

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 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 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

Shared Interest Society

	1/1/24	Deposits	Withdrawn	Interest	Changes in Mkt Value	31/12/24	31/12/23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

Investment Funds

CCLA Inv. Fund

Endowment Fund

	81,377				4,154	85,531	81,377
	79,204				2,588	81,792	79,204
	160,581					167,323	160,581

6. CURRENT ASSETS

Short term Deposits

CCLA Dep. Fund

	1/1/24	Deposits	Withdrawn	Interest	31/12/24	31/12/23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

Bank Accounts

Church

Focus

Dagnall

Associates

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

Cash

541	271
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7. DEBTORS

Gift Aid reclaims

Other debtors

1,240	938
1,040	211
2,280	1,149

8. LIABILITIES

Focus advertising revenue in advance

Front Row expenses

Other creditors

(18,605)	(17,415)
0	(181)
(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

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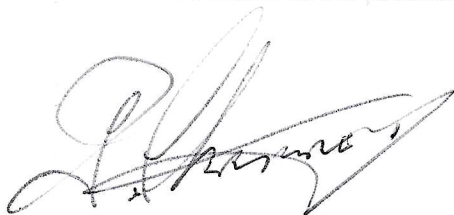
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1. which gives reasonable cause to believe, in any material respect, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with s130 of the Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements the 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