

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.

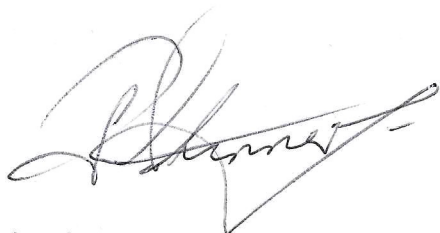
Basis of this report

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