

St John's Church, Stansted Mountfitchet, Treasurer's Report 2023 Accounts

In presenting these accounts I have a few points to make for a better understanding of the figures before you.

1. The first two pages show our Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2023. The net figure, £700,857 shows a considerable increase on last year as a result of market conditions that affected the CCLA Investment Fund during 2023. The CCLA Investment Fund had a good year. Our funds with them are regarded as long-term investments and, whilst the value goes up and down with the market, the long-term trend has always been upwards. We rely on the dividends from the Investment Fund as a major source of our income – these have continued to increase year on year.
2. The Church Hall is shown in the accounts at build cost as part of the Church's Assets. In reality, this amount of £73,985 could be discounted as it is not realizable.
3. The Connect 120 Fund monies are held as agency funds – they are not included in St John's financial position as the Fund is for projects across all five churches for which Colin has responsibility.
4. Several improvements to the church and grounds have been undertaken during the year. The paths have been improved; the St John's Road hedge removed; the St John's Road railings restored to their original state to match the railings on Chapel Hill; much work on the trees. Many of the chairs in church have been repaired and this is an ongoing project as repairs are needed. All this has been financed from The Agneta Church legacy.
5. Changes in administrative arrangements within our Benefice have meant that the separate Benefice Bank account could be closed – all costs prior to closure are included in St John's accounts with Birchanger and Farham having contributed £700 towards these..
6. The Revenue accounts which follow are Income and Expenditure Accounts, NOT Profit and Loss Accounts. As such they are simply a record of all incoming funds and all outgoing costs during the year.
7. As a result of 6 (above), comparisons with previous years are not easy, in fact could lead one to a completely wrong conclusion. For example, there is no Gift Aid income in 2023 as the claim was not made during the financial year and an additional £11,000 will show in next year's accounts even though it relates to 2023.
8. It is pleasing to note that for 2023 our Parish Share at £41,271 increased only by £400. Our share for 2024 will be £44,415 following a change in the percentages applied across Colin's five churches.
9. Also attached are St John's Hall accounts. These are of concern as they show a revenue loss last year of just over £6,000. This clearly cannot continue, and the PCC instructed the Hall Management Committee to address this. As a result, the Hall's charges are being increased with effect from 1st April 2024.
10. I wish to place on record my thanks to Ann Lee, who balances the weekly income with the services record book and pays it into the bank, and Philip Everett, our former Treasurer, for his continuing help with advice when needed. I am also grateful to Edmund Wilkinson for again examining our accounts and confirming their correctness.

Overall, I can assure everyone that, other than the St John's Hall position referred to above, St John's is in a sound financial state at present. However, to avoid future drawing on Investments, regular giving must continue to increase to keep pace with increases in inflation and costs.

Alan Corbishley, 21st March 2024.

Stansted Mountfitchet PCC
Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by code)
As at: 31 December 2023

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Fixed assets - Investments						
6440 : CCLA 001S (Property & Agneta May Church)	43,933.73	431,538.10	—	9,441.02	484,912.85	442,881.19
6442 : CCLA 002S (Holland)	—	—	—	43,501.41	43,501.41	39,730.76
Total	43,933.73	431,538.10	—	52,942.43	528,414.26	482,611.95
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
6430 : Church Hall	—	73,985.00	—	—	73,985.00	73,985.00
6432 : Land at St Mary's	—	1.00	—	—	1.00	1.00
Total	—	73,986.00	—	—	73,986.00	73,986.00
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
6501 : Barclays current account 9922	25,511.40	(16,489.76)	6,855.38	64.18	15,941.20	31,222.59
6502 : Barclays Hall Current account 8714	834.63	12,210.35	(2,875.66)	—	10,169.32	8,718.11
6503 : Barclays Benefice account 0593	—	—	—	—	—	2,599.17
6510 : CCLA deposit account 8001D	43,023.90	4,585.45	4,567.61	—	52,176.96	50,556.66
6511 : CCLA deposit 1752D (RE Fund)	—	—	—	21,387.49	21,387.49	20,723.33
6590 : Cash in hand	—	—	—	—	—	25.60
Total	69,369.93	306.04	8,547.33	21,451.67	99,674.97	113,845.46
Current assets - Investments						
6512 : Connect 120 Investment Account	—	—	31,513.82	—	31,513.82	28,782.24
Total	—	—	31,513.82	—	31,513.82	28,782.24
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
6699 : Agency collections	—	—	32,731.58	—	32,731.58	31,464.02
Total	—	—	32,731.58	—	32,731.58	31,464.02
Net total assets	113,303.66	505,830.14	7,329.57	74,394.10	700,857.47	667,761.63
Represented by						
Unrestricted - General	113,303.66	—	—	—	113,303.66	82,154.23
Designated - AgnetaMChL	—	119,586.98	—	—	119,586.98	120,761.07

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Designated - Benefice	—	4,668.92	—	—	4,668.92	766.30
Designated - CraftsSale	—	1,389.28	—	—	1,389.28	1,051.28
Designated - Fabric	—	8,207.73	—	—	8,207.73	8,207.73
Designated - FlagReplmt	—	330.00	—	—	330.00	330.00
Designated - Hall	—	(13,829.39)	—	—	(13,829.39)	(7,534.66)
Designated - Property	—	385,476.62	—	—	385,476.62	394,917.64
Restricted - Cnect120	—	—	3,616.30	—	3,616.30	2,754.88
Restricted - HallRestor	—	—	2,447.15	—	2,447.15	2,632.95
Restricted - Livesey	—	—	1,266.12	—	1,266.12	1,266.12
Endowment - Holland	—	—	—	43,501.41	43,501.41	39,730.76
Endowment - RETRust	—	—	—	21,387.49	21,387.49	20,723.33
Endowment - Roof	—	—	—	9,505.20	9,505.20	—
Total	113,303.66	505,830.14	7,329.57	74,394.10	700,857.47	667,761.63

Stansted Mountfitchet PCC
Income / expenditure comparative figures
Selected period: 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2023

Description	01/01/2022-31/12/2022	01/01/2023-31/12/2023	Fund	Fund type
Income				
0110 - Gift Aid - Envelopes	3,646.43	2,208.00	General	Unrestricted
0201 - Standing Orders, Gift aided	33,064.00	35,041.00	General	Unrestricted
0202 - Standing Orders, not gift aided	75.00	—	General	Unrestricted
0301 - Loose plate collections	4,074.49	5,719.57	General	Unrestricted
0302 - Loose cash other than plate...	—	221.41	General	Unrestricted
0303 - Miscellaneous income	196.02	—	General	Unrestricted
0304 - Giving Machine	16.82	(17.07)	General	Unrestricted
0305 - Goodbox	583.37	—	General	Unrestricted
0306 - St John's Tots	276.26	1,191.05	General	Unrestricted
0501 - One-off Gift Aid gifts	280.00	500.00	General	Unrestricted
0550 - Donations appeals etc	—	300.00	General	Unrestricted
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	14,083.55	—	General	Unrestricted
0701 - Legacies	—	1,005.37	General	Unrestricted
0901 - Other funds generated	4,542.00	—	General	Unrestricted
0904 - Birchanger PCC Contribution	—	400.00	General	Unrestricted
0905 - Farnham PCC Contribution	—	750.00	General	Unrestricted
0906 - Commonwealth War Graves	6.00	6.00	General	Unrestricted
0907 - 300 Club	2,430.00	2,048.00	General	Unrestricted
0911 - Christmas Market	2,570.81	2,299.05	General	Unrestricted
1001 - Dividends	12,991.06	13,254.76	General	Unrestricted
1002 - Dividends, Holland trust	1,182.55	1,189.09	General	Unrestricted
1020 - Bank and building society <i>interest</i>	692.83	1,886.84	General	Unrestricted
1101 - Fees for weddings and <i>funerals</i>	2,810.12	721.00	General	Unrestricted
1221 - Traidcraft	950.00	260.00	General	Unrestricted
1230 - Church hall lettings -...	132.00	—	General	Unrestricted
1231 - Church lettings	560.00	600.00	General	Unrestricted
Totals	85,163.31	69,584.07		
Expenditure				
1703 - Donations	—	100.00	General	Unrestricted
1706 - Connect 120	11.99	—	General	Unrestricted
1720 - Costs of stewardship...	—	77.42	General	Unrestricted
1850 - Home mission	—	(990.00)	General	Unrestricted
1901 - Parish Share	40,868.16	41,271.12	General	Unrestricted
2050 - Salary of parish administrator	174.20	5,704.28	General	Unrestricted
2101 - Working expenses of <i>incumbent</i>	—	1,040.02	General	Unrestricted
2102 - Rev Helen Flack's expenses	—	16.65	General	Unrestricted
2103 - Service leader's expenses	47.15	18.00	General	Unrestricted
2130 - Parsonage house expenses	697.50	—	General	Unrestricted
2150 - Vicar's telephone	80.00	533.69	General	Unrestricted
2210 - St John's tots	—	13.49	General	Unrestricted
2301 - Church running - insurance	3,650.00	4,574.68	General	Unrestricted
2310 - Church office - telephone	—	433.15	General	Unrestricted
2311 - Broadcast of Services	45.00	39.41	General	Unrestricted
2312 - Church office heating (gas)	—	114.83	General	Unrestricted
2314 - Church office maintenance	—	1,080.67	General	Unrestricted
2321 - Organ repairs and servicing	595.00	—	General	Unrestricted
2330 - Church maintenance	5,068.26	1,437.88	General	Unrestricted
2331 - Church Cleaning	—	200.20	General	Unrestricted

Description	01/01/2022-31/12/2022	01/01/2023-31/12/2023	Fund	Fund type
2340 - Upkeep of services	1,047.32	782.99	General	Unrestricted
2341 - Church Choir and Junior Choir	118.50	20.95	General	Unrestricted
2342 - Organist's expenses	1,665.00	1,800.00	General	Unrestricted
2345 - Music and Copyright...	368.00	447.42	General	Unrestricted
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard	225.00	—	General	Unrestricted
2360 - Administration	—	178.95	General	Unrestricted
2361 - Unassigned	358.20	10.20	General	Unrestricted
2381 - Fees paid to Stansted PCC	—	(77.00)	General	Unrestricted
2386 - Fees paid to Verger	—	95.00	General	Unrestricted
2401 - Church running - electric	—	670.38	General	Unrestricted
2410 - Church running - gas	890.36	10,177.74	General	Unrestricted
2420 - Church running - water	162.22	107.77	General	Unrestricted
2440 - Church running - heating...	3,470.93	—	General	Unrestricted
2511 - Traidcraft	963.72	—	General	Unrestricted
2710 - Church major repairs -...	3,763.80	—	General	Unrestricted
Totals	65,532.53	69,957.89		

Stansted Mountfitchet PCC
Income / expenditure comparative figures
Selected period: 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2023

Description	01/01/2022-31/12/2022	01/01/2023-31/12/2023	Fund	Fund type
Income				
1230 - Church hall lettings -...	11,060.70	10,506.75	Hall	Designated
Totals	11,060.70	10,506.75		
Expenditure				
2530 - Hall running - electricity	778.42	1,783.34	Hall	Designated
2540 - Hall running - gas	1,051.05	4,779.91	Hall	Designated
2550 - Hall running - insurance	1,300.51	1,391.28	Hall	Designated
2560 - Hall running - maintenance	438.72	1,399.38	Hall	Designated
2561 - Hall Cleaning	4,218.41	4,781.38	Hall	Designated
2562 - Hall Lettings Management	1,275.00	1,266.00	Hall	Designated
2570 - Hall running - telephone	161.47	207.82	Hall	Designated
2580 - Hall running - water	338.87	620.17	Hall	Designated
2591 - Hall Waste removal	408.98	200.20	Hall	Designated
2592 - Hall Associations'...	66.00	372.00	Hall	Designated
Totals	10,037.43	16,801.48		

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
ST JOHN'S CHURCH, STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

Aims, purposes and objectives of the PCC

St John's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church building and grounds and the church hall. St John's is part of the Benefice of Stansted, Birchanger, Farnham and Takeley with Little Canfield (known as the Five Churches).

St John's is entitled to three representatives to vote at Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church

St John's has strong links with St Mary's Church of England Primary School, and Priest in Charge Rev'd Colin Fairweather, Rev'd Helen Flack and PCC member John Elliott sit on the board of Governors.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St John's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship aim to put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

Report on PCC activities during 2023

Prayer/Worship/Pastoral Care

St John's 9.30 service is a sung Eucharist with choir. The service is also available on line through the Facebook platform. The PCC is grateful to the team of sidespeople who are on hand to guide and welcome our congregation each week. Members of the congregation lead intercessions and read the first lesson.

All are welcome to attend our regular services. There are 97 names on the Church Electoral Roll.

Rev'd Colin and Rev'd Helen hold monthly "Exploring Baptism" meetings for those asking for children to be baptised. They are ably assisted at these meetings by Margaret Hill who plays a very important role in liaising with families, preparing cards and carrying out all the necessary paperwork. Eight baptisms were held in St John's in 2023, either during the 9.30 a.m. service or at 3 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month.

Around six people regularly attend Morning Prayer at 9 a.m. on Zoom five days a week.

The Ministry Team comprises our Priest-in-Charge, our Associate Priest and Licensed Lay Ministers Hugh Mascetti and Jo Pratt. On the first Sunday of each month, both Rev'd Colin and Rev'd Helen are in attendance at St John's 9.30 "Family" communion service. When there are five Sundays in the month, a "Five Churches" service is usually held on the last Sunday - rotating the venue each time.

The Tots service on Tuesday mornings for pre-school children and their parents and continues to be very well attended with an average of 45 people taking part. Tots has been welcoming families to St John's for over fifteen years. PCC are very grateful to Margaret Hill and her team of helpers Mo Thwaites, June Cannon, Ann Lee, Alex Gear and Vicky Marchant.

Kathy West, Pastoral Assistant, liaises with the clergy to visit members of our parish who are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. The clergy are available to visit church members who have requested it, to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or in hospital. The ministry team take monthly services at local Care Homes - Broome End, Hargrave House and Mountfitchet House.

In November our regular All Souls Service was held to which recently bereaved villagers were invited.

The Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial was very well attended.

Stella Skingle continues to organise the purchase of Bible Reading Fellowship notes which are used in private worship by members of our congregation. Thanks to Stella for this.

Church Administration

In March 2023 our Benefice Office and Church Hall Administrator became seriously ill and has since left. The PCC are grateful to three church members (Liz Jennings, Margaret Hill and Kathy West) for taking over the running of the office for three months in the summer of 2023. Alison Garrard has now been appointed as Church Secretary. PCC are very grateful to her for her efficiency in the role.

Church Building/Grounds

PCC is very grateful to the Craft Ladies for funding the purchase of two new trees, which have been planted on the north side of the church.

The paths around the church were tarmacked at the beginning of 2023.

There are several works outstanding which were detailed in the Quinquennial report. Although the building is not in a bad state, the roof still needs attention.

There is still concern about the cost of heating the church and every effort is being made to reduce the cost, whilst keeping the church warm.

The gallery has now been made safe by the installation of an additional rail. The gallery needs to be cleared and cleaned so it can be used again.

The church building is open during daylight hours every day.

The church building is available for use as a concert venue which attracts a cross-section of people from the local area, We are particularly pleased that *music@stansted*, hold their very well supported concerts at St John's.

In 2023 boundary hedges along the church's St John's Road boundary were removed. The newly revealed railings have been refurbished.

St John's Church Hall

The Church Hall Committee continues to liaise with the PCC through Katy Dockerill. Hall Manager Jean Newson deals with the day to day running of the hall.

Mission/Outreach/Fundraising

From January 2023 Helen led a ten-session on-line course called "Being With", which is aimed at those new to the Christian faith. This is the second such course she has run, and it is hoped to run a third during 2024. Jo Pratt and Kathy West also took part and helped to facilitate the sessions.

Some members of the congregation continue to meet at the "Touchpoint" hub on Thursday mornings which offers tea/coffee/lunches.

The village community were very supportive of the Christmas Market. £2,372 was raised for church funds. It has not yet been decided if a Christmas Market will be held in 2024. Several older members have, understandably, said that they feel the task is becoming too onerous.

PCC are grateful to Jean Newson for running the 300 Club. A PCC campaign to try and sell the additional 120 numbers was carried out with limited success.

PCC are grateful to the Craft Ladies led by Ann Conroy and June Winter, and Sue Bone (Candles), for their excellent fund raising for the church.

Thanks also to members of our congregation who take Children's Society collecting boxes, and to coordinator Katy Dockerill.

A stewardship campaign was run during May 2023. We continue to be thankful to members of our "giving" scheme for their generous financial support.

A fundraising quiz was held in October 2023, with Colin as quizmaster.

Safeguarding

The PCC have adopted and follow the Parish Safeguarding Policy and the Parish Safeguarding Handbook (2019) recommended by the Diocese. This is informed by the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and fully compliant with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. St John's recruitment processes for staff and volunteers are consistent with Diocesan guidance. The PCC, Priest in Charge, and the Parish Safeguarding Officer have worked hard to ensure that St John's Church is safer through regard for policy, safer recruitment and training. The expectation is that all volunteers and staff members are safely recruited, have up to date safeguarding training and the correct level of DBS as

required. PCC are grateful to Juliet Lenten for her work as Parish Safeguarding Officer during 2023. Juliet has now handed over the role to Liz Lister.

St John's Organisations

The PCC would like to thank all volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is.

The St John's choir continues to play a key role in our worship, thanks to the dedication of choir members under Anne Brooks' leadership.

No doubt the beautiful flower arrangements in the church are appreciated by our congregation. However, the two dedicated volunteers who undertake this task (Jean Robinson and Susan Bone) would very much appreciate some help from other members of the congregation.

Thanks also go to those (few) members of our congregation who meet several times a year to clean, and polish the brasses and the silverware. Again more volunteers needed.

Ecumenical Relationships

The church is a member of Churches Together in Stansted (CTS) and representatives attend the Forum meetings which are held three times a year. The PCC is proud of the achievements of the CTS under whose auspices the following are run: CTS Harvest Supper, support for Teams4u Christmas shoebox appeal and the Celebration of Christmas Service, which in 2023 was once again held outside in the Memorial Gardens in the grounds of St John's. Music was supplied by the Bishop's Stortford Band.

PCC Structure, governance and management

The PCC met six times in 2023 - on 30th January, 27th March, 15th May, 31st July, 18th September and 27th November, with an attendance of 85%.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. St John's is currently entitled to nine elected members. At St John's the membership of the PCC consists of the clergy, churchwardens and those elected by members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All who attend our services are encouraged to commit to church membership by registering on the electoral roll; in so doing they become eligible to stand for election to the PCC.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

PCC members are required to seek re-election every three years and stand down for a period of at least one year after six years' service.

Kathryn West

Secretary to St John's PCC

Administrative Information

Priest-in-Charge : Rev'd Dr. Colin Fairweather
Associate Priest : Rev'd Helen Flack
Pastoral Assistant : Kathryn West
Church Secretary/Hall Bookings Administrator : Alison Garrard
Organist/Director of Music : Anne Brooks

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2023 until the date this report was approved are :

Ex Officio members

Incumbent : Rev'd Dr. Colin Fairweather
Associate Priest : Rev'd Helen Flack
Churchwardens : Alastair Bone, Peter Jones
Pastoral Assistant : Kathryn West

Elected Deanery Synod Representatives

Michael Howes
Peter Jones
(one vacancy)

Elected members

Stuart Ayres
June Cannon
Ann Conroy
Alan Corbishley
Katy Dockerill
John Elliott
Liz Lister (from 15th May 2023)
Cheryl McGreal
(one vacancy)

Parish Safeguarding Officer is Liz Lister
Electoral Roll Officer is Ann Conroy
Secretary is Kathryn West

Standing Committee The Standing Committee comprises the Clergy, Churchwardens, Secretary and Treasurer. This committee is required by law and has the power to transact the business of the PCC subject to the direction of the PCC.

PCC Status The Parochial Church Council of Stansted is registered with the Charities Commission, registration number 1129495 with the working title of St John's Church.