

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY, EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH

England & Wales · Charity number 1129952

Details

Other names ST MARYS EATON BRAY PCC

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-06-03

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

Contact

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Activities

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

Activities: Provide religious 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

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Buckinghamshire
- Central Bedfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£85,476	£85,972	-	-
2023-12-31	£141,057	£143,447	-	-
2022-12-31	£175,556	£138,277	-	-
2021-12-31	£130,088	£129,808	-	-
2020-12-31	£84,640	£93,292	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
REV Joy Elizabeth Cousans	Chair	2017-04-26
BARBARA DIANE MORTON		2011-04-07
CATHERINE TERESA HAYDEN		
Elisabeth Anne Jones		2023-05-14
GORDON GRAY BEM		
HILARY COLERIDGE JACKSON		2023-05-14
Jill Fountain		2021-05-12
Marion Dianne Higley		2015-05-11
Martin Edward QUINN		2016-04-10
Martin Robert Hayden		2020-10-22

Accounts

Annual Reports for APCM 2025

Vicar's Report

Looking back over 2024, much has happened in the life of St Mary's. One of the most pleasing things which I have observed is that the numbers of people attending services over the festive period was back to pre-Pandemic levels. We have also seen a rise in numbers on a Sunday and at the Wednesday Communion service. During 2024, the Ministry Team has been strengthened. Catherine Wendeler was licensed as a Lay Leader of Worship following training with the Diocese. Revd Chris Lane received Permission to Officiate from Bishop Alan. And Stephen Axford was recommended for Reader Training which he commenced in September. Very sadly, Canon Terry Beaumont died after a short illness whilst on holiday in Spain. We miss him and his preaching. His wisdom and experience, gained in over 50 years of ordained ministry, enriched our life at St Mary's.

At the APCM we will be saying farewell to Revd Dr Stephen Burge. He came to St Mary's in 2018 as a Deacon and self-supporting curate. On completion of his curacy he elected to stay in the Parish as an Associate Minister and so has been part of the Ministry Team for nearly seven years. It has been a privilege to work with Stephen and to help train him during his curacy. He has brought fresh ideas and experience to the parish and has been particularly keen to develop new forms of outreach, including the livestreaming of services. During the Pandemic, Stephen did sterling work in putting together weekly services on PowerPoint accessed via the church website. Thankfully this is not goodbye as he will be back to cover services during holidays.

Gordon Gray has continued in his work as Reader, preaching at the 8am and 10am services on every first Sunday, as well as regularly leading intercessions and the Annual Remembrance Commemoration at Dagnall. Gordon also leads the very popular Candle Services on Christmas Eve. We thank Gordon for the many years when he led the third Sunday 'Worship For All' service. Following discussions at PCC and a presentation about Café Church, we introduced Café Church at 10am on third Sundays from April 2024. Revd Stephen and I take turns to co-ordinate the service and the Café Church Team comprises Catherine Wendeler, Stephen Axford, Chris Lane, Elisabeth and Howard Jones. We have had a variety of approaches and explored different themes including Pentecost, Father's Day, Mary, Jesus, and an All Age Café Church focused on Creation. The relaxed setting has seen some new people come to church. If you haven't yet experienced Café Church, why not come along and give it a go?

Occasional Offices are another important aspect of outreach and ministry at St Mary's. I am assisted with baptisms, weddings and funerals by Revd Stephen Burge and Jill Fountain our vergers, as well as Stephen Axford, our organist. The Baptism visiting team and the Pastoral Group also provide support. Funerals Ministry is a vital part of our offering to the local community. I believe the church holds a special place in society regarding grief, as many people don't want to think or talk about death. With the Pastoral Group I developed a Funeral Forethought Forum morning. This was a Workshop to explore the various issues and options surrounding funeral planning within a supportive and informal group. It was very well received and we are planning another one for October 2025.

The other Reports in this brochure demonstrate the scope of activities which St Mary's congregation are involved in. I hope you will read them and be inspired. We are always seeking new volunteers for a variety of roles. If you read something which you would like to be involved in please speak to the person who wrote the report for more information.

I would like to thank you all for the different ways you serve both the church and the community. Your contributions are much appreciated and they make the family of St Mary's what it is. Above all, let's give thanks to God for all his goodness towards us, for calling and equipping us to reach out in Jesus' name.

'Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.' (Ephesians 3 verses 20-21)

Revd Joy Cousans, April 2025

All Saints Dagnall Report

It is good to report that the past year at All Saints' has been positive in a number of ways. The refurbishment of the apse has improved the interior appearance of the church considerably and another improvement has been the retiling of the toilet area.

Our small but committed congregation have been pleased to welcome a number of people from St Mary's, who now join us at our monthly third Sunday Eucharist. Our Carol Service and our Christmas Day service were both well-attended and enjoyable. Café Church has been held on two occasions, the second of which was well-attended and we hope to have more of these services during 2025.

During 2024 we have held two successful coffee mornings, one before Christmas and one before Easter, and also a Harvest Brunch. Thanks to all those who organised the events and provided the excellent refreshments. Thanks are especially due to Norma, our organist, Sally, our treasurer and Liz who does so much, including keeping our church clean and tidy and being responsible for the wildflower meadow in the grounds and, of course, to Joy and Stephen, who lead our services and provide pastoral support. We were very sad to hear that Stephen will be relinquishing his role as Associate Minister but are glad to know that he will be returning to lead our services on occasion.

The Choir continue to meet weekly in the church and the building is used regularly by the school and as a polling station for elections.

Philip Lee and Dorothy Green, District Churchwardens

Bell Tower Report

Regular bell ringing continues at St. Mary's most every Sunday prior to the 10 o'clock Service. In addition, there has been special occasion ringing, such as for weddings and other events during the year. Our band of seven, regular ringers meet up for practice night on Mondays from 7:30-8:30 pm.

Tower safety has been greatly improved in the bell chamber itself, by the installation of steps, which has really enhanced accessibility to the more remote regions. The provision of an additional notice board in the ringing chamber itself has allowed for better display of ringing teaching aids. Thanks go out to both Martin Hayden and Chris Banks for their ongoing, associated efforts in this regard.

Gaye Soule, Tower Captain

Carnival Report

Twelve months ago, I reported the success of the 2023 Carnival which, thanks to the near perfect weather had resulted in a final income figure of £13,622.

Well, thanks to Britain's capricious weather – with which we are all familiar – what a different story to tell concerning the 2024 event. Whilst not a complete 'wash out' the conditions were so bad that receipts plummeted to £6970 which, under the circumstances, was better than expected.

However, undaunted either by last year's weather or result, the Carnival Committee has for some months been working on the 2025 event – to be held on **Saturday 5th July**, when we earnestly hope that we will be blessed with rather better weather.

Once again, the Carnival Committee will be led by Mark Kilfoyle, supported by an excellent team of volunteers, many not otherwise connected with St Mary's but who work tirelessly to pull everything together to produce both an enjoyable day and a strong result. As the day nears, we will be seeking your help in any way that you are able.

Chris Banks

Churchwardens' Report

Maintenance and repairs

Church maintenance

Our annual programme of maintenance has taken place; this includes servicing the roof alarm, fire extinguishers and clock, as well as leaf clearance from the roof, and organ tuning. The boiler has been repaired and received its annual service, and all portable electrical equipment has been tested. A damaged manhole cover has been repaired.

The church and brasses are cleaned regularly – many thanks to all volunteers.

Quinquennial Inspection The matters raised by our architect in last year's Quinquennial Inspection are being attended to. An Archdeacon's letter allowing us to proceed with a number of small stonework repairs has been received after considerable delay, and this work will take place as soon as possible. Our historic piscina is also in need of restoration, and a number of conservators have been approached to quote for an inspection report and treatment plan. It is possible that some stones in the adjacent south wall of the chancel will need remedial action to combat damp ingress; if so this will become a larger and more expensive project.

Health & Safety

Our safety officer, Chris Banks, carries out monthly safety checks and reports any potential hazards to the PCC. Fire officers from Central Beds Fire Service attended to carry out a safety inspection and offer advice.

Tower

A number of measures to improve safety when working in the belfry and traversing it to access the roof, have been implemented.

The noticeboard in the ringing chamber has been refurbished and an additional one provided.

Churchyard

Maintenance: A group of conifers near to the boiler house were felled in the autumn for safety reasons. The stumps were left to create a circle of stools for the use of the Beavers and other children and the chippings were used elsewhere in the churchyard.

The hedge of mixed native species which was planted on the south west boundary in 2022, is growing well. The Eco-Group is managing this area as well as the 'wild area' in the north west corner where paths have been laid and wildlife friendly species planted. The volunteer churchyard maintenance team is unfortunately much depleted but this year we have benefitted from the help of Beavers and their families to tidy up parts of the churchyard. Beavers have also helped create a second 'dead hedge' and have restored the insect hotel.

The gate to Church Lane has been repaired and varnished.

Archdeacon's inspection

There was no Archdeacon's inspection in 2024

Inventory, Logbook and Maintenance log

I can confirm that these are all up to date.

Items acquired and disposed of

Acquired: Noticeboard

Disposed of: Nil

Thanks

Many thanks to all who work so hard to maintain our historic church and preserve it for future generations – your efforts are vital and greatly appreciated.

Catherine Hayden

Coffee After Church Report

Coffee after our church services has continued to be very much appreciated and enjoyed by congregation and visitors alike. I feel like it has got busier of late which is fabulous as it's such a lovely opportunity for our fellowship and chat to extend after the worship service. Christian community is so important for our growth and support....and of course also provides an opportunity to welcome newcomers and visitors to the church.

We are always very grateful for the wonderful team of people who support this special ministry and pull together to make it work each week. We probably average approximately £10 each week in donations which of course is welcome but the most important aspect is the fellowship.

If anyone feels they might like to be part of the team please do speak to Diane Goodwin or Marion Higley for more information.

Diane Goodwin and Marion Higley

Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod continued to meet quarterly throughout the year in its member parishes. The March meeting was hosted here at St Marys. As expected, given the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury there was discussion around the difficulties facing the established church and the

priority needed to be given to Safeguarding and good practice at all levels. The work of Parish safeguarding officers was emphasised as was the prayerful and practical support needed from PCCs and Synod to enable them to be effective. This was discussed at length at all the Synod meetings this year. We also heard reports from General Synod and an informative talk on the work of Christian Aid from Phil.Evans. Information regarding the Year of Spirituality and Wellbeing was distributed to the Parishes through the members.

At each meeting Parishes shared Good News and outlined important events i.e. fundraising, Eco church, Outreach events and changes within their church family. The Synod thanked the members standing down (including the secretary who has moved away), those taking on new roles and welcomed new members.

Jill Fountain

Electoral Roll Report

Coming soon.

Diane Goodwin

Family History Report

I have received fewer requests this last year for information regarding family history, both for St Mary's Eaton Bray and also for St Mary's, Edlesborough. However, I do receive requests from both the Parish Council and Funeral Directors for information regarding the graves in Edlesborough Churchyard for families who wish to inter ashes in a family grave.

Eileen Bennett

Finance Report

Year End Accounts 2024

The Financial Statement for the year ending 2024 has been independently inspected and approved by the PCC. This will be published on the Charity Commission website and a copy is available on request.

Summary of 2024 Accounts

Included here is a simplified summary of the Financial Statement. It shows our funds divided into two main groups. First the long-term funds for the maintenance and preservation of the building and second funds for the day to day running of the church. For full details of Church funds and those of the associated groups belonging to the Church please read the Financial Statements.

		Funds at 01-Jan-24	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Investment Gains	Funds at 31-Dec-24
1a. Long Term Funds							
	Designated	£57,260	£3,899			£4,155	£65,314
	Restricted	£90,993	£27	-£7,594	£3,500		£86,926
	Endowments	£79,204				£2,588	£81,792
1b. Total of Long Term Funds		£227,457	£3,926	-£7,594	£3,500	£6,743	£234,032
2a. Annual income							
	Giving		£49,895				
	Gift Aid		£12,140				
	Donations		£4,924				
	Fees for services		£3,879				
	Fundraising		£13,512				
	Other income		£1,126		£3,300		
2b. Annual expenditure							
	Parish Share			-£67,263			
	Clergy expenses			-£328			
	Fundraising costs			-£2,247			
	Church Running Expenses			-£15,076			
	Other expenditure			-£1,058			
2c. Total of General Funds		£11,547	£85,476	-£85,972	£3,300		£14,351

Our long-term funds are healthy. Incoming resources included a transfer from Carnival to the Fabric Fund, income from dividends and interest on deposits, as well as gains in our ethical investments. The only major expenditure was on the Church lighting project. The total cost of £32,000 will be spread over three years with the proportion for 2024 depreciation at £7,500.

Our general fund is for the day to day running costs of the Church. It shows our income very nearly matching expenditure. Individual giving has increased significantly following the recent stewardship campaign and fundraising has recovered extremely well. Expenditure continues to be carefully managed in these challenging times. Additional transfers from several of our associate groups have contributed to keeping our general fund at a healthy level.

Fundraising in 2024

Coffe Mornings	£4,749
Gordon's Quiz	£1,600
Christmas Fair	£1,560
Spring Fair	£871
Open gardens	£960
Bike n Hike	£258
Cartridges, Easy Fundraising	£84
100 Club	£2,381
Other	£1,049
Total Fundraising	£13,512

Fundraising is a very important contribution to the running costs of the Church. It represents the efforts of so many people throughout the year in organizing and running events to support the work of the Church. It provides new and diverse outreach opportunities bringing in many people from the community. The Coffee Mornings in particular have gone from strength to strength. We are grateful for all of your efforts that make these possible.

Charitable Giving in 2024

These are the external charities and appeals supported by the Church during the year.

Bishops Harvest Appeal	£252
Food Bank	£300
Childrens Society	£252
British Legion	£50
Gods Acre	£45
Shipping Books to Africa	£37
Total Charitable Donations	£936

Martin Hayden
Treasurer St Marys Church

Flower Arrangers Report

Our flower arranging team consists of ten regulars: Beryl, Helen, Sally, Catherine, Christine, Anna, Amanda, Jo, Lizzie and me. Very sadly, we lost one of our long-term members this year. Joan passed away on 5 March 2025 following several illnesses which led to a slow decline. She will be very much missed, both for her wonderful arrangements in church, and even more for her constant cheerfulness and kindness in lending her expertise to those of us who were less able!

Christine Horn very kindly orders flowers for the major festivals as well as making some beautiful contributions to the arrangements, especially for weddings.

We would love to see some more volunteers come forward to assist, particularly for the major festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Don't worry if you are inexperienced - with the help of our more able arrangers you will soon progress on to arranging flowers on your own during the year! Please contact me if you would like to come along.

Barbara Morton

Focus Magazine Report

2024 / 5 has been difficult for the magazine, escalating costs and a resistance to advertise has led to lower incomes and as a result we did have a small deficit last year, something we can manage and I am not concerned for the future of Focus.

We have lots of editorial each month and Focus is the main way the village communicates on events and socials.

Our committee will change in 2025 as Angela and Steve Dunsford have left and Sue Tucker plans to leave later in the year. In addition Tracey Moran will give up her position as our typesetter and arranger due to the sad loss of her husband Steve Moran. She clearly has a lot to sort out with his business and as she also works, this is just too much for her to continue with Focus

We have replacements in place, with the important position of treasurer now Martin Hayden who has already made some cost savings. He has also changed our bank. Replacements for distribution and typesetting are also underway, obviously we need to keep a close watch on these changes.

A tactical meeting has taken place to ensure the magazine is in a better position for the years ahead and printing costs being the most important, lower costs will make a significant change to the future.

I will of course keep the PCC informed of our progress once all the changes are in place.

Ken Coates

Fundraising Report

Barbara would very much welcome some help with running the Christmas and Spring Fairs. She is finding that the more physical aspects of this are becoming more difficult, with operations due on both her knees! It involves being present during the lead up to and on the day of both fairs. If this is something you think you could help with, please do contact her.

Gordon Gray

Messy Church Report

Messy Church has been on a back burner since last Easter and our work with children has been focused on Eaton Bray Academy.

The school initially held their Christingle service in St Mary's, and this was followed by some class visits. This has progressed to a full year programme of each class visiting at least once as we work with the school's RE subject leader and their curriculum. These visits have been both valuable and educational for all involved. The children look forward to coming, the staff appreciate our work and we thoroughly enjoy their visits.

Thanks must go to the team of Catherine W, Marion, Jill, Catherine H, Sally and our newest recruit Stephen A for the planning and support they give Joy with this work.

Sheila Banks

North Chilterns Group Report

The NCG meetings are held three to four times a year and consists of representatives of Kensworth, Studham & Whipsnade with Reverend Nicola Lenthall.

Totternhoe, Stanbridge & Tilsworth with Revd. Kaushal David and representative.

Eaton Bray with Edlesborough churches and Dagnall with Revd. Joy Cousans and Revd. Dr Stephen Burge and representative.

The meetings for this year were held on 23rd January 2024 and 12th September 2024 and the APCM was held on 5th May 2024 after the ascension day service at St. Marys Church, Kensworth

Ash Wednesday services were held at Eaton Bray, Totternhoe & Kensworth on 14th February. The Lent course for 2024 was led by Revd. Dr Stephen Burge on the theme of 'Angels' at Kensworth. The course was held on four consecutive Tuesdays starting on 20th February. There were 3 confirmation candidates this year and the service was conducted by the Bishop on 16th June at St. Marys, Studham. The Quiet Morning was held on 7th September at Whipsnade and was attended by 18 people. The speaker was Penny Fray and the theme was 'Trees'. Each parish held various events of their own during the last year which were enjoyable and successful. Dave Cousans has taken over the role of treasurer and is still in post to date. Jane Smith has taken on the role of secretary after the position was left vacant.

The next APCM will take place on Ascension day being held at Kensworth in the evening.
The NCG Annual Service will take place at Kensworth on 31th August 2025.

Chriss Hewitt

Parish Lunch Club Report

This is normally held on the 3rd Sunday of the month.
It is very well attended with the usual number for lunch being 38.
We charge £8.00 a head for: drink on arrival with snacks, Main course, Dessert. Coffee and Chocolates.

All the food is freshly made and served by a team of volunteers.

Elizabeth Bray

PCC Report

The Parochial Church Council is made up of the following:

The Vicar

Churchwarden: Catherine Hayden

Lay Reader (co-opted) Gordon Gray

Associate Priest Stephen Burge

Deanery Synod Rep Jill Fountain

Five elected members:

Barbara Morton (Secretary to the PCC), Gaye Soule, Martin Quinn,
Hilary Jackson and Elisabeth Jones.

In addition, Martin Hayden (Treasurer) has attended all meetings as a co-opted member.

Deanery Synod Representative: Jill Fountain

Dagnall Member: Dorothy Green

There are now 12 members in total. The PCC met 9 times since May 2023. Most meetings were well attended with between 7 and 12 in attendance.

The following appointments were in place during the past year:

Lay Vice Chair	Catherine Hayden
Standing Committee members	Joy Cousans/Catherine Hayden//Hilary Jackson/Elisabeth Jones/ Gaye Soule
PCC Secretary	Barbara Morton
Electoral Roll Officer	Diane Goodwin
Treasurer/Bookkeeper	Martin Hayden
Finance Committee members	Joy Cousans/Martin Hayden/Catherine

	Hayden/Graham Mockett/Martin Quinn
Stewardship Committee members	Joy Cousans/Catherine Hayden/Graham Mockett, Martin Hayden/Martin Quinn
Stewardship Officer	Graham Mockett
Safeguarding Officer	Gaye Soule
Health and Safety Officer	Chris Banks
Bell Tower Manager	Gaye Soule
Fabric Committee Chair	Martin Hayden,
Youth and Education Officer(s)	Sheila Banks/Catherine Wendeler
Fundraising Chair	Gordon Gray
Fundraising Committee members	Gordon Gray/ Barbara Morton/Catherine Hayden/Sharon Stilliard/Kate Freeman/Gary Freeman
Parish Lunch Club Organiser	Lizzie Bray
Representatives on the North Chilterns Group Committee	Joy Cousans/Stephen Burge/Chriss Hewitt
Representatives on Churches Together Committee	Joy Cousans/Stephen Axford
PCC representative on Dagnall Management Committee	Joy Cousans/ Stephen Burge
Representative on Eaton Bray Village Hall Committee	Chris Banks
Focus distribution organiser	Angela Dunford/Steve Dunford
Rota organisers 8am & 10am	Sharon Stilliard/Sally Taylor
Cleaning Rota organiser	Gaye Soule
Flowers organiser	Barbara Morton
Churchyard Maintenance organiser	Iain Stubbs
Publicity group	Eileen Bennett, Jill Fountain, Gordon Gray
Carnival Officer	Chris Banks
Eco Church Committee	Catherine Hayden, Joy Cousans, Iain Stubbs, Sue Walker, Tricia Toms, Sally Taylor, Diane Goodwin, Diana Barry
Pastoral Visiting Team	Joy Cousans, Stephen Burge, Catherine Wendeler, Gordon Gray, Chriss Hewitt, Sue Walker, Catherine Hayden, Pamela Richardson, Beryl Bishop
Focus Magazine	Angela Dunford/Sue Tucker/Ken Coates/ Sally Siddons /Steve Dunford

Barbara Morton, PCC Secretary

Prayer & Praise Group Report

This past year we have met in church at 10.30am on Tuesdays each month up to the present time, we welcomed a new person into the group this year which is lovely, also Stephen who is training to be a reader at church came as part of exploring what our church is involved in and we prayed for him as he goes forward.

At Christmas we enjoyed a lovely meal together at the Swan pub in Northall and with prayer before the meal led by Joy and singing carols which other diners told us they enjoyed, we had a lovely time.

Ken plays the keyboard explaining the significance of the songs to the bible teaching we are looking at each month and introducing us to new songs which we enjoy.

We start the morning with prayers and singing followed by a discussion and reflection, ending with prayers for the world.

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month the dates of the meetings are published in the pew leaflet, if anyone would like to join us you will be most welcome.

Chriss Hewitt

Prayer Matters Report

Prayer Matters is a small group of people from St. Mary's congregation who meet around every six weeks. When we meet, we have a short quiet time with bible readings leading to praising God and also providing food for thought. Our aim at each session is to pray either silently or out loud for our church family and our community. Together we discuss ideas and initiatives to help develop the prayer life at St. Mary's.

Anyone is very welcome to attend the sessions. Notices are put into the pew leaflet inviting people to come along. The meeting dates appear on the front page. If you would like further information please contact Angela Dunford. e: angela.dunford29@gmail.com

We seek clarification from God on how and if we should move forward with ideas that we share with each other. These ideas seek to enhance the prayer life of individuals and our church and community as a whole. They link to us continuing with our vision of being a church rooted in prayer. Recently we have completed the project of a beautiful new Prayer Tree in church and the provision of prayer 'tracts' for people to take away with them. Currently we are working on prayer resources in our churchyard. We hope to position slates with bible texts written on them around the area and we are praying about the provision of a quiet/reflective space with a bench and prayer resources for people to use.

St. Mary's Prayer Chain addresses the prayer requests of people in our church congregation and community. Thank you to those who commit to praying each week. If you, or someone you know would like to be prayed for then please contact Rev Joy, Catherine Hayden (Churchwarden) or Angela Dunford who administers the chain.

In addition to the Prayer Chain prayers are offered for those listed on the 'sick list' in the North Chapel. This list is updated on a monthly basis and you are welcome to add names during the first and fourth weeks of each month. Prayers may also be hung on the Prayer Tree and are regularly offered up to God.

We welcome any suggestions people may have to promote the prayer life of our church. Our aim is to acknowledge at all times the power of prayer and to maintain prayer at the centre of our own and our churches' life.

Angela Dunford

Publicity Committee Report

In the last year the banners for the Spring and Christmas Fairs have been put to good use again, and this has, I believe, increased the foot traffic to these events, thanks to Chriss Hewitt, Chris Banks and Catherine Hayden for doing this.

However, due to the resignation of 2 members, leaving Gordon Gray and me, has meant that the Publicity Committee has now closed.

Eileen Bennett

Reader Ministry Report

In 2024 my primary Reader related activities have been:

- Maintaining a good working relationship with Joy
- Leading services at St Mary's
- Completion of Safeguarding Course

As a consequence of the stroke I suffered in January 2020 I have lost confidence in my ability to speak off-the-cuff but it hasn't affected my ability to read so I have been able to continue to preach on the 1st Sunday each month. I am most grateful for the feedback I receive from so many members of the congregation and for your patience when I appear unable to find the words I am looking for. A further symptom of the stroke has been a reduction in my physical co-ordination which means that I am not entirely secure on my feet.

I was privileged to lead the Candle Services on Christmas Eve. It was good to see the numbers of worshippers at those services getting back towards a full house. My sincere thanks to everyone who served at that service in the role of Sidesperson. In addition I was honoured to be asked again to lead the worship at St Mary's on Good Friday.

I am enormously grateful for all the support that I get from the parish and try to respond to both positive and negative criticism. I really do enjoy discussing sermon material with those who are interested, so don't be afraid to chat to me after Sunday services. Especially I want to thank Christine, whose care and support I increasingly need and without whose support my ministry would not be possible.

This has been a difficult year for my family, having to cope with the death of Christine's father as a result of which Christine and I have had to reduce our involvement in parish activities.

Gordon Gray

Safeguarding Report

This past year has been noteworthy for its bad press as far as safeguarding in the Church of England is concerned. More appalling instances of failings within the safeguarding system have been exposed with still more victims identified. So shocking in fact, that the Archbishop of Canterbury was forced to resign.

I'm pleased to report that the safeguarding situation here in our parishes is comparatively excellent. We have complied with the safeguarding training provisions set out for us, as well as with obtaining and completing the DBS checks for all those for whom it's been required. We have had no safeguarding issues that we've needed to report to the higher authorities or to the police.

For my part I have made the decision to step down as safeguarding officer for our parishes, a post I have held for almost 5 years. Over time I have benefitted from the expertise and support provided by the diocesan safeguarding team in St. Albans. They have remained very helpful and supportive whenever I've approached them with related issues. For the most part, people within the church have been compliant and timely in response to the mandatory safeguarding training requests that I have generated.

I think it is likely that there may be changes to come as far as safeguarding requirements within the Church of England are concerned. Obviously such may be deemed essential, in light of the historic shortcomings among the higher echelons of our church. That said they will be welcomed if they serve to better protect the more vulnerable within our church communities.

Please continue to be vigilant and report any safeguarding concerns that you might have to either the safeguarding officer, the vicar, or the churchwarden. Contact numbers for related concerns are posted in both entryways to the church, including the safeguarding team numbers for St. Albans. However, if it is something non urgent it's best to channel concerns initially through our personnel here at the church.

Safeguarding is everyone's concern. We all have a responsibility to look out for our vulnerable, young and old, and to help prevent or address any issues that do arise promptly. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Gaye Soule, Safeguarding Officer

Saturday Coffee Mornings

This event is very successful outreach work which continues to grow in popularity. We are regularly having between 77 and 90 customers from the local villages and beyond. It is great, seeing and hearing the buzz in the church. The group of ladies from Dunstable continue to come, whatever the weather! It is our home made cakes and savoury items that attract as well as the very friendly, relaxed atmosphere. The delicious cakes, sausage rolls and cheese scones are made and donated by dedicated and generous church members and recently by customers! My thanks to them all.

We endeavour to be all inclusive and have gluten free, something for vegetarians, various teas, coffee, decaf coffee and drinking chocolate available (the last 4 items all being fair trade).

This monthly event involves the work of a wonderful team of people. Again, my thanks to all. This team is growing in number which is very welcomed. If anyone wants to help or

has any ideas as to what else could be done, please have a word with Marion (07989179137).

We value the outreach potential of these very sociable events and the fact that it has become a major fund raising event for the church.

Marion Higley

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARY, EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH

Registered Charity No 1129952

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year ending 31 December 2024

Hon Treasurer: Mr Martin Hayden
2 Orchard End
Edlesborough
Dunstable
LU6 2RE

Independent Examiner: Mr Ian Skinner
Retired Accountant
19 Mardle Road
Leighton Buzzard
LU7 2UR

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARY, EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2024 £	2023 £
Income and Endowments from:							
Donations and Legacies	2a	66,959	200	-	-	67,159	66,441
Charitable Activities	2b	17,391	-	52,636	-	70,027	72,028
Interest & Other Activities	2c	1,126	3,699	-	-	4,825	2,588
TOTAL		85,476	3,899	52,636	0	142,011	141,057
Expenditure on:							
Church Activities	3a	83,725	-	15,963	-	99,688	84,279
Raising Funds	3b	2,247	-	44,199	-	46,446	59,150
TOTAL		85,972	0	60,162	0	146,134	143,429
Net Income/ (Expenditure)		(496)	3,899	(7,526)	-	(4,123)	(2,390)
Transfers between Funds	9a	3,300	-	(3,300)	-	0	-
Other Recognised gains/(losses):							
Gains/(losses) on investments	2d	-	4,155	-	2,588	6,743	14,492
Net Movement in Funds		2,804	8,054	(10,826)	2,588	2,620	12,102
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total Funds brought forward (1st Jan)		11,547	57,260	138,246	79,204	286,257	274,155
Total Funds carried forward (31st Dec)		14,351	65,314	127,420	81,792	288,877	286,257

Approved by the PCC on *10th April 2025* and signed by *J E Cousins* PCC Chair

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARY, EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	Total 2024		Total 2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	4	24,636		0	
Social Investments	5	1,962		1,960	
Investment Funds	5	167,323		160,581	
			193,921		162,541
Current Assets					
Short Term Deposits	6	31,039		53,791	
Church Bank Balances	6	22,030		22,163	
Focus Bank Balance	6	51,507		54,528	
Dagnall Bank Balances	6	3,406		5,724	
Associates Bank Balances	6	3,836		4,518	
Cash	6	541		271	
Debtors	7	2,280		1,149	
			114,639		142,144
Liabilities					
Creditors due in one year	8	(19,683)		(18,428)	
			(19,683)		(18,428)
Net Current Assets			288,877		286,257
Represented by:					
Parish Funds					
Unrestricted Funds					
General	9a		14,351		11,547
Designated	9b		65,314		57,260
Restricted Funds	9c		86,926		90,993
Restricted Associate Funds	9d		40,494		47,253
Endowment Funds	9e		81,792		79,204
Total Funds			288,877		286,257

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102 (The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK).

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They have been prepared under FRS102 (2022) as the applicable accounting standard. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or charity nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Endowment fund capital can be permanent or expendable. In the case of a permanent endowments the capital funds must be retained.

Endowment fund income may be restricted or unrestricted depending on the purpose for which the fund was established.

Restricted funds are donations or grants for specific purposes intended by the donor.

General funds are *unrestricted* and may be *designated* by the PCC for a particular purpose.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid declarations is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable under Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Bequests to the PCC are accounted for when the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain. Funds raised by the Carnival, Concerts and similar fundraising events are accounted for gross. Sales of flowers, books and other items are accounted for gross.

Other income

Rental income is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses on investments are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that creates a binding constructive obligation on the PCC. Activities directly relating to the work of the Church including the diocesan quota (Parish Share) is accounted for when payable.

Provisions

Amounts are set aside each year to provide for the estimated future cost of stonework restoration and roof repairs. The adequacy of these provisions is reviewed at appropriate intervals.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated land and buildings are not included in the accounts by virtue of the Charities Act 2011. Benefice properties are assets of the Board of Finance and therefore are not in the accounts of the PCC. Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property and are listed in the church inventory which can be inspected on request. No accounting value is placed on the organ, which was gifted to the church in 1993. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice property, moveable church furnishings and the organ, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment installed or used within the church with value exceeding £500 is depreciated on a straight line basis over 3 years.

Investments

Investments representing funds held in trust are valued at their bid market value at 31 December, as certified by the CCLA Church of England Investment Fund.

Long-term deposits

These include social investments in the Shared Interest Society.

Short-term deposits

These include cash held on deposit with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund.

Current Assets

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

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARY, EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

2. INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2024	2023
Donations and Legacies	2a	£	£	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Income/Receipts							
Tax efficient planned giving							
GA Bankers Orders		43,444				43,444	42,666
GA Donations		2,738				2,738	3,340
Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme		3,025				3,025	2,968
Gift Aid Recovered		12,140				12,140	12,026
Other planned giving not Gift Aided		3,426				3,426	4,021
Donation not Gift Aided		1,146				1,146	350
Receipts including special appeals		1,040				1,040	1,070
Grants& Legacies received			200			200	0
		66,959	200	0	0	67,159	66,441
Charitable Activities	2b						
Church Activities							
Statutory Fees (retained by PCC)		3,879				3,879	3,211
Fund Raising		11,131				11,131	9,591
100 club		2,381				2,381	2,112
Restricted Fabric Fund						0	0
Linen Fund				7		7	0
Tower Fund				20		20	60
Dagnall Management Fund				8,051		8,051	5,086
Dagnall Fabric Fund				0		0	2
Focus Magazine				25,969		25,969	30,476
Carnival				15,308		15,308	18,725
Front Row				0		0	0
Parish Lunch				3,281		3,281	2,765
		17,391	0	52,636	0	70,027	72,028
Other income	2c						
Rental Income		1,092				1,092	1,024
Dividend and Deposit Interest			3,699			3,699	1,565
Coffee on Sunday		34				34	
		1,126	3,699	0	0	4,825	2,589
Total Income		85,476	3,899	52,636	0	142,011	141,058
Investment gains/ (losses)	2d		4,155		2,588	6,743	14,492
Total		85,476	8,054	52,636	2,588	148,754	155,550

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARY, EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

3. EXPENDITURE

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL	
		Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	2024	2023
Church Activities	3a	£	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable Giving		87				87	121
Mission and Evangelism		390				390	66,271
Diocesan parish share		67,263				67,263	262
North Chilterns Group and Deanery		256				256	780
Salaries and Wages (see below)		715				715	1,608
Clergy and Staff Expenses		260				260	420
Clerical cover expenses		68				68	5,087
Repairs & Maintenance		3,288				3,288	6,961
Church Running Expenses		6,135				6,135	2,787
Church Utility Bills		5,263				5,263	0
Depreciation				7,594		7,594	1,020
Dagnall Management Fund				8,369		8,369	7,696
Dagnall Fabric Fund						0	0
		83,725	0	15,963	0	99,688	93,013
Costs of Raising Funds	3b						
Fund Raising		1,287				1,287	1,078
100 Club		960				960	1,100
Memorial Fund						0	0
Tower Fund						0	0
Focus Magazine				28,880		28,880	33,369
Carnival				12,010		12,010	11,952
Front Row				300		300	181
Parish Lunch				3,009		3,009	2,754
		2,247	0	44,199	0	46,446	50,434
Total		85,972	0	60,162	0	146,134	143,447

Related Parties

One PCC member Mrs Jill Fountain was employed as a part time Verger at a salary of £65 per month. The role includes opening and closing the church, preparation for services, and care of frontals. No other member of the PCC received remuneration or benefit.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARY, EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

4. FIXED ASSETS

	1/1/24	Added	Depreciation	31/12/24	31/12/23
Capital Equipment	0	32230	-7594	24,636	0

5. INVESTMENTS

Social Investments

	1/1/24	Deposits	Withdrawn	Interest	Changes in Mkt Value	31/12/24	31/12/23
Shared Interest Society	1,960			2		1,962	1,960

Investment Funds

CCLA Inv. Fund	81,377				4,154	85,531	81,377
Endowment Fund	79,204				2,588	81,792	79,204
	160,581					167,323	160,581

6. CURRENT ASSETS

Short term Deposits

	1/1/24	Deposits	Withdrawn	Interest	31/12/24	31/12/23
CCLA Dep. Fund	53,791		(25,000)	2,248	31,039	53,791
	53,791				31,039	53,791

Bank Accounts

Church	22,030	22,163
Focus	51,507	54,528
Dagnall	3,406	5,724
Associates	3,836	4,518
	80,779	86,933

Cash

541	271
-----	-----

7. DEBTORS

Gift Aid reclaims	1,240	938
Other debtors	1,040	211
	2,280	1,149

8. LIABILITIES

Focus advertising revenue in advance	(18,605)	(17,415)
Front Row expenses	0	(181)
Other creditors	(1,078)	(832)
	(19,683)	(18,428)

Total Net Assets

288,877	286,257
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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARY, EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

9. FUNDS RECONCILIATION

Notes			Reserves At 1 Jan	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Investment Gains/(Loss)	Reserves At 31 Dec
			£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted	General Fund	9a	11,547	85,476	(85,972)	3,300		14,351
			11,547					14,351
(Designated)	Designated Strategy	9b	55,934	3,899			4,155	63,988
	Designated Memorial		707					707
	Designated B'fast Club		619					619
			57,260					65,314
Restricted	Benevolent	9c	143					143
	Fabric		80,653		(7,594)	3,500		76,559
	Linen		291	7				298
	Roof		9,343					9,343
	Tower		563	20				583
			90,993					86,926
(Associates)	Dagnall Management	9d	5,709	8,051	(8,369)	(2,000)		3,391
	Dagnall Fabric		15					15
	Focus Magazine		37,113	25,969	(28,880)	(1,300)		32,902
	Carnival		1,176	15,308	(12,010)	(3,500)		974
	Front Row		3,161		(300)			2,861
	Parish Lunch		79	3,281	(3,009)			351
			47,253					40,494
Endowments	Chancel Fund Shares	9e	5,561				128	5,689
(Restricted)	Chancel Fund Income		2,115				269	2,384
	Brandom Shares		11,009				252	11,261
	Brandom Income		5,817				618	6,435
	Fabric (Miss Gray's)		21,972				503	22,475
	Wallace Bequest Shares		29,975				686	30,661
	Edlesb. Mem. Shares		271				6	277
	Church Lands Shares		2,458				125	2,583
	Church Lands Income		26				1	27
			79,204					81,792
Total Funds			286,257	142,011	(146,134)	0	6,743	288,877

Note: Associate Funds are held by the Dagnall District Church Council and other affiliated groups on behalf of the PCC being the charity trustees under the terms of the Charities Act 2011, S177. They are Restricted Funds and as such may only be used for the agreed purposes of those groups. The PCC as the legal entity is responsible for all financial management and accounts to the Charity Commission and cannot delegate that responsibility. The PCC may pass down management of those associate funds to a sub committee but retains legal ownership and authority.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARY, EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

10. ASSOCIATES FINANCIAL SUMMARIES

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
11 Dagnall Management Committee				
Income	8,052		5,086	
Transfer to St Marys	(2,000)		-	
Less Expenditure	(8,369)		(7,696)	
Surplus/ (Deficit)		(2,317)		(2,610)
12 Dagnall Fabric				
Income	0		2	
Less Expenditure	0		0	
Surplus/ (Deficit)		0		2
13 Focus Magazine				
Income				
Advertising revenue	25,969		30,476	
Expenditure				
Printing and artwork	(28,665)		(28,694)	
Admin	(215)		(425)	
Transfer to St Marys	(1,300)		(4,250)	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(4,211)		(2,893)
14 Carnival				
Income				
Advertising, Sponsors & Donation	4,201		4,436	
Stall Fees	3,952		3,822	
Church Stalls	7,058		10,355	
Gift Aid Recovery	97		111	
Gross Receipts		15,308		18,724
Expenditure				
Programmes	(2,690)		0	
Church Stalls	(2,218)		(1,583)	
Administration	(3,062)		(2,968)	
Entertainers	(570)		(550)	
		(8,540)		(5,101)
Profit on Carnival		6,768		13,623
Transfer to St Marys Fabric Fund		(3,500)		(6,850)
Distributions to Charities		(3,470)		(6,850)
Surplus/(Deficit)		(202)		(77)

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARY, EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
15 Front Row				
Income	0		0	
Expenditure	(300)		(181)	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(300)		(181)
16 Parish Lunch				
Income	3,281		2,765	
Expenses	(2,136)		(2,754)	
Transfer Rent to St Marys	(929)		-	
Surplus/(Deficit)		216		11

17 Commitments

There are no other commitments, not otherwise recognised in these financial statements.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARY, EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

19 SOFA Comparatives

(previous year)

2023

Income and Endowments from:

Donations and Legacies
Charitable Activities
Interest and Other Activities

Total

Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS
£	£	£	£	£
66,441	-	-	-	66,441
14,914	-	57,114	-	72,028
2,588	-	-	-	2,588
83,943	0	57,114	0	141,057

Expenditure on:

Church Activities
Raising Funds

Total

84,297	-	-	-	84,297
2,178	-	56,972	-	59,150
86,475	0	56,972	0	143,447

Net Income/(Expenditure)

Transfers between Funds

**Other recognised gains/(losses)
on investments**

Net Movement in Funds

(2,532)	-	142	-	(2,390)
-	-	-	-	-
-	7,563	-	6,929	14,492
(2,532)	7,563	142	6,929	12,102

Total Funds brought forward (1 Jan)

14,079	49,697	138,104	72,275	274,155
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Total Funds carried forward (31 Dec)

11,547	57,260	138,246	79,204	286,257
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Independent Examiners Report

To the Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 11, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

Respective Responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner.

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the regulations.

Basis of this report

The examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with the examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives reasonable cause to believe, in any material respect, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with s130 of the Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements the Act and the Regulations, have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Ian Skinner
Retired Accountant
19 Mardle Road,
Leighton Buzzard

Dated : 27 March 2025

Independent Examiners Report

To the Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 11, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

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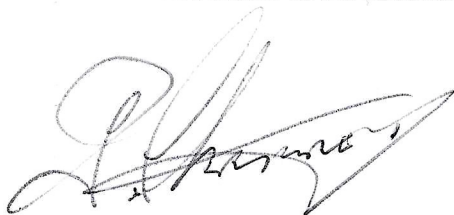
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Independent Examiner's Statement

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1. which gives reasonable cause to believe, in any material respect, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with s130 of the Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements the Act and the Regulations, have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Ian Skinner
Retired Accountant
19 Mardle Road,
Leighton Buzzard

Dated : 27 March 2025

Accounts

Annual Reports for APCM 2024

Vicar's Report

In October the PCC reviewed the Parish's Mission Action Plan (MAP). St Mary's Vision is 'to be a church rooted in prayer, witnessing to God's love to one another, the local community and the world.' Our values are 'to share the love of Jesus with our community.' This happens through our worship, social events, and interaction with the community in various ways. The 8am Communion service is held once a fortnight on first and third Sundays. At 10am there is a Parish Eucharist every Sunday apart from the third Sunday. Our 10am Sunday services continue to be livestreamed giving the opportunity for people who can't attend in person to join in worship. The third Sunday 'worship for all' service has been ably led by our Reader, Gordon Gray for a number of years. PCC decided to explore a new venture, Café Church, to meet on third Sundays starting in 2024. We had a visit from Father John Russell to share his experience of Café Church at Little Gaddesden church. The Wednesday Communion Service has grown to a regular congregation of at least a dozen who enjoy relaxing with a drink and a biscuit after the service. In addition to the worship, it is a good social time together.

Coffee mornings continue to prove a popular gathering and the community Book Swap is a great addition. People come to exchange books and to meet up with friends and neighbours. Someone remarked to me that it feels like a real community event, and we do get regular visitors from the parish and wider afield. Thanks to Marion and her team for organising these. It was decided to take a break from the Poppy Prom in 2023, and Gordon, together with Stephen Axford planned a very enjoyable Christmas concert which proved popular.

The North Chilterns Group held the annual Lent Course, led by Martin Rees as well as a pulpit swap and a Quiet morning led by Canon Grant Fellows at All Saints' Dagnall. The NCG Advent service was held at St John the Baptist, Stanbridge.

Our links with the 1st Eaton Bray and Edlesborough Beavers continued to flourish. They visited St Mary's in May for various activities including planting sunflowers which they had grown from the previous years' flower seeds. The Beavers have been allocated a walled corner where they have grown a sunny patch of Sun Flowers. From September, the Beavers have been using the church for their weekly meetings as they are having the floor replaced in the Scout hut.

Closer links with Eaton Bray Academy have been fostered in 2023. The Messy Church Team have provided curriculum linked sessions for different year groups in St Mary's including a focus on kind hands, the baptism of a doll with a party, activities around Pentecost and things which are important in worship. The whole school also came to St Mary's for their Christingle service. I took a Christingle Service in Edlesborough School.

In May we celebrated the Coronation of HM King Charles III with a special service followed by cake and bubbly.

The pastoral team meet regularly to pray for our church members, to support each other and to ensure visits, cards and phone calls can be made. This is greatly helped by our church members in alerting us to those known to them that are in need, so that no one is missed out. Two Team members assist the clergy in taking take Home Communion where required, which has been well received.

Most importantly we as a church pray for those in need through the prayer chain and the prayer board in the North Chapel. Church members and visitors to St Marys also leave prayer requests on

the prayer tree. The tree has been very well used and we have commissioned a bespoke tree from the "Men in Sheds" organisation for a small donation.

2023 saw the second full year of the Wildlife Garden. A water butt and compost bin are now in use. Wide paths have been defined by logs and wood chippings. Wildlife habitat is encouraged with a large insect house, bat and bird boxes, a hedgehog house, a flint stone newt house and a dead hedge. The grasses were cut short in September and yellow rattle sown in a designated area to suppress couch grass. Planting continues with native plants. The native hedge between the Village Hall and Church grounds is growing well, and has been underplanted with daffodils, feverfew, comfrey, forget-me-nots and snowdrops. The Wildlife garden is maintained by 5 of the congregation. Thanks to them for the huge amount they have achieved.

The volunteer party in September celebrated all those who volunteer and contribute to the life of our church and our outreach into the community. That encompasses a lot of people who volunteer their time and their talents. My grateful thanks go to all those involved in all aspects of our church life, who contribute time, talents and financial support. I pray that God will fill us with his peace and help us to encourage and support one another.

All Saints' Dagnall

We currently hold one service each month (Holy Communion) as well as services on Good Friday, Easter, Harvest, a Carol service and on Christmas Day. It was wonderful to welcome Bishop Alan for the Carol Service in December which was well attended. There were also a couple of Informal Services on Sunday afternoons in October and December led by Dorothy Green. In addition, Gordon Gray led a short Remembrance Day Service. There was an Easter Coffee Morning, Harvest Brunch and Christmas coffee morning which brought members of the local community together. The NCG Quiet morning led by Canon Grant Fellows was held at All Saints' Dagnall. The Get Together evenings organised by Dorothy and Philip proved popular. Dagnall Church of England School is making regular use of the church building. Work on the building is still ongoing.

Revd Joy Cousans, April 2024

All Saints Dagnall Report

It is good to be able to report that regular worship has continued at All Saints' during the year. Thanks to Joy and Stephen, we have a celebration of Holy Communion at 10.30am on third Sundays in the month as well as at festivals. We now also have Informal Services at 3pm on 5th Sundays. Christmas services this year were well-attended and the carol service, at which the preacher was Bishop Alan, was especially successful and much appreciated.

As always, thanks are due to Norma Price, who plays the organ for all our services and also to Liz Coates who, among other things, cleans the church regularly and provides flowers, often from her own garden. We are also very grateful to Sally Thorne, our treasurer, who looks after our accounts so efficiently.

During the year we have held two successful coffee mornings, one before Christmas and one before Easter and also a Harvest Brunch, when bacon rolls etc. were served. We also had a well-attended "Get-together" at which Sally spoke to us about how to avoid "scams".

Work is currently being carried out on the apse by Mick Bunning. When this has been completed the interior of the church will be greatly enhanced. During the year our wooden church furniture has been beautifully restored.

In spite of the dry summer, Liz has had some success with the wildflower meadow at the side of the church and we wish her well with her continued endeavours this year.

The Choir continue to meet weekly in the church and the building is used regularly by the school. We are hoping that in future the hall may be hired out appropriately to groups who might like to use it.

Philip Lee and Dorothy Green, District Churchwardens

Bell Tower Report

Our ringing team continues to meet regularly both for service ringing most Sundays and for our practice session on Monday evenings from 7:30-8:30 pm. Additionally, we ring for weddings when requested and for other special occasions throughout the year.

We continue to welcome visiting ringing bands from near and far. It is customary for ringing association groups to organize social outings for their members. They travel to different areas and then ring in several churches in that general vicinity on the same day.

Efforts are underway to optimise both access and safety in the very limited and restricted bell chamber, and a couple of associated, minor adjustments are planned. Our sincere thanks go out to both Chris Banks and Martin Hayden for all their efforts in this regard.

Gaye Soule

Carnival Report

After holding the 2022 Carnival in August when it was at last considered safe go ahead, we were able to revert to our traditional first Saturday in July date and were once again favoured with near perfect weather for the event – dry and neither too hot nor too cold.

Once again, the Carnival Committee chair was taken by Mark Kilfoyle, supported by an excellent team of volunteers, many from outside the family of St Mary's and to whom we should be very grateful.

Financially, the result was a resounding success with the total receipts of £13,622 almost equalling our pre-COVID level of income. As a result, we were able to distribute £13,700 – half to the Church Fabric Fund, £3,425 to the 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scouts and the remainder (£3,425) to a total of 22 other charities, organisations or individuals, A truly astonishing result.

Planning for the 2024 event began some time ago as Saturday 6th July will be upon us before we know it, and once again we, or rather I, will be appealing for help and for support. As this is the largest Fund Raising event run on behalf of St. Mary's we really do need to do what we can to give such time, support or assistance that we are able in terms of helping to run the event on the day and in supporting or joining the organising committee.

Chris Banks

Churchwardens' Report

Maintenance and repairs

Church maintenance

Our annual programme of maintenance has taken place; this includes servicing the roof alarm, fire extinguishers, piano, organ and clock. The boiler has received its annual service and all portable electrical equipment has been PAT tested.

The church and brasses are cleaned regularly thanks to volunteers. A spring clean of the main part of the church took place in February; the vestries need similar treatment, for which we are making plans.

The Quinquennial Inspection by our church architect took place on 18th April. We are already aware of some areas where remedial work will be needed, but we have been reassured by our architect that there are no major concerns. When the report has been received, a repair schedule will be drawn up to address the matters highlighted.

New Lighting

A modern lighting scheme was installed in April. This has given us a bright interior and a versatile, energy efficient system helping us make progress towards our eco-church goals. Many thanks to the late Gwen Giltrow for the generous legacy which made this possible.

Health & Safety

Our safety officer, Chris Banks, carries out monthly safety checks and reports any potential hazards to the PCC.

A number of measures have been proposed to make working in the belfry, and traversing it to access the roof, a safer activity. These proposals are the subject of a faculty application which is currently with the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

Wall hanging: A quilt by Mary Mayne showing buildings in Eaton Bray has been donated and hung in the Lady Chapel, where it looks attractive and gives the area a more comfortable feel. Leaflets explaining the pictures and the background to the quilt are available in church.

Kneelers projects The many kneelers that we have in church were created in the 1980s & 90s by church members and others. At the time, a record was made of who stitched them and what the scene represented but unfortunately, this has been lost. A project is now underway to reconstruct the record as far as possible, also to repair and clean the kneelers and to display them more appropriately in church.

Churchyard

Maintenance: The volunteer churchyard maintenance team is unfortunately much reduced in number due to ill health. They have been doing an excellent job keeping the paths, gullies and drains clear as well as carrying out general gardening tasks. Many thanks for all they have done; we have plans for finding additional recruits in the near future to strengthen the team.

The hedge of mixed native species which was planted on the south west boundary in 2022, is growing well. The Eco-Group is managing this area as well as the 'wild area' in the north west corner, which was cut and raked in the autumn to encourage growth of wild flowers; a 'newt house' has also been added.

In storms earlier this year, two large conifer branches came down near the boiler house. The Parish Council, which is responsible for the maintenance of the churchyard, was advised by a tree

surgeon that all the conifers in this area should be felled for safety reasons. If permission is granted by the Diocese and Central Bedfordshire Council, the work will take place later in the year.

Archdeacon's inspection:

The Archdeacon's annual inspection took place on 4th October. The report did not highlight any major deficiencies but as a result of the inspection, we were spurred on to finish updating our Mission Action Plan. We were commended on our outreach to the community through Messy Church, Coffee Mornings, the Parish Lunch and our growing connection with Eaton Bray Academy.

Inventory, Logbook and Maintenance log: I can confirm that these are all up to date.

Items acquired and disposed of:

Acquired: Quilt, Framed rubbing of the Lady Jane Bray brass

Disposed of: Nil

Thanks

Many thanks to all who work so hard to maintain our historic church and preserve it for future generations – your efforts are vital and greatly appreciated.

Catherine Hayden

Coffee After Church Report

Coffee after our church services has continued to be very much appreciated and enjoyed by congregation and visitors alike. It's such a lovely opportunity for our fellowship and chat to extend after the worship and of course also provides an opportunity to welcome any newcomers and visitors to the church.

We are always very grateful for the wonderful team of people who support this special ministry and pull together to make it work each week. We average approximately £10 each week in donations over both services. This of course is a welcome contribution to St Mary's funds but the most important aspect is the opportunity for fellowship.

If anyone feels they might like to be part of the team please do speak to Diane Goodwin or Marion Higley for more information.

Diane Goodwin and Marion Higley

Deanery Synod Report

The deanery synod meets quarterly throughout the year, hosted by the various churches in the area. Thanks are expressed to those members stepping down from office during the term and new members welcomed. News from the Parishes is exchanged at each meeting and new ventures are helpfully supported by those already involved in similar projects i.e. Café church, asylum seekers support groups, children's church and eco church projects.

Visiting speakers addressed this year's meetings with interesting subjects including a presentation by Kate Ford, Giving Adviser, Diocese of St Albans on charitable giving/fundraising, and a talk about General Synod by Canon Peter Adams. The Deanery Synod will continue to meet in the coming year with the next meeting in May.

Jill Fountain

Electoral Roll Report

Coming soon.

Diane Goodwin

Exploring the Bible Group Report

Meeting monthly at the home of Diana Barry to study in depth a chosen book of the Bible, it quickly became a meaningful aspect of our individual Christian involvement as God's word was revealed to us through our discussions and individual insights.

Over the years, on the helpful advice of Stephen Burge, we chose to study the Gospel of Luke, the Acts of the Apostles and Paul's letter to the Galatians all with the main source of reference being Tom Wright's comprehensive guides. Then we turned to the Old Testament and Isaiah.

The illness and subsequent death of founder member Linda Wheeler greatly affected all of us especially in this Group. We are now going through a time of reflection, considering possible practical changes as we look to the future development of the Group. If anyone would like to know more please contact me on 07380 330907.

Diana Barry

Family History Report

I have received requests for information regarding family history, both for St Mary's Eaton Bray and also for St Mary's, Edlesborough including the Churchyard.

The facsimile record books were displayed at St Mary's Heritage Day last year, they were very popular with the local community. Well worth doing.

Eileen Bennett

Finance Report

The Financial Statement of Accounts to December 2023 are presented to the APCM. These have been independently inspected and are approved by the PCC. They are in the format required by the Charity Commission and include all financial activities for St Mary's Church and associated groups within the Church charity. To make these financial statements easier to read I have shown on the next page some simplified figures that separate the funds and financial transactions into three main areas. First the funds and investments directed to maintaining the fabric of the building over the long term. Second our regular income and expenditure supporting the church's ministry, its charitable activities and expenses. Third the funds and financial activities of associated groups who operate within the Church Charity. This third group is not summarised here but can be read on pages 9,10 and 11 of the Financial Statement Long term funds include Designated, Restricted, and Endowment funds. Endowment and Restricted Funds may only be used for the purpose intended by the giver. Designated Funds give the PCC a little more flexibility in applying them to the preservation of the Church and its activities. These funds are held against the costs of maintaining

the roof, the stonework and the chancel all of which tend to be on a long cycle and involve substantial costs. They have been supported in the past by legacies and endowments and are held in Church of England ethical investment and deposit funds. The investment gains shown arise from increases in share values and from deposit account interest. Following on from the quinquennial inspection later this year it is likely that we will need to commit a substantial sum to stonework restoration. The current lighting project to install low energy programable LED units has been made possible by allocating funds from Gwen Giltrow's legacy in 2022. Short term funds are those devoted to supporting both the work and the day to day maintenance of the church. These come under the heading General Fund. The largest contribution to this comes from individual regular giving and with gift aid that provides 73% of the income. Other important elements are our fundraising, fees for services and donations. We continue to be very thankful for all of these funding sources. Without them we would not be able to support the Parish Share which provides for our clergy and the diocese. The Parish Share is our largest fixed cost. The remainder needs to cover all other operating and maintenance costs. Like everyone we are seeing significant inflation pressures and in particular a substantial rise in energy costs. This has resulted in a general fund deficit of £2,500 for the year. Our long term funds have a healthy balance and give us confidence for the future. Our short term funds however are under severe pressure. We are working hard to control expenditure but we will need to seek additional income through a stewardship campaign to encourage incremental giving and from additional sources such as fundraising. We continue to rely on the generosity of our congregation and of the community and we are very thankful for it.

Simplified statement of Church Funds

		Funds at			Investment	Funds at
		01-Jan-23	Income	Expenditure	Gains	31-Dec-23
1a. Long Term Funds						
	Designated	£49,697			£7,563	£57,260
	Restricted	£85,103	£6,910	£1,020		£93,033
	Endowments	£72,275			£6,929	£79,204
1b. Total of Long Term Funds		£207,075	£6,910	£1,020	£14,492	£229,497
2a. Annual income						
	Giving		£49,655			
	Donations		£3,690			
	Gift Aid		£12,026			
	Fees for services		£3,211			
	Fundraising		£11,703			

	Other income		£3,658			
2b. Annual expenditure						
	Parish Share			£66,271		
	Clergy expenses			£1,608		
	Fundraising costs			£2,178		
	Church Running Expenses			£16,035		
	Other expenditure			£383		
2c. Total of General Fund		£14,079	£83,943	£86,475		£11,547

Fundraising and Charitable Giving

Coffee Mornings	£4,216
Gordon's Quiz	£1,700
Christmas Fair	£1,545
Spring Fair	£1,169
Christmas Concert	£540
Bike n Hike	£246
Cartridges, Easy Fundraising,	£175
100 Club	£2,112
Total Fundraising	£11,703

Bishops Harvest Appeal	£488
Turkey & Syria Earthquake	£306
Food Bank	£238
Mission to Seafarers	£231
Tap Twinning/ Water Aid	£165
British Legion	£60
Gods Acre	£45
Shipping Books to Africa	£16
Total Charitable Donations	£1,549

Martin Hayden

Flower Arrangers Report

Our flower arranging team consists of ten regulars: Beryl, Helen, Sally, Catherine, Christine, Joan, Anna, Amanda, Jo and me. Amanda, Jo and Anna joined us as regular team members this year and they are most welcome! Christine Horn very kindly orders flowers for the major festivals as well as making some beautiful contributions to the arrangements. Joan has been able to help with Remembrance and Christmas this year, and we are very happy that she is still a member of our team.

We would love to see some more volunteers come forward to assist, particularly for the major festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Don't worry if you are inexperienced - with the help of our more able arrangers you will soon progress on to arranging flowers on your own during the year! Please contact me if you would like to come along.

Barbara Morton

Focus Magazine Report

Last year was difficult following COVID which resulted in paper prices increasing 11 times in the year. Fortunately we had prior notice and moved in to pre purchase a year's worth of paper, which our printer Priory Press stored for us. We ended up the year with a small excess which we passed on to the PCC.

Normally we send out to all advertisers our plans in September which itemises timings and prices for all the sizes of adverts. We have experienced a downturn in requests for Focus advertising which following investigation show some full paged adverts moving away from the village, businesses changing direction and slow responses from adverts, plus others. The outcome is we as a committee decided to reduce the number of pages allocated to advertising, this having an effect on total income. We expect that during the year we will pick up some more advertising but this probably will not cover our total costs.

Priory Press and Moran Associates have requested increases over last year which we have agreed as losing one or both of this team would be detrimental to the magazine. We have strong reserves so can carry this year's deficit but work has to be done to find replacement advertisers for 2025.

The committee remain dedicated to the magazine and will work hard to recover this current situation.

Ken Coates

Fundraising Report

Since his stroke Gordon has had to take a lower than usual profile but tried to re-establish a programme for Music@St Mary's. Sadly, because of the effects of Covid (people don't seem to be going out as much as they used to), concerts had, had to be cancelled – on two occasions we had sold fewer than 20 tickets. Only a new event, the Christmas Festival, survived. We are working on a programme for an Afternoon Concert on 16th November involving both South Beds Concert Band and Dagnall Community Choir.

Sadly the Open Gardens event this summer did not go ahead. There were simply not enough gardens. The event in 2024 is planned for Sunday 28th July.

Thanks to the excellent work of Marion Higley and her team who run Monthly Coffee Mornings. Attendance at these together with monthly income generated continues to grow and there is great scope for mission.

Gordon Gray

Messy Church Report

On Good Friday 24 children participated in Messy Church along with their parents and carers. It was a very successful and uplifting occasion. After songs and stories, the children made Easter cards, gardens and baskets in which chocolate eggs mysteriously appeared. Some running around gave them an appetite for their fish finger sandwiches. We hope to see them again for our future summer sessions.

The numbers of children for previous sessions in 2023 had been somewhat disappointing however the links established with Eaton Bray Academy and the Beavers seem to have generated more interest. We will continue to use social media sites to advertise alongside posters, the banner and Focus magazine.

Thanks go to all the team who have continued to plan and prepare even when numbers were low.

Sheila Banks

North Chilterns Group Report

The NCG meetings are held three to four times a year and consists of representatives of Kensworth, Studham & Whipsnade with Reverend Nicola Lenthall. Totternhoe, Stanbridge & Tilsworth with Revd Kaushal David and representatives of Eaton Bray with Edlesborough churches and Dagnall with Revd Joy Cousans and Revd. Stephen Burge. The meetings for this year were held on 19th September 2023 and 16th January 2023 and the APCM will be held on 9th May 2024 after the ascension day service at Kensworth.

The Lent course for 2023 was led by Martin Rees, churchwarden of Whipsnade called the Alphabet of Christianity, Martin gave a spiritual and theological heading to each letter and led us through the alphabet where we could participate.

There were no confirmation candidates this year, but the annual service in July was a "Messy Church Holy communion" on the theme Sea Sunday at St Mary's Eaton Bray.

At the start of September the annual quiet morning was led by Revd. Canon Grant Fellows, former incumbent of All Saints Leighton Buzzard. This was led on "climb every mountain" – encounter with God. All enjoyed this, especially those who knew him to catch up on fellowship.

Isobel Randall of Whipsnade stood down as Chair at the last AGM, which was held after the Ascension Day evening service at St Marys Kensworth, the chairman is now rotating, with a volunteer from each Benefice leading in turn. Isobel was thanked for having chaired the meeting over a number of years.

Barrie Huggins (Treasurer) of Kensworth stood down from his role after holding the reins of treasurer-ship which he was thanked for. Dave Cousans agreed to take on this role which all were thankful for.

The news of Gill Hayward's death in August left all very sad. Gill was the chairperson for the NCG council for many years also churchwarden of St Giles of Totternhoe. Gill was a very faithful, committed member and has left a very big gap.

The next APCM will take place after this year's Ascension service being held at Kensworth in the evening.

Chriss Hewitt

Parish Lunch Club Report

The parish lunches which are open to members from the parish of Eaton Bray provides an opportunity to meet up with friends and enjoy a great lunch – who wants to have Sunday lunch on their own and I know from experience – it's no fun!

So it's a big thankyou to a brilliant team of volunteers without whom it could not continue.

Unfortunately, this year we have had to increase the price from £7 to £8 per head and members get a very good lunch for that especially at Christmas with carols & a glass of wine.

Vivienne Grundy

PCC Report

The Parochial Church Council is made up of the following:

The Vicar

Churchwarden: Catherine Hayden

Lay Reader (co-opted) Gordon Gray

Associate Priest Stephen Burge

Deanery Synod Rep Jill Fountain

Six elected members:

Barbara Morton (Secretary to the PCC), Gaye Soule, Martin Quinn,

Chris Banks, Hilary Jackson and Elisabeth Jones.

In addition, Martin Hayden has attended all meetings as Financial representative.

Deanery Synod Representative: Jill Fountain

Dagnall Member: Dorothy Green

There are now 13 members in total. The PCC met 9 times since May 2023. Most meetings were well attended with between 7 and 12 in attendance. In November, Fr John Russell of Little Gaddesden church was in attendance to tell us about their experience of Café Church.

The following appointments were in place during the past year:

Lay Vice Chair	Catherine Hayden
Standing Committee members	Joy Cousans/Catherine Hayden/ Chris Banks/Elisabeth Jones/ Gaye Soule
PCC Secretary	Barbara Morton
Electoral Roll Officer	Diane Goodwin
Treasurer/Bookkeeper	Martin Hayden
Finance Committee members	Joy Cousans/Martin Hayden/Catherine Hayden/Graham Mockett/Martin Quinn
Stewardship Committee members	Joy Cousans/Catherine Hayden/Graham Mockett, Martin Hayden
Stewardship Officer	Graham Mockett

Safeguarding Officer	Gaye Soule
Health and Safety Officer	Chris Banks
Bell Tower Manager	Gaye Soule
Fabric Committee Chair	Martin Hayden,
Youth and Education Officer(s)	Sheila Banks/Catherine Wendeler
Fundraising Chair	Gordon Gray
Fundraising Committee members	Gordon Gray/ Barbara Morton/Catherine Hayden/Sharon Stilliard/Kate Freeman/Gary Freeman
Parish Lunch Club Organiser	Vivienne Grundy
Representatives on the North Chilterns Group Committee	Stephen Burge/Chriss Hewitt, Dave Cousans
Representatives on Churches Together Committee	Joy Cousans, Angela Dunford, Dorothy Green
PCC representative on Dagnall Management Committee	Joy Cousans/ Stephen Burge
Representative on Village Hall Committee	Chris Banks
Focus distribution organiser	Angela Dunford/Steve Dunford
Rota organisers 8am & 10am	Sharon Stilliard/Sally Taylor
Cleaning Rota organiser	Gaye Soule
Flowers organiser	Barbara Morton
Churchyard Maintenance organiser	Iain Stubbs
Publicity group	Eileen Bennett, Jill Fountain, Chriss Hewitt, Gordon Gray
Carnival Officer	Chris Banks
Eco Church Committee	Catherine Hayden, Joy Cousans, Iain Stubbs, Sue Walker, Tricia Toms, Sally Taylor
Pastoral Visiting Team	Joy Cousans, Stephen Burge, Catherine Wendeler, Gordon Gray, Chriss Hewitt, Sue Walker, Catherine Hayden, Pamela Richardson, Beryl Bishop
Focus Magazine	Angela Dunford/Sue Tucker/Ken Coates/ Sally Siddons /Steve Dunford

Barbara Morton, PCC Secretary

Prayer & Praise Group Report

Prayer and praise continued to meet in the church this year on a Tuesday morning 10.30-12 each month. The dates are as always advertised in the pew leaflet.

The group remains a faithful and diverse group of people who have grown to know each other very well, this group is open to all who would like to join us and is a way of coming together as

Christians and of coming closer to God in prayer and worship. It is very informal and not scary, you will not be asked to do anything but listen and sing.

We begin with light refreshments, over which we share our news and prayer requests; these are brought to God in an opening prayer. Then we worship God in song, accompanied by Ken on the keyboard, we reflect on a subject from the Bible or something else about faith. This is followed by Intercessional prayer for the church and the world.

This year we have looked at heroic and famous Christians: Cannon Andrew White, Corrie ten Boom and John Wesley, two led by members of the group. We all enjoyed a lovely meal at The Swan pub where Dorothy and past members joined us which was lovely. We opened with prayer and sang Carols which the others in the pub said they enjoyed.

If anyone would like to join us just come along or speak to Chriss Hewitt

Chriss Hewitt and Dorothy Green

Prayer Matters Report

The Prayer Matters Group began its life with discussions in June 2020. Immediate progress was subsequently interrupted by Covid so it didn't get off the ground until June 2021. We identified that as a group our aim is to

- Pray in a group as well as on our own that we may know God's vision for St. Mary's Church
- To share ideas of prayer with others to help develop and deepen prayer lives. This includes providing resources in church and the churchyard, engagement on social media and with community groups, provision of 'quiet days' etc.

We discussed matters pertaining to prayer and were reminded of how important it is to be 'fed' spiritually. The North Chapel in St. Mary's was pinpointed as an area that could be developed specifically for prayer. Resources added at the time were the Bible verses that are displayed on the altar and in the pew leaflet. Also added was the print of Holman Hunt's 'Light of the World' painting. Postcards are also available for people to take away with a Bible verse on the reverse.

Other ideas that have developed since have been

- The large banner about prayer near the North Chapel
- Signage informing people the area is a 'quiet area for prayer'
- A prayer tree which has been widely utilised by visitors and those who have been bereaved. A new prayer tree is currently being crafted for us by the local group of the wonderful charity Men in Sheds
- Christian poems and reflections on the tables at the monthly coffee mornings for people to take away
- The planning of the annual Thy Kingdom Come 11 days has been incorporated into the Prayer Matters Group
- The Prayer Chain was set up. This is used for people requesting prayer in an emergency situation or for those who only require prayer for up to 3-4 weeks. Examples of this would be people having an operation, bereaved families, acute illness etc. Communication of requests is sent to those who have agreed to be part of the Prayer Chain.

We welcome anyone who would like to be a part of this group. If you would like to come and join us in discussing and praying for the life and community at St Mary's please do speak to one of us.

Angela Dunford, Chriss Hewitt, Ken Robinson and Diane Goodwin

Publicity Committee Report

The publicity group continues to meet on an ad hoc basis throughout the year. Two members have stepped down and two new members have joined the group this year. The group supports the work of the church, as requested, by providing posters and handouts for fundraising, special services and social events. A new banner for Messy Church has been produced. The group continues to publicize events through Social media, and to schools and young people's organisations via e-mail. Photographs taken by Eileen at church events provide an informative outreach into the community. The group's activities provide a strong link between the church and the village by providing accessible information.

Jill Fountain

Reader Ministry Report

In 2022/23 my primary Reader related activities have been:

- ☐ Maintaining a good working relationship with Joy
- ☐ Leading services at St Mary's
- ☐ Completion of Safeguarding Course

As a consequence of the stroke I suffered in January 2020 I have lost confidence in my ability to speak of-the-cuff but it hasn't affected my ability to read so I have been able to continue to lead services on the 3rd Sunday each month and preach on the 1st Sundays each month. I am most grateful for the feedback I receive from so many members of the congregation. A further symptom of the stroke has been a reduction in physical co-ordination which means that I am not entirely secure on my feet.

I led the Candle Services on Christmas Eve despite the circumstances – my father in law was admitted to hospital that morning and I didn't get home until 3pm the same afternoon. It was good to see the numbers of worshippers at those services getting back towards a full house. My sincere thanks to everyone who served in the role of Sidesperson. In addition I was privileged to be asked to lead the worship at St Mary's on Good Friday.

I am enormously grateful for all the support that I get from the parish and try to respond to both positive and negative criticism. I really do enjoy discussing sermon material with those who are interested, so don't be afraid to chat to me after Sunday services. Especially I want to thank Christine, who puts up with so much and without whose support my ministry would not be possible.

This has been a difficult year for my family, having to care for an elderly parent, as a result of which Christine and I have had to reduce our involvement in parish activities.

Gordon Gray

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding refers to the actions taken within the church to promote a safe environment for all. We continue to take these actions and responsibilities very seriously, with strict measures in place to help us to comply with all associated regulations.

According to their roles within the church, and on an ongoing basis, church personnel are required to do regular, safeguarding training. Such training is then renewed every 3 years. Certain roles also require criminal background checks to be conducted and renewed every 3 years as well.

Specific details of any raised safeguarding concerns are noted and then reported to and discussed with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team in St. Albans. They in turn determine if further follow-up action is required and plan accordingly.

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and we must all remain vigilant and raise any associated concerns. Such concerns can then be followed up through the appropriate channels.

Gaye Soule

Saturday Coffee Morning Report

This event is very successful outreach work which has grown in popularity since Covid. There are now about 70 regular customers from the local villages and beyond. There is a group who come monthly rain, wind or shine from Dunstable.

We aim to provide a relaxed atmosphere where conversations are plentiful – there is a real buzz! We are noted for our home-made cakes and savouries. These are made and donated by dedicated and generous church members and recently by customers!

We have a range of different flavoured teas as well as drinking chocolate and decaffeinated coffee and tea. More importantly these are all fair trade.

There is always something gluten free and something vegetarian, in this way we try to be all inclusive.

It is felt that the outreach work is the most important aspect of these coffee mornings which have also become a good source of income for the church.

Marion Higley

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARY, EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH

Registered Charity No 1129952

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year ending 31 December 2023

Hon Treasurer: Mr Martin Hayden
2 Orchard End
Edlesborough
Dunstable
LU6 2RE

Independent Examiner: Mr Ian Skinner
Retired Accountant
19 Mardle Road
Leighton Buzzard
LU7 2UR

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARY, EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023	2022
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:							
Donations and Legacies	2a	66,441	0	-	-	66,441	98,148
Charitable Activities	2b	14,914	0	57,114	-	72,028	74,680
Interest & Other Activities	2c	2,588	-	-	-	2,588	2,728
TOTAL		83,943	0	57,114	-	141,057	175,556
Expenditure on:							
Raising Funds	3a	2,178	0	56,972	-	59,150	55,601
Charitable Activities	3b	84,297	-	-	-	84,297	82,676
TOTAL		86,475	0	56,972	-	143,447	138,277
Net Income/ (Expenditure)		(2,532)	0	142	-	(2,390)	37,279
Transfers between Funds	9a			-	-	-	-
Other Recognised gains/(losses):							
Gains/(losses) on investments	2d	-	7,563	-	6,929	14,492	(8,004)
Net Movement in Funds		(2,532)	7,563	142	6,929	12,102	29,275
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total Funds brought forward (1st Jan)		14,079	49,697	138,104	72,275	274,155	244,880
Total Funds carried forward (31st Dec)		11,547	57,260	138,246	79,204	286,257	274,155

Approved by the PCC on 14/03/24 and signed by J. E. Cousans PCC Chair

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARY, EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	Total 2023		Total 2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	4	0		0	
Social Investments	5	1,960		1,958	
Investments	5	160,581		82,288	
			162,541		84,246
Current Assets					
Short Term Deposits	6	53,791		93,989	
Church Bank Balances	6	22,163		37,458	
Focus Bank Balance	6	54,528		52,383	
Dagnall Bank Balances	6	5,724		8,332	
Associates Bank Balances	6	4,518		4,695	
Cash	6	271		262	
Debtors	7	1,149		14,229	
			142,144		211,348
Liabilities					
Creditors due in one year	8	(18,428)		(21,439)	
Net Current Assets			(18,428)		(21,439)
			286,257		274,155
Represented by:					
Parish Funds	9				
Unrestricted Funds					
General			11,547		14,079
Designated			57,260		49,697
Restricted Funds			90,993		85,103
Restricted Associate Funds			47,253		53,001
Endowment Funds			79,204		72,275
Total Funds			286,257		274,155

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARY, EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102 (The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK).

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They have been prepared under FRS102 (2022) as the applicable accounting standard. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or charity nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Endowment fund capital can be permanent or expendable. In the case of a permanent endowments the capital funds must be retained.

Endowment fund income may be restricted or unrestricted depending on the purpose for which the fund was established.

Restricted funds are donations or grants for specific purposes intended by the donor.

General funds are *unrestricted* and may be *designated* by the PCC for a particular purpose.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid declarations is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable under Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Bequests to the PCC are accounted for when the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain. Funds raised by the Carnival, Concerts and similar fundraising events are accounted for gross. Sales of flowers, books and other items are accounted for gross.

Other income

Rental income is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses on investments are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARY, EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that creates a binding constructive obligation on the PCC. Activities directly relating to the work of the Church including the diocesan quota (Parish Share) is accounted for when payable.

Provisions

Amounts are set aside each year to provide for the estimated future cost of stonework restoration and roof repairs. The adequacy of these provisions is reviewed at appropriate intervals.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated land and buildings are not included in the accounts by virtue of the Charities Act 2011. Benefice properties are assets of the Board of Finance and therefore are not in the accounts of the PCC. Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property and are listed in the church inventory which can be inspected on request. No accounting value is placed on the organ, which was gifted to the church in 1993. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice property, moveable church furnishings and the organ, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment installed or used within the church with value exceeding £500 is depreciated on a straight line basis over 3 years.

Investments

Investments representing funds held in trust are valued at their bid market value at 31 December, as certified by the CCLA Church of England Investment Fund.

Long-term deposits

These include social investments in the Shared Interest Society.

Short-term deposits

These include cash held on deposit with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund.

Current Assets

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

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARY, EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

2. INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2023	2022
Donations and Legacies	2a	£	£	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Income/Receipts							
Tax efficient planned giving							
GA Bankers Orders		42,666				42,666	43,398
GA Donations		3,340				3,340	2,236
Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme		2,968				2,968	1,707
Gift Aid Recovered		12,026				12,026	12,063
Other planned giving not Gift Aided		4,021				4,021	3,558
Donation not Gift Aided		350				350	4,600
Receipts including special appeals		1,070				1,070	1,000
Grants & Legacies Received						0	29,586
		66,441	0	0	0	66,441	98,148
Charitable Activities	2b						
Church Activities							
Statutory Fees (retained by PCC)		3,211				3,211	4,920
Fund Raising		9,591				9,591	10,465
100 club		2,112				2,112	2,424
Restricted Fabric Fund				0		0	500
Linen Fund				0		0	16
Tower Fund				60		60	67
Dagnall Management Fund				5,086		5,086	2,393
Dagnall Fabric Fund				2		2	2
Focus Magazine				30,476		30,476	31,714
Carnival				18,725		18,725	18,706
Front Row				0		0	0
Breakfast Club (wound up 2022)				0		0	1,119
Ladies Guild (wound up 2022)				0		0	0
Parish Lunch				2,765		2,765	2,354
		14,914	0	57,114	0	72,028	74,680
Other income	2c						
Rental Income		1,024				1,024	1,021
Dividend and Deposit Interest		1,564				1,564	1,707
		2,588	0	0	0	2,588	2,728
Total Income		83,943	0	57,114	0	141,057	175,556
Investment gains/ (losses)	2d	0	7,563	0	6,929	14,492	-8,004
Total		83,943	7,563	57,114	6,929	155,549	167,552

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARY, EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

3. EXPENDITURE

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2023	2022
Raising Funds	3a	£	£	£	£	£	£
Costs of Generating Income							
Fund Raising		1,078				1,078	1,811
100 Club		1,100				1,100	1,190
Memorial Fund			0			0	0
Tower Fund				0		0	0
Dagnall Management Fund				7,696		7,696	6,903
Dagnall Fabric Fund				0		0	0
Focus Magazine				33,369		33,369	29,183
Carnival				11,952		11,952	12,108
Front Row				181		181	0
Breakfast Club (wound up 2022)				0		0	1,354
Ladies Guild (wound up 2022)				0		0	500
Parish Lunch				2,754		2,754	2,552
		2,178	0	55,952	0	58,130	55,601
Charitable Activities	3b						
Church Activities							
Charitable Giving		121				121	1,982
Diocesan parish share		66,271				66,271	64,989
North Chilterns Group and Deanery		262				262	223
Salaries and Wages (see below)		780				780	780
Clergy and Staff Expenses		1,608				1,608	1,066
Clerical cover expenses		0				0	0
Church Expenses							
Mission and Evangelism		420				420	487
Repairs & Maintenance		5,087				5,087	3,054
Church Running Expenses		6,961				6,961	6,182
Church Utility Bills		2,787				2,787	2,908
Depreciation		0				0	1,005
Major Capital Expenditure				1,020		1,020	0
PCC Governance Costs						0	0
		84,297	0	1,020	0	85,317	82,676
Total		86,475	0	56,972	0	143,447	138,277

Related Parties

One PCC member Mrs Jill Fountain was employed as a part time Verger at a salary of £65 per month. The role includes opening and closing the church, preparation for services, and care of frontals. No other member of the PCC received remuneration or benefit.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARY, EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

4. FIXED ASSETS

	1/1/23	Added	Depreciation	31/12/23	31/12/22
Capital Equipment	0			0	0

5. INVESTMENTS

	1/1/23	Deposits	Withdrawn	Interest	Changes in Mkt Value	31/12/23	31/12/22
Long Term Deposits							
Shared Interest Society	1,958			2		1,960	1,958
Investment Funds							
CCLA Fund	10,013	65,000			6,364	81,377	10,013
Endowment Fund	72,275				6,929	79,204	72,275
Total Investments	84,246					162,541	84,246

6. CURRENT ASSETS

	1/1/23	Deposits	Withdrawn	Interest	31/12/23	31/12/22
Short term Deposits						
Hampshire Trust Bank	76,397		(76,531)	134	0	76,397
CCLA Deposit Fund	17,592	35,000		1,199	53,791	17,592
	93,989				53,791	93,989

Bank Accounts

Church	22,163	37,458
Focus	54,528	52,383
Dagnall	5,724	8,332
Associates	4,518	4,695
	86,933	102,868

Cash

271	262
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7. DEBTORS

Gift Aid reclaims	938	949
Focus debtors	0	8,193
Other debtors	211	5,087
	1,149	14,229

8. LIABILITIES

Carnival received in advance	0	(100)
Focus advertising revenue in advance	(17,415)	(20,570)
Fron Row expenses	(181)	0
Other creditors	(832)	(769)
	(18,428)	(21,439)

Total Net Assets

286,257	274,155
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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARY, EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

9. FUNDS RECONCILIATION

			Reserves	Incoming	Resources	Transfers	Investment	Reserves
			At 1 Jan	Resources	Expended		Gains/(Loss)	At 31 Dec
			£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted	General Fund	9a	14,079	81,831	(85,375)	1,012		11,547
	100 Club		0	2,112	(1,100)	(1,012)		0
			14,079					11,547
(Designated)	Designated Strategy	9b	48,371				7,563	55,934
	Designated Memorial		707					707
	Designated B'fast Club		619					619
			49,697					57,260
Restricted	Benevolent	9c	143					143
	Fabric		74,823		(1,020)	6,850		80,653
	Linen		291					291
	Roof		9,343					9,343
	Tower		503	60				563
			85,103					90,993
(Associates)	Dagnall Management	9d	8,319	5,086	(7,696)			5,709
	Dagnall Fabric		13	2				15
	Focus Magazine		40,006	30,476	(33,369)			37,113
	Carnival		1,253	18,725	(11,952)	(6,850)		1,176
	Front Row		3,342	0	(181)			3,161
	Parish Lunch		68	2,765	(2,754)			79
			53,001					47,253
Endowments (Restricted Capital)	Chancel Fund Shares	9e	5,079				482	5,561
	Chancel Fund Income		1,900				215	2,115
	Fabric (Miss Gray's)		20,068				1,904	21,972
	Church Lands Shares		2,182				276	2,458
	Church Lands Income		25				1	26
	Brandom Shares		10,055				954	11,009
	Brandom Income		5,342				475	5,817
	Wallace Bequest Shares		27,376				2,599	29,975
	Edlesb. Mem. Shares		248				23	271
			72,275					79,204
Total Funds			274,155	141,057	(143,447)	0	14,492	286,257

Note: Associate Funds are held by the Dagnall District Church Council and other affiliated groups on behalf of the PCC being the charity trustees under the terms of the Charities Act 2011, S177. They are Restricted Funds and as such may only be used for the agreed purposes of those groups. The PCC as the legal entity is responsible for all financial management and accounts to the Charity Commission and cannot delegate that responsibility. The PCC may pass down management of those associate funds to a sub committee but retains legal ownership and authority.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARY, EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

10. ASSOCIATES FINANCIAL SUMMARIES

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
11 Dagnall Management Committee				
Income	5,086		2,393	
Transfer from Dagnall Fabric Fund	0		6,000	
Less Expenditure	(7,696)		(6,903)	
Surplus/ (Deficit)		(2,610)		1,490
12 Dagnall Fabric				
Income	2		2	
Transfer to Dagnall Mgt Cttee Fund	0		(6,000)	
Less Expenditure	0		0	
Surplus/ (Deficit)		2		(5,998)
13 Focus Magazine				
Income				
Advertising revenue	30,476		31,714	
Expenditure				
Printing and artwork	(28,694)		(28,081)	
Admin	(425)		(102)	
Donations	(4,250)		(1,000)	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(2,893)		2,531
14 Carnival				
Income				
Advertising, Sponsors & Donation	4,436		4,547	
Stall Fees	3,822		4,045	
Church Stalls	10,355		10,053	
Gift Aid Recovery	111		61	
Gross Receipts		18,724		18,706
Expenditure				
Programmes	0		(800)	
Church Stalls	(1,583)		(1,459)	
Administration	(2,968)		(2,649)	
Entertainers	(550)		(600)	
		(5,101)		(5,508)
Profit on Carnival		13,623		13,198
Transfer to St Marys Fabric Fund		(6,850)		(6,600)
Distributions to Charities		(6,850)		(6,600)
Surplus/(Deficit)		(77)		(2)

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARY, EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
15 Front Row				
Income	0		0	
Expenditure	(181)		0	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(181)		0
16 Breakfast Club (Wound up)				
Income	0		1,119	
Donation to Charity	0		(100)	
Expenditure	0		(1,254)	
Surplus/(Deficit)		0		(235)
17 Ladies Guild (Wound up)				
Income	0		0	
Expenditure	0		(100)	
Distributed to Charities	0		(400)	
Surplus/(Deficit)		0		(500)
18 Parish Lunch				
Income	2,765		2,354	
Expenses	(2,754)		(2,352)	
Donation to St Marys	0		(200)	
Surplus/(Deficit)		11		(198)

19 Commitments

There are no other commitments, not otherwise recognised in these financial statements.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARY, EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

19 SOFA Comparatives
(previous year)

Income and Endowments from:
Donations and Legacies
Charitable Activities
Interest and Other Activities

Total

				2022
Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS
£	£	£	£	£
68,562	29,586			98,148
14,757	3,052			17,809
2,728		56,871		59,599
86,047	32,638	56,871	0	175,556

Expenditure on:

Raising Funds
Charitable Activities
Other

Total

1,542	1,459	52,600		55,601
82,676				82,676
0				0
84,218	1,459	52,600	0	138,277

Net Income/(Expenditure)

Transfers between Funds

Other recognised gains/(losses)

On investments

Net Movement in Funds

1,829	31,179	4,271	0	37,279
1,555	(1,555)	0	0	0
	13		(8,017)	(8,004)
3,384	29,637	4,271	(8,017)	29,275

Total Funds brought forward (1 Jan)

10,641	19,495	134,452	80,292	244,880
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Total Funds carried forward (31 Dec)

14,025	49,132	138,723	72,275	274,155
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Independent Examiners Report

To the Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 11, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

Respective Responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner.

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the regulations.

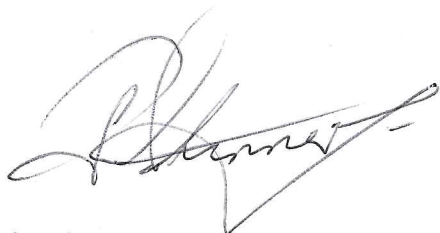
Basis of this report

The examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with the examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives reasonable cause to believe, in any material respect, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with s130 of the Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements the Act and the Regulations, have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Ian Skinner
Retired Accountant
19 Mardle Road,
Leighton Buzzard

Dated : 21 February 2024

Independent Examiners Report

To the Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 11, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

Respective Responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner.

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the regulations.

Basis of this report

The examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with the examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives reasonable cause to believe, in any material respect, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with s130 of the Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements the Act and the Regulations, have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Ian Skinner
Retired Accountant
19 Mardle Road,
Leighton Buzzard

Dated : 21 February 2024

Accounts

Annual Reports for APCM 2023

Vicar's Report

Following two very challenging years due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, in 2022 we gradually returned to previous patterns of worship and fellowship. The Prayer and Praise group meets monthly in church. The coffee morning on the first Saturday in the month is very popular. Thanks to Marion and her team for organising these. In September, Heritage Open Days were held at St Mary's Edlesborough and at St Mary's Eaton Bray. Although Music at St Mary's recommenced, the response was disappointing. We are pausing concerts, apart from the Poppy Prom. Gordon Gray's enterprise and hard work in raising funds for charity over many years was recognised as he was awarded the British Empire Medal. Congratulations Gordon!

In 2022 the North Chilterns Group celebrated its 40th anniversary. Our Lent Course was a fascinating exploration of the importance of trees in ecology and in Scripture. This was facilitated by Revd Louise Collins based on her research. The NCG Advent service was held at St Mary the Virgin, Kensworth with a joint choir from across the parishes. Bishop Alan preached and the service was followed by a celebration tea.

We have continued to hold baptism services at 12 noon rather than in the 10am service. This is popular with families. During 2022 there were 3 weddings and 2 blessings of civil marriages which had been held during Covid with very restricted numbers. I also conducted marriage blessings for those celebrating 25 years and 40 years of married life. In addition to 20 funeral services and 5 burial of ashes services, we held a Memorial service for Peter Bennett whose funeral was restricted by Covid regulations. The annual Memorial Service continues to be appreciated by bereaved families.

The war in Ukraine deeply affected people and in March I organised an hour of prayer led by members of the 'Prayer matters' group. That was followed by two 24-hour prayer vigils, which began and ended with the bell being tolled and a service of Compline in church. A prayer rota ensured each hour was covered by one person praying at home and I provided material for them to use. These opportunities deepened people's prayer life and were much appreciated as a way of responding to the war.

From January to March 2022 I attended 'Launchpad: Getting your youth work off the ground': The course, facilitated by Youthscape, supports church leaders exploring how to initiate youth work in their churches. It is especially for those with few or no young people in their congregations. This is an area which the PCC are looking to develop alongside building on other areas of work with children. Our links with the 1st Eaton Bray and Edlesborough Beavers continued to flourish. They visited St Mary's in March for various activities including planting sunflower seeds. In June they planted the sunflowers in the church grounds which provided a wonderful show in the summer. In December the Beavers' visit to church included Advent and Christmas activities.

It was good to be able to welcome Eaton Bray Academy to St Mary's for their Christingle service. We are developing closer links with them which is wonderful. Edlesborough School made the journey up the hill to a freezing St Mary's Edlesborough for a Christingle service in December.

The Wednesday communion congregation has increased and we are regularly in double figures. In November I introduced a 'Warm Hub'. Following the service, people were invited to come or stay for coffee. Between 12 and 1pm soup and a roll were served for lunch. A team of 10 people, working in pairs, facilitated this. On 7th December, we held a 'Home made Christmas' craft session and on 21st December, Dave Cousans ran a Christmas Quiz. In March 2022, a community group

began a Book Swap housed in St Mary's, which is open during coffee mornings and Warm Hub. This is proving popular and brings in new people to the church.

In June we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II. Only three months later, the nation mourned her death. We held a service of prayer and thanksgiving and also established an ecumenical rota so the church had people to welcome those who came to sign the memorial book, light a candle or say a prayer.

The pastoral group has continued to evolve. Members regularly take Home Communion Services, and provide support by phone calls, visits or sending cards. Most importantly we as a church pray for those in need through the Prayer Chain and the prayer board in the North Chapel. People also use the Prayer tree to leave their own prayers. We are greatly helped by the community of St Mary's in alerting us to those they know who are in need or ill so we can contact them.

The Eco Group has undertaken a wildlife survey, planted a native hedge and created a wild area in the churchyard. We've established recycling points in church for used stamps, blister packs and ink cartridges, and are looking at further ways to reduce our carbon footprint. I have written about Eco matters in the Focus magazine and published several interviews with people involved in eco related initiatives.

All Saints' Dagnall

The Sharing Agreement with the Methodist congregation formally ended on 24th December 2021. The loss of the Methodists, as well as other elderly congregation members, has impacted the life of Dagnall church. We currently hold one service each month (Holy Communion) as well as services on Good Friday, Easter, Harvest, a Carol service and Christmas Day. It was wonderful to welcome Bishop Richard and Dame Helen for a Sunday service in March 2022. Dagnall Church of England School is making more use of the church building since Covid restrictions have lifted. In September 2022, we held a weekend Flower Festival which finished with a joyful Songs of Praise service led by Revd Stephen Burge. It was a wonderful event which raised £800 and involved lots of community groups. Work on the building is ongoing.

I would like to thank all those involved in all aspects of our church life, especially those working in 'behind the scenes' roles. Visitors remark on how clean and welcoming the church is. We now have new moveable banners with information about St Mary's history and the prayer chapel. Thank you to everyone for your faithfulness and continued support. We look forward with hope as we trust in our mighty God to open up new horizons in the coming year. May God bless you all.

Revd Joy Cousans, May 2023

All Saints Dagnall Report

We at Dagnall, although few in numbers at present, are in good heart and feeling positive about the future of our little Church. The "regulars" are a good team, each playing our own part to the best of our ability. Thanks are due to Norma Price, who plays the organ for us at most of our services. We are grateful also to Liz Coates, who does many practical tasks, including taking responsibility for the cleaning of the church. She is also making valiant attempts to grow a wildflower meadow at the back of the church, not helped by the very dry weather last summer. Thanks are due also to Sally Thorne, who has continued and enhanced her significant role as Treasurer, as we've gone through the recent changes. We, Philip and Dorothy, as District Churchwardens, work together well, each of us having particular strengths that complement each other. Last, but far from least, we must, of course, convey our thanks to Joy and Stephen, who also complement each other well and, among other things, lead our monthly celebration of Holy Communion and additional services for festivals.

Both our Carol Service and our Christmas Day service went well and were well-attended. We were also pleased to welcome members of other churches to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service in January. A big success of the year was the Flower/Harvest Festival, held in September, and thanks go to Barbara Morton and Catherine Hayden for the part they played in organising this. The recent Easter Coffee Morning, which was organised by Liz and Norma, most ably assisted by Jenny Foale, proved to be a happy and successful event.

At present we are exploring the possibility of having an informal afternoon service, perhaps on fifth Sundays, as we did in the past. This was one of the things that we talked about at a successful and enjoyable evening get-together that we held recently, when we enjoyed fellowship and refreshments together. It was felt that we would like to have more such get-togethers in the future. In this respect we must mention with thanks those who contribute so generously when refreshments are required.

During the past year some excellent work on the exterior of the apse has been carried out by Mick Bunning, an expert in the renovation of churches. A major task for the future is a restoration of the interior of the apse. We are grateful to Catherine Hayden for her continued involvement in the renovation of our building. A good deal of electrical work has been carried out recently and the church and hall are now very well heated. We are also in the process of having some of our furniture restored.

The Choir continue to meet weekly in the church and the building is used regularly by the school. We are hoping that in future the hall may be hired out appropriately to groups who might like to use it.

Dorothy Green and Philip Lee, District Churchwardens

Bell Tower Report

Throughout the past year our seven regular Eaton Bray bell ringers have enjoyed participating in weekly, Sunday service ringing as well as weekly, Monday evening practices. In addition we have been called upon to ring for several special occasions - weddings, funerals, the Queen's Jubilee, as well as honouring the death of Her Majesty and celebrating her long and dedicated reign. Plans are now in place to ring to celebrate the upcoming Coronation of King Charles III. We have also welcomed several, visiting, bell ringing bands who have requested the use of our bell ringing facilities during their outings or for association practices/meetings.

My sincere thanks go out to John Plater, Adrian Roberts, Bryan Daniels, Sharon Stilliard, Richard Stroud and Sarah Edwards for helping me keep this wonderful bell ringing tradition alive in our parish. I would also like to express our sincere thanks to Chris Banks - Parish Health & Safety Manager - for his extensive efforts to improve the overall safety of our bell tower, which was no easy task given the limited access and space issues. Very much appreciated.

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any related questions or perhaps have an interest in joining our ringing band.

Gaye Soule
BELL TOWER CAPTAIN

Carnival Report

The Carnival, or the St Mary's Village Carnival – to be more accurate – remains the largest, best-attended event in the parish, and continues to represent the most important fund raising event for St Mary's.

The 2022 did not disappoint in any way, raising a total of £13,200 Of which £6,600 benefitted the fabric fund in accordance with an agreed formula, and the remainder split 50/50 between the four village halls and the pavilion and other local charities and fund raisers.

We are therefore heavily dependent upon the event, both to replenish our fund for the repair of the building and as an opportunity for outreach into the whole of the local community. In achieving these objectives, we receive enormous support from the organizing committee, chaired by Mark Kilfoyle, who all work tirelessly from January onwards to plan and to chase people and over the weekend of the event to move mountains of equipment onto and off the site.

2023 promises to be no different. The date, Saturday 1st July, is in the diary; the venue, Edlesborough Green has been made available by Edlesborough Parish Council; and the need for volunteers before, during, and after the big day doesn't get any less.

If you do feel that you might be able to assist in any way, please let myself or Bob or Sharon Stilliard know. Thank you.

Chris Banks

Churches Together Report

Churches Together in the villages meet together three times in the year to share news and support each other.

Christian Aid (CA) week last May was supported by raising funds at coffee morning events and a Hunger Lunch prepared by the Salvation Army. The monies donated at the Pancakes and Prayer evening on Shrove Tuesday in 2022 was included in the £765 sent to Christian Aid for their mission work.

Churches Together took a stall at St. Mary's Village Carnival last July and members of Northall Baptist Church and Eaton Bray Methodists were able to hand out goodie bags that had been provided by the Salvation Army. The presence of the village churches at the Carnival is an opportunity for Christian witness and promotion of the events taking place at the different churches.

Hymns on the Green was held on a sunny afternoon in August. Allison Gaudion led the service which was well attended and everyone enjoyed singing favourite hymns.

October saw us saying a sad farewell to Majors Allison and Andrew Gaudion of the Salvation Army. We wished Allison a happy retirement. Majors David and Sarah Murray came in their place to lead both Leighton Buzzard and Eaton Bray Armies. David and Sarah have since moved on from Eaton Bray but are still active in Leighton Buzzard.

An Advent Trail was organised for a second consecutive year, this time with a theme of Christmas Carols. Thank you to those who hosted a poster in their windows. Measuring the uptake of involvement with an event like this is difficult. Feedback received suggested the promotion of the event could be improved. There were plenty of positive outcomes - Churches Together were delighted to develop relationships with local businesses, families in the villages and Eaton Bray School who produced a wonderful Shepherd display on their school fence. Our aim was to

illustrate the Christmas Story for both the churched and unchurched and provide family fun for all ages which we hope it did for those that engaged with the trail. Eaton Bray Methodist hosted two very enjoyable art workshops to prepare material.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity fell on the 18th to the 25th January this year. A service was held at All Saints, Dagnall led by Rev Stephen Burge. The theme this year was “Be – Longing: Prayer for Unity amidst Injustice” and the service content was prepared by the churches of Minneapolis. The congregation were encouraged to consider how the work of Christian Unity can contribute to the promotion of racial justice. Thank you to All Saints, Dagnall for hosting and for the refreshments served after the service.

Pancakes and Prayer was held as usual on Shrove Tuesday, kindly hosted by Eaton Bray Methodist Church. Thank you to Chriss Hewitt and Dorothy Green for leading the fellowship. A big thank you to Kay Griffiths who stepped in at the eleventh hour to cook the pancakes with Debbie Dunstan.

Eaton Bray School held a competition to produce artwork for the Churches Together Christmas Card that appeared in Focus. Thank you to Philip Lee for judging numerous entries featuring the Nativity scene. Thanks also to Gaye Soule for providing the image for the Easter Card and for Marion Higley for formatting both cards with details of all the seasonal worship services.

Angela Dunford

Churchwardens' Report

Maintenance and repairs

Church maintenance

Our annual maintenance programme has been followed; this includes servicing of the roof alarm, fire extinguishers, organ, clock, and gutter clearance.

During the summer months, the lightning conductor will be tested, the boiler serviced and PAT testing take place.

The church and brasses are cleaned regularly thanks to our devoted church volunteers.

Energy efficiency

The Hive remote heating controller fitted last year has made the task of programming each week's heating schedule much easier, also enabling greater economy of fuel.

We have plans to install a Smart Relay to replace the existing time switch on the floodlights. This will avoid the floodlights being on at the wrong times as the year progresses, resulting in unlit paths or wasted energy.

Lighting

Several lights in the nave and chancel no longer work and the PCC has agreed that we should begin to research a replacement lighting scheme (see project for 2023/24).

Sound system

New speakers installed last year have much improved the quality of sound.

Health & Safety

Chris Banks has continued to carry out monthly safety checks and be vigilant of potential hazards. In recent months, he and Gaye, our Tower Captain, have been reviewing safety in the tower. The diocesan bell advisor visited and advised the following work, some of which has been completed:

- ☐ plug-in emergency lighting has been installed in the ringing chamber and bell chamber
- ☐ a sheet of acrylic has been installed in front of the west window in the ringing chamber to improve the safety barrier
- ☐ hard hats have been provided for use of those working in the bell chamber
- ☐ various ways of enabling safer transit across the bell chamber are being evaluated
- ☐ notices will be made available alerting others to people present in the tower
- ☐ two additional lights at the top of the tower are to be installed once permission has been received from the DAC
- ☐ A fire alarm system is being considered and further advice sought.

Churchyard

Maintenance: The volunteer churchyard maintenance team continues to keep the paths, gullies and drains clear, as well as carrying out general gardening tasks. All this means that our churchyard remains in good order and is a pleasant environment for the whole community to enjoy.

The main church noticeboard facing the High Street has been refurbished.

Eco Church: The mixed native species hedge has been planted on the south west boundary, and the Eco-Group is developing plans for this area and the 'wild area' in the north west corner, to encourage wild flowers and provide habitats that will benefit insects and other creatures.

We have been delighted to welcome the local Beavers group to church and receive their help with our eco plans.

New area for the burial of cremated remains: A Faculty has been granted for a further area in the churchyard to the west of the Memorial, to be designated for the burial of cremated remains.

Church project planned for 2023/2024

Lighting

The church lights are 30+ years old, spares are no longer available, they are heavy consumers of energy and not eco-friendly, so the PCC has decided it is time to start thinking about a new lighting scheme. This is something we need to research carefully in order to achieve the right result.

We have received advice from the diocesan lighting advisors who were able to give us an idea of what could be achieved in our building with a modern lighting scheme, and local churches where schemes have been recently installed, have been visited.

This project will be costly but the PCC has designated the generous legacy from the estate of Gwen Giltrow for this purpose.

All Saints, Dagnall

Chancel Apse

The exterior of the apse has been repaired but the interior continues to need remedial work where damp has damaged the plasterwork. The Dagnall Management Committee is considering a proposal and quotation. It is hoped that a grant from the Bucks Historic Churches Trust may be received for this work

Furniture Some items of church furniture are being repaired and repolished.

Electrical work PAT testing and a number of other necessary electrical works have taken place.

A Flower Festival was held last September and raised £800 for All Saints' funds.

Archdeacon's inspection

The Archdeacon visited in August to carry out his inspection. His report did not highlight any necessary actions and I believe he went away with a positive impression of our church. He was particularly interested in our outreach to the community through Messy Church, Coffee Mornings and the Parish Lunch.

Although he did not inspect the Inventory, I can confirm it is up to date, as are the Logbook and Maintenance log.

Items acquired and disposed of:

Acquired: Pop-up information banner; Five wall-mounted speakers;

Disposed of: old speakers

Thanks

Many thanks to all volunteers – your efforts are greatly appreciated and are vital to the upkeep of our lovely and historic church.

Catherine Hayden

Coffee After Church Report

Coffee after church is continuing to be popular and much appreciated by all the church family. And because of this we are very grateful for the wonderful people who support this special ministry and pull together to make it work. We average approximately £10 each week in donations which is a nice contribution to the church but more importantly it enables fellowship to extend after the services and also provides an opportunity to welcome any newcomers and visitors to the church. More helpers are of course always welcome, at present a turn at setting up and serving would come around about once every 7 or 8 weeks. If you would like to be part of the team please do speak to Diane Goodwin or Marion Higley for more information.

Diane Goodwin and Marion Higley

Deanery Synod Report

At each of the three synod meetings held over the last year churches in the deanery have been able to share news of their churches with each other and benefit from the support of others in our deanery. Jill Fountain and Angela Dunford (Deanery Synod representatives) have attended meetings together with Reverend Joy.

In the July 2022 meeting Tricia Humber (co-Chair) gave an interesting overview of the Dunstable Deanery. Tricia listed the greatest challenges and opportunities for this deanery. This was followed by a talk given by David White who shared his experiences working for a Nigerian bishop at the Anglican Communion in London and in his current role as Diocesan Secretary. David explained that the title of Diocesan Secretary, which implies office work, does not aptly describe his role. He oversees the work of the Diocese where the aim is to serve parishes, schools and chaplaincies in matters such as finance, safeguarding, communication, property management and the like. He is involved with policy making and the business of ensuring the viability to fund the Church's mission into the future. David cited the best part of his role as being able to help parishes share the news of Jesus Christ and show God's love to Christians and the unchurched.

At the November meeting Dr. John Wallace gave a presentation on his doctoral thesis "Anglo Catholic Church Planting". In response to questions from the floor John shared that through his research he had come across people of all traditions in the C of E that want to share their faith with others as they have a vision and sense of evangelism. He saw evidence of churches endeavouring to grow the church.

The speaker at our last meeting in March was the Very Reverend Jo Kelly-Moore who shared with us her journey as a priest in New Zealand all the way through to her role as Dean of St. Albans. All meetings have had on their agendas the topics of Eco Church, Safeguarding and General Synod reports. In relation to Eco Church Rev Nicola Lenthall (Chair) has congratulated all churches who have signed up to A Rocha and are working towards their Bronze, Silver and Gold Eco Awards. The Diocese is aiming for net carbon zero by 2030 and have announced that funding will be available to help with eco initiatives including updating heating and lighting system. These funds will hopefully become available this year.

The changes to the C of E Safeguarding Framework are now in place. We are reminded that the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of everyone.

General Synod reports supplied by Canon Peter Adams (General Synod representative for the Diocese of St. Albans) have focused heavily on the subject of Living in Love and Faith and his involvement in the debate on sexuality and same sex blessings and the church. I am sure you will be aware of the outcome of this and there is a report attached to the noticeboard by the North Door in St. Mary's Church for those that have an interest in reading more about it.

All churches in the Deanery have been encouraged to engage with the Bishop of St. Albans initiative of Warm Hubs or Warm Spaces throughout the winter months to help people with the rising cost of their fuel bills. This idea was taken up by St. Mary's, who have, every Wednesday over the cold months of winter provided a warm area to sit, chat, join in craft activities, have coffee and partake of a lunch of soup and a roll.

Angela Dunford

Electoral Roll Report

To be reported at the meeting.

Diane Goodwin

Family History Report

The number of requests has dropped during the last year but I am still receiving requests for information regarding family history records.

I have also found that when the records are available for viewing, as we did for the Heritage Day last year, the interest shown by the general public is encouraging, the records table was constantly in use with people looking up names and dates of past events.

Eileen Bennett April 2023

Eileen Bennett

Finance Report

The Financial Statement of accounts to December 2022 are presented to APCM.

These have been independently inspected and approved by the PCC. They are in the format required by the Charity Commission and include all financial activities of associated groups within the Church Charity.

To make these financial statements easier to read I have shown below some simplified figures that separate the funds and financial transactions into three main areas. First the funds and investments directed to maintaining the fabric of the building over the long term. Second our regular income and expenditure supporting the church's ministry, its charitable activities and expenses. Third the funds and financial activities of associated groups who operate within the Church Charity. This third group is not summarised here but can be easily read on pages 10 and 11 of the Financial Statement.

1. Long term funds include Designated, Restricted, and Endowment funds. These funds were increased substantially with a legacy from the estate of Gwen Giltrow and an annual donation from the Carnival. There were no major expenditure items this year. These funds are held against the costs of maintaining the roof, the stonework and the chancel all of which tend to be on a long cycle and involve substantial costs. They have been supported in the past by legacies and endowments and are held in CofE ethical investment and deposit funds. The reduction in share values last year saw a significant book value loss. However, the 5 year yield of these investments is estimated at an annualised 7.5%.
2. Short term or annual funds are those devoted to supporting both the work and the maintenance of the church. The largest element of income comes from individual regular giving and with gift aid it provides 70% of our funding. Other important elements are our fundraising, fees and donations. We continue to be very thankful for all of these funding sources. Without them we would not be able to support the Parish Share which provides for our clergy and the diocese. The Parish Share is our largest fixed cost. The remaining 24% needs to cover all other operating and maintenance costs, challenging enough without inflation and increasing energy costs.

Our long term funds have a healthy balance and give us confidence for the future. Our annual income and expenditure predicted a small deficit but with two substantial donations we have turned that to a small surplus. Next year will be challenging but the generosity of our congregation and donors and the efforts of our fundraising teams will see us through.

Martin Hayden

Flower Arrangers' Report

Our flower arranging team consists of eight regulars: Beryl, Helen, Sally, Catherine, Christine, Joan, Anna and me. Christine Horn very kindly orders flowers for the major festivals as well as making some beautiful contributions to the arrangements. Joan remains at the beck and call of the doctors this year, so has only been able to help once, for Remembrance Sunday. We very sincerely hope that she will be able to return this year – she is much missed.

Dagnall Church held a Flower Festival last year, which proved very successful and raised some much needed funds. It was a wonderful weekend, much enjoyed by all who visited, and supported well by the local villagers who provided refreshments as well as attending the final Songs of Praise service.

We would love to see some more volunteers come forward to assist, particularly for the major festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Don't worry if you are inexperienced - with the help of our more able arrangers you will soon progress on to arranging flowers on your own during the year! Please contact me if you would like to come along.

Barbara Morton

Focus Magazine Report

We have a small but strong team responsible for producing Focus Magazine, and we work well together with different strengths which makes for good management.

Focus Magazine continues to progress well during one of the most difficult years in my involvement with the magazine.

We plan each year's expenditure in the previous year's October and calculate the advertising costs after discussions with our printers Priory Press, some one who we have been with for over twenty years, and trusted. Based on the information given to us we can establish the advertising costs and send this out to all concerned in October. This has worked well for many years, not this one! From January 2023 we started to receive messages that paper costs had risen significantly and throughout the next six months we had eleven paper increases, making our calculations go out of the window. Following meetings with the printers we agreed that both parties would absorb some of the increases but in the end, we had to agree to increased monthly costs, as the size of increases started to climb. We take an annual payment from our advertisers so totally unable to increase our prices mid-year.

To protect future increase, we agreed to pay upfront for the next twelve months paper which Priory will store, leaving us only the printer's costs which we can control for the rest of 2023. The committee also decided to hold current advertising costs for 2023 as concerned that the cost-of-living increase would deter some people to continue advertising. The action taken has worked and this year's magazine is full which is positive.

Our village distributors, who number approximately seventy, continue to be resilient and we plan a garden party for them in summer to express our thanks.

Depending on costs we expect to end the year just covering our costs with little or no reserves, but considering the year we feel this is a good result. 2024 will be equally challenging as costs will increase but we all have confidence in the Focus brand to continue moving forward, but we will have to increase our advertising costs for 2024.

I would now like to express my personal thanks to the team for responding to a challenging year. Without them we would surely have struggled to produce our village community magazine.

Ken Coates
Chairman

Four Villages Men's Breakfast Club Report

Sadly after 10 years of successful and friendly meetings – not to mention excellent breakfasts – we took the decision in November to cease the activities of the Breakfast Club. Whilst we had enjoyed high levels of attendance prior to the COVID lockdown and subsequent restrictions, it did not prove possible to generate a high enough level of attendance, and therefore income, to ensure that our activities would be sustainable.

Reasons for the fall-off in attendance are well recognized, centering mainly upon the number of members who are either no longer with us, or who are perhaps still nervous of participating in such gatherings, or indeed simply affected by the inexorable passage of time.

Nevertheless, as challenged by a previous incumbent we gave the Club a good shot, we did our best to provide a meeting place for the gentlemen of the parish, and by closing when we did were able to hand monies over to the PCC Treasurer as well as making a donation on behalf of St Mary's to Prostate Cancer UK.

Chris Banks

Fundraising Report

Since his stroke Gordon has had to take a lower than usual profile but has tried to re-establish a programme for Music@St Mary's. Sadly, because of the effects of Covid (people don't seem to be going out as much as they used to), four concerts had, of necessity, been cancelled – on two occasions we had sold fewer than 20 tickets. Only the Poppy Prom survived. We may have to face up to the fact that Music@St Mary's has run its course.

Open Gardens on 17 July was, once again a great success. However I am not optimistic that the event will go ahead this year – so far I have had not a single offer from gardens that might open.

Fortunately, the potential 'hole' in the fundraising account has not come to fruition thanks to the excellent work of Marion Higley and her team who run Monthly Coffee Mornings. Attendance at these together with monthly income generated continues to grow and there is great scope for mission.

Gordon Gray

Parish Lunch Club Report

I took over the organisation of the Parish Lunches from Jenny Hewett last year and it continues to flourish with 43 members attending with some new this year.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who help with all aspects of the lunches without whom it could not continue. Special thanks go to Chriss Hewitt who is a vital part of the team together with Iain & Julian who arrange all the tables and chairs which is a huge help.

The members have enjoyed lovely lunches throughout the year especially at Christmas with a glass of wine and carol singing.

I'm looking forward to more of the same for the year ahead.

Vivienne Grundy

PCC Report

The Parochial Church Council is made up of the following:

The Vicar

Churchwarden: Catherine Hayden

Lay Reader (co-opted) Gordon Gray

Associate Priest Stephen Burge

Treasurer (co-opted) Martin Hayden

Deanery Synod Reps Jill Fountain and Angela Dunford

Six elected members:

Barbara Morton (Secretary to the PCC), Gaye Soule, Martin Quinn,

Chris Banks, Sheila Banks and Chriss Hewitt.

Deanery Synod Representative: Angela Dunford and Jill Fountain

Dagnall Member: Dorothy Green

There are now 13 members in total. The PCC met 10 times since May 2021. Most meetings were well attended with between 7 and 13 in attendance. In January, Bishop Richard was in attendance to hear about the work of our Parish.

The following appointments were in place during the past year:

Lay Vice Chair	Catherine Hayden
Standing Committee members	Joy Cousans/Catherine Hayden/ Chris Banks/Chriss Hewitt/ Gaye Soule
PCC Secretary	Barbara Morton
Electoral Roll Officer	Diane Goodwin
Treasurer/Bookkeeper	Martin Hayden
Finance Committee members	Joy Cousans/Martin Hayden/Catherine Hayden/Graham Mockett/Martin Quinn
Stewardship Committee members	Joy Cousans/Catherine Hayden/Graham Mockett
Stewardship Officer	Graham Mockett
Safeguarding Officer	Gaye Soule
Health and Safety Officer	Chris Banks
Bell Tower Manager	Gaye Soule
Fabric Committee Chair	Graham Chappell
Youth and Education Officer(s)	Sheila Banks/Catherine Wendeler
Fundraising Chair	Gordon Gray
Fundraising Committee members	Gordon Gray/ Barbara Morton/Catherine Hayden/Sharon Stilliard/Kate Freeman/Gary Freeman
Parish Lunch Club Organiser	Vivienne Grundy

Representatives on the North Chilterns Group Committee	Stephen Burge/Chriss Hewitt
Representatives on Churches Together Committee	Joy Cousans/Angela Dunford
PCC representative on Dagnall Management Committee	Joy Cousans/Catherine Hayden/Stephen Burge
Representative on Village Hall Committee	Chris Banks
Focus distribution organiser	Angela Dunford/Steve Dunford
Rota organisers 8am & 10am	Sharon Stilliard/Sally Taylor
Cleaning Rota organiser	Gaye Soule
Flowers organiser	Barbara Morton
Churchyard Maintenance organiser	Iain Stubbs
Publicity group	Angela Dunford/Eileen Bennett/Sue Tucker/Jill Fountain
Carnival Officer	Chris Banks
Eco Church Committee	Catherine Hayden, Joy Cousans, Iain Stubbs, Sue Walker, Tricia Toms, Sally Taylor
Pastoral Visiting Team	Joy Cousans, Stephen Burge, Catherine Wendeler, Gordon Gray, Chriss Hewitt, Sue Walker, Catherine Hayden, Pamela Richardson, Beryl Bishop
Focus Magazine	Angela Dunford/Sue Tucker/Ken Coates/ Sally Siddons /Steve Dunford

Barbara Morton, PCC Secretary

Prayer & Praise Group Report

This past year we have met in church at 10.30am on Tuesdays each month up to the present time, our numbers remaining the about the same as before. We enjoyed a lovely meal together at the Swan pub in Northall where it was agreed by the new management we could sing carols, which other diners told us they also enjoyed. Ken helps our praise along by playing the keyboard and introducing us to old and new songs which we enjoy. We start the morning with prayers and singing followed by a discussion and reflection, ending with prayers for the world.

The dates of the meetings are published in the pew leaflet, if anyone would like to join us you will be most welcome.

I end this report with a message from Dorothy:

This is to let you know that, not without some sadness, I have decided to withdraw from the Prayer and Praise group, in which I have been involved for many years. This is partly because I need space to concentrate on things that have been somewhat neglected for some while and also to explore other directions in my life, including my renewed involvement in the Church in Dagnall and plans not yet fully revealed.

Dorothy and I have worked together with this lovely group for the past 14 years which have flown by, THANK YOU Dorothy for all we've shared together as a group and personally, you will be missed but we wish you every blessing as you go forward.

Chriss Hewitt and Dorothy Green

Prayer Matters Report

A small group continue to meet every four to six weeks to focus on prayer for our churches and the community. We start our sessions with a quiet time of reflection and relish the opportunity to join together in fellowship. It is always a privilege to pray together as we ask for God's guidance in our church mission. Anyone is welcome to join us – look out for notice of our sessions in the pew leaflet.

This past year we have spent time producing the content for a Prayer Banner that is now displayed permanently by the North Chapel in St. Mary's church. Thank you to Martin Hayden for formatting the banner for us in readiness for printing. This is a resource that we hope will benefit our church family and visitors to St. Mary's alike. Other resources have been a Prayer Diary Calendar for Advent and Lent and the redistribution of an updated 'Pray for Us' leaflet. At present we are discussing plans for Thy Kingdom Come at St. Mary's. This is an initiative of the Archbishop of Canterbury and since its inception has spread globally. If you don't know much about Thy Kingdom Come listen out in church for information or read promotional material in relation to this event that falls from Ascension to Pentecost, this year being the 18th to 28th May.

Prayer can be requested for people by adding their names to the sick list in the North Chapel at St. Mary's or the Prayer Chain. Please contact Reverend Joy, Catherine Hayden or Angela Dunford to place someone on the Prayer Chain. A Prayer Tree is also available in St. Mary's to hang prayers on.

Angela Dunford

Publicity Committee

During the last year the committee have met every four to six weeks. The committee members at present are Eileen Bennett, Sue Tucker, Jill Fountain and Angela Dunford.

Information has been shared about the various events and worship that has taken place at St. Mary's and All Saints over the past year. Thanks to Eileen our main producer of advertising imaging and to the rest of the committee for their time 'spreading the word' and distributing the advertising to other organisations and the village communities.

A Heritage Open Day was held at St. Mary's last September despite the death of Queen Elizabeth II a few days before. Visitors and those taking part in the Bike and Hike event were appreciative of a quiet place to sit, reflect, look at the interesting displays and meet with people to share their thoughts about the Queen's sad passing.

Angela Dunford

Reader Ministry

In 2022/23 my primary Reader related activities have been:

- Maintaining a good working relationship with Joy
- Leading services at St Mary's
- Leading worship at churches within the North Chiltern Group

As a consequence of the stroke I suffered in January 2021 I have lost confidence in my ability to speak off-the-cuff but it hasn't affected my ability to read so I have been able to continue to lead services on the 3rd Sunday each month and preach on the 1st Sundays each month. I am most grateful for the feedback I receive from so many members of the congregation. A further symptom of the stroke has been a reduction in physical co-ordination which means that I have had to stop bell ringing.

I led the Candle Services on Christmas Eve – it was good to see the numbers of worshippers at those services getting back towards a full house. In addition I was privileged to be asked to lead the worship at St Mary's on Good Friday.

I am enormously grateful for all the support that I get from the parish and try to respond to both positive and negative criticism. I really do enjoy discussing sermon material with those who are interested, so don't be afraid to chat to me after Sunday services. Especially I want to thank Christine, who puts up with so much and without whose support my ministry would not be possible. This has been a difficult year for my family, having to care for an elderly parent, as a result of which Christine and I have had to reduce our involvement in parish activities.

Gordon Gray

Safeguarding Report

'Safeguarding is a part of our core faith and an integral feature of Christian life in our parish churches'

Archbishop Justin Welby

The issue of Safeguarding continues to be taken very seriously here at St. Mary's. What does this actually mean? It means that we must continue to promote a safer culture in our churches. It means that we will strive to promote the welfare of children, young people and adults and work to prevent any abuse from occurring. It means that we have a duty of care to respond to any situations that have involved abuse and to take any appropriate steps accordingly, plus take all precautions to mitigate any risks of any such abuse occurring.

This is achieved, on an ongoing basis, by following the key safeguarding responsibilities that are outlined in the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guide.

We do this by:

- Having a designated Safeguarding Officer - my role - who works alongside the vicar and the PCC to oversee the provisions of our Safeguarding Policy. This Policy is posted, reviewed annually and updated when necessary.

- Requiring specific and regular safeguarding training for many of the roles undertaken by people within the church - both paid and volunteer roles. Such training is **essential** to provide us all with

the tools to prevent, recognise and respond appropriately to any safeguarding issues that may arise.

- Having safeguarding as an agenda item at all our PCC meetings.
- Conducting and renewing DBS checks - criminal background checks - where required for recruitment purposes and for key roles within the church.
- Reporting or requesting guidance from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team in response to any reported concerns or issues that may arise within our parishes.
- Having a Domestic Abuse Policy that is posted and regularly reviewed.

We are very fortunate to live in a fairly affluent and rural community where we encounter comparatively few safeguarding issues compared to our urban counterparts. This does not mean that such issues don't arise or indeed exist. Thank you to those that bring our attention to any such issues so that we can then follow up appropriately in accordance with the guidance of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

It is the ongoing responsibility of us all to both help to promote and maintain a safe environment for everybody.

Gaye Soule
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Registered Charity No 1129952

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year ending 31 December 2022

Hon Treasurer: Mr Martin Hayden
2 Orchard End
Edlesborough
Dunstable
LU6 2RE

Independent Examiner: Mr Ian Skinner
Retired Accountant
19 Mardle Road
Leighton Buzzard
LU7 2UR

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ending 31 December 2022

		2022				2021
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and Legacies	2a	68,562	29,586	-	-	98,148
Charitable Activities	2b	14,757	3,052	56,871	-	74,680
Interest & Other Activities	2c	2,728	-	-	-	2,728
TOTAL		86,047	32,638	56,871	-	175,556
Expenditure on:						
Raising Funds	3a	1,542	1,459	52,600	-	55,601
Charitable Activities	3b	82,676	-	-	-	82,676
TOTAL		84,218	1,459	52,600	-	138,277
Net Income/ (Expenditure)		1,829	31,179	4,271	-	37,279
Transfers between Funds	9a	1,555	(1,555)	-	-	-
Other Recognised gains/(losses):						
Inclusion Dagnall & Focus Funds		-	-	-	-	-
Gains/(losses) on investments	2d	-	13	-	(8,017)	(8,004)
Net Movement in Funds		3,384	29,637	4,271	(8,017)	29,275
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total Funds brought forward (1st Jan)		10,641	19,495	134,452	80,292	244,880
Total Funds carried forward (31st Dec)		14,025	49,132	138,723	72,275	274,155

Approved by the PCC on *20th April 2023* and signed on their behalf by *J. E. Cousans* PCC Chair

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022
BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	Total 2022		Total 2021	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	4	0		1,005	
Social Investments	5	1,958		1,954	
Investments	5	82,288		80,292	
			84,246		83,251
Current Assets					
Short Term Deposits	6	93,989		76,207	
Church Bank Balances	6	37,458		30,712	
Focus Bank Balance	6	52,383		59,596	
Dagnall Bank Balances	6	8,332		12,840	
Associates Bank Balances	6	4,695		6,004	
Cash	6	262		514	
Debtors	7	14,229		1,226	
		211,348		187,099	
Liabilities					
Creditors due in one year	8	(21,439)		(25,470)	
Net Current Assets			189,909		161,629
			274,155		244,880
Represented by:					
Parish Funds	9				
Unrestricted Funds					
General			14,079		10,641
Designated			49,697		19,495
Restricted Funds			85,103		77,920
Associate Funds			53,001		56,532
Endowment Funds			72,275		80,292
Total Funds			274,155		244,880

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They have been prepared under FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standard. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Endowment fund capital must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion.

Endowment fund income may be restricted or unrestricted depending on the purpose for which the fund was established.

Restricted funds are income from endowments or donations or grants for specific purposes intended by the donor.

General funds are *unrestricted* and may be *designated* by the PCC for a particular purpose.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid declarations is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable under Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Bequests to the PCC are accounted for when the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain. Funds raised by the Carnival, Concerts and similar fundraising events are accounted for gross. Sales of flowers, books and other items are accounted for gross.

Other income

Rental income is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses on investments are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2022

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that creates a binding constructive obligation on the PCC. Activities directly relating to the work of the Church including the diocesan quota (Parish Share) is accounted for when payable.

Provisions

Amounts are set aside each year to provide for the estimated future cost of stonework restoration and roof repairs. The adequacy of these provisions is reviewed at appropriate intervals.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011. Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property and are listed in the church inventory which can be inspected on request. No accounting value is placed on the organ, which was gifted to the church in 1993. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice property, moveable church furnishings and the organ, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church with value exceeding £500 is depreciated on a straight line basis over 3 years.

Investments

Investments representing funds held in trust are valued at their bid market value at 31 December, as certified by the CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

Long-term deposits

These include social investments in the Shared Interest Society.

Short-term deposits

These include cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund, the Hampshire Trust Bank and the Shared Interest Charity.

Current Assets

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

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2022

2. INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2022	2021
Donations and Legacies						
2a						
Voluntary Income/Receipts	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tax efficient planned giving						
GA Envelopes					0	597
GA Bankers Orders	43,398				43,398	41,441
GA Donations	2,236				2,236	4,872
Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme	1,707				1,707	1,880
Other planned giving not Gift Aided	3,558				3,558	962
Donation not Gift Aided	4,600				4,600	5,541
Receipts including special appeals	1,000				1,000	1,070
Gift Aid Recovered	12,063				12,063	12,101
Grants & Legacies Received		29,586			29,586	0
	68,562	29,586	0	0	98,148	68,464
Charitable Activities						
2b						
Church Activities						
Statutory Fees (retained by PCC)	4,920				4,920	3,097
Fund Raising	9,837				9,837	8,553
Coffee Fund		628			628	130
100 club		2,424			2,424	2,300
Restricted Fabric Fund			500		500	3,200
Linen Fund			16		16	0
Tower Fund			67		67	0
Dagnall Management Fund			2,393		2,393	165
Dagnall Fabric Fund			2		2	1
Focus Magazine			31,714		31,714	29,801
Carnival			18,706		18,706	10,583
Front Row			0		0	0
Breakfast Club			1,119		1,119	532
Ladies Guild			0		0	0
Parish Lunch			2,354		2,354	745
	14,757	3,052	56,871	0	74,680	59,107
Other income						
2c						
Rental Income	1,021				1,021	853
Dividend and Deposit Interest	1,707				1,707	1,664
	2,728	0	0	0	2,728	2,517
Sub Total	86,047	32,638	56,871	0	175,556	130,088
Inclusion of Dagnall & Focus Funds						55,573
Investment gains/ (losses)	0	13	0	-8,017	-8,004	9,743
2d						
Total	86,047	32,651	56,871	-8,017	167,552	195,404

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2022

3. EXPENDITURE

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2022	2021
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Raising Funds	3a						
Costs of Generating Income							
Fund Raising		1,542				1,542	666
Coffee Fund			269			269	114
100 Club			1,190			1,190	896
Memorial Fund						0	15
Tower Fund						0	8
Dagnall Management Fund				6,903		6,903	1,476
Dagnall Fabric Fund				0		0	0
Focus Magazine				29,183		29,183	33,749
Carnival				12,108		12,108	10,504
Front Row						0	33
Breakfast Club				1,354		1,354	632
Ladies Guild				500		500	22
Parish Lunch				2,552		2,552	804
		1,542	1,459	52,600	0	55,601	48,919
Charitable Activities	3b						
Church Activities							
Charitable Giving		1,982				1,982	125
Diocesan parish share		64,989				64,989	65,505
North Chilterns Group and Deanery		223				223	0
Salaries and Wages (see below)		780				780	780
Clergy and Staff Expenses		1,066				1,066	957
Clerical cover expenses						0	210
Church Expenses							
Mission and Evangelism		487				487	152
Church Running Expenses		9,236				9,236	8,646
Church Utility Bills		2,908				2,908	3,209
Depreciation		1,005				1,005	1,005
Major Capital Expenditure						0	0
PCC Governance Costs						0	300
		82,676	0	0	0	82,676	80,889
Total		84,218	1,459	52,600	0	138,277	129,808

Related Parties

One PCC member Mrs Jill Fountain was employed as a part time Verger at a salary of £65 per month. The role includes opening and closing the church, preparation for services, and care of frontals. No other member of the PCC received remuneration or benefit.

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2022

4. FIXED ASSETS

	1/1/22	Added	Depreciation	31/12/22	31/12/21
Capital Equipment	1,005	0	-1005	0	1,005

5. INVESTMENTS

	1/1/22	Deposits	Disposals	Interest	Changes in Mkt Value	31/12/22	31/12/21
Long Term Deposits							
Shared Interest Society	1,954			4		1,958	1,954
Investment Funds							
CCLA Fund	0	10,000			13	10,013	0
Endowment Fund	80,292				(8,017)	72,275	80,292
Total Investments	82,246	10,000	0	4	(8,004)	84,246	82,246

6. CURRENT ASSETS

	1/1/22	Deposits	Disposals	Interest	31/12/22	31/12/21
Short term Deposits						
Hampshire Trust Bank	76,207			190	76,397	76,207
CCLA Deposit Fund	0	17,500		92	17,592	0
	76,207	17,500		282	93,989	76,207

Bank Accounts	Church	37,458	30,712
	Focus	52,383	59,596
	Dagnall	8,332	12,840
	Associates	4,695	6,004
		102,868	109,152

Cash	262	514
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7. DEBTORS	Gift Aid reclaims	949	1,226
	Focus paper purchased in advance	8,193	0
	Other debtors	5,087	0
		14,229	1,226

8. LIABILITIES	Carnival received in advance	(100)	(260)
	Focus advertising revenue in advance	(20,570)	(22,121)
	Other creditors	(769)	(3,089)
		(21,439)	(25,470)

Total Net Assets	274,155	244,880
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ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2022

9. FUNDS RECONCILIATION

		Notes	Reserves At 1 Jan	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Investment Gains/(Loss)	Reserves At 31 Dec
			£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted	General Fund	9a	10,641	86,047	(84,218)	1,555		14,025
	Coffee Fund		16	628	(269)	(321)		54
	100 Club		0	2,424	(1,190)	(1,234)		0
			10,657					14,079
(Designated)	Designated Strategy	9b	0	29,586		18,772	13	48,371
	Designated Memorial		707					707
	Designated B'fast Club					619		619
	Designated Fabric		9,830			(9,830)		0
	Designated Roof Reps.		3,834			(3,834)		0
	Designated Stonework		5,108			(5,108)		0
			19,479					49,697
Restricted	Benevolent	9c	143					143
	Fabric		67,723	500		6,600		74,823
	Linen		275	16				291
	Roof		9,343					9,343
	Tower		436	67				503
			77,920					85,103
(Associates)	Dagnall Management	9d	6,829	2,393	(6,903)	6,000		8,319
	Dagnall Fabric		6,011	2	0	(6,000)		13
	Focus Magazine		37,475	31,714	(29,183)			40,006
	Carnival		1,255	18,706	(12,108)	(6,600)		1,253
	Front Row		3,342					3,342
	Breakfast Club		854	1,119	(1,354)	(619)		0
	Ladies Guild		500		(500)			0
	Parish Lunch		266	2,354	(2,552)			68
			56,532					53,001
Endowments	Chancel Fund Shares	9e	5,753				(674)	5,079
(Restricted	Chancel Fund Income		1,725				175	1,900
Capital)	Fabric (Miss Gray's)		22,732				(2,664)	20,068
	Church Lands Shares		2,403				(221)	2,182
	Church Lands Income		25				0	25
	Brandom Shares		11,389				(1,334)	10,055
	Brandom Income		4,975				367	5,342
	Wallace Bequest Shares		31,010				(3,634)	27,376
	Edlesb. Mem. Shares		280				(32)	248
			80,292					72,275
Total Funds			244,880	175,556	(138,277)	0	(8,004)	274,155

The Coffee Fund and the 100 Club Fund will in future be reported as General Funds (unrestricted) and not as associated funds as these are both held within the Church accounts. The Ladies Guild has been wound up with zero balance. The Mens Breakfast Club has been wound up and the surplus transferred to a designated fund for future disbursement. The PCC has approved closure of several historical remnant funds. The Designated Fabric, Roof and Stonework funds have been pooled with the Unrestricted Legacy fund as a Designated Strategy Fund for future direction by the PCC toward it's long term aims.

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2022

10. SUBSIDIARY FINANCIAL SUMMARIES

11 Dagnall Management Committee

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Income	2,393		165	
Transfer from Dagnall Fabric Fund	6,000		0	
Less Expenditure	(6,903)		(1,476)	
Surplus/ (Deficit)		1,490		(1,311)

12 Dagnall Fabric

Income	2		1	
Transfer to Dagnall Mgt Cttee Fund	(6,000)		0	
Less Expenditure	0		0	
Surplus/ (Deficit)		(5,998)		1

13 Focus Magazine

Income				
Advertising revenue	31,714		29,801	
Expenditure				
Printing and artwork	(28,081)		(26,610)	
Admin	(102)		(339)	
Donations	(1,000)		(6,800)	
Surplus/(Deficit)		2,531		(3,948)

14 Carnival

Income				
Advertising, Sponsors & Donation	4,547		206	
Stall Fees	4,045		3,062	
Church Stalls	10,053		7,284	
Gift Aid Recovery	61		31	
Gross Receipts		18,706		10,583
Expenditure				
Programmes	(800)		0	
Church Stalls	(1,459)		(1,233)	
Administration	(2,649)		(2,221)	
Entertainers	(600)		(650)	
		(5,508)		(4,104)
Profit on Carnival		13,198		6,479
Transfer to St Marys Fabric		(6,600)		(6,400)
Distributions to Charities		(6,600)		
Surplus/(Deficit)		(2)		79

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2022

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
15 Front Row				
Income	0		0	
Expenditure	0		(33)	
Surplus/(Deficit)		0		(33)
16 Breakfast Club (Wound up)				
Income	1,119		532	
Donation to Charity	(100)		0	
Expenditure	(1,254)		(632)	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(235)		(100)
17 Ladies Guild (Wound up)				
Income	0		0	
Expenditure	(100)		(22)	
Distributed to Charities	(400)		0	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(500)		(22)
18 Parish Lunch				
Income	2,354		745	
Expenses	(2,352)		(804)	
Donation to St Marys	(200)		0	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(198)		(59)

19 Commitments

There are no other commitments, not otherwise recognised in these financial statements.

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2022

19 SOFA Comparatives

(previous year)

Income and Endowments from:

Donations and Legacies

Charitable Activities

Other Activities

Investments

Other

Total

2021				
Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS
£	£	£	£	£
68,464				68,464
11,650	130	47,327		59,107
				0
2,517				2,517
0				0
82,631	130	47,327	0	130,088

Expenditure on:

Raising Funds

Charitable Activities

Other

Total

666	129	48,124		48,919
80,889				80,889
0				0
81,555	129	48,124	0	129,808

Net Income/(Expenditure)

Transfers between Funds

Other recognised gains/(losses)

Inclusion of Dagnall & Focus Funds

On investments

Net Movement in Funds

1,076	1	(797)	0	280
0	0	0	0	0
		55,573		55,573
			9,743	9,743
1,076	1	54,776	9,743	65,596

Total Funds brought forward (1 Jan)

9,565	19,494	79,676	70,549	179,284
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Total Funds carried forward (31 Dec)

10,641	19,495	134,452	80,292	244,880
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Independent Examiners Report

To the Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 12, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

Respective Responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner.

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the regulations.

Basis of this report

The examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with the examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives reasonable cause to believe, in any material respect, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with s130 of the Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements the Act and the Regulations, have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Ian Skinner
Retired Accountant
19 Mardle Road,
Leighton Buzzard

Dated : 17 March 2023

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Registered Charity No 1129952

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year ending 31 December 2022

Hon Treasurer: Mr Martin Hayden
2 Orchard End
Edlesborough
Dunstable
LU6 2RE

Independent Examiner: Mr Ian Skinner
Retired Accountant
19 Mardle Road
Leighton Buzzard
LU7 2UR

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ending 31 December 2022

		2022				2021		
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and Endowments from:								
	Donations and Legacies	2a	68,562	29,586	-	-	98,148	68,464
	Charitable Activities	2b	14,757	3,052	56,871	-	74,680	59,107
	Interest & Other Activities	2c	2,728	-	-	-	2,728	2,517
	TOTAL		86,047	32,638	56,871	-	175,556	130,088
Expenditure on:								
	Raising Funds	3a	1,542	1,459	52,600	-	55,601	48,919
	Charitable Activities	3b	82,676	-	-	-	82,676	80,889
	TOTAL		84,218	1,459	52,600	-	138,277	129,808
Net Income/ (Expenditure)			1,829	31,179	4,271	-	37,279	280
	Transfers between Funds	9a	1,555	(1,555)	-	-	-	-
Other Recognised gains/(losses):								
	Inclusion Dagnall & Focus Funds		-	-	-	-	-	55,573
	Gains/(losses) on investments	2d	-	13	-	(8,017)	(8,004)	9,743
Net Movement in Funds			3,384	29,637	4,271	(8,017)	29,275	65,596
Reconciliation of funds:								
Total Funds brought forward (1st Jan)			10,641	19,495	134,452	80,292	244,880	179,284
Total Funds carried forward (31st Dec)			14,025	49,132	138,723	72,275	274,155	244,880

Approved by the PCC on *20th April 2023* and signed on their behalf by *J. E. Cousans* PCC Chair

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022
BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	Total 2022		Total 2021	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	4	0		1,005	
Social Investments	5	1,958		1,954	
Investments	5	82,288		80,292	
			84,246		83,251
Current Assets					
Short Term Deposits	6	93,989		76,207	
Church Bank Balances	6	37,458		30,712	
Focus Bank Balance	6	52,383		59,596	
Dagnall Bank Balances	6	8,332		12,840	
Associates Bank Balances	6	4,695		6,004	
Cash	6	262		514	
Debtors	7	14,229		1,226	
		211,348		187,099	
Liabilities					
Creditors due in one year	8	(21,439)		(25,470)	
Net Current Assets			189,909		161,629
			274,155		244,880
Represented by:					
Parish Funds	9				
Unrestricted Funds					
General			14,079		10,641
Designated			49,697		19,495
Restricted Funds			85,103		77,920
Associate Funds			53,001		56,532
Endowment Funds			72,275		80,292
Total Funds			274,155		244,880

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They have been prepared under FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standard. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Endowment fund capital must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion.

Endowment fund income may be restricted or unrestricted depending on the purpose for which the fund was established.

Restricted funds are income from endowments or donations or grants for specific purposes intended by the donor.

General funds are *unrestricted* and may be *designated* by the PCC for a particular purpose.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid declarations is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable under Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Bequests to the PCC are accounted for when the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain. Funds raised by the Carnival, Concerts and similar fundraising events are accounted for gross. Sales of flowers, books and other items are accounted for gross.

Other income

Rental income is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses on investments are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2022

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that creates a binding constructive obligation on the PCC. Activities directly relating to the work of the Church including the diocesan quota (Parish Share) is accounted for when payable.

Provisions

Amounts are set aside each year to provide for the estimated future cost of stonework restoration and roof repairs. The adequacy of these provisions is reviewed at appropriate intervals.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011. Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property and are listed in the church inventory which can be inspected on request. No accounting value is placed on the organ, which was gifted to the church in 1993. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice property, moveable church furnishings and the organ, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church with value exceeding £500 is depreciated on a straight line basis over 3 years.

Investments

Investments representing funds held in trust are valued at their bid market value at 31 December, as certified by the CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

Long-term deposits

These include social investments in the Shared Interest Society.

Short-term deposits

These include cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund, the Hampshire Trust Bank and the Shared Interest Charity.

Current Assets

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

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2022

2. INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2022	2021
Donations and Legacies						
2a						
Voluntary Income/Receipts	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tax efficient planned giving						
GA Envelopes					0	597
GA Bankers Orders	43,398				43,398	41,441
GA Donations	2,236				2,236	4,872
Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme	1,707				1,707	1,880
Other planned giving not Gift Aided	3,558				3,558	962
Donation not Gift Aided	4,600				4,600	5,541
Receipts including special appeals	1,000				1,000	1,070
Gift Aid Recovered	12,063				12,063	12,101
Grants & Legacies Received		29,586			29,586	0
	68,562	29,586	0	0	98,148	68,464
Charitable Activities						
2b						
Church Activities						
Statutory Fees (retained by PCC)	4,920				4,920	3,097
Fund Raising	9,837				9,837	8,553
Coffee Fund		628			628	130
100 club		2,424			2,424	2,300
Restricted Fabric Fund			500		500	3,200
Linen Fund			16		16	0
Tower Fund			67		67	0
Dagnall Management Fund			2,393		2,393	165
Dagnall Fabric Fund			2		2	1
Focus Magazine			31,714		31,714	29,801
Carnival			18,706		18,706	10,583
Front Row			0		0	0
Breakfast Club			1,119		1,119	532
Ladies Guild			0		0	0
Parish Lunch			2,354		2,354	745
	14,757	3,052	56,871	0	74,680	59,107
Other income						
2c						
Rental Income	1,021				1,021	853
Dividend and Deposit Interest	1,707				1,707	1,664
	2,728	0	0	0	2,728	2,517
Sub Total	86,047	32,638	56,871	0	175,556	130,088
Inclusion of Dagnall & Focus Funds						55,573
Investment gains/ (losses)	0	13	0	-8,017	-8,004	9,743
2d						
Total	86,047	32,651	56,871	-8,017	167,552	195,404

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2022

3. EXPENDITURE

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2022	2021
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Raising Funds	3a						
Costs of Generating Income							
Fund Raising		1,542				1,542	666
Coffee Fund			269			269	114
100 Club			1,190			1,190	896
Memorial Fund						0	15
Tower Fund						0	8
Dagnall Management Fund				6,903		6,903	1,476
Dagnall Fabric Fund				0		0	0
Focus Magazine				29,183		29,183	33,749
Carnival				12,108		12,108	10,504
Front Row						0	33
Breakfast Club				1,354		1,354	632
Ladies Guild				500		500	22
Parish Lunch				2,552		2,552	804
		1,542	1,459	52,600	0	55,601	48,919
Charitable Activities	3b						
Church Activities							
Charitable Giving		1,982				1,982	125
Diocesan parish share		64,989				64,989	65,505
North Chilterns Group and Deanery		223				223	0
Salaries and Wages (see below)		780				780	780
Clergy and Staff Expenses		1,066				1,066	957
Clerical cover expenses						0	210
Church Expenses							
Mission and Evangelism		487				487	152
Church Running Expenses		9,236				9,236	8,646
Church Utility Bills		2,908				2,908	3,209
Depreciation		1,005				1,005	1,005
Major Capital Expenditure						0	0
PCC Governance Costs						0	300
		82,676	0	0	0	82,676	80,889
Total		84,218	1,459	52,600	0	138,277	129,808

Related Parties

One PCC member Mrs Jill Fountain was employed as a part time Verger at a salary of £65 per month. The role includes opening and closing the church, preparation for services, and care of frontals. No other member of the PCC received remuneration or benefit.

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2022

4. FIXED ASSETS

	1/1/22	Added	Depreciation	31/12/22	31/12/21
Capital Equipment	1,005	0	-1005	0	1,005

5. INVESTMENTS

	1/1/22	Deposits	Disposals	Interest	Changes in Mkt Value	31/12/22	31/12/21
Long Term Deposits							
Shared Interest Society	1,954			4		1,958	1,954
Investment Funds							
CCLA Fund	0	10,000			13	10,013	0
Endowment Fund	80,292				(8,017)	72,275	80,292
Total Investments	82,246	10,000	0	4	(8,004)	84,246	82,246

6. CURRENT ASSETS

	1/1/22	Deposits	Disposals	Interest	31/12/22	31/12/21
Short term Deposits						
Hampshire Trust Bank	76,207			190	76,397	76,207
CCLA Deposit Fund	0	17,500		92	17,592	0
	76,207	17,500		282	93,989	76,207

Bank Accounts	Church	37,458	30,712
	Focus	52,383	59,596
	Dagnall	8,332	12,840
	Associates	4,695	6,004
		102,868	109,152

Cash	262	514
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7. DEBTORS	Gift Aid reclaims	949	1,226
	Focus paper purchased in advance	8,193	0
	Other debtors	5,087	0
		14,229	1,226

8. LIABILITIES	Carnival received in advance	(100)	(260)
	Focus advertising revenue in advance	(20,570)	(22,121)
	Other creditors	(769)	(3,089)
		(21,439)	(25,470)

Total Net Assets	274,155	244,880
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ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2022

9. FUNDS RECONCILIATION

		Notes	Reserves At 1 Jan	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Investment Gains/(Loss)	Reserves At 31 Dec
			£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted	General Fund	9a	10,641	86,047	(84,218)	1,555		14,025
	Coffee Fund		16	628	(269)	(321)		54
	100 Club		0	2,424	(1,190)	(1,234)		0
			10,657					14,079
(Designated)	Designated Strategy	9b	0	29,586		18,772	13	48,371
	Designated Memorial		707					707
	Designated B'fast Club					619		619
	Designated Fabric		9,830			(9,830)		0
	Designated Roof Reps.		3,834			(3,834)		0
	Designated Stonework		5,108			(5,108)		0
			19,479					49,697
Restricted	Benevolent	9c	143					143
	Fabric		67,723	500		6,600		74,823
	Linen		275	16				291
	Roof		9,343					9,343
	Tower		436	67				503
			77,920					85,103
(Associates)	Dagnall Management	9d	6,829	2,393	(6,903)	6,000		8,319
	Dagnall Fabric		6,011	2	0	(6,000)		13
	Focus Magazine		37,475	31,714	(29,183)			40,006
	Carnival		1,255	18,706	(12,108)	(6,600)		1,253
	Front Row		3,342					3,342
	Breakfast Club		854	1,119	(1,354)	(619)		0
	Ladies Guild		500		(500)			0
	Parish Lunch		266	2,354	(2,552)			68
			56,532					53,001
Endowments	Chancel Fund Shares	9e	5,753				(674)	5,079
(Restricted	Chancel Fund Income		1,725				175	1,900
Capital)	Fabric (Miss Gray's)		22,732				(2,664)	20,068
	Church Lands Shares		2,403				(221)	2,182
	Church Lands Income		25				0	25
	Brandom Shares		11,389				(1,334)	10,055
	Brandom Income		4,975				367	5,342
	Wallace Bequest Shares		31,010				(3,634)	27,376
	Edlesb. Mem. Shares		280				(32)	248
			80,292					72,275
Total Funds			244,880	175,556	(138,277)	0	(8,004)	274,155

The Coffee Fund and the 100 Club Fund will in future be reported as General Funds (unrestricted) and not as associated funds as these are both held within the Church accounts. The Ladies Guild has been wound up with zero balance. The Mens Breakfast Club has been wound up and the surplus transferred to a designated fund for future disbursement. The PCC has approved closure of several historical remnant funds. The Designated Fabric, Roof and Stonework funds have been pooled with the Unrestricted Legacy fund as a Designated Strategy Fund for future direction by the PCC toward it's long term aims.

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2022

10. SUBSIDIARY FINANCIAL SUMMARIES

11 Dagnall Management Committee

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Income	2,393		165	
Transfer from Dagnall Fabric Fund	6,000		0	
Less Expenditure	(6,903)		(1,476)	
Surplus/ (Deficit)		1,490		(1,311)

12 Dagnall Fabric

Income	2		1	
Transfer to Dagnall Mgt Cttee Fund	(6,000)		0	
Less Expenditure	0		0	
Surplus/ (Deficit)		(5,998)		1

13 Focus Magazine

Income				
Advertising revenue	31,714		29,801	
Expenditure				
Printing and artwork	(28,081)		(26,610)	
Admin	(102)		(339)	
Donations	(1,000)		(6,800)	
Surplus/(Deficit)		2,531		(3,948)

14 Carnival

Income				
Advertising, Sponsors & Donation	4,547		206	
Stall Fees	4,045		3,062	
Church Stalls	10,053		7,284	
Gift Aid Recovery	61		31	
Gross Receipts		18,706		10,583
Expenditure				
Programmes	(800)		0	
Church Stalls	(1,459)		(1,233)	
Administration	(2,649)		(2,221)	
Entertainers	(600)		(650)	
		(5,508)		(4,104)
Profit on Carnival		13,198		6,479
Transfer to St Marys Fabric		(6,600)		(6,400)
Distributions to Charities		(6,600)		
Surplus/(Deficit)		(2)		79

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2022

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
15 Front Row				
Income	0		0	
Expenditure	0		(33)	
Surplus/(Deficit)		0		(33)
16 Breakfast Club (Wound up)				
Income	1,119		532	
Donation to Charity	(100)		0	
Expenditure	(1,254)		(632)	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(235)		(100)
17 Ladies Guild (Wound up)				
Income	0		0	
Expenditure	(100)		(22)	
Distributed to Charities	(400)		0	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(500)		(22)
18 Parish Lunch				
Income	2,354		745	
Expenses	(2,352)		(804)	
Donation to St Marys	(200)		0	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(198)		(59)

19 Commitments

There are no other commitments, not otherwise recognised in these financial statements.

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2022

19 SOFA Comparatives

(previous year)

Income and Endowments from:

Donations and Legacies

Charitable Activities

Other Activities

Investments

Other

Total

2021				
Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS
£	£	£	£	£
68,464				68,464
11,650	130	47,327		59,107
				0
2,517				2,517
0				0
82,631	130	47,327	0	130,088

Expenditure on:

Raising Funds

Charitable Activities

Other

Total

666	129	48,124		48,919
80,889				80,889
0				0
81,555	129	48,124	0	129,808

Net Income/(Expenditure)

Transfers between Funds

Other recognised gains/(losses)

Inclusion of Dagnall & Focus Funds

On investments

Net Movement in Funds

1,076	1	(797)	0	280
0	0	0	0	0
		55,573		55,573
			9,743	9,743
1,076	1	54,776	9,743	65,596

Total Funds brought forward (1 Jan)

9,565	19,494	79,676	70,549	179,284
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Total Funds carried forward (31 Dec)

10,641	19,495	134,452	80,292	244,880
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Independent Examiners Report

To the Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 12, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

Respective Responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner.

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the regulations.

Basis of this report

The examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with the examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives reasonable cause to believe, in any material respect, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with s130 of the Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements the Act and the Regulations, have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'I. Skinner', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ian Skinner
Retired Accountant
19 Mardle Road,
Leighton Buzzard

Dated : 17 March 2023

Accounts

Annual Reports for APCM 2022

Vicar's Report

The Coronavirus pandemic continued to impact our church life through much of 2021. We began the year by making the difficult decision to stop meeting in church for services due to the rising number of covid cases and the heightened restrictions of lockdown. Having installed broadband we then purchased a camera to enable livestreaming of the services. Grateful thanks to Graham Chappell who has developed this to a very professional standard and to Martin and Catherine Hayden who also operate the livestreaming for services. Other meetings continued on zoom. We used zoom for the Churches Together Shrove Tuesday service, the Ash Wednesday service and the North Chilterns Group Lent Course. Stephen Burge organised and led this based on Vincent Donovan's book 'Christianity Rediscovered'. Stephen also created an Easter story video for Dagnall School.

We opened for services in Holy Week with precautions in place. Although there were still restrictions on singing we were able to meet outside on Easter Day and sing a hymn which was very joyous. A number of baptism services were held separately from the main service. This has proved popular with families and we have continued with this practice.

On 22nd April Archdeacon Dave together with members of the North Chilterns Group clergy and some of Stephen's family and friends joined us as he was licensed as Associate Minister in the parish. It is wonderful to have his continuing ministry amongst us. Stephen, together with the Church Wardens Catherine and Angela, oversaw the parish for three months between May and August as I enjoyed my sabbatical leave. Thanks to all of them.

St Mary's Carnival took place on 28th August, later than usual due to the pandemic. It was a wonderful sunny day, and lots of people came along to enjoy all that was on offer. Thanks to the Carnival team and to Mark Kilfoyle who has taken over as Carnival chair.

The pastoral group remained in contact with each other via zoom when we were unable to meet due to the pandemic. We welcomed one new member and in the autumn updated our training together from a Christian perspective which was very valuable. With input from Eileen Bennett, bespoke cards were printed. Members of the pastoral group take home communions, and keep in contact by phone calls or visits. Most importantly we as a church pray for those in need. We are greatly helped by the community of St Mary's in alerting us to those they know who are in need or ill so we can contact them.

By the autumn, many groups had started up again. The Prayer and Praise group now meets monthly in church. The coffee mornings on the first Saturday in the month have proved very popular. Thanks to Marion and her team for organising those. In September, Heritage Open Days were held at St Mary's Edlesborough and for the first time at St Mary's Eaton Bray. People were delighted that the Poppy Prom was able to go ahead and there was a good crowd for the Remembrance Sunday Service at Edlesborough.

The Eco Group has been active in promoting environmental issues. St Mary's achieved the A Rocha Bronze Award and we are working towards the Silver Award. During Creationtide, Canon John Payne-Cook preached on Climate change and the Glasgow summit. Our Harvest Festival focused on environmental issues as we supported the Bishop of St Alban's Harvest Appeal. The NCG Annual Service at Studham was also on a similar theme. We made plans for creating a wild area in the churchyard and finding ways to reduce our carbon footprint.

On 26th September we held a Stewardship Sunday and thanks to the amazing generosity of the congregation and those on the Electoral Roll we managed to end the year in the black. This was a great effort considering all the disruption caused by the pandemic.

We were delighted to be able to end the year with all the usual Christmas services in church with hymns and refreshments. I would like to thank you all for your faithfulness and continued support in what has been another challenging year. We thank God that we can encourage and support one another and give praise to the one who cherishes and guides us.

All Saints' Dagnall

Originally an Anglican Chapel of Ease, All Saints' Dagnall has been shared with the Methodists since their chapel was declared unsafe in 1967. In 1982 a Sharing Agreement was entered into by the two congregations and extensive building work was carried out. Over the years, Anglicans and Methodists became closer together and a number of united services were introduced. Sadly, in 2020 due to falling numbers and the effects of the pandemic, the Methodist congregation decided to close and to withdraw from the Sharing Agreement. All the legalities were completed in 2021. The small congregation at Dagnall now consists of members of various denominations and they continue to meet once a month and also for special services and events.

Messy Church

We kept in touch with Messy Church contacts through distributing activity packs for Easter. In the summer Messy Church was held in the church and grounds based on an Eco theme. This was linked to a special Sunday service. Messy Church families were invited to the Harvest Festival service and to a pop up Nativity service in which everyone was invited to participate.

Revd Joy Cousans, May 2022

All Saints Dagnall Report

Although we are a small congregation, we stay positive here in Dagnall. We have had a number of well-attended special services this year and the monthly Holy Communion service, attended regularly by a few committed villagers, has been established successfully. Numbers have held up at special and monthly services to some extent as a result of emails sent and calls made to individuals in and around the village.

Our Harvest Festival was especially well attended and we were pleased to welcome back ex-members who have moved away from Dagnall but like to keep in touch with us. This was also the case at the very successful Remembrance Day service, which, on

Stephen's initiative, was held outdoors for the first time and included a large group who were new to us.

Our Carol Service drew a very pleasing number of people. Similarly our Christmas Day service led skilfully by Stephen in a light hearted and engaging way, which is a particular tradition at Dagnall.

The church was beautifully decorated for both Harvest Festival and Christmas. Thanks to all those who made it happen and particularly to Ed and Debbie Monnington at the Red Lion Dagnall for the gift of two brand new Christmas trees and sets of lights, which enhanced the whole festive effect.

We are grateful to Norma Price who plays the organ for us at all services, and to Liz Coates who has masterminded the establishment of a wildflower meadow around the church and oversees church cleaning. Thanks also to Dorothy Green for returning to her role of sacristan.

We are pleased to report that the church lobby has been re-plastered and redecorated through the excellent work of Mick Bunning. His work here has greatly enhanced the overall appearance of the interior of the building. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Catherine Hayden for making this work happen. We are grateful to Catherine for continuing to take on the essential project of renovation at Dagnall Church.

Dagnall Church continues to be used by Dagnall School for special events; Dagnall Community Choir returned early in the year and continues to meet in the church on Mondays. Dagnall Church is available for church related meetings at all other times.

Thank you to Joy and Stephen for all their hard work keeping us going over the year. They are a great team.

Dagnall is in good spirits and we believe we are ready for the challenges of the coming year and look forward to numbers increasing very soon.

Philip Lee, Verger

Bell Tower Report

A good year from a ringing perspective with both regular Sunday morning service ringing and a regular practice night - Mondays. We also rang for several weddings and funerals and also to open and close both the 24-hour prayer commitments for Ukraine. We have been pleased to welcome several visiting ringing bands throughout the year. We feel very fortunate to have a team of 8 regular ringers who are very committed to continue to provide bell ringing in the Parish of St. Mary's, Eaton Bray.

Gaye T Soule
Tower Captain

Carnival Report

After one false start when it was still not considered safe to hold the Carnival on its traditional July day, we finally managed to go ahead on Saturday 28th August when we were blest with near perfect weather for the event.

For 2021 the Carnival Committee chair was taken by Mark Kilfoyle, who had been planning to shadow Gordon, but who kindly agreed to step in twelve months earlier than expected. Happily, he survived the near-vertical learning curve very successfully and will be leading us once again in 2022.

Considering the uncertainty regarding the probable success of the 2021 Carnival, the results were most heartening, the day producing a total of £6335 - which, under the circumstances, was amazing and moreover was a day enjoyed by all resulting in an increase to the St Mary's Fabric Fund of £3200. We were also able to hand £1600 to the Dunstable Foodbank as second named recipient, whilst a total of 18 local individuals or organisations also benefitted.

Finally, this meeting should note the immense contribution made by Gordon to the success of the Carnival during his many years of involvement, and especially during his time as Chair.

Thank you, Gordon (and Christine).

Chris Banks Churches Together Report

Churches Together has enjoyed meeting and sharing fellowship with each other over the past year. It is a joy to share news of what is happening at each of the churches in the villages. We are able to report on how each church is sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and give thanks for all the blessings bestowed upon us.

Theresa McCloskey stood down as Chair last September. The role was taken up by Revd Joy for the period of one year. Catherine Hayden stood down as secretary in May last year with Angela Dunford taking on the role of minutes secretary. A plan was put in place to share other secretarial roles between committee members. Thanks go to Theresa and Catherine for all the support they have given to Churches Together over past years.

Christian Aid (CA) Week has been hampered by Covid restrictions for two years now with house to house collections no longer in place. Monies from the Pancakes and Prayer fellowship on Shrove Tuesday have been given to CA to help with their work in Africa turning people's hunger into hope. The Salvation Army raised £600 for CA from two village shop bucket collections.

Churches Together received an invitation to join with three open air services led by the Eaton Bray Methodist Church and the Salvation Army.

St. Mary's Village Carnival was held in August last year and Churches Together were represented. Edlesborough Methodist Chapel opened as usual providing a haven where people could take time out from the noise and bustle of Carnival fun on the green. St. Mary's, Northall Baptist Church and the Salvation Army had stalls. Eaton Bray and Edlesborough Methodists hope to resume having a stall at the 2022 Carnival this coming July.

Churches Together produced a **Villages Advent Trail** that was enjoyed by many. Feedback was positive and it is hoped it can be repeated at Easter or Advent in future years. Pictures depicting the Christmas Story were displayed in various houses and businesses. Thanks to Edlesborough Methodist Chapel who held craft workshops to produce some of the pictures. Creativity flourished alongside sociability with refreshments provided.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity took place from 18th – 25th January. St. Mary's hosted a very enjoyable, reflective service led by Revd Stephen and Ruth Cox (Northall Baptist Church). Major Allison Gaudion preached with reference to content prepared by Christians in the Middle East reflecting on the Story of the Magi.

Villagers had a good time at the **Pancake and Prayers** evening hosted by Eaton Bray Methodist Chapel on Shrove Tuesday. Chriss Hewitt and Dorothy Green performed a sketch featuring dialogue between Jesus and Peter. All present feasted on pancakes cooked by Debbie Dunstan and Angela Dunford. Singing accompanied by an accordion was quite a challenge on a full stomach!

Christmas and Easter cards have been included in Focus inviting villagers to services of worship held by all the churches at these festivals. Thanks to everyone who worked on the design and content of these cards.

Angela Dunford

Churchwardens' Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

We are slowly getting back to normal after the disruption to our lives during the last two years, but it is good to reflect that St Mary's has not stood still during this difficult time.

Maintenance and repairs

Church

Our yearly maintenance programme has been followed, including PAT testing and the servicing of the roof alarm, fire extinguishers, organ and clock; the boiler will be serviced during the summer months.

A Hive remote heating controller was fitted and this makes the task of programming each week's heating schedule very much easier; it also enables greater economy of gas usage. Some additional electrical sockets were installed in the church, and more progress made towards energy efficient lighting.

The gutters were cleared of leaves and debris, and the opportunity taken to reapply Smartwater to the roof lead. An internal noticeboard in memory of Mel Grundy and Peter Bennett, was installed and will be used to advertise church events. Cleaning the church and brasses has resumed on a regular basis.

Health & Safety

The annual Risk & Safety report has been carried out at both St Mary's and All Saints, with no major concerns highlighted. Many thanks to Chris Banks for this, and for his monthly reports to PCC; it is very important that we maintain a safe environment for all.

Churchyard

Following a survey of trees in the churchyard, the Parish Council commissioned a programme of tree maintenance, the major part of which was to reduce in size the chestnuts which were overhanging Church Lane. Two failing trees elsewhere in the churchyard were removed and dead wood pruned from others. At the same time, the PCC agreed to the removal of the overgrown and unsightly Leylandii on the SW boundary and to plant a hedge of mixed native species. We are very grateful to the Parish Council for their support in organising and funding the major part of this expensive work.

Also in the churchyard, noticeboards were repaired and repainted, and the volunteer churchyard maintenance team has continued to keep the paths, gullies and drains clear, as well as carrying out general gardening tasks. All this means that our churchyard remains in good order and is a pleasant amenity for the whole community.

Thanks

Many thanks to all volunteers – your efforts are greatly appreciated and are vital to the upkeep of our lovely and historic church.

Project planned for 2022

We have for some time been aware that our sound system has serious flaws and that sound reproduction from the speakers in both the nave and side chapels is very poor. The speakers were installed in 1989 and replacement is probably well overdue, so permission has been sought from the Diocese to replace them with modern equivalents.

All Saints, Dagnall

Chancel Apse

After a long delay, we were finally informed that listed building consent for repairs to the exterior of the chancel apse is not required. The Management Committee will consider the way forward.

Interior

The redecoration of the south wall and the lobby has been completed and this has greatly improved the internal appearance.

Grounds

Volunteers are developing a wildflower garden to the rear of the church and the Parish Council has kindly agreed to cut the remaining grass.

Archdeacon's inspection

Due to the pandemic, no Archdeacon's inspection was carried out in either 2020 or 2021 and no information has been received about plans for 2022. The Inventory, Logbook and Maintenance log are however, in good order.

Items acquired and disposed of:

Acquired: Hive boiler controller; Sum Up card reader for donations; pop-up information banner; internal noticeboard

Disposed of: None

Catherine Hayden
Angela Dunford

Coffee After Church Report

It was such a joy after all the pandemic restrictions to finally be able to socialise over coffee again after our services! The Sunday rota was relaunched with a few new team members which is fabulous. And as a church family we are very grateful for the wonderful people who support this special ministry and pull together to make it work. We average about £11 each week in donations which is a nice contribution to the church but more importantly it enables fellowship to extend after the services and also provides an opportunity to welcome any newcomers and visitors to the church.

More helpers are always welcome and if you would like to be part of the team please do speak to Diane Goodwin or Marion Higley for more information.

Diane Goodwin and Marion Higley

Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Synod members have met three times over the past year. We are pleased to be able to meet together in person again.

Jill Fountain became St. Mary's Deanery Synod representative at the AGM last year for a three year term and was welcomed by Deanery Synod members at the July '21 meeting.

At each of the meetings with St. Mary's represented by Revd Joy, Jill Fountain and Angela Dunford there has been a presentation:

In July, Christian Cole, the Diocesan Youth Missioner presented on the Faith in Young People report. The report highlighted that many churches may not be addressing the needs of the youth in their communities and making provision for them within the church family. This in turn will impact on the future of the church. The report suggests churches consider how they could engage with young people to provide opportunities to share their faith.

The Diocese ran a five week course during the winter named Launchpad which Revd Joy was invited to attend. The course focussed on how churches could begin to engage with young people and how to create youth programmes. St. Mary's PCC were invited to attend the last session with Revd Joy. If you are interested you could ask Joy how the course went.

In December Charles Burch the Diocesan Vocations Officer updated synod on changes to the selection process for ordained ministry - the Shared Discernment Process - and the lay ministry training framework. For ordinands, assessment continues to cover people's qualities of personality, character, relationships and inner life but also extends to covering matters such as being a disciple, being missional and having leadership qualities to enable others.

In March the Revd Canon Malcolm Grant presented on the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust. Canon Malcolm shared how the Trust had come into being and the work that they do to support churches with advice and financial grants. Canon Malcolm is very much hoping that St. Mary's will continue to support the annual Historic Churches Trust Bike Ride and Hike which raises valuable funds for the Trust.

Changes to the CofE Safeguarding Framework have been introduced during the last year resulting in some changes to parish safeguarding training. At every Deanery meeting we are reminded that the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of everyone.

All churches in the Deanery have been encouraged to continue engaging with the Eco Church initiative. The Diocesan Environment Officer – Rachel Johnston – issues a bulletin with up-to-date information that churches can sign up to receive. A 'Tree Cathedral' service took place at Whipsnade on 19th September with the theme Climate and Creation.

Canon Peter Adams reports to Deanery Synod on General Synod matters. He informed us that General Synod was dissolved after the meeting in July 2021 before election papers were released to determine the members of a newly elected synod for Autumn '21. Synod was inaugurated at a Eucharist held in Westminster Abbey in the presence of the Duke of Wessex. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York gave a joint address. They confirmed that the Church of England "will be looking at reforms and changes aimed at focusing resources where they are most needed, for enabling support for anywhere and everywhere that shows signs of the blessing of the Holy Spirit." Elections for Diocesan Synod members took place last year. There continues to be vacancies for the Dunstable Deanery on this Synod.

At every meeting we have been able to share with Deanery Synod members news from St. Mary's and All Saints. The meetings ably chaired by Revd Canon Nicola Lenthall are an opportunity to share initiatives and glean ideas from other churches in our Deanery.

Angela Dunford

Eco Church Report

St Mary's has been working towards becoming an Eco-Church since 2019, and in September of last year, we were delighted to reach the first level of achievement which is the Bronze Award.

Since then and in addition to continuing to pray for the Environment and world issues, we have made further progress in the following ways:

- ☐ We have planted a mixed native species hedge which will be of benefit to wildlife.
- ☐ Eco team members have begun a nature survey of the churchyard and participated in the RSPB Birdwatch.
- ☐ We have started to develop a wild area on the NW boundary. We plan to observe what grows there this year and plant further suitable species in the future.

- ☐ We have installed bird boxes in the churchyard, made and donated by a member of the community.
- ☐ We have welcomed the Beavers who are growing plants for the churchyard.
- ☐ We received the donation of a water butt which will be installed to collect rainwater from the boiler house roof.
- ☐ We have become a community collection point for the recycling of medicine blister packs.
- ☐ We now use only eco-friendly cleaning products in church.
- ☐ We have sourced paper hand towels made from recycled materials; they are also unbleached which helps reduce environmental impact.
- ☐ Wherever possible, we continue to make the transition to low energy lighting.

We are pleased with the progress we are making and it is noticeable that suggestions are coming forward from church members and others, which shows we are engaging with people and that our objectives as an Eco-Church are important to them.

Eco Church team

Electoral Roll Report

For the 2022 electoral roll report are four new members on the roll this year. Five members have been removed from the roll, two deceased, three have left the area. This brings the total to 125.

Diane Goodwin

Exploring the Bible Group Report

This Bible study group continued satisfactorily throughout the Lockdowns and other Covid related difficulties by meeting fortnightly via Zoom. However, having returned to actually meeting in person monthly once again we are appreciating the benefits gained, not only to our in depth exploration of the Bible but also to our growing awareness of its relevance in our lives today and the support we find in the text and from each other.

Having got to the end of Luke's Gospel we moved on to the Acts of the Apostles which is proving to be an exciting story as well as transformative to our own journeys of faith.

Diana Barry

Family History Report

I am still receiving requests for information regarding family history, not just individual enquiries but also from Undertakers and the Edlesborough Parish Council as well. Eileen Bennett April 2022.

Eileen Bennett

Finance Report

The formal statement of accounts to December 2021 are attached for information. These have been independently inspected and approved by the PCC. They are in the format required by the Charity Commission and will be submitted to them.

The second page to this report shows a simplified balance sheet at the end of 2021 (attached). It shows our Assets, each physical account, and our Funds, the purpose that it is allocated to. The totals balance but they do not align. The big change in our total funds is due to the inclusion of funds belonging to Dagnall and Focus. Without those our own funds increased by 8% and most of that was due to investment growth in our endowments. These endowment funds are restricted in general to the maintenance of the fabric of the building while the unrestricted and designated funds are allocated as determined by the PCC.

Our income and expenditure statements in the formal accounts show the various sources of our income and how we have spent it. Income has a small surplus over expenditure showing an excellent recovery from the deficit in the previous year. Following a successful stewardship campaign the income from donations has held up very well with the support of our regular congregation and with several individual donations. The large changes in the income and expenditure statements are due to the inclusion of Dagnall and Focus accounts. Without those our own income exceeded our own expenditure by £1,000.

Fundraising was very difficult in 2020 but has recovered in 2021. Some restrictions continued and prevented us from holding some key events, but our fundraising still managed to generate a gross income of £8,500. A summary of contributions from the various fundraising efforts is included below and recognises the efforts of so many people in contributing their energy to creating these fundraising events.

The final page shows the budget for 2022. This was prepared by the finance committee considering a careful control of expenditure to maintain a balanced budget while our income remains under pressure. The challenge for us now is to recognize the changes in patterns of giving and the new channels for donations with card and internet payments and to generate new sources of income and fundraising.

Martin Hayden

Flower Arrangers' Report

We held an extremely successful afternoon tea last June to raise funds for Flowers in church, which raised several hundred pounds. This ensured that we could continue to

provide flowers to enhance our worship in church. Our thanks go to Sally Taylor for the use of her garden and all her hard work on the day.

Our flower arranging team consists of eight regulars. Christine Horn very kindly orders flowers for the major festivals as well as making some beautiful contributions to the arrangements. Our other resident professional florist is Joan Fossey who has been ill this year and so unable to help so much. We hope very much that she will be able to return this year – we miss her and her beautiful arrangements!

We have welcomed a new member, Anna, who comes to help with major festivals. We would love to see some more volunteers come forward to assist, particularly for the major festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Don't worry if you are inexperienced - with the help of our more able arrangers you will soon progress on to arranging flowers on your own during the year! Please contact me if you would like to come along.

Barbara Morton

Focus Magazine Report

We had a very successful year in 2021 with advertising and editorial content being at a very high standard.

Our new committee has settled in well, each has a nominated job to do, and everything so far is looking good. Sally Siddons remains as editor and Ken Coates has become chairman from the previous job as treasurer. Steve Dunford is our new treasurer, so in safe hands.

After nearly forty years, as chairman and distribution Manager, John Plater retired from the committee and we gave him a gift and small party to extend our thanks for his support over this unbelievable period.

Focus remains a vital source of information for the villages and now we distribute over 2500 magazines, 10 times a year, all funded by our local businesses with advertising.

In total we have around 70 distributors covering all of our villages with Angela and Steve Dunford sorting and counting all the magazines for delivery arrangements. Sally Taylor has taken up the responsibility for advertising and collecting the monies due. Sue Tucker is also on the committee as a member of the PCC. Our artwork is completed by Moren Associates.

Next year we expect to be challenging, as already we are aware of pending price increases from our printers Priory Press, but I anticipate we will manage to resolve this situation.

Ken Coates
Chairman

Four Villages Men's Breakfast Club Report

Despite our activities being severely curtailed by COVID during the early part of the year, we were finally able to resume our quarterly meetings in October when Prof Steve Burnage, one of our members, talked about 'Space.'

During the year, we were of course pleased to be able to fund the provision of a new notice board in church in memory of Mel Grundy and Peter Bennett.

We have a full programme scheduled for the current year – which began with Tony Tucker talking about his 'Life in Boats', and we are currently exploring possible speakers through 2022 and 2023. Numbers attending have however thus far been less than pre-COVID owing undoubtedly to a number of pandemic-related explanations, but we look forward to an improvement through the summer months.

As we move forward we are still looking for a couple more early risers to share the load of opening up Northall Hall and setting up on four Saturday mornings a year as 6.15am starts can be somewhat unappealing, especially during the winter months.

Chris Banks

Fundraising Report

Owing to the Covid-19 lockdown there has once again been little opportunity for fundraising events other than Gordon's Christmas Puzzle in February and the Open Gardens and Poppy Prom.

With restrictions starting to ease we are working on a restricted number of events in 2022, namely:

A number of Treasure Hunts during May

Carnival on 2 July

Open Gardens on 17 July

Music@St Mary's Concerts on 15 August & 12 November

Since his stroke Gordon has had to take a lower than usual profile but has tried to re-establish a programme for Music@St Mary's. Sadly, because of the effects of Covid (people don't seem to be going out as much as they used to), the last four concerts have, of necessity, been cancelled – on two occasions we had sold fewer than 20 tickets. We may have to face up to the fact that Music@St Mary's has run its course.

Finally, can I just mention Open Gardens – an event that has become one of the social occasions of the year in our villages. At this stage we are eager to receive an offer to oversee the organisation of this event; please let Gordon know if you would be willing to do this. Maybe some members of the congregation would be willing to serve refreshments either at church or in one of the gardens.

Gordon Gray

House Groups

Sadly I have to report that the Tuesday afternoon House-group has finished after nearly 40 years, having been started in the early 1980s. I ran it for the last 30 years but unfortunately lack of numbers, Lockdown and the fear of Covid has now finished it.

Eileen Bennett

North Chilterns Group Report

Council Meetings: Since the last APCM, the North Chilterns Group Council, which comprises of clergy and lay representatives of all churches in the Group, has met three times, resuming face to face meetings in October 2021.

Events 2021/22: A joyful and well supported NCG Confirmation Service took place at St Giles, Totternhoe on Sunday 27th June 2021 with Bishop Richard of Bedford. There were several candidates, although unfortunately none from our parish.

The NCG Annual Combined Service was held on 29th August 2021 at St Mary's, Studham. It was well attended, and people enjoyed meeting up with old friends and socialising afterwards in the churchyard.

A Quiet Morning took place on Saturday 18th September 2021 at St Giles. It was attended by around 15 participants including several from our parish, who enjoyed a reflective time in the peaceful surroundings of the churchyard, considering the thoughts raised by Revd Kaushal David in his address.

This year's Advent Service led by Stephen, was held on Sunday 28th November 2021 at St Mary's. It was well attended and greatly appreciated as a reflective start to the Advent season.

A Pulpit Swap took place on 13th March, when we were pleased to welcome Revd Nichola Lenthall.

On Ash Wednesday, a service was held in each benefice at different times of day to enable as many as possible to attend a service on this important day.

The Lent Course 2022 was based on a book by Revd Louise Collins of Borehamwood, entitled 'Trees and the Bible'. The five enjoyable sessions were held at Totternhoe on Tuesday evenings.

As usual, on Monday to Wednesday of Holy Week, NCG services were held at different churches throughout the Group.

Planned events: The AGM for 2022 is scheduled for 17th May, to be held at Dagnall Church with Bring & Share refreshments.

The 2022 NCG Confirmation Service will be on 26th June 2022 at Eaton Bray at 6pm.

The NCG will celebrate its 40th anniversary on 24th November 2022 and the occasion will be marked by a special service on Advent Sunday.

Catherine Hayden

Parish Lunch Club Report

I have organised the Parish Lunch for some time now and with the outbreak of Covid we have been unable to meet. During this time I decided I am unable to carry on and advised the PCC of my resignation.

I was very fortunate in speaking to someone who was keen to know more about my duties. I know she will take on the job admirably and will prove to be an asset to the Lunch.

I would like to thank Chriss Hewitt who has worked with me for a long time, she contacts the members each month and collects the money on the day. All the volunteers - the men arranging the tables and chairs, and Julien, who on his own clears them away. All the cooks who buy the ingredients and prepare them. All the volunteers who help prepare, serve and wash up.

Our members have increased and appreciate the lovely food and company on the day. I am sure with everyone helping, the Lunch will continue to be a success.

I am now very pleased to hand over to Vivienne Grundy, who I am sure will do a fantastic job.

Jennifer Hewitt

PCC Report

The Parochial Church Council is made up of the following:

The Vicar

Churchwardens, Catherine Hayden and Angela Dunford

Lay Reader, Gordon Gray (co-opted)

Associate Priest, Stephen Burge

Six elected members: Barbara Morton (Secretary to the PCC), Catherine Wendeler, Martin Quinn, Iain Stubbs, Chris Banks and Sue Tucker

Treasurer: Martin Hayden (co-opted)

Deanery Synod Representative: Angela Dunford

Dagnall Member: Vacant

There are now 12 members in total. The PCC met 9 times since May 2021. All meetings were well attended with most meetings having between 10 and 12 in attendance. In addition, some members attended the final meeting of the Launchpad series, which Joy had attended, to help us with our Youth work.

The following appointments were in place during the past year:

Lay Vice Chair	Catherine Hayden
Standing Committee members	Joy Cousans/Catherine Hayden/Angela Dunford/ Chris Banks/Sue Tucker /Iain Stubbs
PCC Secretary	Barbara Morton
Electoral Roll Officer	Diane Goodwin
Treasurer/Bookkeeper	Martin Hayden
Finance Committee members	Joy Cousans/Martin Hayden/Catherine Hayden/Graham Mockett/Martin Quinn
Stewardship Committee members	Joy Cousans/Catherine Hayden/Angela Dunford/Sally Taylor
Freewill Offering Officer	Graham Mockett
Safeguarding Officer	Gaye Soule
Health and Safety Officer	Chris Banks
Bell Tower Manager	Gaye Soule
Fabric Committee Chair	Graham Chappell
Youth and Education Officer(s)	Sheila Banks/Catherine Wendeler
Fundraising Chair	Gordon Gray
Fundraising Committee members	Gordon Gray/ Barbara Morton/Catherine Hayden/Sharon Stilliard/Kate Freeman/Gary Freeman
Parish Lunch Club Organiser	Jennifer Hewett/ Vivienne Grundy
Representatives on the North Chilterns Group Committee	Stephen Burge/Catherine Hayden
Representatives on Churches Together Committee	Catherine Hayden/Angela Dunford
PCC representative on Dagnall Management Committee	Joy Cousans/Catherine Hayden/Angela Dunford
Representative on Village Hall Committee	Chris Banks
Focus distribution organiser	John Plater
Rota organisers 8am & 10am	Sharon Stilliard/Sally Taylor
Cleaning Rota organiser	Gaye Soule
Flowers organiser	Barbara Morton
Churchyard Maintenance organiser	Iain Stubbs
Publicity group	Sally Taylor/Angela Dunford/Eileen Bennett/Sue Tucker
Eco Church Committee	Catherine Hayden, Joy, Iain, Angela, Sue Walker

Pastoral Visiting Team	Vicar, Catherine Wendeler, Gordon Gray, Chriss Hewitt, Sue Walker, Catherine Hayden, Pamela Richardson, Diane Goodwin, Judy Venn
Focus Magazine	Angela Dunford/Sue Tucker/Ken Coates/Sally Siddons/John Plater/Sally Taylor/Steve Dunford

Barbara Morton, PCC Secretary

Prayer & Praise Group Report

It was good to be able to resume our face-to-face meetings in May 2021 by meeting outside in the churchyard. These continued until the weather became colder, by which time we felt safe to meet inside the church. We have continued to do this up to the present time, our numbers remaining about the same as before lockdown. We were also able to have a Christmas lunch together in the Swan at Northall. At most of our meetings, thanks to Ken, our singing is accompanied by keyboard, and we sing well-known songs as well as some new ones that Ken has introduced to us. As in the past, we have times of prayer at the beginning and at end of our meetings, and in the middle an opportunity for reflection or discussion. We usually meet on Tuesdays at 10.30 am, and dates of meetings are publicised in the pew leaflet. If you would like more information, please do contact us

Chriss Hewitt and Dorothy Green

Prayer Matters Report

Following on from a presentation given to PCC by those who attended the Leading Your Church into Growth conference (February 2020), a small group was formed last June to focus on prayer for our church and community. Our prayers seek clarity on God's desires for our churches' mission. We are able to discuss opportunities to enhance the prayer life of our church family.

We meet around every six weeks and enjoy a short quiet time of prayer and reflection on the Bible at the beginning of each session. Anyone is welcome to join us to share ideas, suggestions etc and to join us in prayer.

Over the last year we have introduced some prayer resources;

- ☐ A monthly Bible verse is displayed in the North Chapel and is repeated in the pew leaflet. There are some free postcards to take away from the North Chapel.
- ☐ Prayers, reflections or poetry are now displayed on the tables at the monthly coffee mornings.
- ☐ The 'Pray for Us' leaflet has been updated and will be circulated to the congregation in the near future.

- Attractive prayer cards for the Pastoral group to send out to people have been designed and printed.
- A Prayer Tree has been reintroduced into the church and discussions had on the feasibility of having one in the porch or churchyard for people to use.

St. Mary's Prayer Chain addresses the prayer requests of people in our church congregation and community. Thank you to those who commit to praying during each week. Prayers are offered for those listed on the 'sick list' in the North Chapel. This list is updated on a monthly basis and you are welcome to add names during the first and fourth weeks of each month. Prayers may also be hung on the Prayer Tree and are regularly offered up to God.

We welcome any suggestions people may have as to how to promote the prayer life of our church and each member of our church family. Our aim is to acknowledge at all times the power of prayer and to maintain prayer at the centre of our own and our churches' life.

Angela Dunford

Publicity Committee

The committee meets mostly on a monthly basis. People on the committee at present are Eileen Bennett, Sue Tucker, Jill Fountain and Angela Dunford. Thanks to Sally Taylor who stepped down from committee during the year. Sally continues to work hard administrating the advertising for Focus magazine which comes under the remit of publicity and is one of the main channels of outreach and communication for the village churches.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the committee members for all their dedicated time and efforts over the year. Appreciation also goes to Catherine Hayden and Theo Gray for administration of the websites and to those who regularly post on Facebook helping to spread the word of what is happening at St. Mary's. Please continue to post and comment on our Facebook page as this is also a main channel of communication with the wider community.

Over the year we have supported event organisers who have wished to approach the committee to advertise their event. Information of St. Mary's and other church services at Easter and Christmas have been included in Focus as a centre spread card.

A new noticeboard in memory of Mel Grundy and Peter Bennett was hung by the North Door and dedicated by Joy at the end of a Sunday morning service last October. This board is in a prominent position to catch the attention of people in church and will be invaluable to share information about our worship and outreach over many years to come. The two noticeboards in the churchyard have been refurbished and painted with new text applied to the corner noticeboard. Thanks to Chris Banks for overseeing this project.

Two new banners have been acquired this year for display in the churchyard. One inviting people to worship with us online and one advertising the coffee mornings on the second Saturday of the month.

Last September the committee held a Heritage Open Days (HODS) event at St. Mary's. We shared ideas with St. Mary's, Edlesborough HODS committee. The theme was

'Edible England' and we had a small display featuring the Aylesbury Prune Plum as well as having the Church Records on display. These proved to be very popular and we hope to repeat the exercise in a HODS event this September. It was enjoyable to meet and greet many people from both our community and also people who had travelled from further away. They spent time admiring our beautiful building and socialising with refreshments. Thank you to all who contributed to make this a successful event. We invite all event organisers at St. Mary's to approach the committee if they would like help with the promotion of their event.

Angela Dunford

Reader Ministry

In 2021 my primary Reader related activities have been:

- ☐ Maintaining a good working relationship with Joy
- ☐ Leading services at St Mary's and All Saints, Dagnall
- ☐ Leading worship at churches within the North Chiltern Group
- ☐ Acting as Chair of the Fund-raising Team.

As a consequence of the stroke I suffered in January 2021 I have lost confidence in my ability to speak of-the-cuff but it hasn't affected my ability to read so I have been able to continue to lead services on the 3rd Sunday each month and preach on the 1st Sundays each month. I am most grateful for the feedback I receive from so many members of the congregation.

I led the worship at a Good Friday service at Dagnall and it was back to normal, albeit with fewer in the congregation, on Christmas Eve.

I am enormously grateful for all the support that I get from the parish and try to respond to both positive and negative criticism. I really do enjoy discussing sermon material with those who are interested, so don't be afraid to chat to me after Sunday services. Especially I want to thank Christine, who puts up with so much and without whose support my ministry would not be possible.

Reader Ministry is varied, rewarding and interesting. If you feel drawn to this ministry yourself, or have spotted someone who you think might make a good Reader, and would like to find out more then please talk to Gordon.

Gordon Gray

Safeguarding Report

Under Diocesan direction we continue to be committed to protect our parishioners by following set safeguarding guidelines. This is achieved in the following ways:

- An expectation that all church personnel will complete mandatory safeguarding training.
- Providing an avenue for any raised safeguarding concerns to be assessed and if deemed necessary forwarded to the Diocese for their guidance and follow up.
- Having a Safeguarding Officer whose responsibility is to coordinate an appropriate response to any safeguarding issues raised, as well as to oversee the mandatory training requirements.

Gaye Soule

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Registered Charity No 1129952

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year ending 31 December 2021

Hon Treasurer: Mr Martin Hayden
2 Orchard End
Edlesborough
Dunstable
LU6 2RE

Independent Examiner: Mr Ian Skinner
Retired Accountant
19 Mardle Road
Leighton Buzzard
LU7 2UR

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ending 31 December 2021

		2021				2020	
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
Notes		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:							
Donations and Legacies	2a	68,464				68,464	66,602
Charitable Activities	2b	11,650	130	47,327		59,107	14,731
Other Activities	2c						
Investments	2d	2,517				2,517	2,895
Other	2e	0				0	413
TOTAL		82,631	130	47,327	0	130,088	84,641
Expenditure on:							
Raising Funds	3a	666	129	48,124		48,919	4,053
Charitable Activities	3b	80,889				80,889	87,929
Other	3c	0				0	1,310
TOTAL		81,555	129	48,124	0	129,808	93,292
Net Income (Expenditure)		1,076	1	(797)	0	280	(8,651)
Transfers between Funds	9a	0	0	0	0	0	
Other Recognised gains/(losses):							
Inclusion of Dagnall & Focus Funds	9b			55,573		55,573	
Gains/(losses) on investments	5b				9,743	9,743	4,653
Net Movement in Funds		1,076	1	54,776	9,743	65,596	(3,998)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total Funds brought forward (1st Jan)		9,565	19,494	79,676	70,549	179,284	183,282
Total Funds carried forward (31st Dec)		10,641	19,495	134,452	80,292	244,880	179,284

Approved by the PCC on *8th April 2022* and signed on their behalf by *J E Cousans* PCC Chair

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021
BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	Total 2021		Total 2020	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	5a	1,005		2,010	
Social Investments	5b	1,954		1,950	
Investments	5b	80,292		70,549	
			83,251		74,509
Current Assets					
Debtors	6	1,226		1,449	
Short Term Deposits	6	76,207		75,919	
Church Bank Balances	6	30,712		23,047	
Focus Bank Balance	6	59,596			
Dagnall Bank Balances	6	12,840			
Associates Bank Balances	6	6,004		6,609	
Cash	6	514		699	
		187,099		107,723	
Liabilities due in one year					
Creditors due in one year	7	(25,470)		(2,948)	
Net Current Assets			161,629		104,775
Total Net Assets	8		244,880		179,284
Represented by:					
Parish Funds					
Unrestricted Funds					
General			10,641		9,565
Designated			19,495		19,494
Restricted Funds			134,452		79,676
Endowment Funds			80,292		70,549
Total Funds	9		244,880		179,284

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They have been prepared under FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standard. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Endowment fund capital must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion.

Endowment fund income may be restricted or unrestricted depending on the purpose for which the fund was established.

Restricted funds are income from endowments or donations or grants for specific purposes intended by the donor.

General funds are *unrestricted* and may be *designated* by the PCC for a particular purpose.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid declarations is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable under Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Bequests to the PCC are accounted for when the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain. Funds raised by the Carnival, Concerts and similar events are accounted for gross. Sales of flowers, books and other items are accounted for gross.

Other income

Rental income is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses on investments are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Resources expended

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when awarded by the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan quota is accounted for when payable.

Provisions

Amounts are set aside each year to provide for the estimated future cost of stonework restoration and roof repairs. The adequacy of these provisions is reviewed at appropriate intervals.

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011. Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, are listed in the church inventory which can be inspected on request. No accounting value is placed on the organ, which was gifted to the church in 1993. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice property, moveable church furnishings and the organ, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church with value exceeding £500 is depreciated on a straight line basis over 3 years.

Investments

Investments representing funds held in trust are valued at their market value at 31 December, as certified by the St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance.

Current Assets

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

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit with the Hampshire Trust Bank the HSBC Bank and the Shared Interest Charity.

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2021

Note 2 Income and Endowments from:

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL	
	2a	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	2021	2020
Donations and Legacies		£	£	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Income/Receipts							
Tax efficient planned giving							
GA Envelopes		597				597	2182
GA Bankers Orders		41441				41441	45733
GA Donations		4872				4872	3616
Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme							
FWO & Open Plate		1880				1880	954
Donation not Gift Aided		5541				5541	270
Other planned giving not Gift Aided		962				962	0
Receipts including special appeals		1070				1070	1020
Gift Aid Recovered		12101				12101	12827
Grants & Legacies Received		0				0	0
		68464	0	0	0	68464	66602
Charitable Activities	2b						
Church Activities							
Statutory Fees (retained by PCC)		3097				3097	4020
Fund Raising		8553				8553	7361
Coffee Fund			130			130	126
Restricted Fabric Fund				3200		3200	100
Linen Fund				0		0	29
100 club				2300		2300	2214
Tower Fund				0		0	15
Dagnall Management Fund				165		165	
Dagnall Fabric Fund				1		1	
Focus Magazine				29801		29801	0
Carnival				10583		10583	0
Front Row				0		0	59
Breakfast Club				532		532	5
Ladies Guild				0		0	354
Parish Lunch				745		745	448
		11650	130	47327	0	59107	14731
Investments							
Rental Income		853				853	981
Dividend and Deposit Interest		1664				1664	1914
	2d	2517	0	0	0	2517	2895
Other Income	2e	0	0	0	0	0	413
Total		82631	130	47327	0	130088	84641

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2021

Note 3 Expenditure on:	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2021	2020
	3	£	£	£	£	£	£
Raising Funds							
Costs of Generating Income	3a						
Fund Raising		666				666	642
Stewardship Costs		0				0	0
Coffee Fund			114			114	160
Designated Fabric Fund			0			0	180
Memorial Fund			15			15	
100 Club				896		896	1,410
Tower Fund				8		8	
Dagnall Management Fund				1,476		1,476	
Dagnall Fabric Fund				0		0	
Focus Magazine				33,749		33,749	
Carnival				10,504		10,504	60
Front Row				33		33	578
Breakfast Club				632		632	558
Ladies Guild				22		22	129
Parish Lunch				804		804	337
		666	129	48,124	0	48,919	4,053
Charitable Activities	3b						
Church Activities							
Charitable Giving		125				125	809
Diocesan parish share		65,505				65,505	67,072
North Chilterns Group and Deanery		0				0	262
Salaries and Wages	4	780				780	845
Clergy and Staff Expenses		957				957	2,439
Clerical cover expenses		210				210	0
Sundry Donations		0				0	0
Church Expenses							
Mission and Evangelism		152				152	112
Church Running Expenses		8,646				8,646	10,558
Church Utility Bills		3,209				3,209	2,100
Depreciation		1,005				1,005	3,431
Major Capital Expenditure							
Major Repairs to the Church		0				0	0
PCC Governance Costs		300				300	300
		80,889	0	0	0	80,889	87,929
Dagnall Church Precept							1,310
Total		81,555	129	48,124	0	129,808	93,292

4 Notes on Salaries and Wages

One PCC member Mrs Jill Fountain was employed as a part time Verger at a salary of £65 per month. The role includes opening and closing the church, preparation for services, and care of frontals. No other member of the PCC received remuneration or benefit.

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2021

5a Tangible Fixed Assets	1/1/21	Equipment Added	Depreciation	31/12/21	2020
Capital Equipment	2,010	0	(1,005)	1,005	2,010

5b Investments	1/1/21	Interest	Disposals	Transfers	Changes in Mkt Value	31/12/21	2020
Unrestricted Funds							
Shared Interest Society	1,950	4				1,954	1,950
Endowment Funds							
C of E Investment Fund	70,549				9,743	80,292	70,549
Total	72,499	4	0	0	9,743	82,246	72,499

6 Current Asset		31/12/21	2020
Debtors	Gift Aid reclaims	1,226	1,041
	Other debtors	0	408
		1,226	1,449
Short term invest.	Hampshire Trust Bank	76,207	75,919
Bank Accounts	Church	30,712	23,047
	Focus	59,596	
	Dagnall	12,840	
	Other Associates	6,004	6,609
Cash		514	699
		187,099	107,723

7 Liabilities - amounts falling due in one year			
	Carnival received in advance	(260)	(353)
	Focus received in advance	(22,121)	
	Other creditors	(3,089)	(2,595)
		(25,470)	(2,948)

Total Net Assets	244,880	179,284
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8 Analysis of Net Assets

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	31/12/2021 Total	2,020
Fixed Assets	1,005				1,005	2,010
Investment Assets	1,954			80,292	82,246	72,500
Current Assets	33,152	19,495	134,452		187,099	107,722
Current Liabilities	(25,470)				(25,470)	(2,948)
	10,641	19,495	134,452	80,292	244,880	179,284

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2021

9a Funds Reconciliation

		Notes	Reserves At 1 Jan	Opening Transfers	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Investment Gains/(Loss)	Reserves At 31 Dec
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted	General Fund		9,565		82,631	(81,555)			10,641
Designated	Coffee Fund	10	0		130	(114)			16
	Designated Fabric		9,830						9,830
	Memorial		722			(15)			707
	Designated Roof Reps.		3,834						3,834
	Stonework Restrtn.		5,108						5,108
			19,494						19,495
Restricted	Benevolent		143						143
	Restricted Fabric		63,119		3,200		1,404		67,723
	Linen		275						275
	Restricted Roof Reps.		9,343						9,343
	100 Club	11	0		2,300	(896)	(1,404)		0
	Tower	12	444			(8)			436
(Associates)	Dagnall Mgt Cttee	13		8,140	165	(1,476)			6,829
	Dagnall Fabric	14		6,010	1	0			6,011
	Focus Magazine	15		41,423	29,801	(33,749)			37,475
	Carnival	16	1,176		10,583	(10,504)			1,255
	Front Row	17	3,375		0	(33)			3,342
	Breakfast Club	18	954		532	(632)			854
	Ladies Guild	19	522		0	(22)			500
	Parish Lunch	20	325		745	(804)			266
			79,676						134,452
Endowment Funds									
Restricted	Chancel Fund Income		5,030					723	5,753
	Chancel Fund Deposit		1,578					147	1,725
	Fabric (Miss Gray's)		19,874					2,858	22,732
	Church Lands Income		2,045					358	2,403
	Church Lands Deposit		25					0	25
Unrestricted	Brandom Income		9,957					1,432	11,389
	Brandom Deposit		4,683					292	4,975
	Wallace Bequest		27,112					3,898	31,010
	Edlesborough Mem.		245					35	280
			70,549						80,292
Total Funds			179,284	55,573	130,088	(129,808)	0	9,743	244,880

9b Inclusion of New Funds

Dagnall Mgt Committee is now wholly responsible for the day to day running and maintenance of Dagnall Church within the Parish. It is now a sub committee of the PCC and will in future be reported as an associated fund in St Mary's accounts. Funds at 1st January 2021 are presented as Opening Transfers. Focus Parish Magazine is now managed as a sub committee of the PCC and will in future be reported as an associated fund in St Mary's accounts. Funds at 1st January 2021 are presented as Opening Transfers.

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2021

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
10 Coffee Fund				
Income	130		126	
Expenditure	114		160	
Surplus/(Deficit)		16		(34)
11 100 Club				
Income	2,300		2,214	
Expenditure	896		1,410	
Surplus/(Deficit)		1,404		804
12 Tower				
Income	0		15	
Expenditure	8		0	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(8)		15
13 Dagnall Management Committee				
Income	165			
Expenditure	1,476			
Surplus/ (Deficit)		(1,311)		
14 Dagnall Fabric				
Income	1			
Expenditure	0			
Surplus/ (Deficit)		1		
15 Focus Magazine				
Income	29,801			
Expenditure	26,949			
Donations	6,800			
Surplus/(Deficit)		(3,948)		

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2021

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
16 Carnival				
Income				
Advertising, Sponsors & Donation	206		0	
Stall Fees	3,062		0	
Church Stalls	7,284		0	
Gift Aid Recovery	31		0	
Gross Receipts		10,583		0
Expenditure				
Programmes	0		0	
Church Stalls	1,233		0	
Administration	2,221		60	
Entertainers	650		0	
		4,104		60
Profit on Carnival		6,479		(60)
Less Donations		6,400		
Surplus/(Deficit)		79		(60)
17 Front Row				
Income	0		58	
Expenditure	33		578	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(33)		(520)
18 Breakfast Club				
Income	532		354	
Expenditure	632		558	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(100)		(204)
19 Ladies Guild				
Income	0		5	
Expenditure	22		129	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(22)		(124)
20 Parish Lunch				
Income	745		448	
Expenditure	804		337	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(59)		111

21 Commitments

There are no other commitments, not otherwise recognised in these financial statements.

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2021

19 SOFA Comparatives

(previous year)

	2020			
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS
	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and Legacies	66,602			66,602
Charitable Activities	11,507		3,224	14,731
Other Activities				0
Investments	2,895			2,895
Other	413			413
TOTAL	81,417	0	3,224	84,641
Expenditure on:				
Raising Funds	801		3,252	4,053
Charitable Activities	87,929			87,929
Other	1,310			1,310
TOTAL	90,040	0	3,252	93,292
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(8,623)	0	(28)	(8,651)
Transfers between Funds	8,956		(8,956)	0
Other Recognised gains/(losses)				
On investments				4,653
Net Movement in Funds	333	0	(8,984)	(3,998)
Reconcillation of Funds				
Total Funds brought forward (1 Jan)	9,232	19,494	88,660	183,282
Total Funds carried forward (31 Dec)	9,565	19,494	79,676	179,284

Independent Examiners Report

To the Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 1 to 12, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

Respective Responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner.

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the regulations.

Basis of this report

The examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with the examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives reasonable cause to believe, in any material respect, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with s130 of the Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements the Act and the Regulations, have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Ian Skinner
Retired Accountant
19 Mardle Road,
Leighton Buzzard

Dated : 8 March 2022

Independent Examiners Report

To the Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 1 to 12, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

Respective Responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner.

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the regulations.

Basis of this report

The examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with the examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives reasonable cause to believe, in any material respect, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with s130 of the Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations, have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Ian Skinner
Retired Accountant
19 Mardle Road,
Leighton Buzzard

Dated : 8 March 2022

Accounts

Annual Reports for APCM 2021

Vicar's Report

2020 began as a normal church year. In early February four of us from the PCC - myself, Gaye Soule, Sue Tucker and Angela Dunford attended the Leading your Church into Growth (LYCiG) weekend conference in Derbyshire. We came away with lots of ideas and plans for helping our church to grow and develop. Sadly, these were not able to be implemented due to the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic. The February Messy Church was based on science and was enjoyed by all who attended, families and helpers alike. We were also able to share the Churches Together 'Pancakes and Prayer' evening at Eaton Bray Methodist Church and the service of ashing on Ash Wednesday.

An inaugural meeting of the Eco Group looked at how we can develop more sustainable ways within our church buildings and programmes. This links to moves to make St Alban's an Eco Diocese. The March Deanery Synod was held at St Mary's and welcomed as its guest speaker Andrew Selous MP who is the second church estates commissioner. He shared with us a fascinating insight into his work and links between the Church of England and Parliament.

On March 16th the country went into lockdown and everything changed. Churches were shut and we had to find new ways of worshipping very rapidly. Stephen did sterling work in putting together weekly services on PowerPoint accessed via the church website. I enjoyed being more creative with the liturgy and as things evolved we were able to include contributions by readers and intercessors as well as Stephen Axford's wonderful organ music. Online worship continued to be offered in this way even when the church reopened for face to face worship in August. We also provided email copies and paper copies which were delivered to those who could not access services online.

Church meetings transferred to Zoom and pastoral 'visits' were mostly by phone. The Prayer Chain was established to pray for people in need. It is available to anyone who would like to use it. We were able to hold our 2020 APCM as part of the church service, somewhat later than usual in October. Broadband was installed in church with a view to enabling live streaming in 2021 - all part of 'doing church differently'.

The cancellation of all our fundraising events, including St Mary's Village Carnival, had a significant impact on our finances. Some imaginative ideas for fundraising included donating the money for a week's worth of petrol and a scarecrow festival which was held on the first weekend of July in place of the Carnival. The theme was Heroes and many people from the villages participated in making scarecrows and enjoying viewing them. Half the money raised was donated to Dunstable Foodbank. In August the Open Gardens event was a great success with good weather and some stunning gardens to visit. The 'Give a Little' online platform was new during 2020 and has received over £2000 in cashless donations in 12 months.

We supported other charities through the Bishop of St Alban's Harvest Appeal and the Macmillan coffee morning which was able to go ahead in the church grounds within the Covid restrictions. Parishioners have continued to donate food to the Dunstable Foodbank to meet the high demand for food parcels through the pandemic. Gordon Gray's annual quiz raised money for church and other charities and we are very grateful for all his hard work on this.

Due to the second lockdown our Christmas plans were scaled back. The Carol service and Crib services were online but we were able to be in church for Midnight Mass and Christmas day services at both St Mary's and All Saints' Dagnall. Outreach to Messy Church families has continued with a mixture of emailed material and hand delivered packs. Photos of children's

creations has been displayed on Facebook and in the churchyard; this was something new and has been well received.

In all, 2020 was an incredibly challenging year and I would like to thank everyone for their forbearance and support for one another. Let's give thanks for all that has been achieved and for the creative response to the restrictions posed by the pandemic. We hope and pray that our times of fellowship together will be restored in the not too distant future. Above all we remember that 'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.' (Psalm 46 verse 1)

Revd Joy Cousans, April 2021

Bell Tower Report

The St. Mary's bells have remained largely quiet throughout the past year because of limited church activity and restrictions imposed because of the ongoing pandemic.

We were very pleased to be able to honour both Sir Captain Tom Moore and H.R.H. Prince Phillip, The Duke of Edinburgh by tolling the tenor to commemorate them.

It is hoped that once further restrictions are lifted we will be able to resume regular Sunday service ringing, as well as ring for upcoming weddings.

Gaye T Soule
Tower Captain

Carnival Report

The Carnival did not take place in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. On what would have been Carnival Day members of the congregation organised a scarecrow festival instead. This brought joy to the community as it was one of the few opportunities that people had to get out and about in the village.

Gordon Gray
Chairman, St Mary's Village Carnival

Churches Together Report

The Churches Together committee met several times by Zoom during 2020. It was of course, a difficult year, but we did manage some events before the first Coronavirus lockdown was imposed.

The United Service for Christian Unity was held in January at Edlesborough Methodist Church, led by Gordon Gray. It is always good to worship with Christian brothers and sisters in the community.

Pancakes & Prayer took place on Shrove Tuesday at Eaton Bray Methodist Church and as usual, it helped us make a reflective start to Lent and enjoy fellowship with members of other churches.

The World Day of Prayer (previously Women's World Day of Prayer) was held in March at St Mary's, led by Deidrea Ellins. The prayers were written by the women of Zimbabwe and the theme was 'Rise, take up your mat and walk'.

Various **Lent study groups** started but ended prematurely after the start of the Lockdown.

It was decided not to print the **Easter card** as it became clear that Easter services would not be taking place in the usual way.

Christian Aid Week

The door-to-door collection could not of course take place, but we were still able to send £469 to Christian Aid. £350 was from St Mary's charitable giving and £119 was from the donations at the Churches Together event 'Pancakes & Prayer'. Most of the envelopes at this event were gift aided so this brought the total to just under £500.

Christmas card

Although there was considerable uncertainty about what services might take place, it was decided to go ahead with the Christmas card giving details of what we hope would be possible. Fortunately, we were able to use the centre pages of Focus for this, and so did not incur printing costs.

At each of our meetings, we were able to support each other in prayer and to share good ideas about how the individual churches were managing to continue worship and keep in touch with members of their congregations during the difficult time of the continuing pandemic and the various lockdowns.

Catherine Hayden

Churchwardens' Report

Although 2020 was a very unusual year in the life of our church, we have not stood still, and it is remarkable how much work has taken place under the headings of both maintenance and improvements. Exceptionally, our APCM in 2020 took place in October and some matters were reported then, but this report will cover the whole of that year and give a glimpse of what has been happening, or is planned, for 2021.

Maintenance and repairs

All regular, planned maintenance took place during the year, including PAT testing and servicing of the boiler, roof alarm, fire extinguishers and clock. The downpipes were painted, and some repairs to them were carried out; the gutters were also cleared of leaves.

The 5-year inspection of the electrical system took place in November.

The cracks which had appeared in the SW corner of the church in 2019, were examined by structural engineers early in 2020, and although there were plans for monitoring them with gauges over a period of time, this did not happen due to the Coronavirus lockdown. Fortunately, it appears that the cracks are no wider, and may even have partially closed up, so we are not unduly concerned about them at present.

The volunteer churchyard maintenance team continues to keep the paths, gullies and drains clear, as well as carrying out gardening tasks.

Cleaning the church has been more difficult, as under Covid 19 guidance, those 70 years old and over were advised not to carry out such tasks. We relied therefore, upon the 'more youthful' members of our congregation to do general cleaning, and to sanitise areas of the church when it had been in use.

Many thanks to all these volunteers.

Projects carried out in 2020 for which faculties were granted:

Path from the car park

This path was widened and re-laid with brick setts to match the other paths leading to the church, and a handrail was installed on the slope near the hall to make it easier for those with limited mobility.

Re-excavation of soakaway

The soakaway north of the boiler house was re-excavated and modern methods employed to make it more efficient.

Installation of broadband and preparation for live streaming of services

Wi-Fi cabling was installed from the hall to the choir vestry via the boiler house and the heating duct. Subsequently, the necessary hardware: switch, wireless access point and camera, was installed in the church.

We now have an internet connection in the church which can be used for purposes additional to live streaming. The photocopier has also been networked; this will allow direct printing from original computer files.

Churchyard

The wooden gate leading to Church Lane was repaired and re-varnished: also, the metal gates to the High Street, and the railings in front of the war memorial were repainted. As the churchyard is closed for burials, this work is the responsibility of Eaton Bray Parish Council who organised and funded it. In addition, they arranged for the removal of dead wood from some of the trees. We are very grateful for their support in keeping the churchyard in good order and making it a pleasant environment for the whole community to enjoy.

Projects planned for 2021

- Installation of an internal noticeboard near the north door in memory of Mel Grundy and Peter Bennett, to advertise events.
- Further work on trees in the churchyard including felling of Leylandii on the SW boundary and the planting of a hedge of mixed native species.
- Repair and refurbishment of the noticeboard near the High Street gate.

All Saints, Dagnall

Chancel Apse

There has been no progress in obtaining listed building consent for repairs to the exterior of the chancel apse, but the area of faulty pointing and rotted wooden beams is well protected from the weather.

Interior

The redecoration of the south wall is currently taking place and will greatly improve the internal appearance.

Safety inspection

This took place earlier in the year and the recommendations have been implemented.

Archdeacon's inspection

The terrier, inventory and logbook are all in good order and up to date, but due to the pandemic, no Archdeacon's inspection was carried out in 2020 and none is anticipated for 2021.

Items acquired and disposed of**Acquired:**

- A1 publicity board
- Netgear network switch
- Netgear Wireless Access Point
- PTZ Optics 20x3G-SDI Camera
- Behringer 2 channel mixer XENYX502

Disposed of: None

And thanks

Despite the difficulties of 2020, many members of our congregation continued to make vital contributions to the functioning and maintenance of our church. Thank you all very much, for everything you do; our historic and beautiful church is so important to us and to the people of our villages.

Many thanks are due in particular, to Graham Chappell and Chris Banks for planning and directing maintenance projects during the course of the year. Thanks also to Chris for his expertise as our Health and Safety Officer.

During 2020 and the early part of 2021, we have made great strides into the 21st century, and we now have the necessary facilities to live stream our services. Progress in this area has been entirely due to Graham Chappell and Martin Hayden, whose knowledge, practical skills, and enthusiasm for the project have made it become a reality and given us new opportunities to spread the Gospel and make new connections with God's people.

Catherine Hayden

Angela Dunford

Coffee After Church Report

There have been no refreshments after church since services ceased in March 2020.

Christine Gray

Dagnall Church Report

I am sad to report that All Saints' has had a difficult year. After last year's report of poor attendance and the news that the Methodist Circuit were finding it so difficult to fill their service slots, it will not come as a surprise that during this year the Methodists decided that they would withdraw from Dagnall Church and join other Methodist congregations in the area. The pandemic has made the situation even more difficult for all our Christian friends and now, although some of our Methodist friends continue to join us for services at All Saints', I believe that, when the local Methodist Churches get back to normal, we will not see them so often.

In line with St Mary's, there have been only a few services at All Saints'. During this time, we have all enjoyed services online and commend all those involved in making them available. We recognise how much extra work is required to put them online, and especially when services both online and in church are happening. However, I am delighted to report that recently we have had several services at All Saints' that have been well attended, especially the Holy Communion services led by Stephen on Christmas Day and Easter Sunday, and the service led by Gordon on Good Friday. We are grateful that regular Holy Communion services are now planned for the third Sunday of each month.

A good deal of work has now been done on the fabric of the church this year. Many thanks are due to Catherine Hayden for all her work in organising architect, contractors, and grants. The work to replaster, clean and repaint the inside walls of the church are underway, and they look so much better already. We are also grateful to John Ralphs for taking responsibility for so many practical jobs in the church over the years and thank him sincerely for all that he has done and wish him well at his new Church. We are grateful to Norma Price who continues to play for our 10.30 am services. We are grateful to Barbara Neal and John Ralphs for playing for us for so many years. In line with government guidelines the Community Choir, Welcome Club, Sunday School, and all the usual fundraising events have not been possible during the pandemic. However, since Dagnall School reopened, Joy has been able to continue to have good contact with the school.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to Dorothy Green who stepped down as District Churchwarden and sacristan at All Saints' in September. Her wonderful work and devotion to her duties at All Saints' throughout many years, has been and is very much appreciated. Dorothy is missed by us all.

Phillip Lee, Verger

Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Synod has met online two times since the last APCM report. At the December, 2020 meeting a presentation was given by Rachel Johnston the Diocesan Environment Officer. Rachel reported that St. Albans Diocese is registered as an Eco Diocese and aims to meet the Church of England's (C of E) target to be net zero by 2030. The C of E has a ten year plan in place and is working in collaboration with A Rocha UK, an international Christian conservation charity. Parishes in the deanery are encouraged to speak up about climate justice. We are encouraged to engage with our community on climate issues, especially with young people. It is suggested we hold services dedicated to climate issues and engage with the forthcoming Glasgow Climate Conference.

Safeguarding continues to be a much discussed topic at both Deanery Synod and General Synod. Deanery Synod are reminded that the safeguarding of children and vulnerable people is everyone's responsibility. The safeguarding framework within the church is under review and will

be renewed during the coming year. We are reminded that the Diocesan Safeguarding Team are happy to discuss any queries. Canon Peter Adams who reports to Deanery Synod on General Synod advised that in regard to safeguarding a humbler, bolder church is aimed for.

Our Rural Dean, Rev'd Nicola Lenthall explained to Deanery Synod about the national C of E project "Living in Love and Faith". This is a national project related to identifying sexuality, the full inclusion of LGBTQI + people, relationships and marriage in our society. The project resources produced have been developed for people to explore Christian teaching and learning on these subjects. Over 2021 it will be explored how the resources can be used at parish and diocesan level.

The March meeting commenced with a lively Question and Answer session with Archdeacon of Bedford Dave Middlebrook. Archdeacon Dave addressed questions on the C of E project "Living in Love and Faith", church finances in relation to the current economic climate, media coverage of the rumours of restructuring of dioceses and questions in relation to pandemic restrictions. Archdeacon Dave thanked everyone for their hard work over the last year and reassured those present that we have the hope of the gospel message. He advised everyone as we move forward out of lockdown to re evaluate and to take small steps forward.

Synod were informed of a report that was commissioned by the Diocese two years ago looking into how the youth of today are helped to engage with church. A summary of the report, 'Faith in Young People' is available to read on the Diocesan website.

Elections will take place in early summer for Diocesan Synod representatives. (Five clergy and five lay.) Lay representatives need to be worshipping communicants and aged sixteen plus.

As always it is heartening to meet together with other clergy and lay representatives from the parishes in our deanery. The meetings are interactive and it is beneficial to hear from others about their initiatives and to share with those present, our news from St. Mary's and All Saints.

Angela Dunford

Eco-church

Towards the end of 2019, and following the appointment of a Diocesan Environment Officer, Joy suggested we explore Eco Church.

Eco Church is promoted by A Rocha UK. 'A Rocha' (which means 'the rock' in Portuguese), is an international Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world. It is committed to reminding Christians of the biblical mandate to care for the environment, which it does through promoting the Eco Church programme.

Several members of PCC expressed interest and a sub-committee was formed. We held one meeting early in the year when we took an initial look at the A Rocha website and started to complete the self-assessment questionnaire which helps guide churches toward better eco practice.

As with all our church activities, 2020 was a difficult year, but we have not entirely stood still. Throughout the year, there has been further research to help answer the questionnaire, and over several PCC meetings, more detailed information about Eco Church has been given so that PCC members might become more knowledgeable and champions of the eco cause.

The five categories on which a church's eco credentials are judged are: *Worship & Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community & Global Engagement* and *Lifestyle*. In each category a bronze, silver and gold award can be achieved.

We are doing well in some of these categories and are already at bronze level in three of them and silver level in one. Sometimes only small changes in mindset, practices and expenditure are needed and we hope that in 2021 we may reach the full Bronze Award. This is a worthy achievement in itself but of course, there will be much further to go in our eco journey.

Catherine Hayden

Electoral Roll Report

For the 2021 electoral roll report there are no new members on the roll this year. Three members have been removed from the roll, one deceased, two have left the area. This brings the total to 126.

Diane Goodwin

Family History Report

During the pandemic, I have still been receiving requests for information regarding family history, although not as many as usual.

Eileen Bennett

Finance Report

The formal statement of accounts to December 2020 is attached for information. The second page to this report is our balance sheet at the end of 2020. It shows a decline in our total funds in the pandemic year. Our endowment funds however are invested with the Church Bank of Finance and show 7% growth in market value. The various other funds show a -7% decline in total. This was due to the deficit last year in our income with the biggest decline in restricted funds. Our policy is to allocate restricted funds where possible to support fabric and other projects leaving more capital in unrestricted and designated funds for the PCC to use. The net movement in funds overall is -2% which is remarkably little.

While our fundraising inevitably suffered in 2020, our income from donations and giving and in particular tax efficient giving, held up well. We received several individual donations and continued to receive regular and generous support from the congregation. We should be thankful that our funds which are our reserves saw such a limited financial impact.

The third page shows the budget for 2021. It has been prepared with an optimistic outlook for the second half of the year and our hope to restore several fundraising opportunities. There are still challenges and uncertainties however which the Finance Committee and the PCC will need to manage. The most significant of these are likely to be the maintenance of our historic building and changing income patterns. But there are also opportunities, both to reach more people and in other forms of giving using all the available technology.

Martin Hayden

Flower Arrangers' Report

This year has been a very strange one in many ways, not least because church has been closed for worship for so long. Finances have also required cuts in many areas and one of these was our flower budget. Hopefully we will be doing some more fundraising in the future to ensure we can keep flowers as part of our worship. We expect that our budget will still be very limited indeed in the next few months so we will be relying on arrangers to provide their own flowers if possible. We would welcome any donations, whether financial or of flowers from people's gardens if available. Please contact Catherine Hayden if you would like to make a donation.

Our flower arranging team consists of eight regulars. Christine Horn very kindly orders flowers for the major festivals as well as making some beautiful contributions to the arrangements. Our other resident professional florist is Joan Fossey and we welcome her help for the less able of us!

I was very grateful to Beryl Bishop and Helen Wilkinson who provided flowers and did the arrangements for the very limited services we were able to have at Christmas. They were lovely and lasted quite a few weeks! We asked for donations for the Easter Lilies, and people responded with generosity so that we were able to have some beautiful arrangements in church to celebrate Easter and the opening of church for regular worship, hopefully permanently this time.

We would love to see some more volunteers come forward to assist, particularly for the major festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Don't worry if you are inexperienced - with the help of our more able arrangers you will soon progress on to arranging flowers on your own during the year! Please contact me if you would like to come along.

Barbara Morton

Four Villages Men's Breakfast Club Report

In common with much else, the activities of the club were curtailed by the COVID-related ban on indoor gatherings and met only once in 2020.

We are however hopeful of a resumption in our activities when permitted and envisage that our next meeting will be in October, if not as early as July – if permitted.

We will be hoping to be able to strengthen the organising group as we are still missing Mel & Peter who, as founder members along with Graham & I did much to support the club. Ken has already joined the group, but we will be looking for a couple more early risers to share the load on four Saturday mornings a year.

Chris Banks

Fundraising Report

Owing to the Covid-19 lock down there was little opportunity for fundraising events other than our New Year Concert in January 2020, Gordon's Christmas Puzzle in February and the Scarecrow Festival in July 2020

With restrictions starting to ease we are working on a number of events in 2021, namely:

A number of treasure Hunts during May

Carnival on 3 July

Open Gardens on 23 July

Music@St Mary's Concerts on 14 August, 13 November, 17 January

Gordon will be taking a lower than usual profile following a mild stroke in January. We will be grateful for all additional support both at the events and promoting events to friends and Here are some of the help that we would very much appreciate.

- Offering to act as a steward at Music@St Mary's Concerts. Under normal circumstances this involves little more than coming armed with a torch, obviously more in an emergency.
- Helping with furniture moving ahead of concerts (thank you to all those who help restore the church after concerts)
- Sign up to Easy Fundraising. At no cost to ourselves, and with no effort on our part, St Mary's receives a donation for every internet purchase made by people who are signed up to the scheme – so far we have received over £1,200. If you, your children or grandchildren buy goods on the internet please sign on to the scheme so that those donations can come to St Mary's. Talk to Eileen Bennett to ensure St Mary's benefits at no cost to ourselves.
- Keep a record of non-monetary 'donations' you may make to the church - e.g. for milk, biscuits, cleaning material, paper, printer cartridges. Provided you give him details Graham Mockett can claim Gift Aid against these donations.
- Even if you aren't interested in a particular event please still help to promote it.

Finally can I just mention Open Gardens – an event that has become one of the social occasions of the year in our villages. At this stage we are eager to receive an offer to oversee the organisation of this event; please let Gordon know if you would be willing to do this. Maybe some members of the congregation would be willing to serve refreshments either at church or in one of the gardens.

Gordon Gray

House Groups

A programme of readings and thoughts for Lent was sent out online for any members to use if they wished.

Eileen Bennett

Messy Church Report

Covered in Vicar's report.

Joy Cousins

North Chilterns Group Report

Ash Wednesday services for 2020 took place at Eaton Bray, Tilsworth and Kensworth and the Lent Course entitled 'Christian Worship Worldwide' started. It was, however, only possible to hold two meetings when it became necessary for all further gatherings to be cancelled, due to Coronavirus restrictions.

A combined AGM for 2020 and 2021 was held by Zoom on 4th February 2021. Isobel Randall, Barrie Huggins and Gill Hayward were re-elected Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary. Stephen Burge was elected Vice-Chair.

During Lent 2021, Stephen led an interesting and well attended course on Zoom, based on the book 'Christianity Rediscovered' by Vincent Donovan. NCG joint services for Holy Week took place in three churches including a very moving service of Tenebrae at Eaton Bray.

Confirmation has been booked with Bishop Richard for 27th June at 6pm at one of the churches in the Totternhoe, Stanbridge & Tilsworth benefice.

Catherine Hayden

Parish Lunch Club Report

Although we haven't met during the Pandemic, Chriss Hewitt has kept in touch with our members and all are keen to get back to the lunch. My thanks to Chriss for her help and we look forward to restarting again.

Jenny Hewett.

Pastoral Group Report

This past year has been extraordinary, the Pastoral group has adapted to meet virtually and offer support by telephone or post.

We have been established as the pastoral group for the past five years after studying together a module offered by St Albans Education department entitled "Equipping God's People", the bronze award.

We report during our regular meetings every six weeks on the pastoral needs emerging from the Sunday lunch and Wednesday Guild members even though this year the clubs were not taking place. We offer support to bereaved families and offer positive encouragement to the 56 people listed so far on our local register in Eaton Bray, Edlesborough and Dagnall.

We are involved in re-establishing a community by listening to fears, grief, or isolation which have all been exacerbated during the past year of the pandemic. We have telephoned our allocated group of people on a regular basis, sent cards and printed versions of the pew leaflet to those unable to access computers, linked with the Good Neighbours Scheme wherever suitable, prayed for every need as we hold the needs of our friends to God. We also point people to the prayer chain which has been in existence for over a year.

Developing our Pastoral Wisdom, Reflecting together on Pastoral Care, by Helen Thorp is a book we might consider working together on as a group in order to refresh our strengths after the long months of the Covid epidemic. The discussions will be based on some of the following themes:

Skills in pastoral care

How we can compassionately and responsibly care for those in need in our Church community.

Personal reflection

Credible and responsible prayer ministry
Taking care of ourselves

We are integrating news of our support back to the PCC. We also have a longstanding awareness of liaising with our hospital Chaplaincy, visiting in hospital has not been possible but support through telephone or tablets has been developed and we have still been able to support further once discharged home. It is hoped that as restrictions abate, we will again be able to resume home visits and Eucharist at home for the sick which were strong elements of our support in the past.

We have perhaps lacked visibility in the past year but have continued to offer pastoral support in various guises nonetheless throughout. If needs arise do not hesitate to contact a member of the Pastoral group through our Churchwardens or Joy or Stephen.

Catherine Wendeler

PCC Report

The Parochial Church Council is made up of the following:

The Vicar

Churchwardens, Catherine Hayden and Angela Dunford

Lay Reader (co-opted) Gordon Gray

Associate Priest Stephen Burge

Six elected members:

Barbara Morton (Secretary to the PCC), ,

Catherine Wendeler, Martin Quinn, Iain Stubbs,

Chris Banks and Sue Tucker

In addition, Martin Hayden has attended all meetings as Financial representative.

Deanery Synod Representative: Angela Dunford

Dagnall Member: Dorothy Green

There are now 12 members in total. The PCC met 10 times since April 2020. All of these meetings have been held via Zoom. All meetings were well attended with most meetings having between 11 and 12 in attendance. The following appointments were in place during the past six months (since the last APCM) :

Lay Vice Chair	Catherine Hayden
Standing Committee members	Joy Cousans/Catherine Hayden/Angela Dunford/ Chris Banks/Sue Tucker /Iain Stubbs
PCC Secretary	Barbara Morton
Electoral Roll Officer	Diane Goodwin
Treasurer/Bookkeeper	Martin Hayden
Finance Committee members	Joy Cousans/Martin Hayden/Catherine Hayden/Graham Mockett/Martin Quinn
Stewardship Committee members	Joy Cousans/Catherine Hayden/Angela Dunford/Sally Taylor

Freewill Offering Officer	Graham Mockett
Safeguarding Officer	Gaye Soule
Health and Safety Officer	Chris Banks
Bell Tower Manager	Gaye Soule
Fabric Committee Chair	Graham Chappell
Youth and Education Officer(s)	Sheila Banks/Catherine Wendeler
Fundraising Chair	Gordon Gray
Fundraising Committee members	Gordon Gray/ Barbara Morton/Catherine Hayden/Sharon Stilliard/Kate Freeman/Gary Freeman
Parish Lunch Club Organiser	Jennifer Hewett
Representatives on the North Chilterns Group Committee	Stephen Burge/Catherine Hayden
Representatives on Churches Together Committee	Joy Cousans/Catherine Hayden/Angela Dunford
PCC representative on Dagnall Management Committee	Joy Cousans/Catherine Hayden/Angela Dunford
Representative on Village Hall Committee	Chris Banks
Focus distribution organiser	John Plater
Rota organisers 8am & 10am	Sharon Stilliard/Sally Taylor
Cleaning Rota organiser	Gaye Soule
Flowers organiser	Barbara Morton
Churchyard Maintenance organiser	Iain Stubbs
Publicity group	Sally Taylor/Angela Dunford/Eileen Bennett/Sue Tucker
Eco Church Committee	Catherine Hayden, Joy, Iain, Angela, Sue Walker
Pastoral Visiting Team	Vicar, Catherine Wendeler, Gordon Gray, Chriss Hewitt, Sue Walker, Catherine Hayden, Pamela Richardson, Diane Goodwin, Judy Venn
Focus Magaazine	Angela Dunford/Sue Tucker/Ken Coates/ Sally Siddons/John Plater/Sally Taylor/Steve Dunford

Barbara Morton, PCC Secretary

Prayer & Praise Group Report

In March last year, soon after the first lockdown, we decided to continue the meetings of the Prayer and Praise group by sending out a document each month to our members. They could follow this at home, at the time, if possible, when we would normally have met in person, so that we could be together in spirit. It includes our normal pattern of songs, prayers, readings and a story or a reflection. Towards the end of the year, thanks to Marion's computer skills, we decided to invite our members to meet via Zoom if they were able and would like to, using the same document that we

send out to everyone each month. This has worked well and it has been good to share in this way. We plan to continue to hold our meetings in the same way until we are once again able to return to meeting in person. If anyone would like to join us, please let us know.

Chriss Hewitt and Dorothy Green

Publicity Committee

At present members of the Publicity Committee are Eileen Bennett, Sally Taylor, Sue Tucker and Angela Dunford. Over the last six months our main responsibility has been to share information with the church and community about worship in the parish and arrangements for private prayer in lockdown. We continue to meet online on a monthly basis.

Fewer fundraising events have taken place but looking forward to the remainder of the year the Publicity Committee will aim to support event organisers to publicise their events.

Publicity is accomplished by utilising posters, banners, online social media, the Focus magazine and our church websites to name a few. In future it would be beneficial to develop the use of our Facebook page as a way of sharing with others about our church life. For users of Facebook, please continue to contribute to our page and comment on/share other people's posts. The introduction of a church Instagram page would maybe enable us to reach a wider age range of people. We now use a You Tube channel to live stream our Sunday morning worship at St. Mary's. This is another opportunity for outreach. We are always thinking of ways to develop our outreach and share information in relation to our church mission. Any ideas/initiatives are always welcome as would be help from anyone who is enthusiastic about and adept at using social media.

The success of publicity for our parish relies heavily on the sharing of information by church members and others in the community. Publicity Committee can then take the information received and share it appropriately. As a group we aspire to be imaginative, enabling us to be creative in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, our faith and God's love for all those around us.

Angela Dunford

Reader Ministry

In 2020 my primary Reader related activities have been:

- Maintaining a good working relationship with Joy
- Leading services at St Mary's and All Saints, Dagnall
- Leading worship at churches within the North Chiltern Group
- Acting as Chair of the Fund-raising Team.

It has been a privilege to continue to lead services on the 3rd Sunday each month and I welcome your comments and feedback. In addition, Joy has maintained the pattern of worship at St Mary's on 1st Sundays in the month whereby I preach at 8am and 10am on the first Sunday's in the month and lead the Ministry of the Word, when it is required, at the 10am service.

As usual, I led the worship at the Good Friday service and for Christmas Eve produced a presentation to replace our Candle Services – not something I was desperately pleased with, That said, I enjoyed assisting Joy and Stephen in preparing material for on-line worship. My involvement with NCG in 2020 was limited to leading worship at Kensworth on two occasions.

I am enormously grateful for all the support that I get from the parish and try to respond to both positive and negative criticism. I really do enjoy discussing sermon material with those who are

interested, so don't be afraid to chat to me after Sunday services. Especially I want to thank Christine, who puts up with so much and without whose support my ministry would not be possible. Reader Ministry is varied, rewarding and interesting. If you feel drawn to this ministry yourself, or have spotted someone who you think might make a good Reader, and would like to find out more then please talk to me.

Gordon Gray

Safeguarding Report

Despite the pandemic restrictions and lockdowns any safeguarding issues still need to be available and appropriately addressed within our church community/parishes. A system remains in place to respond accordingly to any such concerns should they arise.

Other ongoing activity in the safeguarding arena includes monitoring all church personnel for compliance with mandatory safeguarding training and criminal background checks updating as needed.

Gaye Soule

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Registered Charity No 1129952

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year ending 31 December 2020

Hon Treasurer: Mr Martin Hayden
2 Orchard End
Edlesborough
Dunstable
LU6 2RE

Independent Examiner: T R Bowden
GVS Ltd
Buckfastleigh
Devon
TQ11 0BW

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ending 31 December 2020

		2020				2019	
		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
Notes		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:							
Donations and Legacies	2a	66,602				66,602	68,780
Charitable Activities	2b	11,507	0	3,224		14,731	55,554
Other Activities	2c						
Investments	2d	2,895				2,895	2,962
Other	2e	413				413	230
TOTAL		81,417	0	3,224	0	84,640	127,526
Expenditure on:							
Raising Funds	3a	801	0	3,252		4,053	19,876
Charitable Activities	3b	87,929		0		87,929	99,794
Other	3c	1,310		0		1,310	2,620
TOTAL		90,040	0	3,252	0	93,292	122,290
Net Income (Expenditure)		(8,624)	0	(28)	0	(8,652)	5,236
Transfers between Funds							
	9a	8,956		(8,956)			
Other Recognised gains/(losses):							
Gains/(losses) on investments	5b				4,653	4,653	11,741
Net Movement in Funds		332	0	(8,984)	4,653	(3,999)	16,977
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total Funds brought forward (1st Jan)		7,460	19,494	88,660	67,669	183,283	166,306
Prior year adjustment	9c	1,772			(1,772)		
		9,233			65,896		
Total Funds carried forward (31st Dec)		9,564	19,494	79,676	70,549	179,284	183,283

Approved by the PCC on **8th April 2021** and signed on their behalf by **J. E. Cousans** PCC Chair

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020
BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	£	Total 2020 £	£	Total 2019 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	5a	2,010		2,426	
Social Investments	5b	1,950		876	
Investments	5b	70,549		65,896	
			74,509		69,198
Current Assets					
Debtors	6	1,448		4,220	
Short Term Investments	6	75,919		75,000	
Bank Balances	6	29,656		36,927	
Cash	6	699		528	
		107,722		116,676	
Liabilities due in one year					
Creditors due in one year	7	(2,948)		(2,590)	
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)			104,775		114,085
Total Net Assets	8		179,284		183,283
Represented by:					
Parish Funds					
Unrestricted Funds					
General			9,564		9,233
Designated			19,494		19,494
Restricted Funds			79,676		88,660
Endowment Funds			70,549		65,896
Total Funds	9		179,284		183,283

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 December 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They have been prepared under FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standard. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Endowment fund capital must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion.

Endowment fund income may be restricted or unrestricted depending on the purpose for which the fund was established.

Restricted funds are income from endowments or donations or grants for specific purposes intended by the donor.

General funds are *unrestricted* and may be *designated* by the PCC for a particular purpose.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid declarations is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable under Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Bequests to the PCC are accounted for when the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain. Funds raised by the Carnival, Concerts and similar events are accounted for gross. Sales of flowers, books and other items are accounted for gross.

Other income

Rental income is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses on investments are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Resources expended

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when awarded by the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan quota is accounted for when payable.

Provisions

Amounts are set aside each year to provide for the estimated future cost of stonework restoration and roof repairs. The adequacy of these provisions is reviewed at appropriate intervals.

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011. Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, are listed in the church inventory which can be inspected on request. No accounting value is placed on the organ, which was gifted to the church in 1993. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice property, moveable church furnishings and the organ, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church with value exceeding £500 is depreciated on a straight line basis over 3 years.

Investments

Investments representing funds held in trust are valued at their market value at 31 December, as certified by the St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance.

Current Assets

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

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit with the Hampshire Trust Bank the HSBC Bank and the Shared Interest Charity.

Pandemic

Reduced attendance and in particular reduced fundraising in this past year has resulted in a deficit of income against expenditure. The impact of the pandemic will continue in 2021 but the PCC plans to continue to manage costs and to promote contributions through a stewardship campaign.

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2020

Note 2 Income and Endowments from:		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL	
Donations and Legacies		Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	FUNDS	2019
Voluntary Income/Receipts		£	£	£	£	£	£
Tax efficient planned giving							
FWO Envelopes		2183				2183	4462
Bankers Orders		45733				45733	44608
Donations Gift Aided		3616				3616	465
Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme							
FWO & Open Plate		954				954	3839
Donation not Gift Aided		270				270	640
Other planned giving not Gift Aided		0				0	0
Receipts including special appeals		1020				1020	1050
Gift Aid Recovered		12827				12827	13715
Grants & Legacies Received		0				0	0
		66602	0	0	0	66602	68780
Charitable Activities							
Church Activities							
Statutory Fees (retained by PCC)		4020				4020	4570
Fund Raising		7361				7361	13516
Coffee Fund		126				126	624
Fabric				100		100	6750
100 club				2214		2214	2288
Linen Fund				29		29	82
Carnival						0	20334
Front Row				58		58	2330
Ladies Guild				5		5	679
Breakfast Club				354		354	1760
Tower Fund				15		15	0
Luncheon Club				448		448	2621
		11507	0	3224	0	14731	55554
Rental Income		980				980	1632
Dividend and Deposit Interest		1914				1914	1331
Investments		2895	0	0	0	2895	2962
Other Income		413	0	0	0	413	230
Total		81417	0	3224	0	84640	127526

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2020

Note 3 Expenditure on:

	3	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	2019
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Raising Funds							
<i>Costs of Generating Income</i>	3a						
Fund Raising		642				642	2,923
Stewardship Costs						0	343
Coffee Fund		160				160	103
Fabric Fund				180		180	1,710
100 Club				1,410		1,410	1,180
Carnival Costs				60		60	7,181
Front Row				578		578	2,001
Ladies Guild				129		129	384
Breakfast Club				558		558	1,510
Luncheon Club				337		337	2,542
		801	0	3,252	0	4,053	19,876
Charitable Activities	3b						
<i>Church Activities</i>							
Charitable Giving		809				809	897
Grants by Carnival						0	13,500
Diocesan parish share		67,072				67,072	64,831
North Chilterns Group and Deanery		262				262	362
Salaries and Wages		845				845	715
Clergy and Staff Expenses		2,439				2,439	850
Clerical cover expenses		0				0	60
Sundry Donations		0				0	0
<i>Church Expenses</i>							
Mission and Evangelism		112				112	711
Church Running Expenses		10,558				10,558	11,596
Church Utility Bills		2,100				2,100	3,546
Depreciation		3,431				3,431	2,426
<i>Major Capital Expenditure</i>							
Major Repairs to the Church		0				0	0
<i>PCC Governance Costs</i>		300				300	300
		87,929	0	0	0	87,929	99,794
Dagnal Church Precept	3c	1,310				1,310	2,620
Total		90,040	0	3,252	0	93,292	122,290

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2020

4a Staff Costs

Salaries. During the year the PCC employed a Sacristan.

31/12/20	2019
845	715

4b PCC Costs

No PCC member received remuneration, benefit or reimbursement of travelling or other expenses.

5a Tangible Fixed Assets

Capital Equipment

1/1/20	Equipmnet Added	Depreciation	31/12/20	2019
2426	3015	(3,431)	2010	2426

5b Investments

Unrestricted Funds

Shared Interest Society

Endowment Funds

Church Board of Finance

Total

1/1/20	Interest	Disposals	Transfers	Changes in Mkt Value	31/12/20	2019
876	2		1,072		1,950	876
65,896				4,653	70,549	65,896
66,772	2	0	1,072	4,653	72,499	66,772

6 Current Asset

Debtors

Gift Aid reclaims

Other debtors

Short term investment Hampshire Trust Bank

Bank Accounts

Cash

31/12/20	2019
1,041	1,141
408	3,080
1,448	4,220
75,919	75,000
29,656	36,927
699	528
107,722	116,676

7 Liabilities

Amounts falling due in one year

Amounts received in advance (Carnival)

Other creditors

(353)	0
(2,595)	(2,590)
(2,948)	(2,590)

Total Net Assets

179,284	183,283
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8 Analysis of Net Assets

Fixed Assets

Investment Assets

Current Assets

Current Liabilities

Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	31/12/2020 Total	2019
2,010				2,010	2,426
1,950			70,549	72,499	66,772
8,552	19,494	79,676		107,722	116,676
(2,948)				(2,948)	(2,590)
9,564	19,494	79,676	70,549	179,284	183,283

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2020

9a Funds Reconciliation

	Reserves At 1 Jan	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Investment Gains/(Loss)	Reserves At 31 Dec
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted General Fund	9,199	81,291	(89,881)	8,956		9,564
Coffee Fund	34	126	(160)			0
	9,233					9,564.41
Designated General Fabric	9,830					9,830
Memorial	722					722
Roof Repairs	3,834					3,834
Stonework Restoration	5,108					5,108
	19,494					19,494
Restricted Benevolent	143					143
Fabric	62,395	100	(180)	804		63,119
Linen	246	29				275
Roof Repairs	9,343					9,343
Appeal Fund	8,956			(8,956)		0
100 Club	0	2,214	(1,410)	(804)		0
Tower	429	15				444
(Associates) Carnival	1,236	0	(60)			1,176
Front Row	3,894	58	(578)			3,375
Breakfast Club	1,158	354	(558)			954
Ladies Guild	646	5	(129)			522
Luncheon Club	215	448	(337)			325
	88,660					79,676
Endowment Funds						
Restricted Chancel Fund Income	4,705				325	5,030
Chancel Fund Deposit	1,430				147	1,578
Fabric (Miss Gray's Gift)	18,590				1,284	19,874
Church Lands Income	1,857				188	2,045
Church Lands Deposit	25				0	25
Unrestricted Brandom Income	9,314				643	9,958
Brandom Deposit	4,384				299	4,683
Wallace Bequest	25,361				1,751	27,112
Edlesborough Mem. Hall	230				16	245
	65,896					70,549
Total Funds	183,283	84,640	(93,292)	0	4,653	179,284

9b Transfers of Funds

The Appeal Fund has seen had no expenditure since 2018. No further expenses for the new extension are expected. The PCC approved its transfer to General Fund in a minute of 11th Feb 2021.

Surplus from the 100 club of £804 was transferred to the Fabric Fund as required by the constitution.

9c Prior year adjustment

In the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019 a correction was made to the opening balance of the Endowment Funds. This was misallocated in the Statement of Financial Activities, resulting in an understatement of the General Fund by £1772.

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2020

10 Carnival	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
Advertising, Sponsors & Donation	0		5,085	
Stall Fees	0		4,273	
Church Stall Takings	0		10,848	
Income Tax Gift Aid	0		129	
Gross Receipts		0		20,334
Costs				
Programmes	0		1,310	
Stall	0		2,845	
Administration	60		2,386	
Entertainment	0		640	
		60		7,181
Profit on Carnival		(60)		13,153
Less Donations				13,500
Surplus/(Deficit)		(60)		(347)
11 Front Row				
Income	58		2,330	
Expenditure	578		2,001	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(519)		329
12 Breakfast Club				
Income	354		1,760	
Expenditure	558		1,510	
Surplus/Deficiency		(204)		250
13 Coffee				
Income	126		624	
Expenditure	160		(103)	
Surplus/Deficiency		(34)		727
14 Ladies Guild				
Income	5		679	
Expenditure	129		384	
Surplus/Deficiency		(124)		295
15 Luncheon Club				
Income	448		2,621	
Expenditure	337		2,542	
Surplus/Deficiency		111		80
16 Tower				
Income	15		0	
Expenditure	0		0	
Surplus/Deficiency		15		0
17 100 Club				
Income	2,214		2,288	
Expenditure	1,410		1,180	
Surplus/Deficiency		804		1,108
18 Commitments				
There are no other commitments, not otherwise recognised in these financial statements				

ST MARY'S EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2020

19 SOFA Comparatives

(previous year)

2019

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS
	£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and Legacies	68,780				68,780
Charitable Activities	18,710		36,844		55,554
Other Activities	0				0
Investments	2,962				2,962
Other	230				230
TOTAL	90,682	0	36,844	0	127,526
Expenditure on:					
Raising Funds	3,369		16,507		19,876
Charitable Activities	86,294		13,500		99,794
Other	2,620				2,620
TOTAL	92,283	0	30,007	0	122,290
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(1,601)	0	6,837	0	5,236
Transfers between Funds	830		(830)		0
Other Recognised gains/(losses)					
On revaluation of fixed assets					
On investments				11,741	11,741
Net Movement in Funds	(771)	0	6,007	11,741	16,977
Reconcillation of Funds					
Total Funds brought forward (1 Jan)	8,232	19,494	82,653	55,927	166,306
Total Funds carried forward (31 Dec)	7,460	19,494	88,660	67,669	183,283

ST MARYS EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2020

Independent Examiner's Report

To the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's, Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 1 to 11, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is our responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

(1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or

(2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



T R Bowden
GVS Ltd
Accountants
Buckfastleigh
Devon

Dated: 29 March 2021

ST MARYS EATON BRAY with EDLESBOROUGH

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2020

Independent Examiner's Report

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(1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or

(2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



T R Bowden
GVS Ltd
Accountants
Buckfastleigh
Devon

Dated: 29 March 2021