the funding position over 2022. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £5.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, the PCC could become responsible for paying a share of that employer's pension liabilities.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022 £	*2021* *£*
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(37,873)	*179,413*
Adjustments for		
Depreciation charges	4,698	*3,368*
Loss/(Gains) on investments	44,940	*(64,736)*
Gains on revaluation	-	-
Dividends, interest and rents received	(50,240)	*(39,549)*
Decrease in debtors	1,617	*4,403*
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	(9,520)	*1,135*
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	**(46,378)**	***84,034***
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends, interest and rents received	50,240	*39,549*
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-	*(31,926)*
Acquisition of investments	-	*(217,296)*
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities	**50,240**	***(209,673)***
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	**3,862**	***(125,639)***
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	**339,110**	***464,749***
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	**342,972**	***339,110***
Represented by:		
Cash at bank and in hand	**342,972**	***339,110***

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

FUND MOVEMENT SUMMARY YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	01.01.2022	Resources Incoming	Resources Outgoing	Investment Gain/(Loss)	Transfers In/(Out)	31.12.2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General	49,832	209,598	226,373		(3,825)	29,232
Designated Funds						
Flowers	1,412	25	139	-	-	1,298
Hall Maintenance	1,797	-	-	-	-	1,797
St Mary Open days	1,433	-		-	-	1,433
Arthur Worwood Music	29,317	-	474	-	-	28,843
Property fund	669,277	1,750	4,698	-	-	666,329
Roof 2013	3,688	-	-	-	-	3,688
Bridge	312	-	-	-	-	312
Signpost	835	-	-	-	-	835
Property Maintenance	25,336	783		(3,304)	-	22,815
Outings	(400)	-	-	-	-	(400)
	733,007	2,558	5,311	(3,304)	-	726,950
Restricted Funds						
Appeals and collections	1,137	1,462	255	-		2,344
Choir and music	2,660	-	-	-	-	2,660
Friends	82,987	27,109	33,060	(4,456)		72,580
Homeless and support	-	1,626	-	-	-	1,626
Memorial garden	2,528	14	-	-	-	2,542
Ministry candidates	199	3	-	-	-	202
Jazz Vespers	2,339		1,379	-	-	960
St Mary's garden	937	170	-	-	-	1,107
Christ Church Jupp bequest	385,820	8,550	9,687	-	3,825	388,508
Wanstead Winter night shelter	7,363	-	-	-	-	7,363
SMWR	-	3,681	-	-	-	3,681
Community choir	2,617	-	-	-	-	2,617
Distress relief	18,563	551	-	(2,831)	-	16,283
St Mary's Brown bequest	589,025	18,960	7,658	-	-	600,327
John Sunley bequest	788,141	17,340	3,188	(23,287)	-	779,006
	1,884,316	79,466	55,227	(30,574)	3,825	1,881,806
Endowment Funds						
Bishops J Adams Memorial	5,319	-	-	-	-	5,319
Eileen Joliffe bequest	81,528	2,188	-	(9,555)	-	74,161
ST M Mem Gdn and Corp Beqs	12,861	168	-	(1,507)	-	11,522
Taylor Memorial 1992	9,794	-	-	-	-	9,794
	109,502	2,356	-	(11,062)	-	100,796

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST C

England & Wales - Charity number 1127753

Accounts

Wanstead Parish
St Mary with Christ Church

Annual report
and
Financial Statements

of the
Parochial Church Council
of the
Ecclesiastical Parish of
St Mary with Christchurch, Wanstead

for the
Year ended 31st December 2021

Registered Charity Number 1127753

Interim Priest in Charge:
The Revd. Martyn Hawkes
Christchurch,
Wanstead Place, Wanstead

Banks:
NatWest Bank, High Street, Wanstead
HSBC Bank, Electric Parade, George Lane, South Woodford
CCLA Investment Management Ltd, Cheapside, London EC2

Independent Examiner:
Yusuf Dedat FCA, Clay Ratnage Strevens & Hills

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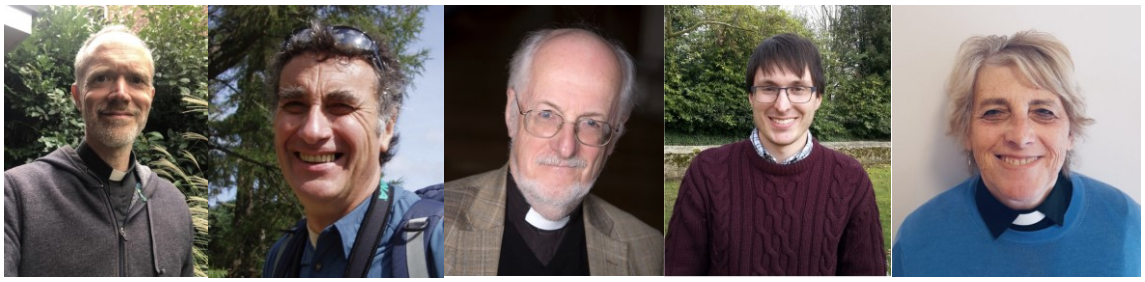
Appendix I – Committees, Information and Governance

Appendix II – The St Mary's Report and Bishop Guli's Response

Introduction

2021 was a second year dominated by Covid 19. Christmas 2020 was cancelled at the last minute, and 2021 started with yet another lock down, with the consequence that our churches were closed again. Revd. Dr Jack Dunn left the Parish in January, and the Parish entered a period of Interregnum. In April, the Parish was pleased to welcome The Revd. Canon Martyn Hawkes as Interim Priest in Charge for two days a week. Our curate, Tom Britt, left to complete his curacy at St Margaret's, Ilford, and the Parish wish him all the best in his future mission. Thus, 2021 was a challenging year for the Parish, as we coped with Covid and a greatly reduced Ministry Team. Many thanks to Revd. Richard Wyber, Revd. Olive Thursby and Revd. Chris Taylor for all the extra work they have had to do as a result.



Church Wardens' Reports

St Mary's

The Night Shelter, which ran in the church hall during 2019/20 was suspended during the pandemic, with hotel accommodation being provided by the government instead. Some of our parishioners helped with the serving of meals thus keeping our parish connected with the Night Shelter project.

The pandemic was a continuing challenge. In keeping the church as safe as possible for continued use throughout the pandemic, we had to be thoughtful and careful. With the co-operation and understanding of the congregation, we were able to close every other row of the box pews to enable social distancing.
Our biggest test was keeping everyone as safe as possible at the candle lit, Nine Lessons and Carols service. It was decided to limit the congregation to 200 with pre-booking required. With the advent of a new and more contagious variant of covid, more space had to be allowed between the seats to keep the congregation safe. Many thanks to James Paterson, for rearranging the seating at short notice.
Thanks go to Rev Olive and Ft Richard who compiled the service. The service included three different choirs, a soloist, flautist, and brass accompaniment. Alison

Wells rehearsed the three choirs to perfection! This is an important service in the parish calendar as it attracts many local residents who look forward to this service as part of their own Christmas celebrations. We were grateful for all the positive feedback received from those attending.

The Resilience Project, involving both of our churches, continued to progress throughout the summer of 2021. Unfortunately, the HLF found the project too ambitious and suggested we break it down into smaller projects and reapply.
St Mary's continued with its development of Lay Led services including the development of the relationship between the spoken word and music.

During the covid restrictions singing was prohibited. However, the organist played the hymns and a musical interlude between the two readings, added to the atmosphere, and gave an opportunity to reflect on each reading.

The Lay Leaders are growing in confidence and the crafting and care taken in the preparation of each service is evident. These services have given the congregation a feeling of collective involvement and ownership of the services. Our Lay Leaders have really established themselves for which we are truly grateful.

Compline has become an established part of our weekly services led by Susan Holdham on a Wednesday evening.

The annual checks on the churches structure and amenities were carried out and nothing untoward was discovered. HLF awarded grants, in the form of a, 'restart initiative' after the period of lockdown. At St Mary's we had the external lighting repaired on both the north and south doors.

After the threat of closure, St Mary's had been challenged to prove over two years, that, as a congregation, we were able to sustain our services.
A final report on the activities and development of our services was delivered to Bishop Guli. The report and Bishop's letter are available in Appendix II.

Thanks to Sue Paterson and Alison Wells for compiling the final report describing the continuing achievements being made at St Mary's.

Over the summer a large number of trees were felled in the churchyard due to disease. Some had already been brought down by high winds and caused damage to many tombs and gravestones. Unfortunately, we cannot claim on our insurance as this is deemed 'an act of God.' We are looking to replant trees during 2022.

There have been a number of benches donated to the churchyard in remembrance of departed parishioners.
A banner promoting the churchyard has been displayed and the gates are opened between dawn and dusk.

An increase in visitors to the churchyard has been noted and a Poppy Trail

developed to denote all the war graves.

Sadly, there was a death recorded in the churchyard in February 2021.

The churchyard is, 'closed' meaning that no more burials can take place, unless it is a family grave and there is space for another internment. No new graves can be excavated. Being a closed churchyard, the local authorities now take responsibility for its upkeep. Redbridge have employed a company called 'Westerleigh' to undertake these responsibilities. The people at Westerliegh meet with us regularly to discuss the continued development of the churchyard.
For a second year, Redbridge has donated bulbs to be planted in our churchyard in their 'Big Bulb Giveaway.'

Our POD system of volunteers, who clean and maintain the church has developed into a determined group of people. These sessions take place on a Saturday morning. Along with the designated POD group other members of the congregation appear to enjoy a coffee and chat on a Saturday. This has proved valuable during the restrictions on meeting up, especially for those living on their own.

Thanks go to Sue Paterson who organises the PODs along with the rotas for reading of the bible and those reading the prayers of intercession on a Sunday.
The crypt was open for London Open House weekend and also for Wanstead Fringe, with booked tours of the crypt proving a huge success.

St Mary's continues to be used as a film location with the BBC making notes of our interior and an independent group making a movie about 'Influencers.'
Tin in a Bin, the outreach project started by Julie Harvey, has gone from strength to strength. It is now supporting eight different charities as well as helping 400 Afghan refugees based in hotels in Ilford.

Tin in a Bin's reach has extended beyond Wanstead covering areas such as Aldersbrook, Leytonstone and South Woodford. St Mary's is now open on Wednesday and Saturday mornings to accept donations with teams of volunteers collating and distributing donations. This has further led to some of those volunteers joining the flower arranging team, weekly duties for Tin in a Bin and the gardening team.

Tin in a Bin has been nominated for, 'the Mayor's Community Award'. The winner will be announced in May 2022.

The congregation continues to grow. Whilst we have an average congregation of 30 to 40 each Sunday, the base has increased from around 70 to 80 worshipers who would call St Mary's 'their church.'
A number of people, worshipers and clergy, have spoken of the 'prayerfulness' of St Mary's.

I must thank all the congregation who have worked so hard to ensure continued Sunday worship, who have given so much to ensure a warm welcome to all who visit and join us in worship.

Special thank you to all who populate our PODs. To all who take part in making the services so special, our choir members, sides people, coffee makers, flower arrangers, readers, and intercessors.

Every other week, a wonderful group of people arrive to maintain our churchyard, thank you.

Music has become a major feature of our services and thanks to Alison Wells for her enthusiasm and expertise in developing and crafting this aspect of our worship.

Ralph Hall

Christ Church

On Sundays, the 9 am family Eucharist continues to be a vibrant service, with well over 100 attending each week and usually slightly more children than adults. The 10.30 service usually has around 60 attendees, as does Jazz Vespers, and the monthly Youth Eucharist has 20-30. The Thursday morning service also has a regular congregation. The first Sunday of the month, the 10.30 is led by lay leaders and many have appreciated this quiet and reflective service. We have been blessed with some new altar frontals and linens thanks to the John Sunley bequest.

The new audio-visual system has greatly improved worship, although we do need to look at installing additional speakers so the sides of the church are also covered. The church acts as a Tin in A Bin collection point.

Sadly, an expression of interest in securing a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to reorder Christ Church, make it greener and able to be used more by the community, was turned down, despite huge amounts of work by a number of people including Pen Garlick. The building remains on the at-risk register and the bell tower in particular continues to deteriorate and is cause for concern. The heating is operating at less than half power, so it can be very chilly. It is unlikely we can wait for a large grant and will need to look at replacing the boiler at a cost of at least £25,000. Other repairs that had been delayed in view of the plans for a large project need to be reviewed and some progressed.

The Christ Church committee met twice during 2021 and provided advice and support on a number of matters, for which I am very grateful. Minor repairs were necessary on the South porch, roof and gutters. A fire inspection was done and some of the suggestions are being acted upon, with other recommendations not possible for a listed building.

Steve and the gardening club have ensured that the Christ Church gardens remain a real asset to the whole of Wanstead. A huge thank you to Steve and all the gardening club, and to everyone who has picked up litter, for all your hard work. The gardens are enjoyed by huge numbers, which is a real blessing, though litter and minor vandalism remains a problem (as indeed it is for the main green).
The Oasis church of Seventh Day Adventists have been renting Christ Church for their services on Saturdays. This partnership has not just been about the money (useful though that is), and we are building a partnership with a church very different to our own.

Christ Church is blessed with very many volunteers who contribute a huge amount. That said, we do still need more in some key areas, as many hands make light work.

A very heartfelt thank you to all the lay worship leaders, flower arrangers, those who change altar frontals, serve, play the organ, support children's and youth groups, manage the sound system, play the organ, spring clean (several times a year!), offer coffee after services, sidespeople, and welcomers, those on intercessors and readers rotas, set up before and clear up after services, count collections, tidy the church/vestry, sing in the choir, organise the much loved Jazz Vespers, bell ringers, liaise about music, bring Tin in a Bin and other donations, support the night shelter and other outreach – I apologise in advance for missing any volunteers, there are just so many of you!

Barbara Hepworth-Jones

Lay Leaders Report

From the Church of England website on "Developing Lay Ministries."
"Ministry is a response to the needs of the Church and the world and is part of every Christian's calling to love and to serve."
"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."
1 Corinthians 12: 4-7

Firstly, on behalf of all the Lay Leaders, I would like to thank Father Richard and Rev Olive for training us and acknowledge Olive leading the first sessions and setting a great example for us

Lay Leadership began in the Parish at St. Mary's on 11th August 2019 with a service led by Yvy Carter and the following week by Yvy and Roger Middleditch. Compline then began shortly after led by Susan Holdham, who has led this service pretty much continuously ever since. Compline was (when first instigated) a new service for the Parish, but it quickly established itself and has been a welcome opportunity to worship outside the normal Sunday pattern. There is a small but dedicated congregation who greatly appreciate the opportunity to recharge their spiritual batteries and meet fellow congregants mid-week. Initially introduced to fulfil the requirements of the Bishop's letter of 25th January 2019, when he asked us "to introduce at St. Mary's… a lay led Service of the Word on two Sundays a month (or three Sundays in months of five weeks)", this has since extended to Christ Church on the first Sunday of the month.

The general response to Lay Leadership has been very positive from both congregations and we have received support and warm words, with very complimentary feedback. The congregations have come to welcome the quiet and reflective service, and the different approaches taken by the different Leaders.

Lay leadership over the past two and a half years has given the Parish the opportunity to explore different ways of expressing faith and leading worship. At Christ Church, Lay Leaders have introduced the new audio-visual facilities which have added a new dimension to worship and allows people to engage differently with the service.

At St. Mary's, the services have incorporated a broad range of music to enhance the worship, sometimes with a reflective piece played between the lessons or a sung psalm with responses. The congregation has commented on the way music has helped lift the services but also praised the moments of silence for quiet contemplation.

When taking up the responsibility of leading worship, many Lay Leaders were concerned by the prospect of delivering the Homily/Reflection. However overall, they have stepped up and found a range of different resources to use, both online and via various books. This has also added welcome variety to the services.

We do still have things to work on as we continue to develop Lay Leadership in the Parish. The main problem at present is the relatively small number of Lay Leaders. Christ Church (and thanks to Pen Garlick for raising this) particularly has been reduced in number for the moment.
Although there has been some discussion of Lay Leaders working more broadly across the two churches (which would help alleviate the current shortage and at the same time give a sense of unity to the Parish Lay Leadership), except for Yvy, this does not currently happen. Nothing has yet been done to facilitate this although offers have been made by some Lay Leaders to lead at both churches.

More Lay Leaders are being recruited. Howard and Eleanor Smith and Jennifer Griffiths are in the process of being trained and hopefully more will follow, so this should help lessen the problem in the longer term.

One of the obstacles to implementing cross-Parish leadership now is logistics. It has been pointed out that it is desirable for people to have experienced the Lay Led services in each church before leading a service there, to get familiar with the logistics and the space. This is not easy to achieve given that most Lay Leaders also have other responsibilities, for example, being members of the choir, reading the lesson and leading intercessions.

Whilst we can see the benefits of having a parish-wide rota, offering a greater pool of resource to lessen the load on individuals, Covid has restricted the opportunity for the Lay Leaders to get together over the last few years to discuss such a move.

Thus far we have stepped up when called upon and we hope that this radical change to our parish worship, will continue its success. We have established something new that will likely become ever more normal in parishes across the country, and we can be proud that Wanstead has been something of a pioneer for Lay Led worship in the diocese.

Jeremy Green
Thank you to those Lay Leaders from both St. Mary's and Christ Church, for their thoughts and contributions to this report

Children and Youth

Signpost

Signpost is a bi-weekly youth group with challenges, consoles, crafts, snacks and discussions around biblical topics. It is a group that allows the children to keep in touch with friends from primary school and helps with the transition to secondary. We are very pleased to have been able to get back to regular face to face sessions during 2021 and have had an average of 25+ children who come regularly. It is encouraging to have new members joining and during the year ahead we hope to welcome new volunteers on to the team to allow the group to continue to grow.

Bridge

The Bridge meets on alternate weeks to Signpost for older young people and includes debates on big questions, a 'mocktails' bar and a variety of activities like table tennis and consoles. The group also cooks and eats a meal together each week. In this group, the children have known each other a

bit longer allowing for a relaxed environment. We have an average of around 10-15young people who come regularly.

Junior Church

Junior Church occurs during the 10:30 am service. It is a session where we explore the same teaching as the adults in a fun and age-appropriate way including crafts, discussion and challenges. The children who attend are actively engaging in the sessions and are not afraid to ask questions, and we hope through the year ahead to build up a team of volunteers as well as invite new families along to further rebuild the group post-COVID.

Little Angels

Little Angels is our midweek group for families with preschool age children which includes sung worship, Bible stories, craft and refreshments. After a slower restart after last year's lockdown, we are now regularly having 20+ families attend again each week, all of whom really enjoy the time together and are building relationships with the team who run the group. We attract regular members and we also welcome members from the community and beyond. We hope to see more of the wider church family join the group in the future to continue to make those connections with our wider community.

Rachelle Steele-Douhot - Red Balloon

Activities and Groups

Prayer group

Prayer Group is an open meeting on Tuesday mornings at 10 am in Christ Church. There is a nucleus of people who attend regularly, and others who drop in from time to time. We would welcome new members. It was started about 5 years ago by Valerie Gritten, who felt it could make an important contribution both by praying for the life and work of the parish and by giving the group members an opportunity to learn more about prayer and develop our prayer life. She devised the basic format: we begin with a brief round-up of our week, focusing on aspects where we feel the need of prayer in our lives, or that are affecting our prayer life. We then have a short reading on prayer brought by one of the group members, followed by discussion. Some set prayers (written by Valerie) help to centre and ground us; these are followed by a period of silent reflection and then intercessionary prayers (for ourselves and our families, for the local church and community, and for the wider world), the Lord's Prayer, and prayer through reflection on short bible texts (Lectio Divina), ending with the Grace. We try to do all this in not much more than an hour.
Lin Taylor

The Community Sponsorship Scheme

The members of the Core Group are: Avril Carnelly (The Parish of Wanstead), Paul Godin (Our Lady of Lourdes) , Katherine Jaques (The Parish of Wanstead), Sheba Lockley (St Mary's South Woodford) , Fionnuala Manzie (Our Lady of Lourdes), Diana Middleditch (The Parish of Wanstead), Michaela Mouquet (Our Lady of Lourdes), Eleanor Taylor (The Parish of Wanstead), Anna Tivey (The Parish of Wanstead), Deborah Dickinson (The Parish of Wanstead).

This ecumenical group worked during January and February 2021 to complete preparations in the house and make plans for the arrival of the family. From March onwards the group met weekly whilst supporting the family with the legal requirements of the scheme, and social inclusion in our community. The group now meet fortnightly and continue to support the family in becoming independent. The group continues to: meet Home Office requirements; liaise with RESET; engage with/ attend training courses.

Deborah Dickinson Lead Sponsor

Bell Ringers

Last year I reported that Christ Church bells had, alas, been silent for nearly a year. This year I am pleased to report that with the covid restrictions being gradually lifted, we were able to commence ringing, albeit in a limited capacity, in early September. Since then, we have managed to ring for the Sunday 10.30 service most weeks, although seldom with the full complement of bells. My thanks go to Sian Patterson and Jem Green, who have combined ringing with their duties at St Mary's. We are also very grateful for the continuing support of Andrew Barham, who is an ace ringer, and has helped us all to progress in the art of change ringing. Andrew has also carried out some basic maintenance and was able to repair a broken clapper on one of the bells.

As is the case with many towers, owing to the pandemic, it has been difficult to generate enough numbers to hold regular practice nights. We have however on occasions welcomed members from other nearby towers to enable ringing of the full eight bells to take place.

As the Autumn progressed, things were looking more promising, and we were anticipating ringing for the Christmas services, including Midnight Mass. However, Omicron was not having that, and like many others, several of us succumbed to the virus around the Christmas period. We were able to cover the early Christmas Eve service.

Just like last year, we all owe a continuing debt of gratitude to Christine Wyatt for her efforts in keeping the Church Clock fully wound and operational throughout the pandemic. I would also like to thank John Eyre, who although at present is

unable to ring, takes a keen interest and contributes with his very valuable advice regarding ringing matters. On behalf of the parish, I would also like to thank Sandy and Mike Course and Terry Warren, who are now unable to ring, for their service to Christ Church ringers over many years.

It is our aim to keep the bells ringing as often as possible, and to prioritise Sunday morning service ringing. We have committed to ring for three weddings this year where bells are requested, and as a member church of the Essex Association of Change Ringers, will be provisionally hosting a district ringing competition in September. It is however obvious, that to maintain ringing at Christ church in the fashion that the parish has long been accustomed to, we are going to need more ringers and a supporting training plan. It also should be mentioned that with the closure of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, who have inspected and cared for our bells over many years, we now need to make alternative arrangements.

Robert Wallis

Gardening

St. Mary's Gardening Group

The original Team of 15 members and their churchyard fortnightly activities continues to flourish with the undoubted benefit of five new, young, fit and capable volunteers.

Our plans and aspirations for the site have obviously been affected by specific rules and recommendations during the pandemic but we've managed to meet our immediate objectives and moreover, to develop sympathetic strategies for the site's future as a Parish & Community amenity whilst preserving its graveyard status, its inherent peace & beauty and of course, its native flora and fauna.

Consequently, and with ongoing gratitude for the two-weekly loan of many of the CC Gardening Club's tools, support from generous Parishioners, friendly 'associates' in Crews Hill, with most welcome long-term labour/financial input from Redbridge Council, the churchyard has been cleared of diseased mature Ash trees and most saplings, fallen rotting Horse Chestnuts have been sawn and used as insect habitats, the prevalent Bays have been reduced in number or significantly pruned, the vistas W-E and N-S have been opened up with the ivy, bramble & bracken undergrowth maintained in particular locations for the varied fauna which includes foxes, rabbits, hedgehogs, squirrels, other small mammals and assorted insect and bird species.

Rowan and silver birch saplings have been planted as well as Council-funded bulbs which add to the indigenous Spring species of snowdrops, crocus, primroses, cyclamen, violets, daffodils (*tulips in the North & Memorial Flower Beds!*) and bluebells which are a delightful seasonal carpet seen in the southern areas of the churchyard each year... Our bird boxes have clearly been used for their primary

function, as have two 'Dowers Hotels' for hedgehogs and the beehives kept by Colin are soon to increase in number and gain a fenced compound with species information-board for visitor interest.
We have piled cut logs and rotting wood around the 3.5 acre site and have witnessed the resultant profusion of insect life whilst also setting up a Cut-Log Takeaway Service for the public. Meanwhile, our annual battle against the all-pervading Ivy over tombs, memorials & gravestone epitaphs continues! We certainly do not wish to eradicate the species which bestows many benefits for the resident animal & bird varieties as well as being a camouflaging, gently-ageing feature of the ranks of fascinating historical tombstones.

We welcome ***all*** volunteers, whether experienced Gardeners, Landscapers, Arboriculturists or not - even budding Masterchefs or Sommeliers who believe our very occasional Garden Party BBQ over a blazing bonfire might aid their future careers ??!!

Alternatively, if you prefer body-building, supreme stamina, phenomenal fitness or fun and laughter with friends, do join us on alternate Saturday mornings at St. Mary's from 9.30am onwards or just pay the peaceful haven that is St. Mary's Churchyard a visit.

Phil Ryan

Christchurch Gardening Club

The year 2021 presented many challenges for the team and once again could not follow the plan as this had to be adapted to suit other demands and resources that fluctuated largely and again resulted in some rougher edges to the Christchurch environs and gardens.

The average age of the team continues to rise and some volunteers have been unable to continue but the infectious enthusiasm remains. We have been blessed with the addition of two younger members Aylish and Johnathan both of whom having made big impacts when they were able to attend but more younger volunteers are essential to achieve the standard of appearance that we all expect and appreciate.

This year the weather has been less helpful seeming to choose to be wet just when we arrive to undertake the works and resulting in less being achieved.
The focus for the gardening club meets was to maintain the lawns ensuring they are available for all to enjoy the amenity and to contain the hedge growth within reasonable limits. Hedge trimming avoided the bird nesting season and other secondary areas of the gardens were allowed to wild to ensure the best environs for wildlife. In particular to the east behind the church hall these areas are the main wildlife areas that are encouraged to grow. Please respect the wildlife returning to this area where the buddleias grow tall and provide nectar for many butterflies.

Without the compost facility on site the green waste remains a constant problem for the team and one of the team of volunteers is relied upon to carry the green waste we cannot manage to the local recycling centre. As much green material remains on site as possible either by being chopped and munched by the mowers or shredded by the kind gift of a shredder. All such material then being transported to the beds to be used as a mulch in an attempt at keeping them moist when the dry summer weather returns, and we are unable to rely upon volunteers for watering. This chopping by the mowers is taking its toll upon their performance.

The damaged and diseased trees have now been safely felled and some replacements could be introduced but are not currently being sought to see whether the reduced canopy cover enables more light to reach the ground and sustain the underplanting. Adjacent to the south gate is a muddy area where little grew. This has been the focus of bulb and other shade planting and it is hoped that the ground will slowly green up and become prettier as a result of the increased light levels.

The budget has not been fully expended again this year due to the reduced activity and minimal fuel and consumable expenses. Unfortunately, we are aware of the need to spend a suitable budget for 2022 as a mower replacement will be necessary for one has sadly reached the end of its life.

We have received kind gifts of some equipment, plants and shrubs from kind parishioners that were commonly re-landscaping their own plots. Notable additions this year include a flowering cherry, lilac and magnolia and while we are sure the first two have survived, we are watching the magnolia for signs of life this season as it was transferred at the worst possible time.

The small team of dedicated Volunteers have been the very dependable resource and deserve a big thankyou from the Church and wider communities for their continued assistance after many years. The rambler rose Auguste Gervais that was purchased in memory of Gus Fletcher is now planted in the memorial garden as a tribute and reminder of a good friend. Still small it is hoped this will establish a structure on the fence this year and provide good colour. The bug hotel has received many insect visitors and remains an attraction for children of the community.

The garden is well used and appreciated by the wider Community but the anti-social behaviour and littering remains a nuisance that spoils this space. A request was made to ensure visibility through the boundaries and some sessions focussed entirely on clearing this. It may not be recognised but the first job that is undertaken every session by the gardening club volunteers is to pick up and dispose of this litter. The time spent doing this obviously reduces time available for the maintenance of the gardens.

The gardening club members regularly clear the perimeter drains around the church. Without this maintenance the fabric of the church would deteriorate. The front drive is badly affected by poor falls and inadequate drainage. This became

particularly serious during leaf fall when leaves gathered and formed a matted blanket that was slippery underfoot and messy until the volunteers scraped this away and disposed of it but a solution to this annual problem must be sought by others.

Seasonal tasks that had been planned were not all able to be completed by even fewer volunteers, but it is hoped that in 2022 with the comfort of vaccinations that we may meet regularly and be able to slowly return to improve the gardens further and enjoy the camaraderie again. Some tasks that are planned include: tidying and rebuilding the edges of the lawn where trodden down, clearing the bracken and young saplings from the beds, improving the boundaries including maintaining visibility, thickening the mixed hedging either side of the south path to the park, transplanting to encourage drift planting in areas.

There are many benefits of volunteering to assist the gardening club including better health and well-being and more are encouraged to join and witness these firsthand.

Steve Davenport

Flowers

Christchurch

There are two altar flower pedestals at Christchurch, the High Altar and Lady Chapel.

During the pandemic, with some intermittent online and in person services the situation was very unpredictable. The health and circumstances of the flower arrangers was also unpredictable. For these reasons, a flower arrangers' rota was not feasible for all of 2021.

I contacted the Christchurch flower arrangers by email or phone to inform them that I would manage the altar pedestals until the situation improved.
I decided to arrange artificial flowers with fresh foliage from the church garden for the duration of the pandemic. This meant that arrangements would last for several weeks if watered and at no cost to the church. This continued until Christmas 2021.

The flower arrangers were contacted before the end of 2021 to establish who would still be on the regular Christchurch rota, who would arrange flowers for weddings and who would assist for other events if called upon. This has been done and the updated information attached.

Christmas 2021 the church was decorated with two Christmas trees and fresh flowers to celebrate the birth of Christ and the re-opening of the church. *The Christmas trees were arranged and decorated separately – as they have been in the past. Maybe more could be done at Christchurch for Christmas 2022.*

Lorraine Bucknall kindly offered to take on the management of the flower rota for 2022 as part of her office role.

I have committed to continue arranging artificial flowers with fresh foliage in the High Altar throughout 2022. This is to save cost and to enable the flower arrangers to re-establish as a group and focus on arranging the pedestal in the Lady Chapel and the pedestals for weddings with fresh flowers, which they do beautifully.

There has been a successful flower festival at Christchurch for several years, linked to the Art Trail and Music and timed to coincide with the Wanstead Festival, which brings the local community into the church, and we usually also manage to raise some funds towards the running cost.

This did not take place due to the uncertainty of the pandemic although the Wanstead Festival did go ahead successfully. The flower festival involves a lot of contributors in the later years of their life who may have been vulnerable, and it is costly to run. I hope the Wanstead Flower Festival will return in 2022.

There have also been social events held in the past for example, wreath making to specifically raise money to fund the flowers at Christchurch and St Mary's. There were no fund-raising events in 2021 and I would hope that at least one event can be organised in 2022 to raise funds for the weekly flower pedestals and a flower festival.

Beryl Darling

St Mary's

After the disappointment of the last minute cancellation of the carol service in December 2020 due to the pandemic and the imposition of the lockdown at Christmas, the New Year started on a sad note. The Christmas flowers and decorations were taken down and arrangements were made using silk flowers as well as fresh, when permitted. As the Covid 19 restrictions were lifted, the flower arrangers were able to work to a rota once again and some different and very beautiful arrangements were produced and were much appreciated by the congregation.

In Advent, the flower arrangers had a rest until the Christmas Carol Service came around again. This led to the arrangers rising to the task of making the church beautiful as well as welcoming and joyful for the traditional service, which was able to take place, albeit with much reduced numbers present due to the remaining restrictions. Particular thanks are due to Rachel Richardson and Marjorie Gadd, who both assisted wonderfully, as well as Karen Clark who made some wonderful pew ends, Jacki Hall who made a lovely arrangement on the font, Penny Bickerstaff and others who helped with the window and other arrangements. Thanks to all for their time and efforts, the church looked really beautiful and the congregation much appreciated their efforts.

Donations of foliage and flowers have been made to the Church, which are very much appreciated. Some collections for flowers have been made, which are generously supported and provided all the flowers for the Christmas period.

Margaret Thoresby

Engelskirchen +

Parish life had changed radically since the onset of the Covid pandemic in the Spring of 2020. Some things, notably the core activity of public worship, have continued in different or modified ways. Other activities, each one making its contribution to the life of the Parish, have had to be suspended. They are recalled here in the hope that some at least of them will be able to resume sooner or later.

80 Plus group

The 80 plus group was a small group of people in later life, convened by Fr Richard and meeting informally for tea and conversation, using an excellent publication of the Bible Reading Fellowship: 'The Gift of Years: Bible reflections for old people.

The Engelskirchen link

For a number of years the parish has shared in a partnership originally established between Wanstead URC and Christus Kirche Engelskirchen, a protestant church in a town near Cologne. The partnership involved group visits after Easter each year, hosted alternately in Wanstead and Engelskirchen. We couldn't do that in 2020 and 2021, but hope to resume exchange visits in 2022 or 2023. This will require people able to offer accommodation at either end.

Parish pilgrimage to Walsingham

For many years a group of parishioners have made an annual weekend summer pilgrimage to the Anglican shrine at Walsingham in Norfolk. This was not possible in 2020 and 2021, but it is hoped to resume this summer.

Revd. Richard Wyber

Report of Electoral Roll Officer

At the end of 2021, the Parish Electoral Roll stood at 370. We had 22 additions during the year and six leaving the Electoral roll. one of those was a parishioner who had sadly passed away, four have moved out of the area and one joined the ministry team.

The Electoral Roll is kept updated and a revised roll submitted for consideration at the APCM. The right to vote at the APCM will be limited to those parishioners who are have been on the Electoral Roll for six months.
Any parishioners wishing to join the Parish Electoral Roll, at any time, are welcome to fill in forms available either in both our churches or obtained from the Parish Office via email to wansteadparishadmin@uwclub.net.

To join the Electoral Roll you need to have been baptised and live in the Parish or if resident outside the Parish you need to have worshipped with us for at least six months. Completed forms should be handed back to the Parish Office.

Lorraine Bucknall

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

It was another challenging year for the parish in regard to baptisms and weddings. Number restrictions had to be applied to some baptisms after the easing of lockdown and several services went ahead with 15 guests before the numbers attending could be increased. Despite this we managed to baptise a total of 30 with infants, children and adults in that number. Something to be pleased about considering how many families had to be cancelled and then held on a waiting list during the previous year. There is still a backlog to book a date, partly due to families wanting more certainty about family from abroad travelling and people still concerned about mixing. All baptisms were conducted at CC although both churches are always offered at the booking stage.

We married three couples, all postponed from the previous year. Numbers at the first were restricted to the allowed 30 at the time but the others were after the restrictions were lifted. It is encouraging that we have eight bookings for 2022 as things become easier. One service was St Marys the other two at CC.

Church funerals followed a similar pattern. At CC two were for church members and three for families of the local community. All were within the guidelines at the time.

I have to pass on my thanks to the Ministry team for their help and support with these services and to Joe for playing the chosen music.

Jan Andrews

The Parish Church Council

The Charity operates under the Church Representation Rules, and other regulations of the Church of England. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It has maintenance responsibilities for the only Grade I listed building in Redbridge, St Mary the Virgin, and for Christ Church, a Grade II building. The Rector and a Churchwarden are trustees of the Church School, which remains the only Aided Church of England School within the borough.

The PCC is the executive committee of a Church of England parish. It is made up of the Clergy and Churchwardens of the parish, together with representatives of the laity.

All major decisions are made by the PCC during regular scheduled meetings; Standing Committee has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

The Churchwardens, as the leading lay members of the parish, assist the incumbent in the day-to-day administration of church affairs and have authority under canon law.

The Trustees of the Charity are members of the PCC; they are either ex officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, or co-opted in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Membership of the Parish Church Council 2021

During the year of 2021, from 1st January to 31st December the following, served as members of the PCC:

Ex-officio (Rector and Ministry Team) and Churchwardens
• Revd Dr Jack Dunn (Rector) (Left Jan 2021) • Revd Canon Martyn Hawkes (Interim Priest in Charge) (From April 2021) • Revd Richard Wyber (Ministry Team) • Revd Dr Chris Taylor (Ministry Team) • Revd Olive Thursby (Ministry Team) • Revd Tom Britt (Ministry Team (Left Mar 2021) • Ms Barbara Hepworth-Jones (Church Warden • Mr Ralph Hall (Church Warden) • Mr David Wyatt (Deputy Church Warden)
Elected Trustees (date in brackets is when term ends)
• Mr Peter Schaefer (2021) – Secretary (Jan-May)

• Mrs Mary Shaw (2021) – Assistant Treasurer (Jan-May) • Ms Yvy Carter (2021) (Jan-May) • Mrs Susan Oldham (2021) – Assistant Secretary – co-opted in Dec 2020 (Jan-May) • Mr Jeremy Green (2022) – Volunteer Coordinator • Mrs Suzi Stiegler (2022) – Joint Lay Vice Chair (Jan-Nov) – Parish Safeguarding Officer (Nov-Dec) • Mr Christian Orme (2022) – Youth Advocate (Jan-June) – (Left June 2021) • Ms Patience Rusinga (2023) – Diversity and Inclusion Advocate • Mr Gary Owen (2023) • Ms Equi Ajogbe (2023) – Parish Safeguarding Officer (Jan-Nov) • Mrs Susan Oldham (2024) – Secretary (May-Dec) • Ms Jemma Wakeman (2024) – Treasurer (May-Sept) – (Resigned Sept 2021) • Ms Djaama Davis (2024) – Assistant Treasurer (May-Dec)
Ex-Officio Members of the PCC due to being Elected Diocesan Synod Representatives
• Mr Philip Carnelley (Re-elected for a second term) – also serves on Deanery Synod • Mrs Celia Heath (Jan-July) – Term Ended
Elected Trustees by virtue of being representatives on the Deanery Synod: whose three-year term will end at the APCM in 2023
• Ms Jenny Griffiths • Mr Neil Hepworth • Mr Joshua Dickinson • Mrs Margaret Adams – Seniors' Advocate • Mr James Paterson – Joint Lay Vice Chair
PCC Members co-opted onto the PCC at the PCC Meeting immediately after the 2021 APCM (maximum of two allowed)
• Mr Peter Schaefer (Chair of Friends)
PCC Members appointed to be nominated champions
• Mr Christian Orme (Youth Advocate) (Jan-June) • Ms Patience Rusinga (Diversity and Inclusion Advocate • Mrs Margaret Adams (Seniors' Advocate) (Vulnerable Adults Lead)

Lay Vice Chair's Report

2021 was quite a year, not least due to the COVID pandemic and the significant impact it had on our parish and on our church services. At the start of the year, with the departure of Father Jack, we found ourselves in an interregnum. Under advice, the PCC sought an interim minister to help prepare for the next Rector and we were blessed that this led to Father Martyn being appointed as Interim Priest in Charge, whilst continuing as Vicar of St Gabriel's in Aldersbrook.

The Lay Vice Chair position was jointly held by Suzanna Stiegler and myself for most of 2021, but in the last month or so, Suzanna stepped back into the vital role of Safeguarding Officer. I'd like to thank Suzi for all her help and counsel during this important period in the Parish.

At the start of the year, the parish was also in the second stage of the successful one-year Resilience Project (which has been commented on elsewhere in this report). The Resilience Project left the parish in a sound position to submit an "Expression of Interest" to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) to consider a large project (the Parish Development Project, or PDP). The PDP would have involved significant improvements to Christ Church and the Parish Halls, as well as encompassing badly needed repairs to the bell tower and spire. The outline proposals also incorporated a badly needed modernisation of the heating system and improved access at the church. At St Mary's (which has seen significant works in the recent past), the project would have included access improvements to the churchyard, together with an interpretation project linking the history of the churches with the history and development of Wanstead itself.
The Expression of Interest was submitted in August; the NLHF, however, decided not to invite a full-scale bid from the parish on a number of grounds, principally:

1. They thought that the PDP was too large for one bid, and that it would be better to tackle the various aspects in discreet smaller projects
2. They had, during the first part of 2021, agreed to a large number of Expressions of Interest for other Lottery Funded projects. With the overall availability of funds (nationally) being limited, the NLHF were effectively "putting the brakes" on requests in the latter half of the year
3. They did not fully understand the benefits that the proposed project would bring to the wider Wanstead community, which is a key aim of the Heritage Fund

With the pandemic still developing unpredictably, the continuing interregnum and other more important priorities in the parish needing attention, the PCC agreed to pause the Parish Development Project for the time being.
In due course, and following the recommendation of the NLHF, different parts of the bigger project will be tackled as smaller projects, depending on need and urgency. The first will undoubtedly include the repairs to the iconic tower and spire at Christ Church

Next year will see the parish embarking on the quest for our new full time rector, and the next chapter of the Wanstead Parish story will begin.

James Paterson

Committee Reports

Standing Committee

Standing Committee is the only Legally required committee, and consists of the Chair of PCC, the two Church Wardens, the deputy Church Warden, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and one observer from the PCC, chosen at the previous PCC meeting.

Redbridge Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod is part of the way that the Church of England gives people at different levels a chance to discuss key issues and to help organise the church's ministry and mission. It sits between the parishes with their PCCs and the full diocese, with its Diocesan Synod. The lay members serve for three years. The Synod meets three to four times a year, visiting different parts of the Deanery, and its business is organised by a Standing and Pastoral Committee which has both clerical and lay members.

Deanery Synods are Deanery "assemblies" forming the tier of church governance between the Parish (PCC) and the Diocese: Wanstead is in Redbridge Deanery. Key functions of Deanery Synod include acting as a conduit for information between the Diocese and PCCs, and across the Deanery between parishes and MMUs.

Redbridge Deanery Synod met four times in 2021, twice on Zoom, and twice in person (with a Zoom option for those who felt that was the better option given the ongoing pandemic).

Alongside the usual Deanery business – reports from parishes, MMUs, Diocesan Synod and so on – the Synod meetings generally include a headline topic, sometimes with a guest speaker, with the intent that these are promulgated to parishes. In 2020 these were:

- *Generous God, Generous Disciples*: the 2020-21 Diocesan stewardship campaign initiative and resources
- Presentation from The Revd James Gilder, Diocesan Environment Officer: *A Christian response to the Environmental Crises of the 21st Century*
- *Living in Love and Faith* – an introduction to, and discussion about, the Church of England's project on Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. It was led by Revd Chris Wragg, Barking Area co-advocate for the LLF process and vicar of Squirrel's Heath.
- *Refugee project*: an update on initiatives across Redbridge and Chelmsford diocese from Fr Gareth Jones, Chelmsford Diocese Refugee

Coordinator, Vicar of St Mary Ilford and National Church Representative for Community Sponsorship.

Any Deanery Synod member from Wanstead Parish would be happy to give more details. There is a generally a report from Deanery Synod reps to relevant Wanstead PCC meetings. Wanstead parish elects up to 6 lay representatives to Redbridge Deanery Synod – these are *ex officio* PCC members – for a 3-year term of office. At its 2020 APCM, Wanstead elected the following Synod members: Margaret Adams, Joshua Dickinson, Jenny Griffiths, Neil Hepworth and James Paterson. These all continued in post in 2021. Additionally, Philip Carnelley, who took over the post of Redbridge Deanery Lay Chair during 2021, is a member of both Wanstead PCC and Redbridge Deanery *ex officio* as he is an elected member of Chelmsford Diocesan Synod.

Philip Carnelley

Mission and Ministry Unit (MMU) Report

The Mission and Ministry Unit seeks to develop and enhance ministry and mission in our community in partnership with our five local churches.

The West Roding Mission Partnership committee met three times in 2021. Our Parish is represented by Jenny Griffiths, Joshua Dickinson, Revd Olive Thursby and Fr Martyn Hawkes. Our thanks go to Avril Carnelly and Pen Garlick for the smoothness of handover and all of their previous work on the committee.

Much of the Partnership's work and discussions in 2021 centred on supporting each other and sharing plans for continuing ministry and building communities during a period of ongoing pandemic and changes of clergy in three of the four parishes forming the MMU. Revd Elizabeth Lowson became Rector of St Mary's Woodford in February 2021 and Fr Alex Summers began a 2-year interim post at St Peter in the Forest at a similar time.

Over the course of the year, the parish treasurers, clergy teams and pastoral teams met to continue sharing information and approaches. This has resulted in the Pastoral teams writing a Pastoral Care Plan. This considers the mutual support that the Pastoral teams across the MMU can provide for each other alongside ensuring the continuation of the Bereavement Café and Snaresbrook Crown Court Chaplaincy. Volunteers to support both these initiatives would be very welcome.
A four part Pastoral Care basics course starts on 12th January 2022, led by Revd Elizabeth Lowson (St Mary's Woodford) and Bernard Eaton (St Peter).
Many joint services and events were paused during 2021. A confirmation service was conducted at St Gabriel's on Mothering Sunday afternoon as the first pandemic confirmation service conducted by Bishop Peter Hill, and one of his last in post before retirement.

We remain hopeful that we will see more joint activities in 2022, with plans for a Healing Service and a Quiet Day beginning to form, and St Peter in the Forest hoping that they can offer more outdoor ministry for all, making use of their forest surroundings and newly renovated church.

Jenny Griffiths and Joshua Dickinson

Staffing & Governance Committee

Staffing & Governance did not meet formally this year; instead, the business was agreed and conducted via email as necessary. Until Martyn Hawkes arrived in April, the committee had oversight of all governance matters which during this period included: advising on the elections at the May APCM, implementing any actions highlighted in the staff reviews carried out by the Rector in November. During the autumn the Committee took a leading role in the attempt to recruit a Choir Director. David together with Martyn carried out a Governance Review. David carried out staff reviews with the employed lay staff and Martyn reviewed the clergy team. The Committee will look at the completed reviews early in 2022 and implement any actions agreed. Throughout the year, the Committee monitored and approved appointments to various committees. Much of the work of the Committee is confidential as it concerns salaries, working hours and employment terms and conditions.

David Wyatt

Parish Music Committee

The PMC has oversight of all music in the parish which is related to parish worship and the Parish Vision statement, in order to develop a cohesive strategy and action plan to nurture current worshippers and parishioners, and to reach out to the wider community in and around Wanstead through an extended and developing programme of provision. This includes supporting the Director of Music; music at all church services and other Parish or MMU musical events, including those with involvement of other organisations where the Parish is either taking a lead or has a partnership role; music that takes place within the church buildings or grounds, such as recitals or concerts, provided by secular or community groups; management of resources and equipment including the organ.

As Covid restrictions began gradually to be lifted, through the year, musical life in the Parish was able to re-emerge.

Although the Nine lessons and Carols service in 2020 had had to be cancelled, the Christmas morning service did happen at St Mary's with a quartet of singers and an organist and a small and well-distanced congregation.

And for St Mary's that's how the next few months continued. There were 4-6 singers (max allowed was 6) in the choir stalls for the services on Sunday mornings. The

singers sang the hymns and usually a short simple anthem, and there was a short organ piece between the readings. Congregational singing was not allowed at this stage.

At Christ Church a group of up to 6 members of the choir kept music alive for the congregation by singing from the back of the church.

There were no big choral services at either church for Holy Week and Easter.

The Parish Choir did not have regular weekly choir practices until October and there was no Director of Music, as Joe Waggott had been redeployed as Parish Organist, a post he still holds.

There was a poetry and music for Pentecost service at St Mary's led by Susan Holdham in May 21, where three singers sang and Alison Wells played the organ
A new singing group started in a very small way in May at St Mary's to help people who had had Covid to improve their breathing. There were 2-3 people in this group until restrictions were lifted in July. The group became a community-based singing group and named itself the Forget-me-nots and had grown to 12-13 members by the end of 2021.

The combined 3rd Sunday services did not take place at this stage so that distancing could be observed. They began again in August 2021.

Once restrictions on congregational singing were lifted in July, the number of choir members could be increased at both churches, and everything started to feel that little bit more normal and the services started to come to life that little bit more.

In August the feeling was that it was the right time to have the choir rehearsing regularly again and to have a choral director taking those rehearsals. Joe Waggott decided to remain in post as Parish Organist and it was agreed that a choral director should be found. Choir rehearsals began in October 2021 under the voluntary direction of Alison Wells, who planned the music lists for the rest of the year. In November a junior choir was formed, consisting of 10-12 young singers from yr 4 upwards, led by Emily Coates, who prepared a song for the Carol Service on 19th December.

The pandemic made us all realise just how much music is such an important and integral part of our worship and parish life. The choir members (and our additional volunteer singers) deserve a big thank you for keeping going with their constant enthusiasm and commitment throughout a difficult 2021. They brought us normality and hope through music and without them the services would feel empty.

And so it was wonderful to see the choir back in action in the choir stalls, fully robed and processing. The combined service on the 3rd Sunday of the month at Christ Church became a joyful choral Eucharist with the Parish Choir and organ. The 1st

Sunday of the month saw a slight change in service patterns with Parish Eucharist at St Mary's where as many singers from the choir came as were available once 6 singers were allocated to support the new lay-led service at Christ Church. Elsewhere there is a report on the lay worship leaders and the great work they do in supporting the clergy team. This service pattern continued to the end of the year. The other Sunday services (2nd and 4th Sundays) continued to be led by singers from the Parish Choir singing at the church they normally worshipped in.

As things looked like they were returning to some kind of normality, on the 5th September Jazz Vespers returned with their first service since the very beginning of lockdown 2020. The return of this reflective and very different service was a big success, and it was fabulous to have the band back in church for a service where everyone can also enjoy a tipple!!

In addition, there were Choral services involving the whole Parish Choir for the annual bereavement service at St Mary's on 31st October, participation in the civic Remembrance Day service on Nov 7th, Advent Carol Service at Christ Church on 28th November, and Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary's on 19th December with the participation of the Parish Choir, Junior Choir, Forget-me-not Choir, and brass quintet, flute, piano, guitar and organ.

Throughout the year Organ music (and piano playing for the family Eucharist) at Sunday Services was provided beautifully by the Parish Organist Joe Waggott, who played at St Mary's on the 1st Sunday of the month and at Christ Church on all other Sundays. Volunteer organists covered the other services and they included Martin Elliot, Richard Williams, Michael Tivey, Martin Wheatley, Alison Wells, Rev Olive Thursby and Mark Willingham. The parish is very grateful to them all for their contribution to the musical life of the Parish.

Non-liturgical musical events included "Glamour on the Green" on July 12 – an operatic gala organised by John and Pen Garlick which took place during the Wanstead Festival.

A concert was given in Christ Church on 24th July by Jane Miller, Clive Miller, and John Garner, which raised £1558 for Mind Mental Health. December 12th saw the return of the East London Chorus who gave a wonderful concert of Christmas family favourites.

Alison Wells and Sue Fitzgerald

Christchurch and Halls Committee

Oversight of the use of the Christ Church and the Halls (and accompanying grounds) for worship, outreach, and community use. Advise on the programme of activities, including worship, offered throughout the year across the site. Plan for and coordinate the arrangements for the Wanstead Festival and Open House. Look at matters relating to the upkeep and maintenance of the whole site,

including consideration of the financial implications. Monitor the maintenance of the organ and the AV System. Oversight of all matters relating to QI (Quinquennial Inspection). Act purely in an advisory capacity, reporting regularly to the PCC and making recommendations for consideration of action by them.

From the beginning of the year the halls were closed due to another Covid lockdown and there were no bookings or clubs for the first three months. The halls were hired to a film company for a day's recording in March. From May, four regular groups returned. Bookings for weekend children's parties gradually returned from June, albeit we only had one booking each weekend, and from July 2021, five more regular groups returned. From September we were able to let the halls for children's parties, and we were hosting five or six children's parties a weekend. 11 new clubs were enrolled for regular hire from September. In total, 21 regular groups now hire the halls on a weekly basis, some of which hire more than one session a week.
Two Friends events were held in 2021, the 'Wanstead Festival' in September and 'Merry Quizmas' in December, both of which were a great success.

During the Covid 19 pandemic I was instructed to increase the contracted cleaning hours to 16 hours per week, to ensure the halls were sanitised and cleaned regularly, at a great increase to our costs. I decreased the hours back to 8 per week during September 2021 in the hope of lowering our outgoings
The long-awaited redecoration of both halls began at the beginning of June.
2021 ended with us heading towards as healthy bank a balance as we had pre-Covid.

Lauren Johnson

Mission and Outreach

The committee was established to support the mission and outreach of the PCC by working with our chosen charities and organising our charitable giving. It also makes recommendations to the PCC as to which charities the parish should support.

We are rather short on members at present, and I have recently taken over the chair. I am planning to invite members to attend in person meetings four times a year in 2022, (Covid permitting) we can zoom/email in between as necessary. Meetings are usually in the evening to accommodate those who are working, I would expect 60 -90 mins long is sufficient. (60 on zoom) I would also like to connect to the wider community not just the congregation, through social media. We to aim organise giving in monetary and in kind donations by the church for local, national, and international charities/projects. We made a successful donation to a local charity Hestia at Christmas, with the help of Tin in a Bin. We have not managed to arrange any international giving this year and would like to achieve better networking with parishioners. We aim to be inclusive. We need to inform and give feedback, to the PCC, participants, congregation, and

community. All I intend to do at present is to get the committee up and running again, with some structure. It would seem practical to work together with Tin a Bin on local community projects and to expand our giving next year to include national and international projects. The rest will be up to the committee to discuss and decide what we do.

Beryl Darling

Friends of St Mary's with Christchurch

The Friends is a membership group set up as the fundraising arm of the PCC to maintain, repair, restore, improve, and preserve the fabric, monuments, fixtures, fittings, furniture, stained glass, ornaments, and other chattels, of the Churches of St Mary the Virgin and Christ Church Wanstead, for the benefit of the public. Covid 19 again restricted the number of events we were able to stage in 2021. Am happy to report that we were able to hold one more event than in 2020, though still only 2 out of 6 events. We were in full planning and promotion for our Mid Summer BBQ event in June when the deadline for the lifting of restrictions were extended sadly ruling out this event, an event that engages with Wanstead High's music department, giving students a platform to play in their local community. To the two events we were able to stage in 2021. The Wanstead Fayre was another busy affair held during the Wanstead Festival. The Donkey rides were as popular as ever ensuring the Bar and BBQ received maximum exposure. It was another fine/hot day resulting in the Bar selling out and the cake/coffee/tea stall doing a roaring trade. Sadly for us, our BBQ died during the event, with only half the burners working it impacted on sales and will be replaced in the new year. Merry Quizmas was a sold out affair with 80 attendees, expertly compared by the one and only Andy Richardson. There were enquiries on the evening for tickets for the following year, that are yet to go on sale. Long standing member of the Friends and genuine top bloke Miles Gilbert will sadly be leaving us in the new year for pastures new. During his time with the Friends, annual funds raised have been close to 10k each and every year for Parish needs. We thank Miles for his time, energy, enthusiasm and above all his friendship, he will be missed. Ed Fosbrook didn't become Parish Treasurer in the end so were very thankful not to have to undertake the difficult task of finding a replacement. We are fortunate and grateful to have Ed's continuing involvement as Friends treasurer.

From only holding one event in 2020 raising £500 to holding two in 2021 raising £4000, here's hoping we will be able to hold all 6 of our planned events to get back to raising 10k each year for the general upkeep and maintenance of our beautiful Churches.

All our events are truly community events that aren't only promoted in our Parish but rather in the wider community through social media, the grape vine of Wanstead that is the Wanstead Community Hub, as well as in print in the monthly Wanstead Village Directory.

With the roll out of vaccines and boosters that are proving effective, we are currently promoting our Burns Night event end of January. As it stands, we are planning on holding Rock me baby disco in March, the Wanstead Village Dog show in May, the Summer BBQ in June, the Summer Fayre in September and Merry Quizmas in December.

The Friends would like to thank all those who have supported us in 2021. Whether that be by giving up their time and energy setting up and packing away events. Noted, it took 24 volunteers to ensure the successful running of our Wanstead Fayre event, half of whom were current or past parents of WCS as well as some teaching stuff. Also to those members of our Parish & community who supported our events enabling us to raise £4000 for the upkeep of our Churches and grounds. It is also right to acknowledge the ongoing support of local businesses Petty, Son & Prestwich, Edwards Duthie Shamash and Zainab's kitchen who kindly sponsored & supported our events.
Peter Schaefer.

Safeguarding and Health and Safety

This committee helps to monitor and to develop all safeguarding policies and procedures for children, young people and vulnerable adults in the parish and maintains an oversight over other related policies, such as risk assessments.
Highlights of the work undertaken by the Committee during 2021:

- Update risk assessments to ensure our churches remain safe during the Covid-19 pandemic and adapt to changing government guidance, including safe-reopening;
- Review of Parish Safeguarding Policy and Guide to Supporting Vulnerable Adults with recommendations to the PCC for compliance with House of Bishop Safeguarding Guidance;
- Continuing to encourage new and not-so-new members of the parish to expand their knowledge of safeguarding through the online training;
- Supporting the parish to respond to safeguarding and risk assessment needs.

In 2022 the Committee will:

- Continue to encourage and support as many people as possible in the parish to undertake online safeguarding training;
- Promote additional training modules for those in the parish with responsibilities for or involvement in recruitment;
- Increase the visibility of safeguarding in the parish through the creation of new posters and quick guides;
- Comply with changes to DBS update periods from 5 years to 3 years;
- Ensure the PCC are aware of and follow relevant updates to the House of Bishops Safeguarding Guidance.

Suzi Stiegler

Records, Archives and Data Management Committee

The objective of this committee is to review the current arrangements for the safe keeping of parish records and to advise the PCC concerning future arrangements, and to keep abreast of essential GDPR data requirements.
After a revision of committees and their membership, with the aim of reducing workload both for the laity and a much reduced clergy team, it was decided by PCC, after recommendation from David Wyatt and Revd Canon Martyn Hawkes, to disband this committee, which has not met for some time, and ask for two volunteers, one to act as 'Records & Data Management Coordinator' who will then help out Lorraine as required. And one to be responsible for the ancient and historic records ensuring that what we have in our historic archives is logged and available for researchers etc.

Denis Keeling has agreed to be responsible for the archive material, and Liz Ranger has offered to deal with all Records & Data Management matters. Heartfelt thanks go to them both.

Sue Oldham

Social Committee

Going into 2021, I reported that I needed to be replaced as Chair and that we also needed a couple of new committee members, ideally from the 10am Christ Church congregation. We did advertise for those needs during the first few months of the year but to no avail. Throughout 2021, due to the pandemic there was no real need for the Social Committee with 'refreshments 'only being reintroduced for 9am and a few special services. Of course, no opportunity to organise a major event such as a trip to Broadstairs or the Barn Dance. As a result of the Governance Review (by Martyn Hawkes and myself) approved in January, the Social Committee has been disbanded with 'Refreshments' now being coordinated by both an overall coordinator and service specific ones. All major events are now the responsibility of the 'Friends' and they are considering running a Barn Dance in the Autumn.

David Wyatt

Headteacher's Report, Wanstead Church School

January 2021 arrived with rather a bang with the second full closure of all schools. Suddenly, we were back to online learning and remote lessons, although with a few more children in school than the previous lockdown. To make this time fun, we launched "100 things to do in Lockdown", which included everything from reading a classic novel to flying a kite. This provided some light relief in a tired and frustrated world, where parents were once again juggling their own work while helping their children with their lessons.

Things proceeded much in the same way throughout February. March then brought the return of all children to school full time. This was a joyous moment and the children were thrilled to be back in school. The school continued to operate in "bubbles" for the rest of the academic year, with much disruption when classes had to be sent home when there was a COVID-19 case in the class. At the end of March, we paused to mark the National Day of Reflection, a moment to pray and reflect on the pandemic as a whole.

As we moved into the summer months, we were delighted to have a new telephone system installed to replace our antiquated system. We spent time consulting with parents about the new Relationships, Sex and Health Education curriculum and then enjoyed fun-filled sports afternoons with our new PE teacher, Mr Harris. We were able to end the year with a very special service for our Year 6 leavers and their families in Christ Church, which was an emotional and poignant moment enjoyed by all in attendance.

Over the summer holidays, the school became something of a building site, with brand new toilets being installed for the children and a full upgrade being completed on our existing disabled toilet to make it suitable for a new pupil on roll.

With September came a return to normality in school. The children returned to school and bubbles were no longer required. This meant that the children were once again able to play together in the playground and join together in the Hall for Collective Worship, rather than online. We were thrilled to be able to invite parents into school for assemblies, parent consultations and meetings once again. Year 5 went to swimming lessons once a week throughout September and our new intake were welcomed into our school and into a brand-new Early Years curriculum.

September also brought with it the launch of our own in-house clubs, both before and after school. These have proven very popular and host an increasing number of children as each month goes by. We also became a teacher training school, linked to Teach In Redbridge, and welcomed Miss Kenealy as our first student teacher. We are delighted to be investing in teachers of the future and to be supporting their training in such an invaluable way.

We also had a change of leadership within our Governing Body, with the appointment of two Co-Chairs of Governors, Dr Harborne and Ms Spencer Ellis. Their combined excellent leadership of the Governing Body has ensured continued challenge and support for the school.

In October, the Worship Council was launched. This proved so popular that it is more than 20 children strong currently! The children help to prepare, plan and lead Collective Worship, including welcoming visitors, setting up the Hall and choosing the songs and music. The PTA managed to hold well-attended school discos for the children in October, which was a much-needed treat for the children after such a long time.

November saw the installation of brand new floors throughout much of the downstairs of the school, a Phonics Workshop for parents, the Book Fair and a dressing-up day for Children in Need. The Year 6 class once again led a wonderful Remembrance Service at the memorial and the choir did a fabulous job singing at the switching on of the Christmas lights in Wanstead High Street once again.

The highlight of the term had to be our Open Class session, where we opened our doors to all our families and invited them to come in to sit with their child and look at all their fantastic learning. This was very well attended and the feedback from parents was incredible.
Things sadly took a turn for the worst in the world as November drew to a close, and we received the news that we had all been dreading – that there was a new variant of the virus. With heavy hearts, we closed our doors to visitors and juggled increasing absences of both children and staff. Once again, technology came into its own and we were able to live stream all of the children's nativities and performances. They sang their hearts out, learned their lines perfectly and remembered all their actions brilliantly. We were so proud of them all and so grateful that their families were able to enjoy it with us, albeit remotely.

Thankfully, we were able to go ahead with the PTA's Christmas Fair in December, which was a roaring success in spite of the wind and rain. They raised an incredible £6000! We continue to be blessed with extraordinary parents who are so supportive and generous towards our school.

2021 ended with an open-air carol service for the families, held on our playground, which was much enjoyed by all.

As always, the school staff team continues to evolve and grow. In 2021 we said goodbye to Mrs McLean (Teacher), Miss Ilenda (Teacher), Mrs Webster (Early Years Educator), Mrs Marsh (Teaching Assistant), Miss Landsberg (Teaching Assistant), Mrs Lyall (Teaching Assistant), Ms Smith (Midday Assistant) and Mr Okeke (Caretaker).

We were delighted to launch a new Senior Leadership Team in 2021, consisting of myself, two Assistant Headteacher, Ms Clayton and Miss Whitehead, and our SENCO, Miss Fodder. We also welcomed Miss Butler (Teacher), Miss Domingo (Higher Level Teaching Assistant), Mr Harris (PE Higher Level Teaching Assistant), Mrs Kamali (Teaching Assistant), Mrs Stanger, Mrs Tulloch, Mrs Rahman and Miss Fazal (Midday Assistants) and Mr Semwogerere (Caretaker).

Wanstead Church School continues to live by its values of Wisdom, Compassion and Strength, and its motto "We Can Shine!" and we are proud of our achievements throughout 2021, despite the ongoing and ever-changing challenges.

Natalie Denchfield
Headteacher

Financial Review

The principal source of funds for the charity is the regular voluntary giving from our parishioners, which totaled £88,139, remaining flat versus 2020. With Covid restrictions still in place during 2021 and services impacted, plate collections have still not recovered. Therefore, this giving was primarily from our planned givers through the Planned Giving Scheme (PGS) and Standing Orders. Without these regular givers, we would have faced an even more difficult financial year. The PCC strives to increase our planned givers through the PGS to reduce the administrative time and cost associated with other methods of giving and to enable the PCC to better budget for the year and cover our costs.

The planned giving and gift aided cash and online donations enabled the PCC to reclaim £20,768 from HMRC for 2021. We have been aided by the rule which enables us to claim Gift Aid on cash collections up to a maximum of £8,000 for each church in any one financial year. Gift Aid continues to be a critical part of our income, as without recovering these funds, we would not be able to meet our day-to-day running costs.

With some restrictions continuing during 2021, our Parish Halls unfortunately remained closed or operating at minimal capacity for part of the year with rental receipts totaling only £26,447; 13% more than 2020, but still 60% less than in 2019. The management and running costs of the hall were still fully met from its own income as well as partially supported by the Cultural Recovery Fund grant. The Parish Hall income net of expenses of £18,032 was used to support the Parish running costs and mission.

The Friends were unable to host most of their fund-raising activities during 2021 due to Coronavirus restrictions but were able to able to raise £4,261 net towards the current and future works required at St Mary's and Christ Church.

The Parish has benefited from several grants from the Cottage Trustees, derived from property rental income, which supports the cost of the Parish work with children, young people and families. Further support for our youth work has come from grants from London Over the Border and through private donations received in 2019.

During 2021, the PCC were awarded a grant from the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage funds which covered certain PCC expenses for the period 1st April to 30th June 2021 as well as allowed the PCC to top up its reserves to 8 weeks of expenses. The total grant awarded and spent was £40,957. The income and expenses covered by this grant have been recorded in the CRF Fund (restricted) and the 8-week reserve funds transferred into the General Fund.

The parish begin a Resilience project during 2020, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, to help prepare the parish for a possible larger project at both St Mary's and Christ Church. The project was completed in November 2021 and the underspend returned to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The PCC aims to keep a minimum reserve in liquid funds of £20,000 available at little or no notice for unforeseen contingencies that are not otherwise covered by the insurance policies in place on both our churches and other properties. At the year end the General Fund has reserves of £49,832.

Without the usual hall income and reduced church collections, the PCC took several actions to meet our financial obligations during 2021. This included: remaining on fixed costs only expenditure, reduced Parish Share contributions, furloughing some of our staff and claiming for support under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme through mid-April and utilising both designated and restricted funds where possible to cover allowable expenditure. We also made use of our ChurchDesk software to enable online donations as well as our contactless donation devices in both church buildings.

The PCC holds a number of financial investments arising from past legacies which, instead of being held as cash deposits, are invested with Central Board of Finance unit trusts. All of these funds are Endowment Funds, which means that the PCC benefits from the income but cannot use the principal amount.

During 2021, the Parish is grateful to have been remembered by four parishioners and received legacies from Ms Mary Colmer and Mr Ian Hartley, Ms Jean Newman and Ms Barbara Hicks. The Parish also received the balance of the legacy left by John Sunley upon the finalisation of his estate.

Recent Legacies

Name	**Year Received**	**Legacy**	**Fund**	**Fund Type**
Barbara Hicks	2021	£500	General	Unrestricted
Jean Newman	2021	£2,000	Arthur Worwood Music	Designated
Ian Hartley	2021	£1,000	General	Unrestricted
Mary Colmer	2021	£500	Memorial Garden	Restricted
John Sunley	2020 & 2021	House, £261,000	Sunley	Restricted
Paulene Walker	2020	£2,000	General	Unrestricted
Janet Lilian Marten	2020	£1,000	General	Unrestricted
Rose Clare	2019	£4,750	Distress Relief	Restricted
Barbara Joan Gower	2019	£1,000	General	Unrestricted
Joan Brown	2018 & 2019	House, £49,279	St Mary's	Restricted
Beatrice Smith	2018	£5,000	St Mary's	Restricted
Arthur Worwood	2018	£29,468	Arthur Worwood Music	Designated

In a typical year, the parish regular income received continues to be very finely balanced with amounts expended on the running of the parish, meaning that any additional costs, particularly for larger projects, will continue to require substantial additional external funding or donations. During 2021, like 2020, when our halls and churches were not operating at full capacity, we had to take drastic steps to ensure we could cover our debts as they fall due, but were able to do so while preserving our reserve. Through careful management the PCC remains in a position to meet all debts as they fall due and maintain our reserve. We hope to have a more regular financial year during 2022.

Parish Share
Our required deanery contribution, the "parish share" remained flat at £118,609 (£116,812 net of fee credit). Even in a typical year, the planned giving we receive does not cover this expense and we require both the hall income and claiming gift aid on giving to cover the balance.

Initially, with uncertainty surrounding our financial situation during 2021, we again took the difficult decision to keep our monthly payment at a reduced £5,000 per month. However, during the year we made additional lump payments toward our parish share to make up some of the deficit. The PCC received a housing credit of £9,000 during 2021 for our curate which is reflected as a credit against our Parish Share by the Diocese. Therefore, during 2021, the PCC paid £93,906 toward our Parish Share (£102,906 after applying the curate housing credit), resulting in an underpayment of £13,906.

The Parish Share for 2022 is set at £116,154 (£114,792 net of fee credit). This is somewhat reduced due to a grant applied by the Diocese. The PCC has budgeted to initially pay £5,000 per month for the first few months and will review its position during the year with the intent to increase our payment to pay in full for 2022 if finances allow.

Financial Position at year end:
The PCC ended the year with seemingly substantial reserves of cash and investments, but these are largely either designated for a particular purpose or formally restricted in use. The uncommitted general funds held are £49,832, an increase of £28,085 from 2020, primarily due to increased Hall income and the CRF grant which helped bolster our reserves at mid-year.

Conclusion
The priority for 2022 is to maintain the effective work of the parish, providing adequate support to enable the ministry team to focus on developing the mission, evangelical, outreach and pastoral work of the church in Wanstead. The last two years has made evident that we must work to increase our regular planned giving through the Parish Giving Scheme and find ways to diversify our income to enable us to continue to maintain the effective work of the parish.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on the following pages.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees 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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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:

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

2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3. 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

Date:

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE

ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021 £	*Total 2020 £*
Incoming resources	**Notes**					
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income		148,804	147,972	-	296,776	*926,645*
Activities for generating funds		26,977	9,452	-	36,429	*25,362*
Investment income		2,874	36,675	-	39,549	*22,963*
Incoming resources from charitable activities		11,535	400	-	11,935	*7,117*
Other incoming resources		35	-	-	35	-
Total income	**1**	**190,225**	**194,499**	**-**	**384,724**	***982,087***
Resources used						
Cost of generating funds						
Cost of generating voluntary income		282	43	-	325	*183*
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other		8,415	7,761	-	16,176	*17,456*
Investment management costs		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities		161,974	89,562	-	251,536	*273,101*
Governance costs		2,010	-	-	2,010	*5,043*
Other resources used		-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	**2**	**172,681**	**97,366**	**-**	**270,047**	***295,783***
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer		**17,544**	**97,133**	**-**	**114,677**	***686,304***
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in		35,263	9,873	-	45,136	*63,718*
Gross transfers between funds - out		(9,758)	(35,378)	-	(45,136)	*(63,718)*
Net income / (expenditure) resources before other gains/(losses)		**43,049**	**71,628**	**-**	**114,677**	***686,304***
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets		3,544	49,559	11,633	64,736	*10,359*
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use		-	-	-	-	*612,905*
Net movement in funds		**46,593**	**121,187**	**11,633**	**179,413**	***1,309,568***
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward from 2020		**736,246**	**1,763,129**	**97,869**	**2,597,244**	***1,287,676***
Total funds carried forward		**782,839**	**1,884,316**	**109,502**	**2,776,657**	***2,597,244***

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

			2021	*2020*
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	**5**		1,055,248	*1,026,690*
Investment property	**6**		1,000,000	*1,000,000*
			2,055,248	*2,026,690*
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	**7**	4,361		*8,764*
Investments		441,196		*159,164*
Cash at bank and in hand		339,110		*464,749*
		784,667		*632,677*
LIABILITIES				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**8**	63,258		*62,123*
NET CURRENT ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			721,409	*570,554*
TOTAL NET ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES			**2,776,657**	***2,597,244***
REPRESENTED BY				
Unrestricted funds			49,832	*21,747*
Designated funds			733,007	*714,499*
Restricted funds			1,884,316	*1,763,129*
Endowment funds			109,502	*97,869*
TOTAL FUNDS			**2,776,657**	***2,597,244***

Approved by the PCC on:

Name:

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Details of incoming resources

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021	*Total 2020*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Income						
Giving	88,139	-	150	-	88,289	*92,328*
Income tax recoverable	20,768	180	75	-	21,023	*26,980*
Donations, appeals etc.	14,285	224	4,191	-	18,700	*36,370*
Legacies	1,500	2,000	61,534	-	65,034	*703,000*
Other income	20,687	1,021	82,022	-	103,730	*67,967*
	145,379	**3,425**	**147,972**	**-**	**296,776**	***926,645***
Activities for generating funds						
Events	530	-	195	-	725	*120*
Friends membership	-	-	626	-	626	*648*
Friends fundraising	-	-	8,631	-	8,631	*1,341*
Hall lettings	26,447	-	-	-	26,447	*23,250*
Other trading income	-	-	-	-	-	3
	26,977	**-**	**9,452**	**-**	**36,429**	***25,362***
Investment income						
Interest & dividends	2,156	718	1,748	-	4,622	*4,603*
Rental income	-	-	34,927	-	34,927	*18,360*
	2,156	**718**	**36,675**	**-**	**39,549**	***22,963***
Incoming resources from charitable activities						
Fees for weddings & funerals	3,538	-	-	-	3,538	*3,558*
Charitable other income	8,032	-	400	-	8,432	*3,559*
	11,570	**-**	**400**	**-**	**11,970**	***7,117***
Total incoming resources	**186,082**	**4,143**	**194,499**	**-**	**384,724**	***982,087***

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2 Details of resources used

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	*Total 2020 £*
Cost of generating funds/fundraising trading costs					
Church hall costs	8,415	-	7,761	16,176	*17,456*
Cost of generating voluntary income	282	-	43	325	*183*
Cost of fundraising events	-	-	-	-	-
	8,697	**-**	**7,804**	**16,501**	***17,639***
Charitable expenditure					
Giving	100	-	12,329	12,429	*11,452*
Parish share	102,906	-	-	102,906	*84,959*
Ministry team expenses	2,767	-	-	2,767	5,693
Wages	15,282	-	4,567	19,849	*25,090*
Choir and music	584	-	400	984	*3,621*
Parish training & mission	-	-	-	-	*1,162*
Education & young people	13,545	-	-	13,545	*14,408*
Upkeep of services	342	-	-	342	*7,558*
Insurance	6,578	-	579	7,157	*7,018*
Organ expenses	70	585	3,451	4,106	*1,281*
Residential property expenses	2,590	-	9,841	12,431	*33,414*
Works and maintenance	7,014	-	7,729	14,743	*32,005*
Light, heat & utilities	2,621	-	675	3,296	*7,081*
Office expenses	2,922	-	1,890	4,812	*4,318*
Friends cost of fundraising	-	-	4,370	4,370	*1,124*
Flowers etc.	5	35	-	40	*371*
Sundry expenses	660	-	108	768	*3,598*
Depreciation	-	3,368	-	3,368	*1,394*
Project costs	-	-	43,623	43,623	*27,554*
	157,986	**3,988**	**89,562**	**251,536**	***273,101***
Governance costs					
Accountancy and legal costs	2,010	-	-	2,010	*5,043*
	2,010	**-**	**-**	**2,010**	***5,043***
Total resources expended	**168,693**	**3,988**	**97,366**	**270,047**	***295,783***

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

3 Accounting policies

a Basis of preparation

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair 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 for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at fair value as agreed by the PCC and investments which are stated at market value.

b Funds

Unrestricted funds

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

Designated funds

These are funds that are for specific purposes but not restricted by document or deed to that purpose alone.

Restricted funds

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

Endowment funds

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

c Incoming resources

- Income from planned giving/donations and other voluntary income is recognised when it is received.
- Gift Aid and other tax claims are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis in relation to the date the donation it relates to was received.
- Legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of it's legal entitlement and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
- Rental income from the letting of PCC property is recognised when rents are due.
- from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

3 Accounting policies (continued)

c Incoming resources (continued)

- Investment income from interest on deposits and dividends earned are accounted for when receivable.
- Investment gains and losses includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

d Resources used

- Costs are recognised when incurred and as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation and settlement of the liability is probable and quantifiable.
- Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts and costs of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.
- Grants payable are recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made externally and there are no pre-conditions still to meet for the entitlement to the grant which remain within the control of the PCC.

e Fixed Assets

- In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of "charity" by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.
- Tangible fixed assets for use by the PCC

  These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000. They are valued at cost or else, for gifts- in-kind, at a reasonable estimate of their open market value on receipt.

  Property used by the PCC in the course of their work is included in the accounts at cost.

  Depreciation is calculated to write off the capitalised cost of fixed assets less their currently anticipated residual fair value over their estimated useful lives as follows:

  • Curates House Nil
  • Furniture & Fixtures 10 / 20 years
  • Computers Equipment 5 years
  • Alarm system 10 years

- Fixed asset investment property

  These are included at best estimate of market value as determined by the PCC.

f Investments

These are stated at market value at the balance sheet date with any gains or losses on revaluation or disposals throughout the year being recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

g Debtors and creditors; bank and cash

Debtors are stated at the amount owed to the PCC or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the PCC. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at realisable values.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

4 Staff costs

During the year the PCC employed an Organist, Clerical Assistant and a Hall manager. Employment costs are included in the respective costs heads.

It is PCC policy to offer to reimburse members of the PCC and others involved in the administration of the PCC affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. With the exception of the details in note 9, no member of the PCC was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the PCC, although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed where requested.

	2021	2020
	£	*£*
Gross Salary	25,512	*31,069*
Employers pension contribution	919	*958*
	26,431	*32,027*
Number of employees in the year	3	*3*

5 Fixed Assets

	Property	Furniture & Fixtures	Computer Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Gross book value at 1 January 2021	1,012,959	27,590	1,334	1,041,883
Additions	-	31,926	-	31,926
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-	-
Gross book value at 31 December 2021	1,012,959	59,516	1,334	1,073,809
Depreciation at 1 January 2021	-	13,859	1,334	15,193
Charge for the year	-	3,368	-	3,368
Depreciation at 31 December 2021	-	17,227	1,334	18,561
Net book value at 31 December 2021	**1,012,959**	**42,289**	**-**	**1,055,248**
Net book value at 31 December 2020	**1,012,959**	**13,731**	**-**	**1,026,690**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

6 Investments	Investment Property £	Total £
Gross book value at 1 January 2021	1,000,000	1,000,000
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Revaluations	-	-
Gross book value at 31 December 2021	1,000,000	1,000,000
Net book value at 31 December 2021	**1,000,000**	**1,000,000**
Net book value at 31 December 2020	**1,000,000**	**1,000,000**

7 Debtors	2021 £	*2020 £*
Amounts falling due within one year		
Accrued income	1,167	*3,100*
Gift aid tax claim	2,105	*3,267*
Prepayments	1,089	2,397
Total debtors falling due within one year	4,361	*8,764*

8 Creditors	2021 £	*2020 £*
Amounts falling due within one year		
Accruals and deferred income	35,714	*42,919*
Funds received due to be paid (note 10)	27,544	*19,204*
Total creditors falling due within one year	63,258	*62,123*

9 Related party transactions

During the year, £Nil *(2020 - £1,625)* was paid to Revd. A Clarke, a trustee, for her role as co-ordinator in relation to the Heritage Lottery Fund project.

10 For information only: Money received and passed on to External Organisations

	2021 £	2020 £
Balance brought forward from last year	19,204	1,758
Amounts Received - received for External Organisations	22,854	21,767
Amounts Received - passed to External Organisations	(14,514)	(4,321)
Balance still to be paid	27,544	19,204

11 Church Workers Pension Fund

The PCC participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of CWPF for lay staff. The Scheme is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the assets of the schemes separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

The Church Workers Pension Fund has a section known as the Defined Benefits Scheme, a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic and a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

Pension Builder Scheme

The Pension Builder Scheme of the Church Workers Pension Fund is made up of two sections, Pension Builder Classic and Pension Builder 2014, both of which are classed as defined benefit schemes.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum that members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. This account may have bonuses added by the Board before retirement. The bonuses depend on investment experience and other factors. There is no requirement for the Board to grant any bonuses. The account, plus any bonuses declared, is payable from members' Normal Pension Age.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are the contributions payable (2021: £919, 2020: £958).

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent was carried out as at 31 December 2019. The next valuation is due as at 31 December 2022.

For the Pension Builder Classic section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £4.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. At the most recent annual review, the Board chose to grant a discretionary bonus of 3% following improvements in the funding position over 2021.There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £5.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, the PCC could become responsible for paying a share of that employer's pension liabilities.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021	***2020***
	£	**£**
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	179,413	*1,309,568*
Adjustments for		
Depreciation charges	3,368	*1,394*
Gains on investments	(64,736)	*(10,359)*
Gains on revaluation	-	*(612,905)*
Dividends, interest and rents received	(39,549)	*(22,963)*
Decrease in debtors	4,403	*1,868*
Increase in creditors	1,135	*38,165*
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	**84,034**	***704,768***
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends, interest and rents received	39,549	*22,963*
Disposal of investments	-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(31,926)	*(506,671)*
Reallocation of Eileen Joliff Deposit account	-	*8,433*
Acquisition of investments	(217,296)	-
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities	**(209,673)**	***(475,275)***
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	**(125,639)**	***229,493***
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	**464,749**	***235,256***
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	**339,110**	***464,749***
Represented by:		
Cash at bank and in hand	**339,110**	***464,749***

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

FUND MOVEMENT SUMMARY YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	01.01.2021	Resources Incoming	Resources Outgoing	Investment Gain/(Loss)	Transfers In/(Out)	31.12.2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General	21,747	185,332	167,943	-	10,696	49,832
Designated Funds						
Flowers	1,437	10	35	-	-	1,412
Hall Maintenance	1,797	-	-	-	-	1,797
St Mary Open days	1,433	-	-	-	-	1,433
Arthur Worwood Music	27,902	2,000	585	-	-	29,317
Property fund	656,634	1,201	3,368	-	14,810	669,277
Roof 2013	3,688	-	-	-	-	3,688
Bridge	255	57	-	-	-	312
Signpost	678	157	-	-	-	835
Property Maintenance	21,075	717	-	3,544	-	25,336
Outings	(400)	-	-	-	-	(400)
	714,499	4,142	3,988	3,544	14,810	733,007
Restricted Funds						
Cultural Recovery Grant	-	40,957	21,708	-	(19,249)	-
Appeals and collections	3,596	2,357	6	-	(4,810)	1,137
Choir and music	2,660	-	-	-	-	2,660
Misc Clergy gifts	1,260	400	1,660	-	-	-
Friends	82,275	10,223	4,407	4,780	(9,883)	82,987
Memorial garden	1,780	748	-	-	-	2,528
Ministry candidates	199	-	-	-	-	199
Jazz Vespers	2,544	195	400	-	-	2,339
St Mary's garden	937	-	-	-	-	937
Christ Church Jupp bequest	378,749	-	1,929	-	9,000	385,820
Wanstead Winter night shelter	13,080	5,082	10,799	-	-	7,363
SMWR	115	-	-	-	(115)	-
Community choir	2,617	-	-	-	-	2,617
Distress relief	14,833	533	50	3,247	-	18,563
St Mary's Brown bequest	576,738	18,510	6,223	-	-	589,025
Resilience Grant Project	7,000	36,812	43,365	-	(447)	-
Refugee Welcome	450	1,080	1,530	-	-	-
John Sunley bequest	674,296	77,602	5,289	41,532	-	788,141
	1,763,129	194,499	97,366	49,559	(25,505)	1,884,316
Endowment Funds						
Bishops J Adams Memorial	5,319	-	-	-	-	5,319
Eileen Joliffe bequest	71,489	-	-	10,039	-	81,528
ST M Mem Gdn and Corp Beqs	11,267	-	-	1,594	-	12,861
Taylor Memorial 1992	9,794	-	-	-	-	9,794
	97,869	-	-	11,633	-	109,502

APPENDIX I

During the year of 2021, from 1st January to 31st December the following, served as members of the PCC:

Ex-officio (Rector and Ministry Team) and Churchwardens	
• Revd Dr Jack Dunn (Rector) (Left Jan 2021) • Revd Canon Martyn Hawkes (Interim Priest in Charge) (From April 2021) • Revd Richard Wyber (Ministry Team) • Revd Dr Chris Taylor (Ministry Team) • Revd Olive Thursby (Ministry Team)	• Revd Tom Britt (Ministry Team (Left Mar 2021) • Ms Barbara Hepworth-Jones (Church Warden • Mr Ralph Hall (Church Warden) • Mr David Wyatt (Deputy Church Warden)
Elected Trustees (date in brackets is when term ends)	
• Mr Peter Schaefer (2021) – Secretary (Jan-May) • Mrs Mary Shaw (2021) – Assistant Treasurer (Jan-May) • Ms Yvy Carter (2021) (Jan-May) • Mrs Susan Oldham (2021) – Assistant Secretary – co-opted in Dec 2020 (Jan-May) • Mr Jeremy Green (2022) – Volunteer Coordinator • Mrs Suzi Stiegler (2022) – Joint Lay Vice Chair (Jan-Nov) – Parish Safeguarding Officer (Nov-Dec)	• Mr Christian Orme (2022) – Youth Advocate (Jan-June) – (Left June 2021) • Ms Patience Rusinga (2023) – Diversity and Inclusion Advocate • Mr Gary Owen (2023) • Ms Equi Ajogbe (2023) – Parish Safeguarding Officer (Jan-Nov) • Mrs Susan Oldham (2024) – Secretary (May-Dec) • Ms Jemma Wakeman (2024) – Treasurer (May-Sept) – (Resigned Sept 2021) • Ms Djaama Davis (2024) – Assistant Treasurer (May-Dec)
Ex-Officio Members of the PCC due to being Elected Diocesan Synod Representatives	
• Mr Philip Carnelley (Re-elected for a second term) – also member of Deanery Synod	• Mrs Celia Heath (Jan-July) – Term Ended
Elected Trustees by virtue of being representatives on the Deanery Synod: whose three-year term will end at the APCM in 2023	
• Ms Jenny Griffiths • Mr Neil Hepworth • Mr Joshua Dickinson	• Mrs Margaret Adams – Seniors' Advocate • Mr James Paterson – Joint Lay Vice Chair
PCC Members co-opted onto the PCC at the PCC Meeting immediately after the 2021 APCM (maximum of two allowed)	
• Mr Peter Schaefer (Chair of Friends)	

PCC Members appointed to be nominated champions	
• Mr Christian Orme (Youth Advocate) (Jan-June) • Ms Patience Rusinga (Diversity and Inclusion Advocate	• Mrs Margaret Adams (Seniors' Advocate) (Vulnerable Adults Lead)

Committees: Information and Governance

Committee Name	**Christ Church and Halls Committee**	
What they do	Oversight of the use of the Christ Church and the Halls (and accompanying grounds) for worship, outreach, and community use. Advise on the programme of activities, including worship, offered throughout the year across the site. Plan for and coordinate the arrangements for the Wanstead Festival and Open House. Look at matters relating to the upkeep and maintenance of the whole site, including consideration of the financial implications. Monitor the maintenance of the organ and the AV System. Oversight of all matters relating to QI (Quinquennial Inspection). Act purely in an advisory capacity, reporting regularly to the PCC and making recommendations for consideration of action by them.	
Members	Barbara Hepworth-Jones (Chair) Lauren Johnson (Halls Administrator) James Paterson (Joint Lay Vice Chair) Roger Middleditch (Halls Treasurer) – (Jan-Mar) – (Resigned Mar 2021)	Liz Ayto (Hall Treasurer) – (Apr-Dec) Stephanie Alexander-Jinks Jan Andrews Olive Thursby Chris Owen Peter Schaefer Steve Steele

Committee Name	**Deanery Synod**	
What they do	The Deanery Synod is part of the way that the Church of England gives people at different levels a chance to discuss key issues and to help organise the church's ministry and mission. It sits between the parishes with their PCCs and the full diocese, with its Diocesan Synod. The lay members serve for three years. The Synod meets three to four times a year, visiting different parts of the Deanery, and its business is organised by a Standing and Pastoral Committee which has both clerical and lay members.	
Members	James Paterson Jenny Griffiths Margaret Adams	Joshua Dickinson Neil Hepworth

Committee Name	**Finance, Stewardship and Fabric Committee**	
What they do	The committee ensures the correct and transparent management of the parish's finance in accordance with the Parish Finance Policy. The committee are responsible for the preparation of annual budget setting, annual accounts and have oversight of parish fundraising activities. Another important requirement of the committee includes establishing plans to oversee ongoing work to keep the fabric of church buildings and other properties, such as the halls, in good repair and to attend to any problems which may arise.	
Members	Jillian Steggle (Acting Chair – Jan-May) (Parish Giving Co-ordinator) Mary Shaw (Assistant Treasurer) – (Jan-May) James Paterson Jemma Wakeman (Treasurer & Chair – May-Sept) (Resigned Sept 2021)	Djaama Davis – (Assistant Treasurer) – (May-Dec) Gary Owen Simon Stiggear Ed Fosbrook Benedict Smith (Marketing & Communications Rep) –(Feb-Dec)

Committee Name	**Friends of St Mary's with Christ Church Committee**	
What they do	The Friends is a membership group set up as the fundraising arm of the PCC to maintain, repair, restore, improve, and preserve the fabric, monuments, fixtures, fittings, furniture, stained glass, ornaments, and other chattels, of the Churches of St Mary the Virgin and Christ Church Wanstead, for the benefit of the public.	
Members	Peter Schaefer (Chair) Ed Fosbrook (Treasurer) Julia Saul Watts (Secretary) Phil Ryan	Tracie Garfield Miles Kelly Victoria Darbyshire

Committee Name	**MMU (Mission and Ministry Unit)**	
What they do	To develop and enhance ministry and mission in our community in partnership with our five local churches.	
Members	<u>Members</u> Four parishes involved: Wanstead, St Mary's Woodford, St Gabriel's Aldersbrook and St Peter's in the Forest	<u>Parish Representatives</u> Jenny Griffiths Joshua Dickinson Revd Dr Jack Dunn (Left Jan) Revd Canon Martyn Hawkes (From April)

Committee Name	**MMU Youth Management Committee**
What they do	Development of the youth work across the MMU.
Members	• Becca Kemal (MMU Youth Worker) – Resigned Aug 2021 • Sheba Lockley (MMU Youth Worker Supervisor) – Left Aug 2021 • Victoria Etherington (Youth Ministry Consultant) – Left Aug 2021 • Lin Taylor (Pastoral Support) – Left Aug 2021 • Revd Dr Elizabeth Lowson & Linda Wiskin (Incumbent & Rep from St Mary's Woodford) • Revd Martyn Hawkes & Kevin Thomas (Incumbent & Rep from St Gabriel's Aldersbrook) • Revd Olive Thursby & Barbara Hepworth-Jones (Curate & Rep from Wanstead Parish)

Committee Name	**Parish Music Committee**	
What they do	The PMC has oversight of all music in the parish which is related to parish worship and the Parish Vision statement, in order to develop a cohesive strategy and action plan to nuture current worshippers and parishioners, and to reach out to the wider community in and around Wanstead through an extended and developing programme of provision. This includes supporting the Director of Music; music at all church services and other Parish or MMU musical events, including those with involvement of other organisations where the Parish is either taking a lead or has a partnership role; music that takes place within the church buildings or grounds, such as recitals or concerts, provided by secular or community groups; management of resources and equipment including the organ.	
Members	Sue Fitzgerald (Chair) (Licensing & Membership) Joe Waggott (Parish Organist) Carry Green (Secretary) Julia Wildgoose (Matron/Chaperone) Avril Carnelly (Safeguarding)	Jen Ambler (Parent Rep) Olive Thursby Alison Wells Martin Elliott (Organist)
Comments	Su Allison (Librarian) is not a member but is regularly consulted	

Committee Name	**Records, Archives and Data Management Committee**
What they do	The objective of this committee is to review the current arrangements for the safe keeping of parish records and to

	advise the PCC concerning future arrangements, and to keep abreast of essential GDPR data requirements.	
Members	Susan Oldham (Chair) – (Resigned as Chair - May 2021) Dennis Keeling	Sarah Gidlow Sian Paterson (May-Dec)

Committee name	**Safeguarding and Health and Safety Committee**	
What they do	This committee helps to monitor and to develop all safeguarding policies and procedures for children, young people and vulnerable adults in the parish and maintains an oversight over other related policies, such as risk assessments.	
Members	Equi Ajogbe (Parish Safeguarding Officer/Chair) (Jan -Nov 2020) – (Resigned Nov 2021) – (Remained as a Member) Suzi Stiegler (Lay Vice Chair) (Jan-Nov – (Parish Safeguarding Officer/ Chair) – (Nov-Dec) Barbara Hepworth-Jones (Churchwarden)	Rebecca Kemal (Youth Worker) – (Jan-Aug) Lauren Johnson (Hall Bookings Manager) Lorraine Bucknall (Parish Manager) Margaret Adams (Vulnerable Adults Lead) David Wyatt (Deputy Churchwarden - Risk Assessment Lead)

Committee Name	**St Mary's Committee**	
What they do	The committee will advise the PCC on worship at St Mary's, advise on the metrics for the two year review, liaise with other parish committees. Essentially looking at: worship, upkeep, outreach and finance.	
Members	<u>Ex Officio</u> Revd Tom Britt (Chair) – Jan-Mar) Suzi Stiegler (Lay Vice Chair) (Minutes Secretary) (Jan-Mar) – (Chair) – (Mar-Nov) Ralph Hall (Churchwarden) Sue Paterson (Open Day Coordinator)	<u>Others</u> Alison Wells (Lay Worship Leaders Rep) – until October 2022 <u>Members of the Congregation</u> Howard Smith – until October 2022 Carry Green – until October 2021 John Gritten – until October 2021
Comments	Elections in October 2021 (2 reps) – Not held so two reps continuing until October 2022	

Committee Name	**Social Committee**	
What they do	The committee was established to foster fellowship among the congregation by facilitating hospitality at special services and church meetings and by organising occasional non-profit making outings and events	
Members	David Wyatt Louisa Brown Maureen Medley Julie Williams	James Darbyshire Victoria Darbyshire Michael Odedina

Committee Name	**Staffing & Governance Committee**	
What they do	Have overall responsibility for all paid staff, including job descriptions, HR, annual reviews etc. Recommend to Finance Committee and PCC the staffing budget and any changes. Represent views of staff to PCC. Approve new appointments to Committees.	
Members	David Wyatt (Deputy Church Warden/Chair) (from Nov 2020) Avril Carnelley – (Resigned May 2021) Martyn Hawkes (Interim Priest-in-Charge) – (May-Dec) Roger Middleditch	James Paterson (Lay Vice Chair) Patience Rusinga (Diversity and Inclusion Champion) Jemma Wakeman (Treasurer) (May-Sept) – (Resigned Sept 2021) Djaama Davis (Assistant Treasurer) – (May-Dec)

Committee Name	**Mission & Outreach Committee (formerly World Church Committee)**	
What they do	The committee was established to support the mission and outreach of the PCC by working with our chosen charities and organising our charitable giving. It also makes recommendations to the PCC as to which charities the parish should support.	
Members	Revd Tom Britt (Chair) – (Resigned Mar 2021) Beryl Darling (Chair) – (From Sept 2021)	James Paterson Grace Odedina Simon Stiggear Magali Curnier

Committee Name	**Youth Council**
What they do	To listen and learn from the views and perspectives of young people who are involved in Wanstead Parish. To enable the young people to steer and help shape the agenda of their meetings. To implement positive changes to nurture the faith and welfare of young people in the parish.

Youth	Adults
Jake Steele, Aiden Nip, Eve Ambler, Luke McCarthy, Jamie Herring, Ava Stanger, Pippa Bleasdale, Jago Biddick, Louis Johnson, Juliet Hepworth, Mariela Christodoulou, Eliana Christodoulou, Samuel Allam, Matthew Bucknall, Annabelle Fitzgerald	Revd Olive Thursby Revd Tom Britt (Left Mar 2021) Becca Kemal (Left Aug 2021) Revd Canon Martyn Hawkes (Sept-Dec) Barbara Hepworth-Jones Christian Orme (Youth Advocate – Left June 2021)

Note: The Rector (Priest-in Charge) is ex officio a member of all of the above committees. The Rector left in Jan 2021, and until the Priest-in-Charge joined in April 2021, the committees were all covered by one of: Churchwardens, Deputy Churchwarden, Lay Vice Chairs.

APPENDIX II

The final report from the PCC of Wanstead Parish on the 2 year review period initiated by the Bishop of Chelmsford's letter of 25th January 2019 relating to St Mary The Virgin, Wanstead.

Wanstead Parish Charity Number: 1127753

Period of review: October 2019 to October 2021

Report approved by St Mary's Committee: 10 November 2021

Report approved by the PCC: 16 November 2021

Report sent to Bishop Guli and Archdeacon Elwin: 19 November 2021

Executive summary

On 25 January 2019, Bishop Stephen changed the status of St Mary's under Canon B14A. Weekly worship was permitted, but in a different style, and the St Mary's congregation was challenged to make this happen. A weekly Eucharist would be replaced with a monthly celebration in order to assist the (then) Rector to deliver his strategic goal of consolidating worship and mission in the parish.

The PCC have been requested to add a clarification that the (then) Rector's strategic goal was shared and supported by both Churchwardens and the PCC; the Area and Diocesan Bishops also both supported a change to the legal status of St Mary's to help achieve this goal.

Bishop Stephen directed that the new arrangements should be the subject of a 2-year review, which began in October 2019.

Within 2 months of Bishop Stephen's letter, the Covid 19 pandemic changed the world as we knew it beyond recognition. The challenging times that followed brought unexpected opportunities for the St Mary's community within the parish, which have been fully embraced.

Introduction

The Bishop of Chelmsford issued a Pastoral Letter on the 25th January 2019, outlining how the PCC-requested change in the legal status of the church under Canon B14A might be balanced with the wider desire to maintain weekly worship at St Mary's, albeit in a different, predominantly lay-led way. Bishop Stephen's letter required that this new mode of ministry was to be reviewed after two years, in the first instance in liaison with the Archdeacon of West Ham.

Please see here for the letter:
https://gallery.mailchimp.com/78851aef2debe2f86a6e0ab83/files/d51129ea-ec6a-48f5-93b3-5c64a4cd58d3/Bishop_s_response_DUNN_25_January_2019.pdf

The PCC responded to the Pastoral Letter by setting up a Working Group made up of members from across the parish to identify what lay-led ministry may mean for St Mary's and the wider parish. The working group made 34 recommendations

which were agreed by the PCC and by the Archdeacon of West Ham in August 2019.

The working group having completed its remit, the PCC then set up a St Mary's committee to help to advise the Rector and PCC on worship, mission and the fabric of St Mary's, going forward.

As part of the recommendations, a new pattern of weekly worship began at St Mary's in August 2019:
1st Sunday Eucharist
2nd Sunday Service of the Word - Common Worship
3rd Sunday joint parish Eucharist at Christ Church and St Mary's is closed*
4th Sunday Service of the word – BCP
5th Sunday service of the Word – Common Worship or BCP
*morning prayer was initially said on the Saturdays, including preceding the 3rd Sunday, but this has been replaced by a weekly Compline service on Wednesdays

Worship and Music

The implementation of Bishop Stephen's decision required the congregation of St Mary's to adapt and embrace a new way of worshipping and take much responsibility for the worship themselves. This was a step into the unknown and, whilst initially a challenge, they approached the task set positively, enthusiastically, and with good humour.

Lay led worship

Eleven lay worship leaders were trained by Fr Richard Wyber and Olive Thursby during June and July 2019 and began to lead services from August 2019. They were commissioned in November 2019. Members of the clergy team were present at the services to guide and support until the end of October 2019.
The congregation has been hugely supportive of the lay leaders, offering great encouragement - especially in the early days as the lay leaders were finding their feet. All the lay leaders take their duties very seriously, but also with joy in the privilege of leading the worship of friends and neighbours in the pews. The lay leaders would like to thank Fr Richard and the Rev. Olive for their thorough and practical training. The lay leaders have all developed their own style and ways of finding appropriate reflections for the Homily. The lay leaders are growing in confidence in finding sources for these reflections. They are being encouraged to be bolder in these choices and to consider how the reflections bear on their own experiences. It has been a deeply spiritual journey for them and has taken their faith in directions they would not have anticipated.
Compline, a new Wednesday evening lay-led service which began in tandem with the new Sunday pattern, also continued throughout the Covid-19 lockdown via Zoom. There was a hymn in the service, sung by one person with others joining in (muted). Now we are back in church, quiet organ music is played before and after Compline and a hymn is sung during the service

Liturgy

The liturgy evolved during the pandemic. There were two forms – Common Worship and the BCP - alternating in a set monthly pattern. The services were

largely put together by Fr Jack Dunn, the former Rector. There were some minor modifications and once worship was allowed in church again after the initial lockdown, both forms of service were shortened to reduce the time in church. Alison Wells, one of our lay leaders, worked with the Rector in this task. There has been a very good response to the new lay-led services which maintain a traditional feel.

As no singing was permitted during COVID, periods of reflection were incorporated into the St Mary's service, some with a short organ piece. These additions have been welcome and may well be retained. Fr Richard will be reviewing the orders of service with the churchwarden in the coming months.

A recent worship referendum at St Mary's agreed to keep the alternating CW and BCP pattern.

Music

Music is an important part of the services of the Word at St Mary's. The congregation sings well and is led by a small but committed group of singers – most of whom come from the Parish Choir.

As there had been a problem with timings (the organist playing for the 10.00 am Eucharist at Christ Church - which was later changed to 10.30 – could not reach St Mary's in time for the beginning of the service), Alison Wells (a Professor of Music) and Martin Wheatley stepped in to cover playing.

St Mary's has benefitted from Alison's talent and experience. She has given her time generously and led the music in the church with wisdom, skill, and passion. She has agreed to act as caretaker parish Choral Director until the end of 2021 as we approach the busy Christmas period.

There are usually three hymns, which are a mix of styles, balanced towards the traditional but with some modern worship songs and we have introduced appropriate psalms and canticles into Matins. A modern setting of the Te Deum has been written for St Mary's by Graham Titus, and it now forms part of the choir's repertoire.

A questionnaire was circulated recently amongst the congregation to gauge their views on music and to encourage them to say what music they would like to sing/hear. The responses were positive and wide-ranging and when analysed properly will provide a basis for choosing repertoire.

Most weeks, the small choir sings an anthem after the prayers. This has been much appreciated by the congregation.

Organ

The organ underwent some major repairs in early 2021. Just before Christmas 2020, the blower was causing problems. This has since been repaired and now the organ is fully operational. The PCC is very grateful to Joe Waggot, the Parish Organist for his care of the organ.

Four further volunteer organists have been playing for services and using the organ for practice. There is a practice timetable, and, on most days, someone is in the church playing the organ. People in the churchyard during the day have remarked that they enjoy hearing the organ.

The church was also used during Covid lockdown by a couple of local musicians who had no work. They still wanted to practise but were unable to do so at home – one was a tuba player!

Singing for health

Several of the St Mary's congregation contracted Covid-19, and we have started a 'singing for health' choir. Once lockdown restrictions had eased and rules allowed people back into church (maximum of 6), this group began to meet. Singing is of great benefit to people whose lung capacity has been affected by the disease. Deliberately kept small at first, the group is now expanding. People from across the parish attend and there are currently about 10 members. They are mainly older people, often living alone, and see this group as therapeutic for their mental as well as physical health.

The Parish Choir

Dr Chris and the lay leaders decided on July 18th, 2021, that the full Parish Choir should be encouraged to sing at both the 1st Sunday of the month Eucharist at St Mary's and at the 3rd Sunday of the month combined service at Christ Church. Although this was mostly met with enthusiasm, this is slowly becoming a reality. It is hoped that, as choir numbers increase, there will be enough members to have 6 singers supporting the Service of the Word at Christ Church (1st Sunday) and others joining the singers at St Mary's.

The St Mary's Community and Volunteers

St Mary's has long been open to visitors on Saturday mornings. This now takes place on a more formal basis following the award in 2018 of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to repair two of the Portland stone walls. St Mary's is now open each Saturday for three hours. This ensures compliance with the commitment made to the HLF to engage with the local community and encourage visitors.

Opening every Saturday between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm has been made possible by a large pool of volunteers. They are divided into four groups - PODs. Each POD is responsible for cleaning a section of the church, welcoming visitors, and looking after each other. The POD leaders reach out to their team members on a regular basis. Volunteers are very committed and maintain the church to a high standard – something often remarked on by Saturday morning visitors.

At the beginning of lockdown, the St Mary's Committee identified members of the congregation that might need extra support, and they were contacted on a regular basis to ensure that they remained connected. We established rotas to deliver cooked meals to people in need of support owing to critical illness. Regular calls were also made to ex-parishioners that had moved away and to others that were not regular worshippers, in order to maintain the support networks no longer possible owing to lockdown and isolation.

The grounds at St Mary's are maintained by a committed gardening group, which meets every fortnight. In the last two years it has focussed on reclaiming the overgrown areas of the graveyard and working with Wild Wanstead to ensure the wildlife are looked after. There has been a recent enquiry from South Essex Wildlife Trust to use St Mary's as a release site for hedgehogs, however, as the churchyard backs onto Wanstead Golf Club further discussions will include their groundsman to understand if they use any toxic chemicals on the golf course. There are also two beehives at St Mary's with plans to add additional hives in due course.

At the beginning of the pandemic, when our churches were closed, a banner was placed on the church railings to show that the churchyard was still open and to encourage the community to come in and use the green space. This invitation

was enthusiastically taken up by many who used the grounds for daily exercise, dog walking, physically distanced picnics, and by parents looking for creative ways to home-school their children or just to run around and let off some steam. Much of this use has continued after lockdown.

As soon as permitted during Covid, the church opened for private prayer. The feedback was that this was a huge comfort for people after so long in isolation at home.

As a result, St Mary's and the churchyard have become a special place to a great many more people since the start of the pandemic. Although the impact of Covid has lessened, many of these visitors continue to return - some of whom have joined the gardening group to help to maintain the churchyard even though they are not regular worshippers at St Mary's.

As soon as the government rules allowed, the Open Days restarted. Extra help was gratefully received from enthusiastic young adults volunteering towards their Duke of Edinburgh award.

St Mary's continues to draw many visitors from near and far for the London Open House weekend. This year, the Crypt was opened again, and tours were very popular, as usual. The opportunity was also taken to offer tours during the Wanstead Fringe, made possible by two of our community volunteering as tour guides taking a crash course on Georgian facts, Wanstead House, and local celebrities.

The graveyard holds a fascination for people interested in history and ancestry, so there are volunteers helping to map the graveyard, record names, and research the people buried and memorialised there.

Graves which commemorate victims of war, including the 17 Commonwealth War Graves, were cleared for the 75th anniversary of VE Day in 2020. A poppy trail has been created linking the graves of about 70 victims of war, which are simply marked by a poppy on a small pole.

Since the start of the Covid pandemic St Mary's and the churchyard have become a special place to so many more members of the local community. They feel a spiritual connection with the place and want to help in any way they can. They may not yet be joining the congregation, but the building and the churchyard are enabling them to find their own way of connecting with God.

Further Outreach:

Tin in a Bin ("TinaB")

There were few opportunities to engage directly with the wider community during Covid19, but one of the great successes has been to involve the Wanstead, Aldersbrook, Snaresbrook and South Woodford Communities in supporting local Foodbanks.

TinaB was started by two of St Mary's congregation in March 2020 and has collected 20.9 tonnes of food for Redbridge Foodbank and raised £6,000 to address specific needs of the Foodbank as well as support local people in crisis who might otherwise be "below the radar".

This shared community experience has been positive, opening the eyes of many to the needs of others. When Covid restrictions were lifted in April 2021, St Mary's became the headquarters for TinaB; the side box-pews, (rarely used owing to restricted sight lines), are used for sorting and storing the community donations, and preparing them for distribution. The move to St Mary's enabled many of

regular TinaB collectors to become more involved in sorting and preparing the food donations, on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. The church is now open regularly and more frequently as a central community asset.
In July 2021, TinaB was awarded a Redbridge Community Award which was presented by the Mayor at St Mary's to some of the volunteers.
In addition to Redbridge Foodbank, TinaB now supports, 3 church foodbanks in Leytonstone and Manor Park; local hotels and Project Malachi in supporting the homeless; Feed the Streetz, the Magpie Project & Alternatives Trust in supporting vulnerable families in Newham, and Leytonstone Community Fridge and Hope4Humanity, a Muslim foodbank in Forest Gate.

Community and Homeless Support

Having TinaB at St Mary's has helped us engage with the wider community which, in turn, has presented more opportunities for outreach. We have been able to help source school uniform for refugee children starting at our local schools and to collect books for a primary school in Chadwell Heath which had no library.
Members of the St Mary's congregation supported the catering rota for the Parish Homeless Project from January to March 2020.
In March 2020 a local initiative The Corner House Project joined forces with TinaB and helped to gather much-needed clothing and support items from the community for homeless people in the East London area. The Eton Manor Rugby Club and Wanstead Cricket Club offered collection venues. St Mary's offered facilities in the galleries for storage and sorting of donations.
All these initiatives have brought new people through our doors and have propelled St Mary's to the fore as a vital community asset.

Other Matters

Other examples of involvement in the community include:

- Prior to lockdown we had established a good working relationship with Wanstead High School. It uses St Mary's as an exhibition space to display the work of GCSE and A-Level art students. The school also planned to invite parents to a small reception in the churchyard with the school jazz band playing. This didn't happen due to Covid, but it is hoped to renew this idea once the Covid situation allows.
- We had discussions with the history department on an Anti- Slavery project as part of our Diversity & Inclusion interventions inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement and, more generally, encourage them to use St Mary's as the backdrop to their lessons on slavery, empire, and black history.
- Forest School sent a group of children to St Mary's to learn about volunteering; they had a tour of the graveyard to see how it is maintained and then received a talk on the Tin in a Bin outreach work (Forest School are a contributor to the programme). They were also given a talk on the Josiah Child monument with its *Vanitas* emblems, and there was a discussion relating to the slavery connections.
- St Mary's continues to be a popular venue for filming. In June 2021 a request was received from a couple of young film makers starting out on their careers to film a low budget film called '#Honesty' which is a 5-part dramedy which will be streamed online. Some members of the St Mary's congregation were involved as extras and will be making cameo appearances as guests at the wedding.

In summary:
In his letter, Bishop Stephen commented that "*due to the heritage and distinctive architectural style of St Mary's, it will always struggle to offer the space and facilities that would usually be expected for a church to flourish missionally in the way we need and expect in the Church of England*". Whilst St Mary's may or may not be the expected "shape", it has proved to be a place where it is clear to see God's work being done, not only by the congregation but also by the wider community for the benefit of the local community. We believe we have found creative ways to work with and take advantage of the constraints of the fabric in order to build a different styles of community activity, outreach and worship which admirably complement those at Christ Church.

Contribution to Parish activities / initiatives:
Members of St Mary's congregation contribute greatly to Parish life and continue to see themselves very much as part of the one parish. They serve on the parish outreach committee, sing in the Parish Choir, serve as caretaker for Parish music; play an active role in the Parish Bell Ringing team, produce high quality liturgies for the parish (print and design and content), serve as Lay Vice Chair of the PCC, serve on the PCC and on Standing Committee, in the Parish Resilience Group, on the Parish Friends, on the Black Lives Matter Working Group, on Social Committee, in Deanery Synod, on the St Mary's Committee, on the Music Committee, in the Parish Prayer Group, volunteer at the Little Angels Caregiver and Toddler group, help with the setting up of the 9am service, serve on the Staffing & Governance Committee and also serve as the Parish Volunteer Coordinator.

Conclusions

What has gone well in the two-year review period?
Attendance has remained consistent, even with Covid 19 restrictions. Commendation must go to the Churchwarden and sides-persons' team for the warmth of their welcomes and their scrupulous attention to social distancing regulations.
The congregation has overwhelmingly supported the lay-led services. Even those who have a preference for either BCP or CW attend both services. Very positive feedback has been received about the spirituality of these services, not least the opportunity for silent prayer and contemplation.
Establishing a St Mary's singing group during the pandemic: the congregation has said that music has lifted the services and made worship more enjoyable.
The Open Days have welcomed a diverse group of people to St Mary's and the churchyard. Open Days have attracted different audiences and have raised money for charities. With the enthusiastic commitment of the St Mary's community in maintaining the fabric of the building and the graveyard. St Mary's remains beautiful inside and outside and is now in use on a far more frequent basis during the week.
Community outreach has substantially increased, especially fundraising for Motorbikes for Marsabit, Christian Aid and Hestia donations. TinaB is going from strength to strength. There are currently around 60 collection points.
All of the above are ways in which Setting God's People Free has been advanced at St Mary's; although there is a lot more that can be achieved on this within the parish.

What other areas can be improved on?

- To encourage both the congregations of St Mary's and Christ Church to worship at joint services at both churches to reinforce that we are one parish and one worshipping community.
- To grow our church: to grow our congregation and to increase our pool of volunteers (intercessors, readers, sides people, lay leaders, servers).
- Widen pastoral care for the ill and elderly. Whilst it is right to focus on the needs of young people, we cannot ignore the elderly. Thoughts include starting a project of our younger members visiting the older members who are alone.

A potential memorial area within the churchyard for a Covid remembrance garden dedicated to those who lost their lives is also in discussion.

Future plans

Music and Recitals

Apart from liturgical music, St Mary's boasts wonderful acoustics and it would be great to see it used more for small-scale musical events. There was one successful vocal masterclass before Covid. Another was planned but had to be cancelled when Covid struck, so reinstating those, perhaps with a series of classes or recitals, would be good to see.

There is a wish to expand the Choir for Health further, to include more people who are not currently churchgoers, and so reach out to the wider community.

We have had a few poetry and music evenings in St Mary's, which have been successful, and we would like to explore holding similar events.

There are other forms of music that could be incorporated into our services, including more instrumental music. Use of some Taizé chants in special services is being explored and there is a wish among some members of the congregation to include more of this sort of music into the normal services.

More research is needed, but there is a determination to ensure that the musical offering at St Mary's remains at as high a standard as possible to enhance the worship of our congregations.

Service Options

We have, as a congregation and as a worshipping community, been encouraged to be bolder in our approach. This is something that the St Mary's Committee is working on, exploring different forms of service, without losing the identity and personality of the services we already hold.

The lay leaders have been leading services for around 2 years, and some would welcome more support – perhaps in the form of a retreat, or extra training. Perhaps there could also be diocese-wide communication with lay worship-leaders in other parishes

Now that there is a lay-led service on the 1st Sunday of the month at Christ Church, it is hoped there will be more coming together across the two churches.

Outreach

St Mary's has, during Covid, become an outreach hub – this should be nurtured, encouraged, and grown.

Our recommendation

The two-year review has shown the new pattern of services to be successful, with the parish becoming a leading example of how lay leadership can work well within traditionally-based services. It has also seen a renewal of the church as a community outreach space.

We therefore recommend that the Bishop of Chelmsford agree

- That St Mary's can remain operating with weekly worship on a permanent basis without the need for further review.
- The Rector /Priest in Charge, with the Ministry Team and the PCC, in consultation with the St Mary's Committee, be allowed to determine appropriate patterns of worship and service formats.

The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford

Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford
Bishopscourt, Main Road, Margaretting, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 0HD
01277 352001 Bishop.Chelmsford@chelmsford.anglican.org

Sue Oldham PCC Secretary Wanstead St Mary w Christ Church

Dear Sue,
17th December 2021

Thank you for sending me the final report from the PCC of Wanstead Parish on the 2 year review period initiated by the previous Bishop of Chelmsford on 25th January 2019. I would be grateful if you could share this letter with other members of the PCC.

I am immensely grateful for the care and attention given to producing the Report and want to express my thanks to all involved. It is very encouraging to see the way in which every effort has been made to ensure that mission and ministry continues at St. Mary's Church. I was especially pleased to learn of the ways in which people have come together both to strengthen the internal life of the church whilst also attending to the call to be an outward facing community. I have noted the ways in which you have found creative ways of leading worship and developing the musical life of the church and am particularly impressed by the wider outreach and social action projects such as Tin in a Bin.

Through all this I am grateful too to Revd Canon Martyn Hawkes who has provided interim oversight and to Archdeacon Elwin for his ongoing involvement. The way in which you have all cooperated and worked together means there is much to celebrate.

Looking to the future, in the first instance, I am keen that we should celebrate the gifts of lay leadership which have emerged and hold to the stability that you seem to have achieved. I am not minded, therefore, to make any significant changes at this stage but would encourage you all to continue much as you have been. That means St. Mary's will retain its status as a Festival Church for the time being and a service of Eucharist will be permitted once a month. Within that framework there is scope for ongoing flexibility and creativity and, noting your request for further resourcing of lay worship leaders, I would encourage you to work with the Diocesan Mission and Ministry team to see what training and support might be most useful.

The focus of this next phase should be about St. Mary's and Christ Church working together in order to prepare for the appointment of a Rector to oversee the parish in due course. To that end, I have asked Revd Rob Merchant, our Dean of Mission, Ministry and Education to work with Martyn and yourselves towards a facilitated process through which both churches can begin to imagine a new future

together.
I will take a keen interest in developments and hope to visit at an appropriate point. Meanwhile, I have asked Rob, Martyn and Archdeacon Elwin to keep me closely informed about progress.
I wish you every blessing in this next part of the journey. Please be assured of my ongoing prayers. With my best wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Chelmsford Guli +

The Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani Bishop of Chelmsford
Copy: The Venerable Elwin Cockett – Archdeacon of West Ham The Revd Rob Merchant – Dean of Mission, Ministry and Education Revd Canon

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST C

England & Wales - Charity number 1127753

Accounts

Wanstead Parish
St Mary with Christ Church

Annual Report and Financial Statements of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary with Christ Church, Wanstead for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

Registered Charity Number 1127753

Incumbent:
The Rev Dr Nicholas Dunn
The Rectory
Wanstead Place
Wanstead

Banks:
NatWest Bank, High Street, Wanstead
HSBC Bank, Electric Parade, George Lane, South Woodford
CCLA Investment Management Ltd, Cheapside, London EC2
Nationwide Building Society, 4 Clockhouse Parade, High Street,
Wanstead E11 2BB

Independent Examiner:
Yusuf Dedat FCA, Clay Ratnage & Co

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Introduction

2020 has been a demanding year as the world suffered a pandemic, caused by the highly infectious Covid-19 virus. By the end of March, Wanstead was in lockdown and we were told to stay indoors, socially distance, wash our hands and save the NHS. The number of people dying from the virus reached hideous proportions, but by the summer we were able to relax and hope that we had seen the beginning of the end of the virus. However, by November we were into our second lockdown, and by the beginning of 2021 we were into a third lockdown.

Throughout all the grief and the loss and the curtailment of our freedoms, the church in Wanstead continued its mission, while observing the rules, serving the community in new and ingenious ways, reaching out to the more vulnerable members of the parish, providing online services and, when allowed, safe and socially distant services in church as well as opportunities for private prayer.

This report outlines the ways in which the church in Wanstead embraced all the challenges of 2020

Sue Oldham
Assistant Secretary to the PCC

The Curate's Report

This year has often invited us to discover as a parish community who is our neighbour.

A lawyer once asked Jesus this question to test him. In response Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37). This parable demonstrates that our neighbour is anyone who needs love and compassion. Throughout 2020 we have loved our neighbours by running a night shelter, by working to house a Syrian Refugee family and by reaching out to our community during the Covid-19 pandemic.

We began the year by hosting a weekly night shelter through the Forest Churches Emergency Night Shelter partnership. This exciting venture saw members of the parish and the wider community working together to support, befriend and feed people in our church halls. We invited strangers to sleep and be fed in our parish halls, but soon we shared stories, laughed and broke bread together as neighbours.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic we discovered many different ways to serve our community. For many months our churches were closed to protect people and save lives. In March 2020 our Archbishops described the calling of faith communities: "Our life is going to be less characterised by attendance at church on Sunday and more characterised by the prayer and service we offer."

Here in Wanstead we introduced liturgies for adults, children and families to use at home and our youth groups moved online. We set up a pastoral group to support people through phone calls and to respond to their needs. During Holy Week and Easter, Father Jack filmed several worship services. These were a creative and engaging way to remember Jesus' passion and celebrate his resurrection. But it was a significant loss not to be able to physically journey alongside one another as the body of Christ, as we do each Holy Week.

Canon Ann did an excellent job in leading the community in daily worship on Facebook. This ministry picked up a large community of worshippers. Canon Ann also led our online Sunday services for many months from April until early August. This online ministry gave us stability and rhythm in these challenging times and it was a much-needed blessing.

James Paterson and Julie Harvey set up the Tin in the Bin network, which quickly expanded and has led to many tons of food being donated to Redbridge Foodbank. This is a wonderful example of how we are called to love our neighbours and give with sacrificial generosity. This pandemic has often taught us that communities need to find ways to pull together and support one another.

In April we raised enough money through community fundraising to sponsor a Syrian Refugee family. A team of people from many local churches, including

Wanstead Parish, Our Lady of Lourdes, St Mary's Woodford, St. Gabriel's and St. Peter's in the Forest worked hard to secure Home Office approval for this project. In December we finally heard the good news that we can welcome a Syrian Refugee family to settle in Wanstead.

We thank this ecumenical team for their wonderful dedication and energy, especially as they continue to prepare so this family can thrive. We are called to pray for this Syrian family. We pray that God is guiding and strengthening them as they prepare to leave their home and find a new beginning in Wanstead.

One of the many challenges of this pandemic is that people have been separated from their family, friends and support networks. This has been especially tough when people are grieving. It was a difficult decision to close our church buildings for parish funerals from April. Throughout 2020 the ministry team has conducted many funerals in crematoriums and at gravesides. We also did a bereavement service at All Souls tide, which offered people comfort and hope, as they gathered to remember their loved ones.

This year many members of our parish community have sadly died: we remember with love Alva Fowler a pupil at the church school, Mary Colmer, Jean Newman, Donna Stephens-Coote, Shelia Eyre, Gus Fletcher, Mary Sharp, Jane Fells, Roberta McWatt, Ian Hartley and Colin Goodall. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

In September we began a resilience project funded by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and we formed committees to steer this project. We appointed Dr Alix Slater as our project consultant who is giving us inspirational vision and leadership. We also appointed Dow Jones as our project architect and Vikki Thompson to help with fundraising. As we look to 2021 we are very excited to see how they can help us to discover creative ways to transform our buildings so they can more fully serve the wider community. A big thank you to the wonderful team of people who are giving their time by serving on our lottery project committees.

In September Olive was ordained as a deacon in Chelmsford Cathedral and began her curacy. This service was a wonderful joy, but because of Covid-19 Olive was only able to invite four guests to support her. When Revd Olive is priested we hope that more of the parish family can join her for this celebration.

On behalf of the ministry team, I would like to thank Avril Carnelley, Sue Fitzgerald, Deborah Dickinson, Pen Garlick, Carry Green, Michelle Wells, Jill Steggle and Tom Thompson who stepped down from PCC in 2021. Thank you to each of them for their hard work and for sharing their many gifts with us. I also thank Avril and Sue who ended their roles as deputy warden and churchwarden. We very much appreciate their dedication and their wonderful gifts. I also thank Celia Heath who retired as our pastoral assistant: we greatly appreciate the support, care and compassion she put into her ministry.

On behalf of the ministry team, I would also like to thank our churchwardens Ralph, Barbara and David for their time, energy and passion. We greatly value

your respective callings to this ministry and your leadership. I would also like to thank Jan Andrews, Lorraine Bucknall, Nicola Calabrese, Phil Ryan, Lauren Johnson, Richard Williams, Michael Tivey, Sue Paterson, David Kettlety, Peter Schaefer, Susie Knox, Martin Elliot and Joe Waggott for their hard work and kindness. I would also like to thank all the members of the PCC and our sub committees for their time and energy throughout this challenging year and our ministry team for their care, support and dedication.

Thank yous must also go to our lay worship leaders Yvy Carter, Jem and Carry Green, Susan Holdham, Roger Middleditch, Sîan and James Paterson, Lin and Mark Taylor, David Wyatt, Alison Wells, Avril and Phil Carnelley, Pen Garlick, Kirsteen King and Elaine Thompson for their creativity and devotion. I would also like to thank Alex Harborne and Natalie Denchfield for all that they do to make Wanstead Church School the outstanding school that it is.

We thank Father Jack, the church wardens, the PCC and the ministry team for their leadership and for their commitment to contingency planning during this Covid-19 Pandemic.

During the year we said goodbye to Revd Ian Tarrant who left as Rector of St Mary's, Woodford to begin a new ministry in the diocese of Europe as the Dean of the Cathedral church of the Holy Trinity, Gibraltar. In September Canon Ann left our parish to become the first ever female Preacher of the Charterhouse. We thank Ann for her tireless hard work and for her wonderful preaching. In December we also said goodbye to our youth and families worker Josh who is now pursuing a calling to ordination in the Baptist denomination. We are very pleased that Josh is following God's call on his life and give thanks for his teaching and for his relational presence in our community.

In Advent we welcomed Revd Chris and his wife Caroline to our parish community through an online installation service on Zoom. It is a great joy that Revd Chris has joined Wanstead Parish as an associate priest and we are glad that he can bless us with his gifts and experience.

At Christmas we welcomed people to worship with us through online Christingle and Nativity services. It was wonderful to celebrate Christmas in our church buildings and we worked hard to do so as safely as possible.

We must offer a huge thank to Father Jack for his many gifts, especially his vision, energy and compassion and for the way he has encouraged us to look outwards by serving our community. We will miss Jack's sense of humour and his encouraging nature that nurtured people's gifts. We keep the whole family in our prayers as they leave Wanstead and we pray that Jack will find his next calling soon.

As a parish community we are called to share our lives together as the body of Christ. It has been a significant loss to be physically separated from one another for long periods of time. We have missed opportunities for worship, fellowship, support and social events and to share the Eucharist together for many months at a time. The Eucharist sustains us by enabling us to experience God's love

and it unites us to one another. The love we encounter during communion enables us, in turn, to love one another and serve the world around us.

As Christians our calling is to look for signs of hope and to be a source of light in the wider community that we serve. This year has been challenging, but we have encountered hope, especially through worship, prayer, love and compassion. Hope is a gift from God who came as Jesus Christ to bring hope to the world. Jesus' light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it (John 1:5). It never will. We are the light of the world and Jesus invites us to boldly share that light (Matthew 5: 14-16). We are called as a community of faith to bring light and to reveal hope. Let us pray that whatever 2021 brings, we will continue to do that together.

Tom Britt

Churchwardens' Reports

St Mary's

It has been a good year at St Mary's with the Lay Leadership growing in confidence and popularity.

Each month saw a eucharist being held on the first Sunday of the month and an alternating service based on the Book of Common Prayer and Morning Prayer, from the book of Common Worship. In November, the congregation were asked to vote on their preferred service, and they decided to keep the services alternating for another year.

The St Mary's committee was established.

Christmas was as magical as ever with a large number of worshipers attending the carol service and Christmas Day celebrations.

In the spring, Wanstead High School held an exhibition of students' artwork as they embarked on their final year work toward their A level's. The show was a success in a number of ways. One, in bringing many pupils into the church, who had never been inside but had passed by on their way to school each day. The staff were enthused by the combination of architecture, atmosphere, and ease of curation within the church. The head teacher suggested that the final work, after marking, could be shown and a small celebration held in the churchyard with the school jazz band providing some musical entertainment. Unfortunately, this was thwarted by Covid-19. 2020 was a year that had promised so much but delivered so little.

Covid-19 struck and caused the church to close for a number of months. Our POD network made regular contact to ensure everyone had support. With the help and enthusiasm of the rector and volunteer teams, the church reopened

with restrictions on distancing and cleaning. Open Days have resumed on a Wednesday evening.

Thanks also to Jillian Steggle for arranging and delivering all the sanitising equipment.
Alison Wells ensured that the organ was kept in good order and working with the rector adapted the services of Common Worship and the Book of Common Prayer, to work without hymns and sung responses.

A decision was made by the PCC in response to current trends in facing up to past wrongs committed by the British to cover the monument of Joshua Child. The St Mary's committee placed some educational material in front of the monument and arranged with the Lay Leaders that the October homilies will focus on Black History Month.

Our churchyard is designated, 'Closed' which means that we can no longer bury anyone in a coffin in the churchyard and that the responsibility of maintaining the churchyard falls to Redbridge council. However, we can still bury someone who has a family plot, and we have provision for ashes to be buried within the churchyard. Redbridge council have appointed Westerleigh Group to maintain the churchyard. An assessment of the health of the trees in the churchyard was made by Westerleigh Group and identified a number of ash trees that required attention. High winds and storms brought down a dead tree which had been part removed but with a large portion of the trunk remaining. Fortunately, it fell between graves causing no damage.
However, in late August, an ash tree, in the east part of the churchyard close to the morgue, had split in high winds and part came down, damaging about five graves.

In early September a full review of the churchyard took place with Westerleigh Group and Redbridge council. The meeting lasted about three hours and Phil Ryan attended as leader of the churchyard gardening club. The meeting was very positive and an offer of bulbs for use in the churchyard was made by the attending councillor.

A new St Mary's resilience committee was formed to work alongside a Christ Church Committee, with Alix Slater on the Heritage Lottery resilience project.

Thanks go to Pen Garlick for organising Open House weekend for the parish. Despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, St Mary's were able to welcome 146 visitors over the weekend.

My thanks go to, Jem Green for organising and keeping the rotas neat and tidy. Alison Wells and Martin Wheatly for providing the music each week whilst our Music Director is on furlough. Our readers, intercessors, singers, and sides people. Sue Paterson for managing and encouraging the POD teams and all of the volunteers. To Susan Llewelyn for resuming Compline on a Wednesday and all of our Lay Leaders who deliver our services with such enthusiasm and love.

Ralph Hall

Christ Church

2020 will undoubtedly be the year we will never forget. As the pandemic took its hold on the world, life went into lockdown and for the first time in history we were forced to close the churches and the halls.

But, thanks to the hard work of so many people in our church community, worship continued and a whole new pattern of services and new forms of communication opened up and will most definitely change the way we work and worship forever.

Online worship became the new norm, forcing people to adapt to new ways, new ideas and get online. As Easter approached, Father Jack was busy preparing a range of YouTube services where he took the starring role. Our congregations and team came together to take part and bring familiarity to this new means with cameo appearances of people doing readings, singing, and leading prayers. The feedback was incredibly positive and the whole new idea of enjoying a church service with a mug of tea in your hand whilst in your pyjamas became very appealing.

The work behind the scenes during this strange time was immense. As well as YouTube and Facebook services, we had our daily dose of 'Time to Pray' from Canon Ann, regular newsletters, information and updates on social media and meetings, social events and youth groups now taking place via Zoom. Huge thanks must go to Ann and Nicola Calabrese who worked tirelessly during this time giving Wanstead Parish a huge virtual presence. With rehearsals now on hold, our choir even managed a virtual performance of If Ye Love Me by Thomas Tallis and two hymns, with the help of Phil Carnelley's newfound expertise in virtual ensembles, complete with sausage rolls delivered to your door!

Where some people embraced this new normal of staying at home with DIY and hobbies they've only dreamed of, for many, this time was incredibly difficult, distressing and scary. With Church usually being a social hub and a support - particularly for those who had lost loved ones - for some, going online was not an option. Our ministry team immediately set out with a plan to set up a strong pastoral care network, calling every member of our congregation and offering a link back to church and some kind of normality. And we must thank the huge team of people who were behind this.

As the church and hall closed and baptisms and weddings were cancelled, finances soon became an issue and regrettably Lauren, our hall manager, Lorraine our Parish Manager and Joe our music director had to be furloughed. We have missed them dearly and hope that they will soon be able to join us again. Like the rest of the world, the future of our finances will continue to be a worry going forward but I'd like to thank Jill and Mary our treasurers for the incredible amount of work and effort that they have put in throughout the year and particularly over the lockdown period juggling our finances and searching for security.

In the midst of lockdown Father Jack announced his departure in January 2021. Much more will be written about the huge loss this will be nearer his departure, but we are extremely grateful for the few months grace which will enable succession planning for the many projects he has initiated, before he leaves us.

As we slowly came to terms with Jack's departure, Canon Ann announced that she too was leaving to become The Preacher at the Charterhouse. This role is perfect for Ann and although we will miss her enormously, we are all so pleased for her. The good thing is she isn't going very far.

Still with the ministry team, after a very difficult last few months, when studying had to continue remotely, Olive finished her ordination training. She will be ordained in Chelmsford Cathedral on 12th September. Unfortunately, due to current restrictions it will be a small service so the parish is not able to support her. We are looking forward to Olive starting her ordained ministry with us.

As lockdown started, we heard that we had been awarded a Resilience Grant from Heritage Lottery, this was one of the last grants to be awarded, grants have now been paused for the foreseeable future, so the parish was extremely fortunate to gain this award. This grant for £72,500 to 'Secure the Future of St Mary and Christ Church' will enable the PCC to explore how the churches can best serve the community in the future. Two committees have been set up, one for each church, to look at community involvement. An architect will be appointed to draw up plans to adapt both churches to enable them to be used for a variety of different events including maintenance work i.e., securing the tower at Christ Church and continuing the wall repairs at St Mary's. There will be consultations about plans and ideas so keep a look out for these.

As Boris Johnson began to announce the easing of lockdown, we awaited guidance from the Church of England with baited breath and Father Jack put a plan in place to get our church open as soon as we were allowed to do so. Starting with private prayer, it was emotional to see our church open its doors for the first time in five months. As guidance changed and easing continued, we set about introducing two services a week – Sunday morning and Wednesday afternoon - leaving 72 hours between services as advised by the Church of England and the government.

With singing banned for the foreseeable future and strict measures in place, the services were set to be very different. One-way systems were put in place, track and trace was set up, hand-sanitizing stations were dotted around the church and attendance was via 'ticket'. The congregation were encouraged to wear masks and seating places were labelled around the church ensuring everyone was two metres apart. The Peace became a nod or a very British wave and communion was reduced to just the bread. BUT, despite these bizarre new ways, the services have felt more spiritual, comforting and reflective than ever, creating a time of peace, tranquillity and normality during this time of uncertainty and discomfort. The 10am service was alternated with the 9am service each week and on alternate Sundays the 9am would take place on zoom and the 10am on Facebook Where most churches remained closed, we should be incredibly grateful to our ministry team and beyond who

worked so hard to get our churches open safely and confidently. And huge thanks to Tom, Jack, Richard, Olive, Ann, Deborah, Avril, Pen, Suzi and Ralph and I am sure there are many more.

Lauren has been working hard to reopen the halls, this has involved huge amounts of paperwork, risk assessments, new notices, and cleaning rotas, which Lauren has waded through. She has plans for safe use of the hall and is starting to talk to regular users. This, as well as helping the community to return to some sort of normality, will reopen a much-needed income stream to support the church as it struggles with the huge financial burden. A huge thank you Lauren for all that she is doing.

As we move forward into what continues to be a period of uncertainty ahead, despite further easing of restrictions, we will continue to use changes and what we have learnt to our benefit. There are many positives that came out of this lockdown period and I hope we will continue to embrace them and look to the future.

Sue Fitzgerald and Avril Carnelley

GPOW/HLF Resilience Bid

Securing the future of St Mary with Christ Church Wanstead
A National Lottery Heritage Fund Resilience Project

In March 2019, the PCC represented by Father Jack, David Ranger and Avril Carnelley were successful in a bid to LHF for £72, 500 as part of a £79,500 project to enable the PCC to appoint a professional team with expertise in ecclesiastic buildings to work with them during the next year to undertake a governance review and commission surveys and reports on both church buildings in the parish.

The Steering group (Jack, David and Avril) after competitive tendering appointed Dr Alix Slater as the project coordinator.

Two committees were set up: one to represent St Marys and one to represent Christ Church. Initially these met separately but by the autumn the meetings were combined. A steering group leads the project.

Permission to start was gained in July 2020 and after another competitive tendering exercise, the architects Dow Jones were appointed to undertake a needs assessment and draw preliminary plans for work to improve access to and usage of both churches.

<u>Progress to date:</u>
Appointment of a project coordinator
Appointment of architects
Greater diversity in PCC

Needs assessment for both churches
Skills training for committee members and PCC members
Statement of Significance written for both churches
Workshop by Biba Dow, principal architect, with initial thoughts and drawings following site visits and feedback from questionnaires and discussions to local people, interest groups and church members led by Alix Slater.

Avril Carnelley

Church Opening 2020

St Mary's

During 2020/2021, the congregation at St Mary's have opened the church as often as the Covid-19 rules have allowed. Towards the end of the first lockdown, we opened on a Wednesday evening before Compline so that people could come in for quiet reflection or private prayer. In September, we opened on Saturday mornings so that we could resume our commitment to the Heritage Lottery Fund by opening for non-public worship.

We were delighted to be able to participate in London Open House Weekend again last year, despite the social-distancing measures meaning we had to limit the number of visitors. There was a theme this year of "Memories", and members of the congregation submitted photos and anecdotes from their time in the Parish. These memories, including favourite sermons, wedding/baptism photos, photos of past open days/events, and an information board about the Crypt, which were displayed across the Church for visitors to enjoy. The need to follow social distancing guidance meant the event was a little bit different than normal, yet - thanks to the introduction of pre-booked tickets and a cleverly-designed one way system - we safely welcomed 142 people over the two days.

When the second lockdown was announced in October 2020 and our parish services went back online, we offered St Mary's as a place for people to come for private prayer and reflection on Saturday mornings again. The timing of the lockdown meant there was no church service to commemorate Remembrance Sunday, so we placed a poppy on each of the 60+ war graves found in the graveyard to create a poppy trail. The poppy trail is enjoyed by the increasing number of people who take their daily walk in the graveyard.

During the third lockdown in 2021 private prayer has continued on Saturdays whilst our services are online. The St Mary's congregation are looking forward to resuming the regular open days once it is safe to do so. We will again be offering volunteering opportunities for young people doing their Duke of Edinburgh awards.

Sue Paterson

Christ Church

Christ Church has been open on Saturdays for the last 10 years, as one of the conditions laid down when the Heritage Lottery Fund provided finance for the repair of the roof, to allow public access to the church outside service times, and we started the change from morning to afternoon opening in January 2020. However, the national lockdown in March prevented any opening for some time.

I am very grateful to the extended team of volunteers who signed up to open the church, as soon as the rules allowed us to do so in June, and who have continued to keep the church open for private prayer, within the changing guidance, recording visitors, wiping down pews and answering questions, all from behind masks. Their willingness to change shift times and days, as well as learning new rules, have made it possible for Christ Church to be open to those who find praying in church so very important at this stressful time.

Pen Garlick

Children and Youth

MMU Youth Work

January-February included Signpost Youth Club, Bridge Youth Club, Quest Sunday Ministry, Tuesday Costa Youth Club, confirmation sessions, Sunday Small Group and our joint-MMU contemporary Transfiguration service at St Peter's-in-the-Forest.
In March we had one last weekly Tuesday Costa Youth Club of the year before Covid-19 hit playing games, chatting together, and praying for one another. Josh Waldock from Red Balloon took over leadership of Signpost Youth Club for years 6-8 from Becca before Signpost was moved online too. Revd Tom Britt continued to lead The Bridge Youth for years 9-13.

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 with Josh furloughed and Red Balloon's contract suspended, Becca and Revd Tom took over running both youth clubs online till July. Youth Clubs were offered fortnightly with year 6 Signpost sessions between 6-7pm and year 7-8 Signpost sessions between 7-8pm on Fridays. The Bridge Youth Club for years 9-13 were offered fortnightly 8-9pm. Sunday small group and the parent's Morning Prayer Zooms continued through till July.

In July Becca prepared the youth clubs for September with Covid-19 accommodating risk assessments, additional volunteers and adjusted the sessions in hope that we would meet face-to-face again.

In August, Aquasports, our yearly 14+ youth camp, had an online meet up and we spent the week watching devotionals videos from the camp's leaders to encourage and inspire us in our faith journey.

In September Becca's contract was renewed using the LOB grant with additional financially support from the MMU. September-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

November's lockdown gave us a chance to test out this new vision. We launched a new version of Quest Sunday Ministry weekly on Zoom and each week's session including the 'how of what we do' with an opportunity to:

Encounter God, establish belief, equip the saints, engage with the world, revive your mind, body, spirit and soul and rest before being released into the week ahead.

Our Core Values as developed from the Vision Committee set up in 2019 are to:

Gather young people: All are welcome
Grow in confidence: discover more about themselves, each other, Jesus Christ & the world
Good Relationships: like the trinity
Each person: valued and celebrated
Loving & serving: Like Jesus said & did
Reflective & open: that God might be known
Outwardly engaged: spiritually, socially, environmentally
All we do: fun, transformational and safe
With Jesus: the way, the truth and the life.

Becca and Jano led the sessions together based upon the letter 1 Peter to learn how to endure well through lockdown together and study scripture using the SOAP method (study, observe, apply, pray). We believe that God deserves all the glory from everything we do. That what we do is a pleasing offering that glorifies Him in every way. 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.

We launched a new social media Instagram account to test the vision and each day posted something relevant to our 'how we do what we do'. This coincided with The Church of England's call to Pray for the Nation led live on Facebook each day at 6pm. Quest Youth Group prepared and lead the November Remembrance Day Service, with many contributing to the Bible Readings, prayers, a video of how St Mary's Woodford remember loved ones, which we managed to film just before the November lockdown was announced.

Pastoral support, especially for those experiencing mental health problems, was continually made available with weekly check-ins or phone calls. Training and support was offered through the Diocese and Deanery from the Diocese Youth Advisors; Emma, Dot and Tara, and additional training from organisations like Transforming Lives for Good were particularly helpful.

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. We said goodbye to Josh as he left to pursue Baptist Ministry and began to prepare for January 2021 once again in lockdown.

We praise God for the incredible way He has sustained this ministry and supported the young people across our Parishes. We know that so many have had such a tough year, and we look to 2021 to partner with all that God is doing in obedience and hope that many young people would grow in their faith or come to know Him. We praise God for the many people who have sacrificed this year in-person and online through the youth ministry. We are so grateful for the love, support, volunteer time and prayers that so many have given on behalf of this youth ministry. Thank you and God bless. As always please do get in touch with your needs, prayers, ideas and support. With love, Becca Kemal- WWA youth worker – wwayouth@hotmail.com 07490 459 850

Committee Youth Ministry Development Group 2020 Members:
Becca Kemal (MMU Youth Worker)
Sheba Lockley (until Feb) and Linda Wiskin (MMU Youth Worker Supervisor)
Victoria Etherington (Youth Ministry Consultant)
Revd Ian Tarrant (until Feb) and Beverley Alderson (Incumbent and rep from St Mary's Woodford)
Revd Martyn Hawkes and Kevin Thomas (Incumbent and rep from St Gabriel's Aldersbrook)
Revd Jack Dunn (until July) Revd Olive Thursby and Barbara Hepworth (Incumbent and rep Wanstead Parish)
Communication and frequency: Meeting 3-4 times a year

Signpost

Signpost is a youth group for young people aged 11-13, which runs in the church halls on second and fourth Fridays of each month during term time at

8-9:30pm. The group has an informal atmosphere that gives young people time to catch-up with friends, play snooker, Nintendo Wii and do crafts. In the final 30 minutes we have team games and Christian teaching on different topics such as honesty, science, friendship, Easter, and superheroes.

In April, Signpost was moved online for safety reasons, because of lock down and Covid-19. Our parish youth worker Josh Waldock was furloughed until September, so Becca and Father Tom ran Signpost on Zoom. We thank Red Balloon for providing us with fantastic support with the online groups for the first two months of lockdown.

On Zoom we did challenges, quizzes, games, teaching, scavenger hunts and crafts. The sessions were energetic and fun - in one session a young person went down a slide in their garden during the zoom call! As youth leaders we also had many opportunities to strength our relationships with the young people and support them in these unprecedented times. We connected with a smaller number of young people who enjoyed catching up with friends and having fun after a long week of home-schooling. Some of the young people understandably decided to take a break from their computer screens and decided not to attend the youth sessions on Zoom.

In September, Signpost returned to our parish halls and it was wonderful to catch up with one another after a long time apart. To comply with Covid-19 regulations, Signpost was divided into two bubbles of 12-15 year 7s and 12-15 year 8s. These year group bubbles met once a month each.

A big thank you to our youth team and our volunteers for giving their time and for sharing their giftings. Thanks also to Josh Waldock for doing a fantastic job of leading Signpost, especially for his natural ability in drawing alongside young people. It was sad to say goodbye to Josh, but we are really pleased that he is discerning his calling to ordained ministry in the Baptist church.
For Christmas, Becca, Josh, Father Tom and Red Balloon organised Christmas cards and packs to be delivered to our young people. It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with the young people by wishing them a Happy Christmas and to welcome them back to Signpost and Bridge in 2021.

Tom Britt

The Bridge

This youth club meets fortnightly (first and third Friday in the month) during term time and each session has around 10-15 young people aged 13+. This year we had a smaller intake of year 9s.

The Bridge has an informal atmosphere, in the first hour there is space to play sports, computer games, board games and socialise. In the final 30 minutes we organise a group game and have some Christian teaching, which aims to be relevant to the young people and invites space for discussions. We also have community evenings; this year Eleanor Taylor gave a wonderful talk on how our parish is working with other churches to sponsor a Syrian Refugee family to live in Wanstead.

In 2020 lockdown posed many challenges and we moved our youth groups online from March. We did hour-long youth sessions on zoom, which included a mixture of chatting, games, discussions, and teaching. We connected with a smaller number of young people on zoom who enjoyed catching up with friends and having fun after a long week of home-schooling. Some of our young people understandably decided to take a break from computer screens and decided not to attend the Bridge sessions on zoom.

The pandemic was a particularly challenging time for many young people. A recent report by the National Youth Agency found that 84% of young people have reported: "worse mental health problems following school closures or through not being able to access mental health support". The youth team felt it was important to offer zoom groups as a space to have fun and provide support to our young people.

In September we worked hard to safely bring back our youth groups into our church halls. It was wonderful to reconnect together after such a long time apart!

We would really appreciate more volunteers to help run the Bridge. It is very rewarding work and great fun. If you would like to try volunteering please speak to Father Tom, so you can meet the young people and see how you find it.

Tom Britt

Junior Church

In 2020, Junior Church continued to take place within the 10.30am Service on Sundays and online on Sundays in the afternoon. All the sessions have been led by Red Balloon.

Olive Thursby

Little Angels

Little Angels, our parish group designed for mums, care-givers, babies, and pre-school children continued to meet on Wednesday mornings either physically in Christ Church or on Zoom. The sessions in church, traditionally take the form of coffee, juice and toast followed by free play. Red Balloon then leads with prayer, songs, story, musical instruments and craft related activities. There is a similar format for the sessions on Zoom.

A big thank you to all our parish volunteers who help with the smooth running of these sessions in church, including providing the refreshments.

Olive Thursby

The Youth Eucharist

The Youth Eucharist has a small congregation, which is steadily growing. In 2020 the hope was to significantly grow the congregation. This was difficult because of Covid-19, which prevented the youth Eucharist taking place between March-August.

The average attendance is 10-15 young people and 10-15 adults. Josh led many excellent discussions and we included worship songs and YouTube videos. The young people are encouraged to write and lead intercessions and do bible readings during services. In 2021, we hope to try new ideas and encourage the young people to take a more active role in leading the service.

At the start of 2020 there were two services and in September the Youth Eucharist started again on a monthly basis. This congregation also worshipped online during the November lockdown.

In 2021 we hope to steadily grow the congregation and broaden the age range. This congregation continues to worship online until we can resume worshipping again in Christ Church when the lockdown is over.

Tom Britt

Parish Activities and Groups

Prayer Group

We began the year following our usual pattern meeting regularly on Tuesdays at 10am in Christ Church. We start with tea and coffee, and in preparation for prayer we tell each other what has been significant for us in the past week. We then have a reading on prayer, prepared by one of the members of the group, which is discussed. We then have some set prayers and a short period of silent meditation, which is followed by intercessions covering the church, the world and the local community, individual prayers by the group, prayer requests from the prayer board in Christ Church and the prayer box in St Mary's, from the parish Farmers' Market stall and the pew sheet. We then pray using Lectio Divina with a passage chosen by a member of the group. We aim to finish by 11.30 am but it is usually 11.45 am. We all see prayer as important *work* to do.

When the first lockdown happened, with only some of us on email and Zoom, we decided to pray in our own homes from 10-11am each Tuesday omitting the study but continuing to use Lectio Divina often using the Psalm for our Comfort written weekly by Father Richard. One of us delivered the relevant information to the two members not on email. We also placed a weekly request in the pew sheet for members of the congregation to email Father Jack with any prayer requests. When regulations allowed, we started to meet in the garden at Christ Church before moving into the Vestry (just big enough for our group of seven to social distance by 2m). Then came the second lockdown and back to our homes for a month before returning to church, this time in the

main church as a larger better ventilated space. The year ended of course with a move to Tier 4 under which only services could take place and not prayer/study groups.

Going forward into 2021, we are committed as a group to praying regularly on Tuesdays and would love to receive any prayer requests. There is so much to pray about during these times. When we are allowed to meet together in church, we would be delighted if others wanted to join us.

The Prayer Group

Bellringers

I really wish there were something to report on, but unfortunately, thanks to the wretched virus, there is not. It is very nearly one year since Christ Church bells were last rung in unison.
As reported last year, during 2019, our four new ringers, Julia, Anema, Sian and James had progressed from being learners, and were able to ring rounds and call changes proficiently. This should ensure we have a sufficiently strong band to stand us in good stead when we are able to start ringing again. Whenever this is, and there may be initial restrictions, the aim will be to concentrate on producing good quality rounds. We have established a 'WhatsApp' group, enabling us to keep in touch with each other and share news. We also receive regular communications from the 'Essex Association of Change Ringers', of which we retain membership. It is worth mentioning that the tenor bell was tolled on August the 15th to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VJ day. It has also been tolled to commemorate several funerals and more recently in mourning of the UK's hundred thousand Covid-19 deaths.

Again, the parish and all the people of Wanstead, should be grateful and need to thank Christine Wyatt for her efforts in keeping the Church Clock fully operational over the last year. The clock does not just work by magic, and it takes much time and effort to maintain.

Lastly, on behalf of all the ringers and the whole parish, I would again like to offer John Eyre our deepest sympathy over the loss of his wife Sheila. Sheila's funeral took place on the 15th December, and we were able to pay our respects by assembling outside Christ Church, where the hearse waited, as the tenor bell was tolled in recognition. Sheila was loved by us all, and the magnificent bell ringers Christmas banquets, superbly hosted by John and Sheila, will never be forgotten.

Robert Wallis

Gardening (Christ Church)

The year 2020 was obviously unprecedented and did not follow the plan resulting in some rougher edges to the Christ Church environs and gardens that will be addressed and improved once the club is able to return. With many volunteers of a vulnerable age and many needing to shield, the team was substantially diminished and occasions to meet were extremely limited. We are

blessed with younger members William and George, both of whom having made big impacts when they were able to join us, but it is fair to say that new recruits are desperately needed.

The focus for the occasional visits was to maintain the lawns and hedge growth within reasonable limits. George and his sister Lottie made a big improvement by paving the rear entrance gate that commonly ponded and became a barrier to the gardens and church from the High Street.

Little else was possible and no new planting occurred. Without the compost facility on site the green waste remains a constant problem for the team particularly as the Council consider the Church to be a commercial enterprise that they do not need to collect green waste from despite many requests and previously being willing and able to do so. One of the team of volunteers is relied upon to carry the green waste to the local recycling centre.

The Budget has not been expended this year due to the reduced activity and minimal fuel and consumable expenses. For the few expenses that I have personally incurred for sundry plants etc no claim for recovery has been requested or will be made. The budget is still required and should not be reduced as there are upcoming service and repair costs likely for the machinery and some replacement tools required.

The team of volunteers have been a dependable resource and deserve a big thank you from the Church and wider communities for their continued assistance after many years. It was incredibly sad when Gus Hedges passed away, not least as his sense of humour is missed. A rambler rose Auguste Gervais has been purchased and is now planted in the memorial garden as a tribute and fond memory of Gus' tireless energy and enthusiasm. Unfortunately, our mascot Jess (springer spaniel) also left us during the year. She so loved the gardening club and all she met when there loved her fun-loving spirit.

The memorial hedges had grown very tall and demanded attention that was rather severe but will grow back and be much more manageable as a result. The fig required a heavy prune at the end of the season to bring back under control and to encourage fruit production for the next season.

The bed to the rear of the hall where the compost bins were removed has attracted many butterflies to the replanted buddleia, but the bog garden has not been maintained at all and shows this by its unkempt nature that will be addressed. The bug hotel has received many insect visitors and remains an attraction for the community.

Seasonal tasks that had been planned were not able to be completed in the few visits by even fewer volunteers, but it is hoped that in 2021 if the lockdown is lifted and with the comfort of vaccinations for the vulnerable, that we may all be able to slowly return and enjoy the camaraderie again. It is not expected that a return will be made before March / April 2021 but I know that we all cannot wait to get back and enjoy the sunshine the Gardening Club brings.

Steve Davenport

Gardening (St Mary's)

The last twelve months have seen such further significant changes with the clearance and landscaping of the peaceful, inspiring & historic haven of St. Mary's churchyard that the team can finally consider our future work to be a more a gardening task than hard labour!

Fortunately, whilst complying to Government advice during the pandemic, we have largely adhered to our plans for the site by continuing the trimming of ivy and moss from tombstones to expose the epitaphs, removing saplings from graves, planting privet to restore perimeter hedging and with prudent pruning have extended the open vistas across the 3.5 acres, whilst still maintaining areas of undergrowth for the varied native fauna. The northern flower-bed has been weeded, composted and planted & the adjacent path weeded and re-shingled. More recently, after the fall of three mature trees which necessitated a survey by the Council's appointed arboriculturist (*& repairs to demolished memorials, tombs, and a wall!*) we have devoted our efforts to removing Ash saplings before the professional felling of other diseased Ash trees.

The churchyard is now home to two bee-hives (*managed by a local apiarist who is considering doubling his quota)* close to the Memorial Garden enclosure which has been planted and seeded with bee/butterfly-attracting wildflower species and of course, we are currently keeping watch over several bird boxes, log-pile habitats and two hedgehog hotels!

We are particularly grateful for a burgeoning rapport and dialogue with Cllr. Sheila Bain of Redbridge Council and their sub-contractors who not only take care of all strimming/mowing duties but also have sole responsibility for tree inspections and any consequent surgery.

Once again, my special ongoing thanks to all our industrious volunteers who regularly donate three to four hours of their fortnightly Saturday mornings whatever the weather. Our considerable rewards come from the many comments and compliments we have received from visitors to the Georgian Gem and its churchyard as well as from an obvious & significant increased footfall and range of activities on site.

Needless to say, when the lockdown eases and some semblance of personal freedom is sanctioned, we will always welcome new recruits to the enthusiastic, socially-adept ranks of the SMGG.

Phil Ryan

Report on Parish Halls

The Homeless Shelter was a great success on Tuesday evenings. We hosted this between 7th January and 31st March.

A fire risk assessment was carried out before the night shelter was able to begin and as a result of this, we had a fire alarm system installed at the halls, this was funded by the homeless shelter.

Unfortunately, the parish halls had been closed for most of 2020 due to Covid-19. During this time, only six regular groups returned for a short while when they could. We lost sixteen regular bookings. Of these, eleven are not returning. The remaining five are hoping to return when all is safe and well. The remaining regular groups (15) have not been in since March and are waiting for the all-clear to return back.

On the plus side I have signed up seven new clubs who started for a while but have had to stop since the latest lockdown in November.

We have not had any weekend bookings since March 2020.

The usual Parish 'Friends' events have not taken place either.

We were able to hire the halls out for one Saturday during the summer for a local makers market. This was well managed in a very Covid-19 safe and secure manner.
We did hire the halls out for three days at the start of the Christmas holidays for a children's sports club.

We were due to have the halls redecorated during April, but this had to be cancelled due to no funds coming in.

We had to pay for a water safety and legionella check during the Covid-19 lockdown. The outcome of this was negative.

Lauren Johnson

Flowers

This year has been exceptional due to the pandemic. The flowers in the High Altar, Lady Chapel and church porch at Christ Church have been maintained mostly with fresh foliage and artificial flowers to ensure there are displays for when the church is open but to keep the cost down. The flowers at St Mary's are also being maintained with fresh or artificial flowers. There have been no fund-raising events such as the Flower festival and only two weddings during 2020.

Flower arranging may need revitalising when the pandemic is under control and the parish resumes normal services. In normal times, the flower arrangers are a small group of volunteers who arrange flowers in both churches all year (except during Lent and Advent) and for special services and events. Volunteers arrange fresh flowers once a fortnight and tidy and refresh the following week. We have additional flowers at Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas.

We would welcome new recruits who we would be delighted to train, teach, share and support. On occasions we provide wedding flowers with the couple paying for the cost of the flowers. Members of the congregation can also request and pay for flowers for personal anniversaries or celebrations.

Beryl Darling

Flowers at St Mary's

The year started as usual with the taking down of the Christmas flowers and decorations in January 2020. The period from then until the beginning of Lent is usually acknowledged by the variety of winter flowers and foliage and it was anticipated that Easter would bring a celebration of flowers leading to the summer months with beautiful and varied flowers to arrange for all to enjoy.

There is a regular number of flower arrangers at St Mary's although new volunteers are always welcome. Experience is not required as there is always help and advice from others, but it is a lovely and relaxed way to get to know other members of the congregation. The parish will fund the flowers, although a real attempt is made to keep this cost as low as possible. All that is required is enthusiasm!

Sadly, with the onset of lockdown initially in March and again later in the year, the need for flowers fell away as there were no live services. The church was fully decorated for the Christmas Carol Services by three volunteers so as to ensure they acted in safety and in accordance with the Covid-19 regulations but very sadly, this could not take place in safety. However enormous thanks for hours of hard work on the flowers and decorations for these services must got to Marjorie Gadd and Rachel Richardson, who both made such beautiful arrangements for all to enjoy.

It is hoped that 2021 will turn into a better year once lockdown is over and we will be able to enjoy the flowers in our beautiful church once more.

If anyone would be interested in joining out group of arrangers, do please contact me by email at: margaret.thoresby@gmail.com You would be most welcome.

Margaret Thoresby

Ecumenical Relations

We seek to maintain relationships with local churches of different denominations. An example of what we do together is the annual walk of witness on Good Friday morning, starting at Hermon Hill Methodist Church and ending with a service at Our Lady of Lourdes RC church. This has been one way of giving the story of our faith a public profile in Wanstead. Last year it too fell foul of the first Covid-19 lockdown. At the time of writing it is not clear whether it will be possible to make the walk in 2021.

Richard Wyber

Engelskirchen Link

For more than ten years we have shared in a link between Wanstead URC and Christus Kirche, Engelskirchen, a town to the east of Cologne. The main expression of this link has been an annual visit in Easter week. In 2020 it was our turn to host. We worked hard to arrange hospitality and plan an interesting programme for our guests, but the visit had to be cancelled owing to the pandemic. Recently we have concluded that it's too soon to offer hospitality this year, so our hopes are now focused on 2022.

Richard Wyber

20-30's Group

In 2020 we gained a couple of new members, but some members of the group unfortunately left Wanstead. We met up a couple of times before lockdown for drinks and for a curry. During lockdown we had a few catch ups on zoom. In 2021 we hope to get this social group up and running again. Please contact Father Tom if you are interested in joining us or would like more information. We would love to welcome new members!

Tom Britt

80+ Group

This has been the latest of our activities for older members of our parish community. Its format was a small meeting in a member's living room at which we talked around the excellent Bible Reading Fellowship publication 'The Gift of Years', as well as enjoying tea and cake, and general conversation. Sadly, one of the members of our small group died last autumn, but we hope to resume this gentle activity.

Richard Wyber

Report of Electoral Roll Officer

At the end of 2020, the Parish Electoral Roll stood at 355. We had 30 additions during the year and seven leaving the Electoral roll. Five of those were parishioners who had sadly passed away and the remaining two moved out of the area.

The Electoral Roll is kept updated and a revised roll submitted for consideration at the APCM. The right to vote at the APCM will be limited to those parishioners who are on the electoral roll on 16th May 2021.

Any parishioners wishing to join the Parish Electoral Roll, at any time, are welcome to fill in forms available either in both our churches, or obtained from

the Parish Office via email at wansteadparishadmin@uwclub.net. Completed forms should be handed back to the Parish Office.

Lorraine Bucknall,
Electoral Roll Officer

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

Baptisms
4 infants baptised
12 families cancelled, some several times, and with new enquiries there are around 16 awaiting dates.

Weddings
We managed 3 weddings. All very short notice in planning and all done in exceptional family circumstances. All were conducted under the Covid-19 guidelines.
5 were cancelled, 3 have provisional dates on hold for 2021 but no certainty of going ahead at present. There have been several other enquiries but no bookings taken.
It has been a really hard time having to deny people these family celebrations.

Funerals
Funerals 16
Interments 10

Jan Andrews and Lorraine Bucknall

Charitable Trustees

The Trustees of the Charity are members of the PCC; they are either ex officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, or co-opted in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Candidates for election are required to complete the Trustee Declaration of Eligibility. Newly elected members are given printed information from the Charity Commission, which explains the responsibilities of trustees.

Because of the pandemic, the Annual Parochial Church Meeting was postponed from April to October, meaning that those elected and co-opted members, who were due to stand down at the APCM, stayed in post for an additional five months.

During the year of 2020, from 1st January to 31st December the following, served as members of the PCC:

Ex-officio (Rector and Ministry Team) and Churchwardens	
• Revd Dr Jack Dunn (Rector) • Revd Richard Wyber (Ministry Team) • Revd Canon Ann Clarke (Ministry Team) – left the Parish Aug 2020 • Revd Dr Chris Taylor (Ministry Team – joined the Parish Nov 2020 • Revd Tom Britt (Ministry Team) • Revd Olive Thursby (Ministry Team)	• Mrs Sue Fitzgerald (Church Warden) – stood down Oct 2020 • Ms Barbara Hepworth-Jones (Church Warden) (Oct-Dec 2020) • Mrs Avril Carnelley (Deputy Church Warden) – stood down Oct 2020 • Mr David Wyatt (Deputy Church Warden) (Oct-Dec 2020) • Mr Ralph Hall (Church Warden)
Elected Trustees (date in brackets is when term ends)	
• Ms Deborah Dickinson (2020) – Lay Vice Chair (Jan-Oct) • Mrs Jillian Steggle (2020) – Treasurer (Jan-Oct) • Name Withheld (2020) • Mr Peter Schaefer (2021) – Secretary • Mrs Mary Shaw (2021) – Assistant Treasurer • Ms Yvy Carter (2021) • Mrs Susan Oldham (2021) – Assistant Secretary – co-opted in Dec 2020 • Mr David Wyatt (2022) – Assistant Secretary (Jan-Oct) – stood down in Oct 2020 to become DCW	• Mr Jeremy Green (2022) – Volunteer Coordinator • Mrs Suzi Stiegler (2022) – Parish Safeguarding Officer (Jan-Oct) – Joint Lay Vice Chair (Oct-Dec) • Mr Christian Orme (2022) – Youth Advocate (Oct-Dec) • Ms Patience Rusinga (2023) – Diversity and Inclusion Advocate (Nov-Dec) • Mr Gary Owen (2023) – Treasurer (Oct-Dec) • Ms Equi Ajogbe (2023) – Parish Safeguarding Officer (Oct-Dec)
Elected Trustees by virtue of being representatives on the Deanery Synod: whose three-year term ended at the 2020 APCM in October	
• Mr Philip Carnelley (continuing as Diocesan Synod Representative and remaining on the PCC until 31 July 2021) • Mrs Penelope Garlick • Mrs Caroline Green	• Mrs Celia Heath (continuing as Diocesan Synod Representative and remaining on the PCC until 31 July 2021) • Ms Barbara Hepworth-Jones • Mr Tom Thompson
Elected Trustees by virtue of being representatives on the Deanery Synod: whose three-year term will end at the APCM in 2023	
• Ms Jenny Griffiths • Mr Neil Hepworth • Mr Joshua Dickinson	• Mrs Margaret Adams – Seniors' Advocate (Oct-Dec) • James Paterson – Joint Lay Vice Chair (Oct-Dec)
PCC Members appointed to be nominated champions	
• Ms Barbara Hepworth-Jones (Youth Advocate) (Jan-Oct)	• Mrs Penelope Garlick (Seniors' Advocate) (Jan-Oct)

• Mr Christian Orme (Youth Advocate) (Oct-Dec) • Ms Patience Rusinga (Diversity and Inclusion Advocate) (Nov-Dec)	• Mrs Margaret Adams (Seniors' Advocate) (Vulnerable Adults Lead) (Oct-Dec)

The Parish Church Council

The Charity operates under the Church Representation Rules, and other regulations of the Church of England. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It has maintenance responsibilities for the only Grade I listed building in Redbridge, St Mary the Virgin, and for Christ Church, a Grade II building. The Rector and a Churchwarden are trustees of the Church School, which remains the only Aided Church of England School within the borough.

The PCC is the executive committee of a Church of England parish. It is made up of the Clergy and Churchwardens of the parish, together with representatives of the laity.

All major decisions are made by the PCC during regular scheduled meetings; Standing Committee has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

The Churchwardens, as the leading lay members of the parish, assist the incumbent in the day-to-day administration of church affairs and have authority under canon law.

The Trustees of the Charity are members of the PCC; they are either ex officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, or co-opted in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Lay Vice Chair's Report

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) January 2020- APCM 11th October 2020

The PCC routinely approves people to be Eucharistic Ministers and lay lead readers, established and receives reports from all committees and working groups, appoints some WCS governors, receives MMU minutes and reports from Standing Committee and Deanery Synod, receives financial reports, considers mission, evangelism, and outreach, and approves and reviews policies. The PCC has an overview and monitoring role for all works undertaken. The PCC

approves fees and expenditure and develops strategic long and short term aims.

The PCC met three times during this period in 2020 on: 23 March, 26 June, 1 October, 13 July (with additional electronic discussion and voting which were reported upon in the minutes of the following PCC meeting).

In 2019 the PCC:

following guidance and agreement from the Diocese agreed arrangements for:

- the postponement of The APCM due to Covid-19 restrictions
- the Vestry Meeting and APCM to be held electronically
- elections for Church Wardens and representatives to Deanery Synod and PCC to be conducted electronically/in writing
- agreed for all business to be conducted electronically
- the furlough of staff
- provision for pastoral care of parishioners during this period
- provision for worship and private prayer during church closures

In addition, the PCC:

- identified the areas of skill/expertise needed for newly elected PCC members
- approved the budget
- approved the Parish Values for 2019
- elected Lay Vice Chair, Secretary and Assistant Secretary, Treasurers, Electoral Roll Officer and Parish Safeguarding Officer and Volunteer Coordinator
- approved the appointment of a deputy Churchwarden
- approved and reviewed policies including The Safeguarding Policy (2020),
- accepted a Resilience Grant from The Heritage lottery Fund for "*Securing the future of St Mary with Christ Church Wanstead*" and made appropriate arrangements for a Lead Group and steering group members
- agreed and made legal arrangements approving the licence agreement for The Seventh Day Adventists to rent church buildings
- agreed to set up a Parish Environment Committee
- agreed that The Parish should join Inclusive Church
- agreed House for Duty priest working agreement

- agreed Hall Regulations
- agreed to establish a Group Ministry with St Gabriel's Aldersbrook, St Mary's, Woodford and St Peter's in the Forest, Walthamstow *to further the flourishing of mission and ministry in the West Roding Mission Partnership (WRMP) and beyond*
- responded to the Black Lives Matter agenda
- agreed to seek replacement House for Duty priest
- supported the progression of the following initiatives: involvement in The Winter Homeless Night Shelter in conjunction with LB of Redbridge, The Community Partnership Scheme (in partnership with the Diocese and Home Office and with support from London Borough of Redbridge, the local community and our MMU partners) and the launch of Tin in a Bin

The PCC thank all those who work on projects, initiatives, and those who, in various ways, support their work. The PCC thank all the congregation for their prayers and support.

Deborah Dickinson Lay Vice Chair (Jan 2020-Oct 2020)

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) November 2020 to December 2020

The PCC met on four occasions between the APCM and 31 December 2020 on: 2 November, 24 November (extraordinary meeting), 30 November (extraordinary meeting) and 10 December.

During the period, the PCC:

- welcomed House for Duty priest, Revd. Dr. Chris Taylor
- welcomed new members of the PCC: Equi Ajogbe, Christian Orme, Patience Rusinga, and Gary Owen
- welcomed newly elected representatives to Deanery Synod: Margaret Adams, Joshua Dickinson, Neil Hepworth, Jenny Griffiths and Phillip Carnelley
- made the following appointments of officers:
    - Lay Vice Chair – joint post comprising Suzi Stiegler and James Paterson
    - Secretary – Peter Schaefer
    - Assistant Secretary – Sue Oldham (co-opted to the PCC)
    - Treasurer – Gary Owen
    - Assistant Treasurer – Mary Shaw
    - Safeguarding Officer - Equi Ajogbe
    - Vulnerable Adults Lead – Margaret Adams
    - Electoral Roll officer – Lorraine Bucknall
    - Chair of the Friends - Peter Schaefer
    - Two MMU representatives – Jenny Griffiths & Joshua Dickinson
    - Youth Advocate – Christian Orme

    - Senior's Champion – Penelope Garlick (co-opted to the PCC)
    - Diversity Champion – Patience Rusinga
    - Volunteer Coordinator – Jem Green
    - Chair of Staffing and Governance Committee – David Wyatt

- agreed to set up a Christ Church and Hall Committee and to disband the Marketing and Communications Committee

- supported the appointment of Architect Firm Dow Jones, as project Architects for the Resilience bid

- agreed to alterations to the pattern of worship necessitated by changes brought about by the coronavirus pandemic

- agreed to the felling of trees in the St Mary's churchyard for health and safety, as per a report commissioned by the Westerleigh group

- agreed to appoint an interim minister upon the rector's departure on 15 January 2021

- agreed to amendments to the legal agreement for The Seventh Day Adventists to rent the church buildings where they are unable to attend due to Covid-19 restrictions

- agreed the appointment of two foundation governors of Wanstead Church School

- agreed to send its interim report for St Mary's to the Archdeacon, formally reviewing the first year of the new worshipping arrangements in place in St Mary's

This was an exceptionally busy period for the PCC as it headed into the Advent period and prepared to farewell Father Jack in January 2021. A number of extraordinary meetings were necessary to begin planning for arrangements during the period of vacancy including the appointment of an interim minister.

The PCC thank all those who offer prayers and support its work in innumerable ways.

Suzi Stiegler Co-Lay Vice Chair (From October 2020)

The Standing Committee (SC) January 2020 – APCM 11th October 2020

The members of the SC were: Revd Dr Jack Dunn (ex-officio Rector) Sue Fitzgerald (Church Warden Jan 2020 – October 2020)), Ralph Hall (Church Warden), Avril Carnelley (Deputy Church Warden (Jan 2020 – Oct 2020) Deborah Dickinson (Lay Vice Chair Jan 2020 – Oct 2020), Jill Steggle (Treasurer Jan 2020 – Oct 2020), Mary Shaw (Treasurer), Peter Schaefer (Secretary), Jeremy Green or Carry Green (having 1 vote June 2020 – Oct 2020). Members of Ministry Team also attended. Additionally, one member of PCC (decided at previous PCC meeting) attends SC as a voting member.

The SC met three times during this period in 2020 on: 2 March, 8 June, and 6 July.

The SC routinely set the agenda for PCC meetings, make recommendations to PCC, receive reports, approve expenditure, note ministry team decisions, approve Risk Assessments and are responsible for decision making between PCC meetings. In addition to meetings, the SC discuss issues and make decisions electronically.

The main decisions made by Standing Committee, during this period in 2020, included to:

- determine actions to ensure The Parish was Covid-19 secure
- maintain an overview of progress towards meeting our objectives and the mission, evangelism, and outreach ministry of The Parish.
- defer appointment of Associate Director of Music
- consider The Black Lives Matter issues

Deborah Dickinson Lay Vice Chair (Jan 2020-Oct 2020)

The Standing Committee (SC) November 2020 to December 2020

Following the APCM, the members of the SC were: Revd Dr Jack Dunn (ex-officio Rector) Barbara Hepworth (Church Warden from October 2020), Ralph Hall (Church Warden), David Wyatt (Deputy Church Warden from October 2020), Suzi Stiegler (Lay Vice Chair from October 2020), James Paterson (Lay Vice Chair from October 2020), Gary Owen (Treasurer from October 2020), Mary Shaw (Treasurer), Peter Schaefer (Secretary). Members of Ministry Team also attended. Additionally, one member of PCC (decided at previous PCC meeting) attends SC as a voting member.

The Standing Committee met on 9 November 2020 and discussed ongoing formulation of the parish priorities for 2021, including pursing recommendations of the Setting God's People Free initiative. Standing Committee also discussed plans for the PCC to decide whether to appoint an interim minister during interregnum.

Suzi Stiegler Co-Lay Vice Chair (From October 2020)

Committees: Information and Governance

Committee Name	**Christ Church and Halls Committee (NEW – from Jan 2021)**
What they do	Oversight of the use of the Christ Church and the Halls (and accompanying grounds) for worship, outreach, and community use. Advise on the programme of activities, including worship, offered throughout the year

	across the site. Plan for and coordinate the arrangements for the Wanstead Festival and Open House. Look at matters relating to the upkeep and maintenance of the whole site, including consideration of the financial implications. Monitor the maintenance of the organ and the AV System. Oversight of all matters relating to QI (Quinquennial Inspection). Act purely in an advisory capacity, reporting regularly to the PCC and making recommendations for consideration of action by them.	
Members	Barbara Hepworth-Jones (Chair) Lauren Johnson (Halls Administrator) James Paterson (Joint Lay Vice Chair) Roger Middleditch (Halls Treasurer)	Stephanie Alexander-Jinks Jan Andrews Olive Thursby Chris Owen Peter Schaefer Steve Steele

Committee Name	**Deanery Synod**	
What they do	The Deanery Synod is part of the way that the Church of England gives people at different levels a chance to discuss key issues and to help organise the church's ministry and mission. It sits between the parishes with their PCCs and the full diocese, with its Diocesan Synod. The lay members serve for three years. The Synod meets three to four times a year, visiting different parts of the Deanery, and its business is organised by a Standing and Pastoral Committee which has both clerical and lay members.	
Members (Jan-Oct)	Celia Heath Philip Carnelley Penelope Garlick	Caroline Green Barbara Hepworth-Jones Tom Thompson
Members (Nov-Dec)	James Paterson Jenny Griffiths Margaret Adams	Joshua Dickinson Neil Hepworth

Committee Name	**Finance, Stewardship and Fabric Committee**	
What they do	The committee ensures the correct and transparent management of the parish's finance in accordance with the Parish Finance Policy. The committee are responsible for the preparation of annual budget setting, annual accounts and have oversight of parish fundraising activities. Another important requirement of the committee includes establishing plans to oversee ongoing work to keep the fabric of church buildings and other properties, such as the halls, in good repair and to attend to any problems which may arise.	
Members	Jillian Steggle (Chair, Treasurer until Oct 2020)	Diana Middleditch Simon Stiggear (May 2020)

	Mary Shaw (Assistant Treasurer) David Ranger (Resigning Jan 2021) Gary Owen (May 2020, Treasurer from Oct 2020)	Ed Fosbrook (Nov 2020) Nicola Calabrese (Marketing & Communications Rep) (Resigned Jan 2021)

Committee Name	**Friends of St Mary's with Christ Church Committee**	
What they do	The Friends is a membership group set up as the fundraising arm of the PCC to maintain, repair, restore, improve, and preserve the fabric, monuments, fixtures, fittings, furniture, stained glass, ornaments, and other chattels, of the Churches of St Mary the Virgin and Christ Church Wanstead, for the benefit of the public.	
Members	Peter Schaefer (Chair) Ed Fosbrook (Treasurer) (Resigned as Treasurer Dec 2020) Julia Saul Watts (Secretary)	Phil Ryan Tracie Garfield Miles Kelly Victoria Darbyshire

Committee Name	**Marketing and Communications Committee (DISBANDED)**
What they do	This committee has delegated powers given by the PCC to design and maintain the parish website, as well as to develop and implement an effective communications strategy for all the parish.
Comments	This committee did not meet during 2020 with Nicola Calabrese being solely responsible for parish communications. Nicola is handing over her role to a team of three or four who will report directly to the Rector and PCC.

Committee Name	**MMU (Mission and Ministry Unit)**	
What they do	To develop and enhance ministry and mission in our community in partnership with our five local churches.	
Members	<u>Members</u> Four parishes involved: Wanstead, St Mary's Woodford, St Gabriel's Aldersbrook and St Peter's in the Forest (Holy Trinity Hermon Hill has moved to another MMU)	<u>Parish Representatives</u> Penelope Garlick (Jan-Oct) Avril Carnelly (Jan-Oct) Jenny Griffiths (Nov-Dec) Joshua Dickinson (Nov-Dec) Revd Dr Jack Dunn

Committee Name	**MMU Youth Management Committee**
What they do	Development of the youth work across the MMU.
Members	• Becca Kemal (MMU Youth Worker)

	• Sheba Lockley (MMU Youth Worker Supervisor) • Victoria Etherington (Youth Ministry Consultant) • Lin Taylor (Pastoral Support) • Revd Ian Tarrant & Beverley Alderson (Incumbent & Rep from St Mary's Woodford) • Revd Martyn Hawkes & Kevin Thomas (Incumbent & Rep from St Gabriel's Aldersbrook) • Revd Dr Jack Dunn & Barbara Hepworth-Jones (Incumbent & Rep from Wanstead Parish)
Comments	This Management Committee will be refreshed early in 2021

Committee Name	**Parish Music Committee**	
What they do	The PMC has oversight of all music in the parish which is related to parish worship and the Parish Vision statement, in order to develop a cohesive strategy and action plan to nuture current worshippers and parishioners, and to reach out to the wider community in and around Wanstead through an extended and developing programme of provision. This includes supporting the Director of Music; music at all church services and other Parish or MMU musical events, including those with involvement of other organisations where the Parish is either taking a lead or has a partnership role; music that takes place within the church buildings or grounds, such as recitals or concerts, provided by secular or community groups; management of resources and equipment including the organ.	
Members	Sue Fitzgerald (Chair) (Licensing & Membership) Joe Waggott (Director of Music until Nov 2020) (Parish Organist from Dec 2020) Carry Green (Secretary)	Julia Wildgoose (Matron/Chaperone) Avril Carnelly (Safeguarding) Jen Ambler (Parent Rep) Olive Thursby Alison Wells Martin Elliott (Organist)
Comments	Su Allison (Librarian) is not a member but is regularly consulted	

Committee Name	**Records, Archives and Data Management Committee**	
What they do	The objective of this committee is to review the current arrangements for the safe keeping of parish records and to advise the PCC concerning future arrangements, and to keep abreast of essential GDPR data requirements.	
Members	Grace Odedina (Chair) (Resigned Dec 2020) Margaret Ranger (Resigned Nov 2020)	Susan Oldham (Chair) (Joined Dec 2020) Liz Ranger (Data Protection Officer)

		Dennis Keeling Sarah Gidlow (from Jan 2021)

Committee name	**Safeguarding and Health and Safety Committee**	
What they do	This committee helps to monitor and to develop all safeguarding policies and procedures for children young people and vulnerable adults in the parish and maintains an oversight over other related policies, such as risk assessments.	
Members	Equi Ajogbe (Parish Safeguarding Officer/Chair) (Nov 2020) Suzi Stiegler (Parish Safeguarding Officer/Chair) (until Oct 2020) (Lay Vice Chair) (Nov 2020) Deborah Dickinson (Lay Vice Chair) (until Oct 2020) Rector Sue Fitzgerald (Churchwarden) (until Oct 2020) (Risk Assessment Manager) (until Dec 2020) Barbara Hepworth-Jones (Churchwarden) (Nov 2020)	Rebecca Kemal (Youth Worker) Lauren Johnson (Hall Bookings Manager) Lorraine Bucknall (Parish Manager) Margaret Adams (Vulnerable Adults Lea) Tom Britt (Curate) Josh Waldock (Youth Worker – Red Balloon) (until Dec 2020) David Wyatt (Risk Assessment Manager) (from Dec 2020)

Committee Name	**St Mary's Committee**	
What they do	The committee will advise the PCC on worship at St Mary's, advise on the metrics for the two year review, liaise with other parish committees. Essentially looking at: worship, upkeep, outreach and finance.	
Members	<u>Ex Officio</u> Revd Dr Jack Dunn (Chair) (until July 2020) Revd Tom Britt (Chair) from July 2020) Ralph Hall (Churchwarden) Sue Paterson (Open Day Coordinator) Suzi Stiegler (Lay Vice Chair) (Minutes Secretary) (from Nov 2020)	<u>Others</u> Alison Wells (Lay Worship Leaders Rep) – until October 2022 <u>Members of the Congregation</u> Howard Smith – until October 2022 Carry Green – until October 2021 John Gritten – until October 2021

		Deborah Dickinson (Lay Vice Chair) (Minutes Secretary) (until Nov 2020)
Comments	Elections in October 2021 (2 reps)	

Committee Name	**Social Committee**	
What they do	The committee was established to foster fellowship among the congregation by facilitating hospitality at special services and church meetings and by organising occasional non-profit making outings and events	
Members	David Wyatt (Chair) (Resigned Nov 2020) Barbara Hepworth Jones (Resigned Oct 2020) Margaret Wyatt (Resigned Oct 2020) Louisa Brown (Joined Dec 2020)	Maureen Medley Julie Williams James Darbyshire Victoria Darbyshire Michael Odedina
Comments	New Chair and two members from 10am CC service to be recruited early in 2021	

Committee Name	**Staffing & Governance Committee**	
What they do	Have overall responsibility for all paid staff, including job descriptions, HR, annual reviews etc. Recommend to Finance Committee and PCC the staffing budget and any changes. Represent views of staff to PCC. Approve new appointments to Committees.	
Members	Avril Carnelley (Deputy Churchwarden/Chair) (until Oct 2020) David Wyatt (Deputy Church Warden/Chair) (from Nov 2020) Deborah Dickenson (Lay Vice Chair) (Resigned Oct 2020) Jillian Steggle (Treasurer) (Resigned Oct 2020)	Mary Shaw (Resigned Oct 2020) Roger Middleditch Gary Owen (Treasurer) (Nov 2020) James Paterson (Lay Vice Chair) (Nov 2020) Patience Rusinga (Diversity and Inclusion Champion) (Nov 2020)

Committee Name	**Mission & Outreach Committee (formerly World Church Committee)**	
What they do	The committee was established to support the mission and outreach of the PCC by working with our chosen charities and organising our charitable giving. It also makes recommendations to the PCC as to which charities the parish should support.	
Members	Revd Tom Britt (Chair) Beryl Darling James Paterson	Grace Odedina Simon Stiggear Magali Curnier

Comments	Several new members to be recruited early in 2021

Committee Name	**Youth Council**	
What they do	To listen and learn from the views and perspectives of young people who are involved in Wanstead Parish. To enable the young people to steer and help shape the agenda of their meetings. To implement positive changes to nurture the faith and welfare of young people in the parish.	
Members	<u>Youth</u> Jake Steele, Aiden Nip, Eve Ambler, Luke McCarthy, Jamie Herring, Ava Stanger, Pippa Bleasdale, Jago Biddick, Louis Johnson, Juliet Hepworth, Mariela Christodoulou, Eliana Christodoulou, Samuel Allam, Matthew Bucknall, Annabelle Fitzgerald	<u>Adults</u> Josh Waldock, Revd Olive Thursby, Revd Tom Britt, Becca Kemal, Barbara Hepworth-Jones (Youth Advocate) (Jan-Oct), Christian Orme (Youth Advocate) (Nov-Dec)
Comments	The Youth members needs updating and will include at least one person from St Mary's. Josh Waldock will need replacing as he left in Dec 2020	

Note: The Rector is ex officio a member of all of the above committees - during the vacancy to be ultimately covered by the Interim Minister with one of the Church Wardens/Deputy Church Warden in the meanwhile

Committee Reports

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. Committee members are the Rector, Co-Vice Chairs, Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synods are the tier of church governance between the Parish (PCC) and the Diocese; Wanstead is in Redbridge Deanery. Key functions of Deanery Synod include acting as a conduit for information between the Diocese and PCCs, and across the Deanery between parishes and MMUs. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Redbridge Deanery Synod met only twice in 2020, rather than the usual four times: in February and November, the second time by Zoom. The February meeting featured a speaker from St Martin in the Fields on their

'HeartEdge' initiative – an ecumenical programme involving some 235 churches and other organisations, aiming to improve society's engagement with disadvantaged people.

One role of a Deanery Synod is to propose resolutions to the parent Diocesan Synod. In 2020, Redbridge Deanery put forward a motion to the Diocese that, following the motion at General Synod to move the church to becoming carbon neutral, all parishes in the Diocese should be encouraged to become 'eco-parishes' with accreditation under a scheme called "A Rocha"; and also, that Chelmsford Diocese itself work to become an 'eco-diocese.' The motion was passed overwhelmingly, by about 94% of delegates.

Wanstead parish elects up to 6 representatives to Redbridge Deanery Synod – these are *ex officio* PCC members – for a 3-year term of office. The triennium of the current members expired during 2020 and so the November Synod meeting (online) was attended by members elected by their 2020 parish APCMs. At its 2020 APCM, Wanstead elected the following new Synod members: Margaret Adam, Joshua Dickinson, Jenny Griffith, Neil Hepworth and James Paterson. Those who stood down were Pen Garlick, Carry Green, Celia Heath, Barbara Hepworth, and Tom Thompson.

Because of the changeover of Synod members across the Deanery, it was necessary to arrange for new officers on the Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee, as some were standing down. So, the main business at the November meeting was to explain what these roles – lay chair, treasurer, secretary etc – involve and explain arrangements for elections to these posts.

Subsequently, elections to Deanery Standing Committee were held at the January 2021 meeting. Amongst other appointments, Philip Carnelley of this parish was elected to the position of Deanery Lay Chair, to replace Jill Leonard who stood down after two terms of office. Philip – who was previously Deanery Treasurer – is a Deanery Synod (and Wanstead PCC) member *ex-officio*, due to being an elected member of Diocesan Synod.

Philip Carnelley

Finance, Stewardship and Fabric Committee

(The Fabric Committee works in conjunction with the Finance and Stewardship Committee; however finance statements are included later within this report).

The committee ensures the correct and transparent management of the parish's finances and oversight of parish fundraising activities. The committee set a deficit budget for 2020 so the scrutiny of income and expenses was of paramount importance more than ever, coupled with the impact of Covid-19.

The Finance and Stewardship committee, formed in 2018, met 8 times in 2020; due largely to actions created by Covid-19. We welcomed 3 new members in 2020: Gary Owen, Simon Stiggear, Ed Fosbrook; and gave our thanks to Nicola Jarratt and David Ranger who both stepped down at the end of the year.

Key achievements in the year include:

- Through close attention and a fixed-cost budget, we returned a General Fund end of year net income with minimal deficit in a challenging year with significantly reduced income;
- Utilised restricted and designated funds where possible to protect our general fund reserves;
- We made use of the Government's furlough scheme to protect our salaried staff where possible;
- We increased our Giving presence: online links and donations made through Churchdesk; contactless devices in both churches; Giving signage in both churches including QR codes;
- We launched a campaign to raise funds for a new, and much needed, Audio Visual system in Christ Church. Nicola Jarratt was very successful in applying for grants from All Churches Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation and London Over the Border, plus a grant from the Cottages Trust and a fundraising drive for the remainder from the congregation with only £400 left to raise at the end of 2020;
- Fundraised for parish outreach projects: the Refugee Welcome Wanstead project and the Homeless Shelter in partnership with FCENS;
- We conducted a review of our restricted funds and invested excess cash in individual investment accounts to maximise growth;
- We have continued to streamline our investment accounts without detriment to the fund – consolidating accounts to a single client number to ease administrative burden; and
- In November, we hosted the inaugural MMU Treasurers meeting with an aim to share advice and support with fellow Treasurers. We aim to meet on a quarterly basis.

Goals for 2021 include:

- Increasing Planned Giving through the Parish Giving Scheme;
- Returning to paying our Parish Share in full;
- Continue to closely manage the General Fund while our finances continue to be significantly impacted by Covid-19; and
- Reviewing the Parish Finance Policy.

Mary Shaw
Assistant Treasurer

Friends of St Mary's with Christ Church

Due to Covid-19, the Friends were only able to hold one (1) solitary event in 2020, the rest falling victim to the virus where our Churches were closed, or conditions didn't allow for safe gatherings. Am happy to report that the Friends were able to hold 'Rock me baby' disco in March, which was once again a sell out, expertly organised by Julia Saul-Watts.

Long standing Chair of the Friends and legend Phil Ryan resigned the post in March and after checking with Miles Gilbert first, who has served longer than I have with the Friends and getting assurances from Phil that he would continue to be a part of the Friends I agreed to become Chair. Phil's experience, enthusiasm, organisational skills and contacts are the key ingredients that see

the Friends raise close to 10k each and every year for the general upkeep and maintenance of our beautiful Churches.

Ed Fosbrook resigned as Friends treasurer in March to join the Finance Committee. We'd like to thank Ed for his help and expertise over the years and like Phil, will continue to be a Friend.

Very happy to report that the Friends have contributed 10k to the overall 30k cost of the long overdue upgrading to the AV system in Christ Church which is no longer fit for purpose. These funds weren't solely raised last year so it's only right to thank everyone who has given their time at Friends events and/or supported them.

All our events are truly community events that aren't only promoted in our Parish but rather in the wider community through social media, the grape vine of Wanstead, the Wanstead Community Hub, as well as Wansteadium and The Wanstead Village Directory.

At the time of writing our Burns Night event end of January can't be held due to the third lockdown and it will be touch and go with Rock me baby in March whether we will be permitted to hold this event. We will basically have to wait and see if we are able to stage the Wanstead Village Dog show in May, The Summer BBQ in June, the Summer Fayre in September, and Merry Quizmas in December.

The Friends give up their time and energy to run events that not only provide our Parish with funds to call upon when needed but more so, being the geographical centre of Wanstead, we can also be at the centre of our community as running events for the whole community, we can engage with residents who may not attend church. As Phil noted in last year's Annual Report, our events are gaining in popularity but the number of volunteers has steadily fallen. I primarily attend the 9am service at Christ Church with my now four and eight year olds but will have to start attending the 10am as well for my boy so you'll see me, promoting events, asking for your time.

Peter Schaefer
Manager/Coordinator

Marketing and Communications Committee

In 2020 the marketing and communications team were presented with perhaps our biggest challenge to date, namely moving to and the promotion of online church during lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

We also continued to build on the momentum of 2019 by using our increased social media profile to run two more crowdfunding campaigns, and we were invited for a second year running to speak as a guest panellist at the Church of England Digital Communications conference. Lockdown saw the launch of a YouTube channel, and Facebook live-streamed worship. We also added Pinterest, creating a Wanstead Weddings board to promote not just our own churches but also local suppliers, and built on our Instagram profile.

Lockdown church

At Easter, one of the busiest periods in the church year, worship moved online. Thanks to a collaboration between our Rector and local filmmaker Marc Coleman, a series of beautifully shot videos were released on a daily basis over Holy Week. Premiered on our newly created YouTube channel, these videos alone had over 3200 views and reached a much wider audience than our traditional in-person services could have expected.

The traditional reading of the Gospel also moved online, where parishioners recorded their readings and YouTube videos were created. This enabled us to share these videos with our parishioners, and visitors who found us through YouTube, through lockdown and beyond.

We also live-streamed on Facebook for the first time, thanks to Canon Ann Clarke's innovative and well received Daily Prayer services, plus her Eucharists, which helped us reach and evangelise to a new audience. A huge vote of thanks must go to Canon Ann for this – she is much missed.

National engagement

Our social media platforms have continued to attract very positive interest from across the diocese and the national church. The weekly email has continued to be a great mission tool. Thanks are due to Lorraine Bucknall for taking this major undertaking on following Canon Ann's departure.

We continued to increase our output on social media, engaging with Church of England and national charity campaigns, and our local outreach partners, further helping us to extend our reach and engage with the wider community.

Key achievements in the past year include:

- Being asked for the second consecutive year to participate in a panel Q&A discussion at the Church of England Digital team's recent conference.
- Church of England digital head used our 'A Church Near You' page to illustrate his Christmas blog highlighting the Comfort and Joy Christmas campaign. We were also asked to test out the Church of England new 'Which Carol' Instagram story filter and featured in their story.
- Using social media, we successfully closed our inaugural crowdfunding campaign to raise funds for our Winter Night Shelter as part of the Aviva Community Fund, raising over £10,000.
- We subsequently launched a second crowdfund during March, raising £7,000 to sponsor a Syrian Refugee Family. Happening as it did during the first period of lockdown, we were delighted to reach our target thanks to our wonderful supporters.
- Our second Aviva crowdfund to raise more funds for the night shelter launched in November 2020 and raised over £8,000, and we were also awarded £1,000 from the Redbridge Social Action Fund to go towards the shelter.

- We were awarded £7,500 by the All Churches Trust 'Growing Lives' Fund and £3,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation for our AV project. For the FY 2020-2021 we have been chosen as one of the Coop Community Fund causes. Social media is a key driver in both being selected and the amount of support we receive.
- We continued to deliver an increase in followers and engagement via social media and attracted a new audience via our Instagram stories. This in turn has enabled us to better promote our events and campaigns.
- We continue to update our Church of England's 'A Church Near You' offering which is increasingly being favoured by the Church of England as a way to reach more people. Our ACNY page was used at their Digital Conference as an example of best practice. In 2020 our combined ACNY pages were viewed over 20,000 times.
- Our increased social media presence has in turn enabled more non-church goers to engage with, either financially or by volunteering, our local outreach; in particular with regard to the FCENS night shelter and Wanstead Refugee Welcome projects, as well as Redbridge Foodbank.

Nicola Calabrese
Chair

Mission and Ministry Unit – West Roding Mission Partnership

At the start of 2020, the West Roding Mission Partnership had a programme of joint working across its four parishes. The national lockdown has put a halt to most of those activities, although the Syrian Refugee Project, where Our Lady of Lourdes has also joined the churches of the MMU, has thankfully been able to continue. Parishes have kept in contact during the year, through meetings on Zoom. The new parish representatives on the MMU, following PCC elections, are now Joshua Dickinson and Jenny Griffiths.

Pen Garlick

Outreach Committee

Covid-19 and national lockdowns reduced the giving totals for Christian Aid Week and prevented us organising one-off fundraising events. However, these challenges enabled the parish to innovate and find new fundraising methods, such as two zoom Christingles, which raised money for Children's society, an online zoom quiz for Christian Aid week and drive-by gift collections for Hestia.

The parish raised £302 for Christian Aid and over £115 The Children's Society. At harvest large donations were made to the Redbridge Foodbank and Mill Grove. Regular donations were made to the Redbridge Foodbank at the collection points at both our churches and especially through the rapid expansion of the 'Tin in the Bin' network, which is a community project based in Wanstead that was founded in 2020. A number of people in our churches are heavily involved in this wonderful project, which encourages our community to rally together and support many people across Redbridge. We also donated gifts to mothers and their children at a refuge run by Hestia.

During this year, the committee discussed and reflected upon 'Setting God's people free'. The committee also reflected upon our name and our terms of reference. There are currently five committee members in this committee, but we are working with David Wyatt and Jeremy Green to recruit more members.

Tom Britt
Chair

Parish Music Committee

In 2019 we saw the musical life of the parish grow and really begin to thrive but the arrival of the global pandemic in 2020 unfortunately put a stop to all things musical. As concerts were cancelled and singing was banned, we were grateful that we could at least enjoy listening to the music of our organists during our services which brought us some respite from the chaos in the outside world.

With our musical director Joe sadly on furlough during the majority of 2020, we must take this opportunity to thank our many talented organists and pianists for stepping in and providing music at our services at both churches and online: Martin Elliott, Olive Thursby, Alison Wells, Michael Tivey, Richard Williams and Mark Willingham. We also thank Phil Carnelly who developed new lockdown skills in production and cleverly organised a 'virtual choir' recording for the Easter services. Thank you everyone for your help, support and enthusiasm. You really are appreciated and we thank you for giving up your time during such a difficult period.

Once lockdown #1 began to ease, we slowly introduced a reduced 'socially distanced' choir to our services, also offering up the invitation for members of our congregation to sign up to sing. The return of singing in the parish was emotional and just highlighted how much music is such an important part of our worship and our lives.

With exciting plans to bring back more singing for Christmas, once again, the majority of our services had to be cancelled with the announcement of lock down #3. We must offer our thanks to Alison Wells for organising and rehearsing our singers and for help with the preparations for the Christmas services. We must also thank Su Alison for choosing and sourcing our hymns and music for our Sunday services. Both Alison and Su have worked hard to keep music present in our churches. This takes a lot of time and effort and we are very grateful for everything they have done and continue to do.

For financial reasons due to the pandemic, we sadly could not reinstate Joe Waggott as Music director this year, but he has agreed to accept the role of Parish Organist. We hope and pray that once we are through this difficult period music will return to the parish stronger and better than ever before. The pandemic has taught us so much and we can use this period as time for reflection and planning for the future.

Sue Fitzgerald

Records, Archives and Data Management Committee

The committee has not met during 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but as soon as it is possible to meet safely, the work of the committee will continue, maintaining and ensuring compliance to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), acting as counsel to the PCC, as well as considering thoughtfully the storage and relevance of our archive material.

We are grateful for all the hard work of the committee in the continuing task of rationalising the safe storage of archive and other material, and to Liz Ranger for fulfilling the important role of Data Protection Officer.

Grace Odedina resigned as chair of the committee in December 2020 and we thank her for all her hard work as chair of the committee. Margaret Ranger resigned in November 2020, and we thank her for her dedication and wish her and David all the best as they embark on a new stage in their life.

The committee really needs to recruit new members, so if you have an interest in exploring the history of our two beautiful churches, please volunteer!

Sue Oldham
Chair

Safeguarding and Health and Safety Committee

Highlights of the work undertaken by the Committee during 2020:

- Review of Parish Safeguarding Policy including implementing new Guide to Supporting Vulnerable Adults;
- Reviewing and implementing risk assessments and assisting in setting up procedures for online services such as Zoom to ensure safeguarding and GDPR compliance;
- Facilitating larger uptake in online safeguarding training throughout the Parish;
- Completing Safeguarding Training Needs Analysis to identify roles and people to undertake training during 2021;

In 2121 the Committee will:

- Continue to encourage and support as many people as possible to undertake online safeguarding training;
- Once safe to do so, host a leadership level safeguarding course with the Diocese Safeguarding Team;
- Reach out to groups in the parish who are particularly vulnerable to highlight the role of safeguarding and what those in the parish can do to support and look out for each other.

Suzi Stiegler
Parish Safeguarding Officer

St Mary's Committee

Our first meeting in March touched on several different areas such as community outreach, worship, and the quinquennial report. A pattern of open days for 2020 was outlined, but unfortunately Covid-19 meant that only one of these could take place (Open House, London). In 2021 there will be a varied programme of open days held at St Mary's to build on the success of previous years and continue engaging and inspiring the wider community.

In June. the committee had a very fruitful meeting about the monument of Sir Josiah Child in St Mary's. We reflected upon Josiah's involvement with the slave trade and discussed recent events such as the death of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement. In July. the committee agreed to form a diverse committee to discuss how to respond and confront the monument of Josiah Child. This recommendation was actioned by the PCC. In October, each Sunday service at St Mary's was inspired by the themes of Black History Month and this shaped intercessions, reflections, and readings.

At our meeting in November, we discussed topics such as the yearly worship referendum and the draft interim report, repairs for St Mary's organ and the churchyard report.

In the autumn Sue Paterson and Alison Wells shared a draft of the St Mary's interim report. The interim report summarised and reflected upon how the community at St Mary's are working hard to sustain lay worship, increase the number of volunteers and reach out to the wider community. We thank Sue and Alison for their hard work and for the considerable time and care they put into this report! In December, a revised version of this report was shared with the PCC, then a final version was shared with Archdeacon Elwin (West Ham).

Tom Britt

Social Committee

When the Social Committee met in early January to plan for 2020, we looked afresh at how we should implement our brief which remained to: (1) provide refreshments at special services, (2) organise some social events. As regards events, the two long-standing ones, which have been running for many years, were the Parish outing to Broadstairs and the Barn Dance. Unlike events organised by the Friends, these events are priced to 'break even'.

As regards refreshments, we responded to a long list of requests from the ministry team and began to arrange for volunteers to deliver those events, which included hosting the Diocesan Synod in June. One change that we made was that when we were providing filter coffee and cake at Christ Church after the 10am service, we were also going to provide something similar after the 9am service.

As regards social events, we decided to offer the trip to Broadstairs, moving it from the traditional last Saturday in August, which this year was a Bank Holiday,

to the first Saturday in September, having ascertained that the beach would be fully open. So, a coach was booked with Dan's Luxury Travel, who ceased trading in the summer due to the pandemic – fortunately, no deposit was required. We also provisionally booked our 'caller' Pete Skiffens for a Barn Dance in October but were mindful of the difficulty we had last year in selling the minimum number of 50 tickets; so, plans were in place for a big publicity drive in August. We identified a need for one or two social events aimed at the young families in the 9am congregation. Two of the committee began to look into two possibilities: (1) a picnic in Christ Church gardens and the Hall, (2) a trip to a relatively local zoo or farm.

So, into 2020 and all that we were able to deliver before the pandemic hit were wine, nibbles and cake after the MMU Choral Evensong for Candlemas at St Mary's, and tea/coffee/biscuits/squash at the World Day of Prayer in Christ Church. In March, just ahead of Mothering Sunday, of course we had lockdown and the introduction of social distancing, which as we go into 2021 remains with us, probably well into the summer. Combined with the great difficulty of safely delivering any form of refreshments, social distancing meant that all our usual activities as a Social Committee were not possible. We probably missed a trick by not organising some sort of 'virtual' socialising, and as we go into a new year with a return to 'normal' looking a long way off, we will look at that again.

We started 2020, with a refreshed committee which represented all the main congregations at both churches. We did say goodbye to Liz Ranger and Lorna Robinson as committee members, although they remained on our list of 'helpers'. I am grateful for their service on the committee over a number of years, especially during 2019 which was my first year as Chair. As recorded earlier, we had a very productive committee meeting in January, putting in place an improved programme both as regards 'refreshments' and social events. Normally, I would record my thanks to all those who helped to deliver the various events but of course there were only two events that occurred which were very well organised – so thanks to Maureen Medley, Julie Williams, and Marjorie Gadd at Candlemas, and to Chris Owen and Louisa Brown at the World Day of Prayer.

Going into 2021, there have been some changes: Barbara Hepworth-Jones, having become Churchwarden has stepped down; as regards myself, having become Deputy Churchwarden, I also need to step down from being Chair, although I will remain on the committee for one year to help the new Chair. Early in January, we will be looking not only for a Chair but also a couple of new committee members, ideally from the 10am Christ Church congregation.

David Wyatt
Chair

Staffing & Governance Committee

Staffing & Governance met formally twice this year. Much of the business continues to be conducted via email as necessary. Staff reviews were conducted. The Staff Handbook was revised. New membership of various

committees was continually approved. As lockdown started and income dropped, staff were furloughed. Much of the work of the Committee is confidential as it concerns salaries, working hours and employment terms and conditions.

Avril Carnelley
Chair (Jan – Oct 20)

Wanstead Church School Report

2020 was an unusual year to say the least! January 2020 began with the exciting launch of a brand new school website and a brand new school vision:

*At Wanstead Church School our vision is to empower every child to approach life with **wisdom**, **compassion** and **strength** so that they can shine in everything they do. We believe that Jesus is the light of the world and that we are called upon to let our light shine before others (Matthew 5:16).*

The school values, **wisdom, compassion** and **strength** have become the guiding principles for everything we do at Wanstead Church School, and our new motto, **"We Can Shine!"** can be seen, heard and felt throughout the school community. The use of our initial, W, C, S, makes both the values and the motto really memorable for everyone.

These values were embodied whole-heartedly very early into their launch when the devastating death of a pupil in the school shook the school community immeasurably. In true Wanstead Church School style, the community of children, staff, parents, governors and the church came together with great wisdom, compassion and strength to grieve and to support one another.

As we headed into February, the first mutterings of a deadly virus became known, particularly as families returned from their travels over the February half term break. Little did we know at that stage just how much our lives were about to change.

The children enjoyed World Book Day in early March with their wonderful costumes and exciting activities, before the junior children performed in Christ Church for the World Day of Prayer the next day. The choir also performed magnificently alongside many other schools at the Royal Albert Hall in March and, as always, represented our school brilliantly.

Then everything changed beyond recognition. Our school, along with every other school in the country, was forced to close its doors indefinitely as Covid-19 took hold of our nation. Teaching and learning was catapulted into a whole new and unchartered world and the staff, children and families had to adapt and learn swiftly. To begin, packs of worksheets and activities were prepared for the children and tasks were uploaded to our new school website for the children to complete at home.

It wasn't long before video conferencing became the norm and as the school closures continued, the classes began to meet regularly with their teachers online. As well as preparing learning for the children, the teaching staff completed a complete overhaul of the school's curriculum ahead of the children's return to school, as well as various staff training courses and professional reading.

As the summer approached, the school gradually began to reopen. Staff shortages and limited space meant that Wanstead Church School was only able to welcome back Years 1 and 6 in the summer term. The rest of the classes continued to complete their learning at home before returning to school in full in September 2020.

Over the summer break in 2020, a full overhaul of all the school's ICT equipment was completed. Brand new computers were installed in the ICT suite, the offices and the staffroom, 65" interactive screens were installed into the classrooms and the teachers all received new laptops. This was a long overdue task that was much needed and has been incredibly useful as the pandemic has continued! The equipment was funded by the school's PTA and Governing Body.

During the autumn of 2020, the school moved from strength to strength. Staff were retrained in phonics in September and learned lots of exciting and interesting ways to teach early reading skills. A new behaviour policy was launched and extensive training and coaching was gained through a behaviour specialist throughout the autumn term. The new school's behaviour policy included the introduction of sticker books, a "traffic light" system and new school rules.

In October, the school launched Google Classroom just in time for the first of many partial closures of the school over the autumn term. The staff received training on Google Classroom as well as training for their new interactive screens.

November and December saw much disruption with many partial closures where whole classes were forced to isolate at different times, and so when the PTA and the school launched the Countdown to Christmas it was just what everyone needed. There was a range of exciting and festive activities and events for everyone to enjoy, from seeing Santa to decorating Christmas trees for a competition and so much more. It ended with a festive school video of all the children singing and praying in celebration of the birth of Jesus that was shared with the parent community.

2020 saw the departure of Mrs Morris, our long-standing PPA teacher who retired at the end of a 37-year career in teaching, Mr Blakeston (temporary Year 5 teacher), Mrs Qureshi (Teaching Assistant) and Mrs Shaikh (Midday Assistant). In the autumn of 2020 we welcomed two new teachers, Miss Fodder and Miss Munday, a new Higher Level Teaching Assistant, Miss Kenealy, and two new Midday Assistants, Mrs Stanger and Mrs Harrison. At Christmas we said goodbye to Mrs Baptist, who taught at Wanstead Church School for over 20

years. Mrs Baptist was a wonderful teacher to so many children and will be greatly missed in our school. We welcomed Miss Williams as our new Year 1 teacher in early December.

2020 has brought much change, much sadness, and much darkness. But it's also brought new ways of working, new challenges and new opportunities. At Wanstead Church School **We Can Shine** and we will approach 2021 with wisdom, compassion and strength knowing that there is always a light in the darkness in Jesus.

Natalie Denchfield
Headteacher

Financial Review

We began 2020 with expectations of a typical financial year, with principal source of funds being our regular voluntary giving from our parishioners and gift aid, income from our Parish Halls and certain grants enabling us to cover our regular expenses and allow us to continue to pay our Parish Share in full. However, with the onset of the Coronavirus and resulting lockdowns and restrictions, the year took a very different turn and the Parish had to make some difficult decisions to protect our reserve and allow us to meet our fixed unavoidable expenses.

During 2020, the principal source of funds for the charity is the regular voluntary giving from our parishioners, which totalled £88,086, a 15% decrease when compared to 2019. With our church buildings closed for much of 2020 and plate collections dwindling, this giving was primarily from our planned givers through the Planned Giving Scheme (PGS) and Standing Orders. Without these regular givers, we would have faced an even more difficult financial year. The PCC strives to increase our planned givers through PGS to reduce the administrative time and cost associated with other methods of giving and to enable the PCC to better budget for the year and cover our costs.

The planned giving and gift aided cash donations enabled the PCC to reclaim £23,019 for the General Fund (£26,980 overall) from HM Revenue & Customs for 2020. We have been aided by the rule which enables us to claim Gift Aid on cash collections up to a maximum of £8,000 for each church in any one financial year. Gift Aid continues to be a critical part of our income, as without recovering these funds, we would not be able to meet our day-to-day running costs.

With the restrictions imposed during 2020, our Parish Halls unfortunately remained closed or operating at minimal capacity for most of the year with rental receipts totalling only £23,250; 65% less than in 2019. The management and running costs of the hall were still fully met from its own income, leaving a

small surplus of £5,794 which is used to support the Parish running costs and mission.

The Friends were unable to host most of their fund-raising activities during 2020 due to Coronavirus and therefore were only able to raise £217 net towards the current and future works required at St Mary's and Christ Church.

The PCC aims to keep a minimum reserve in liquid funds of £20,000 available at little or no notice for unforeseen contingencies that are not otherwise covered by the insurance policies in place on both our churches and other properties. At the year end the General Fund has reserves of £21,747.

Without the usual hall income and reduced church collections, the PCC took several actions to meet our financial obligations and preserve our reserve balance to the extent possible during 2020. This included: moving to fixed costs only expenditure, reducing our Parish Share contributions, eliminating the role of music director, furloughing our staff and claiming for support under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, de-designating income set aside in 2019 to redecorate our halls back to the General fund, and utilising both designated and restricted funds where possible to cover allowable expenditure. We also made use of our ChurchDesk software to enable online donations as well as our contactless donation devices in both church buildings.

The PCC holds a number of financial investments arising from past legacies which, instead of being held as cash deposits, are invested with Central Board of Finance unit trusts. All of these funds are Endowment Funds, which means that the PCC benefits from the income but cannot use the principal amount.

During 2020, the Parish is grateful to have been remembered by three parishioners and received legacies from Ms Paulene Walker, Ms Janet Marten, and Mr John Sunley.

Recent Legacies

Name	**Year Received**	**Legacy**	**Fund**	**Fund Type**
John Sunley	2020	House, £200,000	Sunley	Restricted
Paulene Walker	2020	£2,000	General	Unrestricted
Janet Lilian Marten	2020	£1,000	General	Unrestricted
Rose Clare	2019	£4,750	Distress Relief	Restricted
Barbara Joan Gower	2019	£1,000	General	Unrestricted
Joan Brown	2018 & 2019	House, £49,279	St Mary's	Restricted
Beatrice Smith	2018	£5,000	St Mary's	Restricted
Arthur Worwood	2018	£29,468	Arthur Worwood Music	Designated

The Parish has benefited from several grants from the Cottage Trustees, derived from property rental income, which supports the cost of the Parish work with children, young people and families. Further support for our youth work has come from grants from London Over the Border and through private donations received in 2019.

Additionally, some very generous members of our congregation have donated toward specific activities and purchases such as an AV System to be installed during 2021 and to our calls for financial support in May. Further support from the wider Wanstead community was received to help fund the Refugee Welcome Wanstead project to house a refugee family in Wanstead, as well as FCENS, our partner for our winter night shelter, to house homeless in hotels and hostels during the winter. We were unable to run our night shelter in the parish hall this winter due to Coronavirus restrictions.

The parish begin a Resilience project during 2020, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, to help prepare the parish for a possible larger project at both St Mary's and Christ Church. The project is ongoing during 2021.

In a typical year, the parish regular income received continues to be very finely balanced with amounts expended on the running of the parish, meaning that any additional costs, particularly for larger projects, will continue to require substantial additional external funding or donations. During 2020, when our halls and churches closed, we had to take drastic steps to ensure we could cover our debts as they fall due, but were able to do so while preserving our reserve. Through careful management the PCC remains in a position to meet all debts as they fall due and maintain our reserve.

Parish Share

Our required deanery contribution, the "parish share" increased in 2020 to £118,059 (£116,879 net of 1% discount for payment by Direct Debit). Even in a typical year, the planned giving we receive does not cover this expense and we require both the hall income and claiming gift aid on giving to cover the balance.

The PCC had expected to pay this amount in full. However, with the resulting reduction in our income from Coronavirus restrictions, we took the difficult decision to cut our monthly payment to £5,000 per month from May. We also received a housing credit of £9,000 during 2020 for our curate which is reflected as a credit against our Parish Share by the Diocese. Therefore, during 2020, the PCC paid £75,959 toward our Parish Share (£84,959 after applying the curate housing credit), resulting in an underpayment of £31,920.

The Parish Share for 2021 is set at £118,059, the same level as 2020. The PCC has budgeted to pay £5,000 per month to manage our expenses while still subject to Coronavirus restrictions and will review this position regularly with the aim to pay more if possible.

Financial Position at year end:

The PCC ended the year with seemingly substantial reserves of cash and investments, but these are largely either designated for a particular purpose or formally restricted in use. The uncommitted general funds held are £21,747, a decrease of £8,143 from 2019, primarily due to the transfer of capitalised fixed assets into a separate Property & Fixed Assets designated fund.

Conclusion

The priority for 2021 is to maintain the effective work of the parish, providing adequate support to enable the ministry team to focus on developing the mission, evangelical, outreach and pastoral work of the church in Wanstead. 2020 has made evident that we must work to increase our regular planned giving and find ways to diversify our income to enable us to continue to maintain the effective work of the parish.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its financial activities for that period. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to

Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.

Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable & prudent.

State whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the SORP, Statement of Recommended Practice, and with applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the charities act 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Charity Trustees

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on the following pages.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees 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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. 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

Date:

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE

ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020 £	*Total 2019 £*
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income		160,752	765,893	-	926,645	360,225
Activities for generating funds		23,253	2,109	-	25,362	87,629
Investment income		3,347	19,616	-	22,963	32,761
Incoming resources from charitable activities		5,117	2,000	-	7,117	4,027
Other incoming resources		-	-	-	-	4,243
Total income	**1**	**192,469**	**789,618**	**-**	**982,087**	***488,885***
Resources used						
Cost of generating funds						
Cost of generating voluntary income		11	172	-	183	1,030
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other		17,456	-	-	17,456	25,963
Investment management costs		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities		168,750	104,351	-	273,101	328,743
Governance costs		5,043	-	-	5,043	4,734
Other resources used		-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	**2**	**191,260**	**104,523**	**-**	**295,783**	***360,470***
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer		**1,209**	**685,095**	**-**	**686,304**	***128,415***
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in		39,323	21,099	3,296	63,718	*164,240*
Gross transfers between funds - out		(49,049)	(14,669)	-	(63,718)	*(164,240)*
Net income / (expenditure) resources before other gains/(losses)		**(8,517)**	**691,525**	**3,296**	**686,304**	***128,415***
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets		1,248	3,022	6,089	10,359	*23,407*
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use		612,905	-	-	612,905	-
Net movement in funds		**605,636**	**694,547**	**9,385**	**1,309,568**	***151,822***
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward from 2019		**130,610**	**1,068,582**	**88,484**	**1,287,676**	***1,135,854***
Total funds carried forward		**736,246**	**1,763,129**	**97,869**	**2,597,244**	**1,287,676**

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

		2020		*2019*
FIXED ASSETS	**Notes**	**£**	**£**	***£***
Tangible assets	**5**		1,026,690	*408,508*
Investment property	**6**		1,000,000	*500,000*
			2,026,690	*908,508*
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	**7**	8,764		*10,632*
Investments		159,164		*157,238*
Cash at bank and in hand		464,749		*235,256*
		632,677		*403,126*
LIABILITIES				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**8**	62,123		*23,958*
NET CURRENT ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			570,554	*379,168*
TOTAL NET ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES			**2,597,244**	***1,287,676***
REPRESENTED BY				
Unrestricted funds			21,747	*29,890*
Designated funds			714,499	*100,908*
Restricted funds			1,763,129	*1,068,394*
Endowment funds			97,869	*88,484*
TOTAL FUNDS			**2,597,244**	***1,287,676***

Approved by the PCC on:

Name:

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Details of incoming resources

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020	*Total 2019*
	£	£	£	£	£	*£*
Voluntary Income						
Giving	88,086	-	4,242	-	92,328	*105,608*
Income tax recoverable	23,019	33	3,928	-	26,980	*31,130*
Donations, appeals etc.	13,492	547	22,331	-	36,370	*27,698*
Legacies	3,000	-	700,000	-	703,000	*55,029*
Other income	32,575	-	35,392	-	67,967	*140,760*
	160,172	**580**	**765,893**	**-**	**926,645**	***360,225***
Activities for generating funds						
Events	-	-	120	-	120	*3,387*
Friends membership	-	-	648	-	648	*668*
Friends fundraising	-	-	1,341	-	1,341	*18,127*
Hall lettings	23,250	-	-	-	23,250	*65,447*
Other trading income	3	-	-	-	3	-
	23,253	**-**	**2,109**	**-**	**25,362**	***87,629***
Investment income						
Interest & dividends	2,438	909	1,256	-	4,603	*4,486*
Rental income	-	-	18,360	-	18,360	*28,275*
	2,438	**909**	**19,616**	**-**	**22,963**	***32,761***
Incoming resources from charitable activities						
Fees for weddings & funerals	3,532	26	-	-	3,558	*4,027*
Charitable other income	1,379	180	2,000	-	3,559	*4,243*
	4,911	**206**	**2,000**	**-**	**7,117**	***8,270***
Total incoming resources	**190,774**	**1,695**	**789,618**	**-**	**982,087**	***488,885***

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2 Details of resources used

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	*Total 2019 £*
Cost of generating funds/fundraising trading costs					
Church hall costs	17,456	-	-	17,456	*24,129*
Cost of generating voluntary income	11	-	172	183	*1,030*
Cost of fundraising events	-	-	-	-	*1,834*
	17,467	**-**	**172**	**17,639**	***26,993***
Charitable expenditure					
Giving	236	310	10,906	11,452	*100*
Parish share	84,959	-	-	84,959	*113,163*
Ministry team expenses	5,648	-	45	5,693	-
Curates expenses	-	-	-	-	*4,575*
Wages	25,090	-	-	25,090	*27,174*
Choir and music	3,085	-	536	3,621	*4,815*
Parish training & mission	102	-	1,060	1,162	*1,284*
Education & young people	14,323	85		14,408	*12,062*
Upkeep of services	2,377	-	5,181	7,558	*4,960*
Insurance	7,018	-		7,018	*9,617*
Organ expenses	65	748	468	1,281	*1,750*
Residential property expenses	4,355	-	29,059	33,414	*13,135*
Works and maintenance	6,304	426	25,275	32,005	*110,079*
Light, heat & utilities	7,081	-	-	7,081	*6,791*
Office expenses	3,059	-	1,259	4,318	*6,179*
Friends cost of fundraising	-	-	1,124	1,124	*8,846*
Flowers etc.	-	371	-	371	*1,127*
Sundry expenses	2,004	(290)	1,884	3,598	*2,248*
Depreciation	-	1,394	-	1,394	*838*
Project costs	-	-	27,554	27,554	-
	165,706	**3,044**	**104,351**	**273,101**	***328,743***
Governance costs					
Accountancy and legal costs	5,043	-	-	5,043	*4,734*
	5,043	**-**	**-**	**5,043**	***4,734***
Total resources expended	**188,216**	**3,044**	**104,523**	**295,783**	***360,470***

3 Accounting policies

a Basis of preparation

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair 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 for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at fair value as agreed by the PCC and investments which are stated at market value.

b Funds

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

Designated funds
These are funds that are for specific purposes but not restricted by document or deed to that purpose alone.

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

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

c Incoming resources

- Income from planned giving/donations and other voluntary income is recognised when it is received.
- Gift Aid and other tax claims are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis in relation to the date the donation it relates to was received.
- Legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of it's legal entitlement and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
- Rental income from the letting of PCC property is recognised when rents are due.
- The charity receives government grants in respect of the Job Retention Scheme. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

3 Accounting policies (continued)

c Incoming resources (continued)

- Investment income from interest on deposits and dividends earned are accounted for when receivable.
- Investment gains and losses includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

d Resources used

- Costs are recognised when incurred and as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation and settlement of the liability is probable and quantifiable.
- Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts and costs of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.
- Grants payable are recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made externally and there are no pre-conditions still to meet for the entitlement to the grant which remain within the control of the PCC.

e Fixed Assets

- In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of "charity" by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.
- Tangible fixed assets for use by the PCC
  These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000. They are valued at cost or else, for gifts- in-kind, at a reasonable estimate of their open market value on receipt.
  Property used by the PCC in the course of their work is included in the accounts at cost.
  Depreciation is calculated to write off the capitalised cost of fixed assets less their currently anticipated residual fair value over their estimated useful lives as follows:
  • Curates House Nil
  • Furniture & Fixtures 10 / 20 years
  • Computers Equipment 5 years
  • Alarm system 10 years
- Fixed asset investment property
  These are included in the accounts at best estimate of market value as determined by the F

f Investments

These are stated at market value at the balance sheet date with any gains or losses on revaluation or disposals throughout the year being recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

g Debtors and creditors; bank and cash

Debtors are stated at the amount owed to the PCC or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the PCC. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at realisable values.

4 Staff costs

During the year the PCC employed a Director of Music, Finance and Clerical Assistants , a Wedding and Baptism administrator as well as a Hall manager. Employment costs are included in the respective costs heads.
As the parish finance assistant, Mr T Thompson, who is closely related to Mr T Thompson a member of the PCC, was paid £Nil *(2019 - £1,343)* during the year.

It is PCC policy to offer to reimburse members of the PCC and others involved in the administration of the PCC affairs for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. With the exception of the details in note 10, no member of the PCC was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the PCC, although certain travelling and administration costs were reimbursed where requested.

	2020	***2019***
	£	***£***
Gross Salary	31,069	*31,057*
Employers pension contribution	958	*1,073*
	32,027	*32,130*
Number of employees in the year	3	*5*

5 Fixed Assets

	Property	**Furniture & Equipment**	**Computer**	**Total**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**
Gross book value at 1 January 2020	400,054	20,919	1,334	422,307
Additions	-	6,671	-	6,671
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	612,905	-	-	612,905
Gross book value at 31 December 2020	1,012,959	27,590	1,334	1,041,883
Depreciation at 1 January 2020	-	12,465	1,334	13,799
Charge for the year	-	1,394	-	1,394
Depreciation at 31 December 2020	-	13,859	1,334	15,193
Net book value at 31 December 2020	**1,012,959**	**13,731**	**-**	**1,026,690**
Net book value at 31 December 2019	**400,054**	**8,454**	**-**	**408,508**

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6 Investments	**Investment Property**	**Total**
	£	**£**
Gross book value at 1 January 2020	500,000	500,000
Additions	500,000	500,000
Disposals	-	-
Revaluations	-	-
Gross book value at 31 December 2020	1,000,000	1,000,000
Depreciation at 1 January 2020	-	-
Charge for the year	-	-
Depreciation at 31 December 2020	-	-
Net book value at 31 December 2020	**1,000,000**	**1,000,000**
Net book value at 31 December 2019	**500,000**	**500,000**

7 Debtors	**2020**	***2019***
	£	***£***
Amounts falling due within one year		
Accrued income	3,100	-
Gift aid tax claim	3,267	*6,928*
Prepayments	2,397	3,704
Total debtors falling due within one year	8,764	*10,632*

8 Creditors	**2020**	***2019***
	£	***£***
Amounts falling due within one year		
Accruals and deferred income	42,919	*22,200*
Funds received due to be paid (note 10)	19,204	*1,758*
Total creditors falling due within one year	62,123	*23,958*

9 Related party transactions

During the year, £1,625 *(2019 - £3,250)* was paid to Revd. A Clarke, a trustee, for her role as co-ordinator in relation to the Heritage Lottery Fund project.

10 For information only: Money received and passed on to External Organisations

	2020 £	*2019* *£*
Balance brought forward from last year	1,758	2,587
Amounts Received - received for External Organisations	21,767	12,068
Amounts Received - passed to External Organisations	(4,321)	(12,897)
Balance still to be paid	19,204	1,758

11 Church Workers Pension Fund

The PCC participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of CWPF for lay staff. The Scheme is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the assets of the schemes separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

The Church Workers Pension Fund has a section known as the Defined Benefits Scheme, a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic and a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

Pension Builder Scheme

The Pension Builder Scheme of the Church Workers Pension Fund is made up of two sections, Pension Builder Classic and Pension Builder 2014, both of which are classed as defined benefit schemes.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum that members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. This account may have bonuses added by the Board before retirement. The bonuses depend on investment experience and other factors. There is no requirement for the Board to grant any bonuses. The account, plus any bonuses declared, is payable from members' Normal Pension Age.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are the contributions payable (2020: £958, 2019: £1,073).

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent was carried out as at 31 December 2016. A valuation as at 31 December 2019 was under way as at 31 December 2020.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £1.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, the PCC could become responsible for paying a share of that employer's pension liabilities.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020 £	*2019* *£*
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	1,309,568	*151,822*
Adjustments for		
Depreciation charges	1,394	*838*
Gains on investments	(10,359)	*(23,407)*
Gains on revaluation	(612,905)	-
Dividends, interest and rents received	(22,963)	*(32,761)*
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	1,868	*(5,954)*
Increase in creditors	38,165	*8,090*
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	**704,768**	***98,628***
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends, interest and rents received	22,963	*30,851*
Disposal of investments	-	690
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(506,671)	-
Reallocation of Eileen Joliff Deposit account	8,433	-
Acquisition of investments	-	-
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities	**(475,275)**	***31,541***
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	**229,493**	***130,169***
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	**235,256**	***105,087***
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	**464,749**	***235,256***
Represented by:		
Cash at bank and in hand	**464,749**	***235,256***

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY WITH CHRIST CHURCH, WANSTEAD
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1127753

FUND MOVEMENT SUMMARY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	01.01.2020	Resources Incoming	Resources Outgoing	Investment Gain/(Loss)	Transfers In/(Out)	31.12.2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds						
General	29,890	190,774	188,204	-	(10,713)	21,747
	29,890	190,774	188,204	-	(10,713)	21,747
Designated Funds						
Flowers	1,644	164	371	-	-	1,437
Hall Maintenance	10,797	-	-	-	(9,000)	1,797
St Mary Open days	1,333	100	-	-	-	1,433
Arthur Worwood Music	28,650	-	748	-	-	27,902
Property fund	30,000	-	1,394	612,905	15,123	656,634
Roof 2013	7,183	5	-	-	(3,500)	3,688
Bridge	218	53	16	-	-	255
Sign	773	284	379	-	-	678
Property Maintenance	20,980	909	426	1,248	(1,636)	21,075
Outings	(870)	180	(290)	-	-	(400)
	100,708	1,695	3,044	614,153	987	714,499
Restricted Funds						
Appeals and collections	2,947	4,879	4,230	-	-	3,596
Choir and music	2,796	-	136	-	-	2,660
Misc Clergy gifts	50	2,000	790	-	-	1,260
Friends	73,228	2,925	1,124	2,147	5,099	82,275
Memorial garden	1,772	8	-	-	-	1,780
Ministry candidates	198	1	-	-	-	199
Jazz Vespers	1,330	1,650	436	-	-	2,544
St Mary's garden	937	-	-	-	-	937
Christ Church Jupp bequest	375,070	-	4,421	-	8,100	378,749
Wanstead Winter night shelter	13,390	12,014	4,554	-	(7,770)	13,080
SMWR	11,661	7,743	14,190	-	(5,099)	115
Community choir	2,227	390	-	-	-	2,617
Distress relief	15,105	644	1,791	875	-	14,833
St Mary's Brown bequest	567,871	18,360	8,593	-	(900)	576,738
Resilience Grant Project	-	27,648	27,648	-	7,000	7,000
Refugee Welcome	-	11,356	10,906	-	-	450
Brown Bequest-John Sunley	-	700,000	25,705	-	-	674,295
	1,068,582	789,618	104,524	3,022	6,430	1,763,128
Endowment Funds						
Bishops J Adams Memorial	4,976	-	-	343	-	5,319
Eileen Joliffe bequest	63,805	-	-	4,388	3,296	71,489
ST M Mem Gdn and Corp Beqs	10,542	-	-	725	-	11,267
Taylor Memorial 1992	9,161	-	-	633	-	9,794
	88,484	-	-	6,089	3,296	97,869