THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY'S NORTH MYMMS

England & Wales · Charity number 1130079

Details

Other names	PCC OF ST MARY'S CHURCH NORTH MYMMS
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-06-10
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St Marys Church North Mymms park Hatfield Hertfordshire AL9 7TN
Phone	01727825578
Email	northmymmschurch@btinternet.com
Website	www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Religious activities

Classification

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

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Hertfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£143,884	£133,859	-	-
2024-12-31	£179,664	£185,414	-	-
2023-12-31	£138,788	£135,071	-	-
2022-12-31	£141,655	£140,738	-	-
2021-12-31	£123,496	£134,379	-	-
2020-12-31	£116,440	£137,720	-	-

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Ruth Barr	Chair	2019-10-01
Byron Stephen Hopkins		2017-05-30
Elizabeth Theresa Parker		2023-05-21
GEOFFREY GUY BOOTHBY		
GRAHAM LEONARD NICHOLAS		2016-04-28
KAREN JANE HOPKINS		2022-09-26
Lisa Large		2017-05-30
Nicola Jane Sherlock		2014-04-27
PETER SKEVINGTON DALLING		
Pamela Joan Davis		2016-04-28
Rev Penelope Jane Thomson		2020-09-13
Rev Sara Head		2024-07-07
Richard Stanley Jackson		2022-07-01
Rupert Christopher Penfold Lee		2015-04-20
Susan Dorothy Crawley		2014-04-27
Victoria Hamilton Sinclair Crake		2019-04-14

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY'S NORTH MYMM

England & Wales - Charity number 1130079

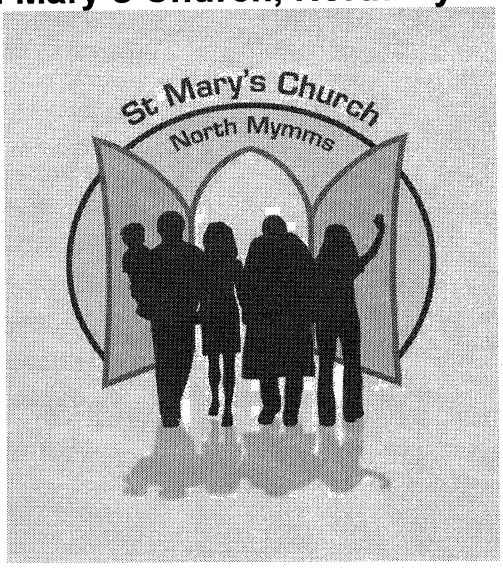
Accounts

St. Mary's Church

North Mymms

2025 Annual Report and Accounts

for the Parochial Church Council of
St. Mary's Church, North Mymms



St. Mary's Church, North Mymms
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31st December 2025

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, NORTH MYMMS

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Administrative Information

St Mary's Church is situated in the parish of North Mymms. It is part of the Diocese of St Albans within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, North Mymms Park, Hatfield, Herts, AL9 7TN.

- The Parish Administrator and Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Lisa Large.
- The Church banks with Barclays Bank.
- The Independent Examiner is Mr Mark Knight.
- The Church's Electoral Roll Officer is Mrs Victoria Sinclair Crake.
- The Church's Treasurer is Mr Graham Nicholas.

The Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary's Church, North Mymms was registered in 2009 with the Charity Commission under registration number 1130079. PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2025 until the date this report was approved are:

Team Vicar	The Reverend Ruth Barr	Chair
Associate Priest	The Reverend Penny Thomson	
Curate	The Reverend Sara Head	
Wardens		
	Mr. Rupert Lee	
	Mrs Gill Peplow	
PCC Secretary	Mrs Nicola Sherlock	
Representative on the Deanery Synod:	Mr Peter Dalling	
	Mr Byron Hopkins	
	Mrs Karen Hopkins	

Elected Members

Mrs Sue Crawley	
Mrs Pamela Davis	
Mrs Lisa Large	
Mr Geoffrey Boothby	
Mrs Victoria Sinclair Crake	
Mr Graham Nicholas	
Mr Richard Jackson	
Mrs Jacqui Boulton	(Until 17th May 2025)
Mrs Libby Parker	

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All eligible church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The Parish is part of the Hatfield Team Ministry which members in addition to St Mary's are; St Etheldreda's;, Hatfield; St Luke's, Hatfield, St Michael and All Angels, Birchwood, Hatfield; St John's, Hilltop, Hatfield and St John's, Lemsford. The Team Rector who is based at St Etheldreda's Church is Fr. Darren Collins.

Objectives and Activities

St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the parish priest, the Reverend Ruth Barr, and the Churchwardens in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. Our vision statement is "Our vision for St. Mary's is to be an outward looking and welcoming Church, catering for all age groups and helping the local communities to experience God's love and grow in faith."

Safeguarding

St Mary's PCC remains committed to ensuring the safeguarding of our children, young people and vulnerable adults whilst engaged in activities at St. Mary's Church. All PCC members hold a current DBS check. Safeguarding is on the agenda of every meeting.

The current safeguarding policy is displayed outside the church office with a summary in the porch and St Michael's room. The policy is reviewed annually by the PCC and various additional policies have been introduced in the past year in accordance with Diocesan requirements. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). The documents, 'Protecting all God's children' and 'Promoting a safer church' have also provided guidance.

Achievements, Performance & Review of the Year

As at 31st December 2025, there were 84 (2024 – 106) parishioners on the church electoral roll, 37 (2024 – 37) of whom are not resident within the parish.

Life events for 2025:
☐ There were 8 weddings, 7 at St Mary's and one in St Saviour's St Albans conducted by Rev Sara Head for a Deaf couple she knew and completely done in British Sign Language which was a first for the St Albans Diocese.

☐ We conducted 5 baptisms, 1 of which was for an adult who wanted to fulfil the role of a godparent but needed to be baptised first.

☐ We conducted 10 funerals, 7 of which included a full service at the church before burial or cremation, 1 full service was held at St Luke's Hatfield - one of the Team Ministry churches and 2 were cremation services only.

☐ We held 10 Burial of Ashes services here at St Mary's, 7 of these were into existing graves in the New churchyard and 3 were into the Garden of Remembrance. Our thanks go to John Barr who has taken on the role of sexton to prepare the ground and reinstate after the interment and put the plaques onto the raised Garden of Remembrance area and he keeps the area looking immaculate.

As part of the Bishop's Hatfield Team Ministry, it was decided that each of the four main churches would host a service of a different nature.

- Firstly was the interactive and reflective Ascension Day service at St Michael & All Angels in May.

- In July we held a Choral Evensong here at St. Mary's led by Elle Jackson as the choir director for the choirs of St Mary's and St Etheldreda's and saw a large number of people both in the choirs and congregation singing together.

- There was a well-attended pet service at St Etheldreda's in September, hosting a variety of pets and pet owners, some of whom had brought a photo of their pet to be blessed.

- Lastly was a Worship & Prayer evening at St John's Hilltop in October, which was a wonderful opportunity to spend time with the other congregations worshipping the Lord, possibly in a new way.

The Diocese of St Albans named 2025 as being a year for Spiritual Renewal and Wellbeing and offered various quiet days, pilgrimages and courses to encourage both clergy & laity to take time out of their diaries to spend time with the Lord. We hosted two of these, one in July and one in November which were much appreciated by those who came and enjoyed our beautiful church and surroundings as part of their quiet time.

June 28th soon rolled round and we celebrated our curate, Rev Sara Head, as she was approved for her second ordination service at St Albans Cathedral and was made a priest. She then celebrated her first Eucharist the following day here at St Mary's and it was a wonderful opportunity to see Communion celebrated both in spoken and British Sign language. The church community stayed for a BBQ lunch as we all enjoyed the sunshine too.

This year, in November, we welcomed the BBC film crew who used both the church and car park for a film called California Avenue, based in the 1970's.

Our toddler group, called Coffee Pots & Tiny Tots, has been growing week by week. We have seen multi generations attend and get involved. Rev Penny has taken the lead role in arranging the themes and crafts and Bible story, backed up by an amazing team of volunteers who are the heartbeat for this wonderful group.

The knitting group also has been growing with new people adding to the numbers and work-force, making blankets for the Herts Young Homeless and also special things for the Easter Egg Hunt, Teddy Bear's Picnic and Remembrance Day festivities. Home-made cakes seem to be an attractive enticement!

Pastoral Care

It is always a privilege to visit members of our parish who are unable to attend church due to age or infirmity. We would like this to be lay-led, so are setting up a pastoral visiting team who will be authorised and equipped to visit people at home and hospital and offer pre-consecrated communion, if this is required. If you would like to be paired up with someone and trained in this, please let us know.

Deanery Synod

Three members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structure of the church. Items discussed over the year based on presentations by guest speakers were *Single Friendly Churches*, encouraging greater awareness of how welcoming churches are to single people.
A talk on mission in the **early church**, highlighting the role of families and women.
A presentation from *Resolve*, focusing on their work and ways churches can engage in **fundraising and community support**.

Financial Review

The accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025 have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis, which is consistent with those of last year.

Receipts from all sources in 2025 were £143,884 (2024 - £179,664) whilst £133,859 (2024 - £185,414) was paid to provide Christian ministry from St. Mary's Church. That resulted in an excess of receipts over payments of £10,025 (2024 – excess of payments over receipts of £5,750).

Planned giving at £47,742 was £65 down from the previous year. Donations and legacies at £26,273 were up by just over £9,700, principally because we received two large legacies totalling £10,000.

OSSIF funds of £7,308 were received in 2025, and £335 was spent on capital type projects undertaken in the year together with a payment on account of £3,967 for capital work to be carried out in 2026. Grants for the church and churchyard totalling £3,117 were received in the year, primarily for the toilet refurbishment, the churchyard and the Church cafe.

The church received £20,400 in respect of the Curate's property in Bulls Lane and spent £4,064 on agents fees and maintaining the property. Dividends and bank interest of £1,261 were received during the year.

£72,931 was paid during the year as our contribution towards the Diocesan parish share, an increase of £61 on the previous year.

10% of pledged income raised in 2024, together with gift aid on those donations, and special collections this year totalling £7,498 was spent on away giving to overseas missions, relief agencies and home missions.

From a financial point of view, although it was pleasing to have a surplus for the year, it should be borne in mind that £12,513 was received for specific projects that were not completed in the year and will be undertaken in 2026. We therefore need to keep on top of our fundraising in 2026. A special mention of the fundraising committee must be made for their efforts this year. Cash reserves at the year end, totalled £41,437 and can be split £25,984 for Unrestricted & Designated funds, £13,953 for Restricted funds and £1,500 for Endowment funds.

Reserves policy

In 1991, the St. Michael's fund was established following the sale of the St. Michael's Chapel of Ease, with the income being available for general purposes and the capital being available for capital projects only. At 31 December 2025, the balance on this fund amounted to £17,102. It is the policy of the PCC that this fund should be preserved until such time in the future when it may be required.

It is also the policy of the PCC to set aside each year an appropriate sum to put into the Fabric fund, to fund any major works that may become necessary on the church buildings. This year, no further sum was set aside for the fabric provision and the balance at 31 December 2025 of this fund remained at £5,000.

It is the policy of the PCC to preserve these funds as much as possible to enable the interest earned on them to make an impact on our annual running costs, to provide for emergencies and to enable future generations of church members to benefit.

Ruth Barr.

Approved by the PCC on 20th April 2026 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Ruth Barr (PCC Chair)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE PCC OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, NORTH MYMMS

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2025, which are set out on pages 8 to 12, is in respect of my examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act)

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent 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 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;

follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and

state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of this report

My 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 2016 edition.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee 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 these accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

(1) which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records 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.



M. Knight, FCA
183 Howlands
Welwyn Garden City
Herts
AL7 4RL

20th April 2026

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S, NORTH MYMMS

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Funds 2024 £
RECEIPTS						
Incoming resources from donors	5 (a)	63,471	-	-	63,471	65,341
Other voluntary incoming resources	5 (b)	23,651	13,047	-	36,698	60,276
Incoming resources from operating activities						
- to further the Council's objects	5 (c)	9,137	-	-	9,137	9,378
- to generate funds	5 (d)	12,824	-	-	12,824	20,179
Income from fixed assets & investments	5 (e)	21,415	246	-	21,661	19,791
Other incoming resources	5 (f)	93	0	-	93	4,699
TOTAL RECEIPTS		130,591	13,293	0	143,884	179,664
PAYMENTS						
Costs of generating funds	6 (d)	6,340	0	-	6,340	7,919
Grants	6 (a)	7,498	-	-	7,498	6,626
Activities relating to the work of the church	6 (b)	111,811	7,183	-	118,994	169,452
Church management and administration	6 (c)	1,027	0	-	1,027	1,417
TOTAL PAYMENTS		126,676	7,183	0	133,859	185,414
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS		3,915	6,110	0	10,025	(5,750)
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		0	0			
		3,915	6,110	0	10,025	(5,750)
CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND AT 1ST JANUARY 2025		22,069	7,843	1,500	31,412	37,162
CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025		25,984	13,953	1,500	41,437	31,412

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S, NORTH MYMMS

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Funds 2024 £
CASH FUNDS						
Bank current accounts		4,099			4,099	752
Bank deposits		21,885	13,953	1,500	37,338	30,660
		25,984	13,953	1,500	41,437	31,412
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS						
Gift aid recoverable		8,643			8,643	6,915
Prepaid Electricity bill					0	1,863
		8,643	0	0	8,643	8,778
Investment Assets						
296 Investment Fund Income Shares at mid market value				6,571	6,571	6,844
ASSETS RETAINED FOR CHURCH USE						
Curate's House		14,250			14,250	14,250
Office equipment		2,646			2,646	2,454
		16,896	0	0	16,896	16,704
LIABILITIES						
Light & heat		1,236			1,236	0
PAYE		1,050			1,050	647
		2,286	0	0	2,286	647

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S, NORTH MYMMS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2 Assets retained for church use include the curate's house, a freehold property at 21 Bulls Lane, Welham Green, shown at cost, and office equipment shown at cost.

3 FUND DETAILS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	General £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £
Chancel Fund		1,439	6,571	8,010
OSSIF Fund		3,006		3,006
Churchyard Fund			1,500	1,500
Toilet Refurb & Childrens' Groups		8,608		8,608
Lime wash		650		650
Church Café		250		250
Fabric Fund designated	5,000			5,000
St. Michael's Fund designated	17,102			17,102
General Fund	27,135			27,135
	49,237	13,953	8,071	71,261

4 **DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS**

North Mymms Chancel Fund was established in the mid 1940's as part of the Tithe Redemption Commission following legislation passed in the 1930's to enable Landowners with a liability for the insurance and repair of a particular chancel to discharge that liability by making a "once and for all" end of payment. The capital is to be retained in order to provide an income for the future, but the income may be applied towards the insurance of the chancel or, more generally, towards the repair and maintenance of the chancel and the rest of the Church and Churchyard.

The St. Michael's fund was was established in 1991 when St. Michael's Chapel of Ease was sold for £67,252. After consultation with the Diocese, and in line with a PCC resolution dated 10th January 1992, the proceeds of the sale have been invested by the Diocesan Board of Finance, as directed by the PCC, with the income being available for general ecclesiastical purposes affecting the parish and the capital being available for capital projects only.

The Old School Site Investment Fund (OSSIF) was established in 1985 following the sale of the old school site in Welham Green, with the beneficiaries being St. Mary's Parochial Church Council of North Mymms and St. Mary's JMI School. The income is distributed annually by its Trustees, the Diocesan Board of Finance, on the recommendation of the Local Committee, after consideration of respective submissions from each of the beneficiaries. The Local OSSIF Committee approved the following policy as regards its operation on 17th October 1986, and re-affirmed it in March 1995.

- The capital is to be used only for capital projects directly in line with the requirements of the Trust Deed.
- Any capital used is to be replaced from interest, within one year if possible, within five years at most.
- Interest to be used primarily for capital type projects, with preference to improvement projects rather than maintenance projects, and only in exceptional circumstances for running expenses.

The Churchyard Endowment Fund was established in 1993, following a legacy of £1,000 from Miss Pamela Stone. In 1994, a gift of £500 was received from Miss Dorothy Wastell. These are permanent endowments which require the income to be applied towards the maintenance of the churchyard.

5 INCOMING RESOURCES

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Receipts						
5(a)	Incoming resources from donors					
	Planned giving	**47,742**	-	-	**47,742**	47,807
	Gift aid recovered	**12,047**	-	-	**12,047**	13,751
	Loose collections - services	**1,452**	-	-	**1,452**	1,686
	Occasional collections	**1,302**	-	-	**1,302**	1,527
	Special collections	**928**	-	-	**928**	570
		63,471	**0**	**0**	**63,471**	65,341
5(b)	Other voluntary incoming resources					
	Grants for church & churchyard	**114**	**3,003**		**3,117**	37,045
	OSSIF		**7,308**		**7,308**	6,665
	Donations & legacies	**23,537**	**2,736**		**26,273**	16,566
		23,651	**13,047**	**0**	**36,698**	60,276
5(c)	Income from operating activities: to further the Council's objects					
	Bookstall	**0**	-	-	**0**	27
	St. Michael's Room	**515**	-	-	**515**	1,395
	Fees and charges	**7,919**	-	-	**7,919**	7,254
	Candles	**703**	-	-	**703**	702
		9,137	**0**	**0**	**9,137**	9,378
5(d)	Income from operating activities: to generate funds					
	Memorial garden plaques	**1,904**	-	-	**1,904**	1,148
	Events & fund raising	**10,920**	-	-	**10,920**	19,031
		12,824	**0**	**0**	**12,824**	20,179
5(e)	Income from fixed assets & investments					
	Bank & Building society interest & dividends	**1,015**	**246**	-	**1,261**	1,248
	Rent from 21 Bulls Lane	**20,400**	-	-	**20,400**	18,543
		21,415	**246**	**0**	**21,661**	19,791
5(f)	Other ordinary incoming resources					
	Sundry income (Inc £3,170 from LPW Grant Scheme for listed buildings in 2024)	**93**	**0**	-	**93**	4,699
		93	**0**	**0**	**93**	4,699
	TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	**130,591**	**13,293**	**0**	**143,884**	179,664

Grants for the churchyard includes £1,100 from North Mymms Parish Council and £45 from the War Graves Commission. Grants for the church include £858 from the Community Fund for heaters and £750 from North Mymms Recreation and Charitable Trust towards the toilet refurbishment. A grant of £250 was received from St. Albans Diocese for the Church Café. £ 114.50 was received from Beds & Herts Historic Churches.

6	RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025	Funds 2024 £
6(a)	Grants					
	Overseas missions	0	-	-	0	800
	Relief agencies	2,000	-	-	2,000	1,218
	Home missions, secular & others	5,498	-	-	5,498	4,608
		7,498	0	0	7,498	6,626
6(b)	Activities directly relating to the work of the church					
	Parish share	72,931	-	-	72,931	72,870
	Clergy expenses	489	-	-	489	833
	Salaries	12,642	-	-	12,642	12,172
	Telephone	678	-	-	678	585
	Organist	1,690	-	-	1,690	1,950
	Choir	728	-	-	728	532
	Subscriptions	114	-	-	114	217
	Sacristry	363	0	-	363	46
	Power & water	8,547	0	-	8,547	16,198
	Insurances	2,910	0	-	2,910	2,730
	Repairs & maintenance	3,754	181	-	3,935	1,571
	Upkeep of churchyard	5,195	1,145	-	6,340	3,623
	Children & youth work	459	360	-	819	1,035
	Capital type expenditure	342	5,497	-	5,839	52,484
	Memorial garden plaques engravings	131	-	-	131	146
	Sundries	838	0	-	838	2,460
	Entertaining	0			0	0
		111,811	7,183	0	118,994	169,452
6(c)	Church management and administration					
	Printing & stationery	1,027	-	-	1,027	1,317
	Stewardship	0	-	-	0	100
	Equipment & photocopier expenses	0		-	0	0
		1,027	0	0	1,027	1,417
6(d)	Costs of generating funds					
	Cost of events	2,276	0	-	2,276	3,980
	Expenses of 21 Bulls Lane	4,064	0	-	4,064	3,939
		6,340	0	0	6,340	7,919
	TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	126,676	7,183	0	133,859	185,414

Restricted funds were spent on capital projects which included:-
Improvements to the Sound System and a payment on account for the Toilet Refurbishment.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY'S NORTH MYMM

England & Wales - Charity number 1130079

Accounts

St. Mary's Church

North Mymms

2024 Annual Report and Accounts

for the Parochial Church Council of
St. Mary's Church, North Mymms

St. Mary's Church, North Mymms
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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, NORTH MYMMS

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Administrative Information

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- The Parish Administrator and Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Lisa Large.
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Team Vicar	The Reverend Ruth Barr	Chair
Associate Priests	The Reverend Penny Thomson	
	The Reverend Sara Head	(From 7th July 2024)
Wardens		
	Mr. Rupert Lee	
	Mrs Marion Freeman	(Until 19th May 2024)
	Mrs Gill Peplow	(From 19th May 2024)
PCC Secretary	Mrs Nicola Sherlock	
Representative on the Deanery Synod:	Mr Peter Dalling	
	Mr Byron Hopkins	
	Mrs Karen Hopkins	

Elected Members

Mrs Sue Crawley	
Mrs Pamela Davis	
Mrs Lisa Large	
Mr Michael Glass	(Until 22nd July 2024)
Mr Geoffrey Boothby	
Mrs Victoria Sinclair Crake	
Mr Graham Nicholas	
Mr Richard Jackson	
Mrs Jacqui Boulton	
Mrs Libby Parker	
Mrs Gill Peplow	(Until 19th May 2024)

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All eligible church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The Parish is part of the Hatfield Team Ministry which members in addition to St Mary's are; St Etheldreda's;, Hatfield; St Luke's, Hatfield, St Michael and All Angels, Birchwood, Hatfield; St John's, Hilltop, Hatfield and St John's, Lemsford. The Team Rector who is based at St Etheldreda's Church is Fr. Darren Collins.

Objectives and Activities

St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the parish priest, the Reverend Ruth Barr, and the Churchwardens in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. Our vision statement is "Our vision for St. Mary's is to be an outward looking and welcoming Church, catering for all age groups and helping the local communities to experience God's love and grow in faith."

Safeguarding

St Mary's PCC remains committed to ensuring the safeguarding of our children, young people and vulnerable adults whilst engaged in activities at St. Mary's Church. All PCC members hold a current DBS check. Safeguarding is on the agenda of every meeting.

The current safeguarding policy is displayed outside the church office with a summary in the porch and St Michael's room. The policy is reviewed annually by the PCC and various additional policies have been introduced in the past year in accordance with Diocesan requirements. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). The documents, 'Protecting all God's children' and 'Promoting a safer church' have also provided guidance.

Achievements, Performance & Review of the Year

As of 31st December 2024, there were 106 (2023 – 109) parishioners on the church electoral roll, 37 (2023 – 37) of whom are not resident within the parish.

Life events for 2024:

☐ There were 4 weddings, 3 at St Mary's and one in St Mary's Abridge for a couple whose parents are buried here at St Mary's
☐ We conducted 2 wedding blessing ceremonies.
☐ We conducted 17 baptisms, 1 of which was for an adult who wanted to fulfill the role of a godparent but needed to be baptised first.

☐ We hosted a Bishop's Team Confirmation service and presented 3 candidates for Confirmation from St Mary's to Bishop Jane after preparation classes held at St Mary's School for two of the primary school aged children and an afternoon session in collaboration with St Michael and All Angels for all children and teenagers.

☐ We conducted 17 funerals, 10 of which included a full service at the church before burial or cremation.

☐ We held 21 Burial of Ashes services here at St Mary's, either in our Garden of Remembrance or in the New Churchyard.

It has been a busy year, with various occasional offices held as well as regular services and special occasions marked.

Our choir-led Choral Evensong is on the 1st Sunday each month, except January, August and December and it is a beautiful, contemplative type service. There are usually more people in the choir than the congregation, so we sit together in the sanctuary. Please consider joining us.

The Sunday club meets on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month, and has been going from strength to strength. The congregation enjoy seeing what the nursery & primary school aged children have been learning.

Rev Ruth goes into St Mary's School each week to lead collective worship and the children enjoy their daily time of meeting with God as they start each day.. The whole school, arriving by coach, visits the church four times a year for their Easter, End of Summer term, Harvest and Christmas services. This is a wonderful collaboration between school and church and having members of the church community on hand to welcome the children, staff and parents has been lovely.

Rev Penny has taken over collaborating with the school and has a rota set up for displays for our Hope railings, each year group is responsible for making a display for the 6 sets we use, which keeps it fresh and engages all the children.

St Mary's Church is well known for the wonderful concerts that they offer and 2024 was no exception.

In February, we again enjoyed listening to the Bella Cora choir.

March saw us opening our doors for 3 days to a film crew for a series which will take just over a year to be screened. A funeral, a burial and then an exhumation took place under the watchful eye of the vicar, the administrator and the chair of our fabric committee, to make sure nothing was damaged or moved without permission and that St Mary's was respected in every way. The title of the program is "I, Jack Wright."

In March we had our Spring coffee morning which gave people the opportunity to have a clear out of their pre-loved bric-a-brac and gave others the chance to browse and buy things to take home whilst enjoying tea and cakes too.

April was a perfect time to enjoy the live music of a guitar recital when Mark Jennings came to give us a concert and to raise funds for the church.

May saw us hosting a fundraising cream tea event ,which was most appreciated by all those who came and also brought in funds to the church.

The highlight for 2024 has been the most welcome addition to our clergy team of the Rev Sara Head. After finishing her placement with us earlier in the year, Sara joined St Mary's after her Deaconing ordination at St Albans Cathedral on Sunday June 30th June, as our curate in training for the next three years. Sara is usually accompanied by Tandy, her hearing dog, who has also been warmly welcomed here. Her title now is Curate in Training.

Sara juggles her full-time career as an assistant Head Teacher at Heathlands School and ministering as part of the Bishops Hatfield team. Ruth is her Training Incumbent and it has been a joy to welcome Sara into our congregation and for all that her ministry has brought to us already.

Early July gave another opportunity for us to raise some much needed funds with another film crew arriving with some very well-known actors, to film a program called "Go away." This was all filmed outdoors in both our New and Old churchyard, again under supervision.

In early October, we saw phase 1 of our Memorial Pathway Inscriptions finally take place, as 11 stones were inscribed in situ on the paths outside the church. These were to memorialise the names and dates for people who had their ashes interred in our churchyard and is offered now as an additional option for the metal plaques which are on the raised Garden of Remembrance.

On Sunday 13th October, we enjoyed St Mary's School and Countess Anne School joining together for an evening called Primary Schools Songs of Praise. They were well supported and it was a joy to see so many young people singing together, accompanied by their respective Head Teacher's on the organ and guitar.

We trialled a craft day in November which although small in the numbers of those who attended was enjoyed by the people who did come and will probably be something which we run again.

On a cold and wintry December evening, we listened to a wonderful concert from the King's Chamber Orchestra for their fourth year in a row, after performing at St Mary's School in the afternoon surrounded by 160 teddy bears being included for the teddies' concert.

Our termly children's events are also gaining in popularity, and we have people coming from all over to attend and enjoy the afternoon of games, crafts, food and fun.

☐ Spring term: each Easter Monday we have an Easter Egg Hunt.
☐ Summer: Our very popular Teddy Bears' Picnic.
☐ Autumn: As an antidote to the darkness of Halloween, we offer an Angels and Light Party.

We have trialled these events as free tickets as they are all missional. The purpose of each of these events is to help people find our church, to let families know we know how to have fun, to put on an event that is well organised, and doesn't cost a family a lot of money.

Having started a Fresh Expression of church with our monthly Wild Worship afternoon in 2023, we have decided to continue this wonderful way of meeting with God in nature. We meet in the churchyard, regardless of the weather, under the gazebo and have 90 minutes of making something connected with nature, or that benefits wildlife, we always cook something on the camp-fire and eat it out in the open. Very often someone walking their dog, or visiting a grave will have a cup of hot chocolate offered to them, or a slice of freshly baked bread with home-grown honey. It is on the 4th Sunday each month from 2.30pm to 4pm. Come and give it a try.

March and November are great months to have a clear out at home. Capitalising on this, our Coffee mornings and cake sales are always popular for people to come and have a look around good quality things beautifully displayed on the tables then sit and enjoy delicious cakes and biscuits while chatting to their friends. We need a bigger parish room! Each time, we then appreciate the team of volunteers who take to local charity shops what has not sold, so the whole community benefits and we raise some much needed funds for the church.

We hosted our second Arts Festival this year, which was for one week in September, and was hugely successful. We know it took a lot of work to pull it together after visits to other such events elsewhere and our thanks go to all those involved, both in the advance research, purchasing of resources, advertising, setting up the large number of stands, and during the week itself for ticket sales, and purchases.

October is when we turn our eyes towards the coming winter months and so appreciate the opportunity to come together for a Harvest Supper presented so beautifully by our catering team. There is also usually a quiz or two to keep us on our toes.

St Michael's Parish Room is a much used and much loved space that has been decorated with bunting that matches the season or event. Please take a moment to enjoy it next time you are in there, or when getting a coffee after the service. Thank you again to the team who keep it looking so beautiful.

The next big change was our toddler group, called Coffee Pots & Tiny Tots. After struggling with declining numbers, we researched what makes people choose a toddler group. With a great team behind us, we then laid out the parish room into zones and made the group weekly instead of fortnightly. We introduced healthy snacks for the kids and added groups on Facebook to get the word out. Within a few weeks, numbers had started to rise and we now average about 15 babies and toddlers each week.

Pastoral Care

It is always a privilege to visit members of our parish who are unable to attend church due to age or infirmity. We would like this to be lay-led, so are setting up a pastoral visiting team who will be authorised and equipped to visit people at home and hospital and offer pre-consecrated communion, if this is required. If you would like to be paired up with someone and trained in this, please let us know.

Deanery Synod

Three members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structure of the church.

Items discussed over the year based on presentations by guest speakers were: Rachel Drury, who spoke on The Alban Way Project, which works with young people from 18-35 who embark on the project for a year whilst continuing with their normal life. It begins with a residential weekend, they then meet once a month for a meal and discussion and near the end of the year walk for eight days on part of the Camino way. Susannah Clarkson and Corinne Lewis who discussed the Diocesan Dispute Advisory Service giving different methods of help available to assist in resolving and providing support in situations. Catherine and Stephen Jupp who gave an interesting talk about their Charity organisation, Furniture Friends, based in Datchworth. The aim of the organisation is to provide furniture for people who have nothing. They collect furniture from anyone who is willing to donate it.

Financial Review

The accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis, which is consistent with those of last year.

Receipts from all sources in 2024 were £179,664 (2023 - £138,788) whilst £185,414 (2023 - £135,071) was paid to provide Christian ministry from St. Mary's Church. That resulted in an excess of payments over receipts of £5,750 (2023 – excess of receipts over payments of £3,718).

OSSIF funds of £6,665 were received in 2024 which together with the balance of £5,865 carried forward from 2023 totalled £12,530, was spent on capital type projects undertaken in 2024. Other grants totalling £37,045 were received in the year, primarily for the new sound system and the renovation and replacement of the stained glass window in the church.

The church received £18,543 in respect of the Curate's property in Bulls Lane and spent £3,939 maintaining the property. Dividends and bank interest of £1,248 were received during the year.

£72,870 was paid during the year as our contribution towards the Diocesan parish share, an increase of £573 on the previous year.

10% of pledged income raised in 2023, together with special collections this year, totalling £6,626 was spent on away giving to overseas missions, relief agencies and home missions.

From a financial point of view, although it was disappointing to have a deficit for the year, but it should be borne in mind that £52,484 (2023 - £630) was spent on capital type items and nearly 92% of that expenditure was financed by grants and donations. A special mention of the fundraising committee must be made for their efforts this year. Cash reserves at the year end, totalled £31,412 and can be split £22,069 for Unrestricted & Designated funds, £7,843 for Restricted funds and £1,500 for Endowment funds. We do need to keep on top of our fundraising this year.

Reserves policy

In 1991, the St. Michael's fund was established following the sale of the St. Michael's Chapel of Ease, with the income being available for general purposes and the capital being available for capital projects only. At 31 December 2024, the balance on this fund amounted to £16,342. It is the policy of the PCC that this fund should be preserved until such time in the future when it may be required.

It is also the policy of the PCC to set aside each year an appropriate sum to put into the Fabric provision, to fund any major works that may become necessary on the church buildings. This year, due to the amount of capital expenditure, the fabric provision of £10,000 at the start of the year was reduced by £5,000 to enable us to meet our regular liabilities. Accordingly, the balance of the Fabric provision at 31 December 2024 was £5,000.

It is the policy of the PCC to preserve these funds as much as possible to enable the interest earned on them to make an impact on our annual running costs, to provide for emergencies and to enable future generations of church members to benefit.

Ruth Barr

Approved by the PCC on 9th May 2025 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Ruth Barr (PCC Chair)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, NORTH MYMMS

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 10 to 14, is in respect of my examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act)

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent 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 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;

follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and

state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of this report

My 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 2016 edition.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee 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 these accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

(1) which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records 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.

Mark Knight

M. Knight, FCA
183 Howlands
Welwyn Garden City
Herts
AL7 4RL

9th May 2025

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S, NORTH MYMMS

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Funds 2023 £
RECEIPTS						
Incoming resources from donors	5 (a)	65,341	-	-	65,341	67,174
Other voluntary incoming resources	5 (b)	9,478	50,798	-	60,276	28,937
Incoming resources from operating activities						
- to further the Council's objects	5 (c)	9,378	-	-	9,378	8,809
- to generate funds	5 (d)	20,179	-	-	20,179	15,333
Income from fixed assets & investments	5 (e)	19,553	238	-	19,791	18,417
Other incoming resources	5 (f)	4,699	0	-	4,699	118
TOTAL RECEIPTS		128,628	51,036	0	179,664	138,788
PAYMENTS						
Costs of generating funds	6 (d)	7,009	910	-	7,919	10,052
Grants	6 (a)	6,626	-	-	6,626	7,303
Activities relating to the work of the church	6 (b)	119,599	49,853	-	169,452	115,839
Church management and administration	6 (c)	1,417	0	-	1,417	1,877
TOTAL PAYMENTS		134,651	50,763	0	185,414	135,071
EXCESS OF PAYMENTS OVER RECEIPTS		(6,023)	273	0	(5,750)	3,718
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		0	0			
		(6,023)	273	0	(5,750)	3,718
CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND AT 1ST JANUARY 2024		28,092	7,570	1,500	37,162	33,444
CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024		22,069	7,843	1,500	31,412	37,162

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S, NORTH MYMMS

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Funds 2023 £
CASH FUNDS						
Bank current accounts		**752**			**752**	3,801
Bank deposits		**21,317**	**7,843**	**1,500**	**30,660**	33,361
		22,069	**7,843**	**1,500**	**31,412**	37,162
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS						
Gift aid recoverable		**6,915**			**6,915**	7,494
Prepaid Electricity bill		**1,863**			**1,863**	
		8,778	**0**	**0**	**8,778**	7,494
Investment Assets						
296 Investment Fund Income Shares at mid market value				**6,844**	**6,844**	6,691
ASSETS RETAINED FOR CHURCH USE						
Curate's House		**14,250**			**14,250**	14,250
Office equipment		**2,454**			**2,454**	2,289
		16,704	**0**	**0**	**16,704**	16,539
LIABILITIES						
Light & heat					**0**	3,224
PAYE		**647**			**647**	621
		647	**0**	**0**	**647**	3,845
		46,904	7,843	8,344	63,091	64,041

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S, NORTH MYMMS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2 Assets retained for church use include the curate's house, a freehold property at 21 Bulls Lane, Welham Green, shown at cost, and office equipment shown at cost.

3 FUND DETAILS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	General £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £
Chancel Fund		1,193	6,844	8,037
OSSIF Fund		0		0
Churchyard Fund			1,500	1,500
Toilet Refurb & Childrens' Groups		6,000		6,000
Lime wash		650		650
Fabric Fund designated	5,000			5,000
St. Michael's Fund designated	16,342			16,342
General Fund	25,562			25,562
	46,904	7,843	8,344	63,091

4 **DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS**

North Mymms Chancel Fund was established in the mid 1940's as part of the Tithe Redemption Commission following legislation passed in the 1930's to enable Landowners with a liability for the insurance and repair of a particular chancel to discharge that liability by making a "once and for all" end of payment. The capital is to be retained in order to provide an income for the future, but the income may be applied towards the insurance of the chancel or, more generally, towards the repair and maintenance of the chancel and the rest of the Church and Churchyard.

The St. Michael's fund was was established in 1991 when St. Michael's Chapel of Ease was sold for £67,252. After consultation with the Diocese, and in line with a PCC resolution dated 10th January 1992, the proceeds of the sale have been invested by the Diocesan Board of Finance, as directed by the PCC, with the income being available for general ecclesiastical purposes affecting the parish and the capital being available for capital projects only.

The Old School Site Investment Fund (OSSIF) was established in 1985 following the sale of the old school site in Welham Green, with the beneficiaries being St. Mary's Parochial Church Council of North Mymms and St. Mary's JMI School. The income is distributed annually by its Trustees, the Diocesan Board of Finance, on the recommendation of the Local Committee, after consideration of respective submissions from each of the beneficiaries. The Local OSSIF Committee approved the following policy as regards its operation on 17th October 1986, and re-affirmed it in March 1995.

- The capital is to be used only for capital projects directly in line with the requirements of the Trust Deed.
- Any capital used is to be replaced from interest, within one year if possible, within five years at most.
- Interest to be used primarily for capital type projects, with preference to improvement projects rather than maintenance projects, and only in exceptional circumstances for running expenses.

The Churchyard Endowment Fund was established in 1993, following a legacy of £1,000 from Miss Pamela Stone. In 1994, a gift of £500 was received from Miss Dorothy Wastell. These are permanent endowments which require the income to be applied towards the maintenance of the churchyard.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S, NORTH MYMMS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

5 INCOMING RESOURCES

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Receipts						
5(a)	Incoming resources from donors					
	Planned giving	**47,807**	-	-	**47,807**	47,196
	Gift aid recovered	**13,751**	-	-	**13,751**	13,908
	Loose collections - services	**1,686**	-	-	**1,686**	3,140
	Occasional collections	**1,527**	-	-	**1,527**	2,117
	Special collections	**570**	-	-	**570**	813
		65,341	**0**	**0**	**65,341**	67,174
5(b)	Other voluntary incoming resources					
	Grants for church & churchyard	**137**	**36,908**		**37,045**	2,795
	OSSIF		**6,665**		**6,665**	6,628
	Donations & legacies	**9,341**	**7,225**		**16,566**	19,514
		9,478	**50,798**	**0**	**60,276**	28,937
5(c)	Income from operating activities: to further the Council's objects					
	Bookstall	**27**	-	-	**27**	0
	St. Michael's Room	**1,395**	-	-	**1,395**	1,020
	Fees and charges	**7,254**	-	-	**7,254**	7,234
	Candles	**702**	-	-	**702**	555
		9,378	**0**	**0**	**9,378**	8,809
5(d)	Income from operating activities: to generate funds					
	Memorial garden plaques	**1,148**	-	-	**1,148**	2,556
	Events & fund raising	**19,031**	-	-	**19,031**	12,777
		20,179	**0**	**0**	**20,179**	15,333
5(e)	Income from fixed assets & investments					
	Bank & Building society interest & dividends	**1,010**	**238**	-	**1,248**	942
	Rent from 21 Bulls Lane	**18,543**	-	-	**18,543**	17,475
		19,553	**238**	**0**	**19,791**	18,417
5(f)	Other ordinary incoming resources					
	Sundry income (Inc £3,170 from LPW Grant Scheme for listed buildings)	**4,699**	**0**	-	**4,699**	118
		4,699	**0**	**0**	**4,699**	118
	TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	**128,628**	**51,036**	**0**	**179,664**	138,788

Grants for the churchyard includes £1,100 from North Mymms Parish Council and £45 from the War Graves Commission. Grants for the church include £17,355 and £1,750 from St. Albans Diocese and Benefact Trust respectively for the sound system. Grants for the stained glass works were received from Church & Cathedral Buildings £5,000, Garfield Weston Trust £2,500, Beds & Herts £2,000, and The Glaziers Trust £500. A grant of £5,000 was received from Cremer Housing Association for childrens groups and the toilet refurbishment. Grants of £650 and £500 were received from North Mymms Recreation and Charitable Trust for Limewashing and the Arts Festival. A grant of £508 was received from YMCA for child work

6	RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024	Funds 2023 £
6(a)	Grants					
	Overseas missions	800	-	-	800	800
	Relief agencies	1,218	-	-	1,218	946
	Home missions, secular & others	4,608	-	-	4,608	5,557
		6,626	0	0	6,626	7,303
6(b)	Activities directly relating to the work of the church					
	Parish share	72,870	-	-	72,870	72,297
	Clergy expenses	833	-	-	833	592
	Salaries	12,172	-	-	12,172	10,639
	Telephone	585	-	-	585	846
	Organist	1,950	-	-	1,950	1,560
	Choir	532	-	-	532	360
	Subscriptions	217	-	-	217	689
	Sacristry	46	0	-	46	282
	Power & water	16,198	0	-	16,198	14,251
	Insurances	2,730	0	-	2,730	2,618
	Repairs & maintenance	1,571	0	-	1,571	3,206
	Upkeep of churchyard	2,478	1,145	-	3,623	4,698
	Children & youth work	527	508	-	1,035	570
	Capital type expenditure	4,284	48,200	-	52,484	630
	Memorial garden plaques engravings	146	-	-	146	427
	Sundries	2,460	0	-	2,460	2,174
	Entertaining	0			0	0
		119,599	49,853	0	169,452	115,839
6(c)	Church management and administration					
	Printing & stationery	1,317	-	-	1,317	1,877
	Stewardship	100	-	-	100	0
	Equipment & photocopier expenses	0		-	0	0
		1,417	0	0	1,417	1,877
6(d)	Costs of generating funds					
	Cost of events	3,480	500	-	3,980	4,514
	Expenses of 21 Bulls Lane	3,529	410	-	3,939	5,538
		7,009	910	0	7,919	10,052
	TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	134,651	50,763	0	185,414	135,071

Restricted funds were spent on capital projects which included:-
New sound system, repair and relocation of a stained glass window, office refurbishment, road resurfacing,computer and a printer.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY'S NORTH MYMM

England & Wales - Charity number 1130079

Accounts

St. Mary's Church

North Mymms

2023 Annual Report and Accounts

for the Parochial Church Council of
St. Mary's Church, North Mymms

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, NORTH MYMMS

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St. Mary's Church, North Mymms
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31st December 2023

Administrative Information

St Mary's Church is situated in the parish of North Mymms. It is part of the Diocese of St Albans within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, North Mymms Park, Hatfield, Herts, AL9 7TN.

- The Parish Administrator and Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Lisa Large.
- The Church banks with Barclays Bank.
- The Independent Examiner is Mr Philip Cox.
- The Church's Electoral Roll Officer is Mrs Victoria Sinclair Crake.
- The Church's Treasurer is Mr Graham Nicholas.

The Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary's Church, North Mymms was registered in 2009 with the Charity Commission under registration number 1130079. PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Team Vicar	The Reverend Ruth Barr	Chair
Associate Priest	The Reverend Penny Thomson	
Wardens		
	Mr. Rupert Lee	
	Mrs Marion Freeman	
PCC Secretary	Mrs Nicola Sherlock	
Representative on the Deanery Synod:	Mr Peter Dalling	
	Mr Byron Hopkins	
	Mrs Karen Hopkins	
Elected Members		
	Mrs Sue Crawley	
	Mrs Pamela Davis	
Mrs Lisa Large		
Mr Michael Glass		
Mr Geoffrey Boothby		
Mrs Victoria Sinclair Crake		
Mr Graham Nicholas		
Mr Richard Jackson		
Mrs Jacqui Boulton		
	Mrs Libby Parker	(From 21 May 2023)
	Mrs Gill Peplow	(From 21 May 2023)

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All eligible church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The Parish is part of the Hatfield Team Ministry which members in addition to St Mary's are; St Etheldreda's;, Hatfield; St Luke's, Hatfield, St Michael and All Angels, Birchwood, Hatfield; St John's, Hilltop, Hatfield and St John's, Lemsford. The Team Rector who is based at St Etheldreda's Church is Fr. Darren Collins.

Objectives and Activities

St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the parish priest, the Reverend Ruth Barr, and the Churchwardens in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. Our vision statement is "Our vision for St. Mary's is to be an outward looking and welcoming Church, catering for all age groups and helping the local communities to experience God's love and grow in faith."

Safeguarding

St Mary's PCC remains committed to ensuring the safeguarding of our children, young people and vulnerable adults whilst engaged in activities at St. Mary's Church. All PCC members hold a current DBS check. Safeguarding is on the agenda of every meeting.

The current safeguarding policy is displayed outside the church office with a summary in the porch and St Michael's room. The policy is reviewed annually by the PCC and various additional policies have been introduced in the past year in accordance with Diocesan requirements. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). The documents, 'Protecting all God's children' and 'Promoting a safer church' have also provided guidance.

Achievements, Performance & Review of the Year

As of 31st Dec 2023, there were 109 (2022 – 112) parishioners on the church electoral roll, 37 (2022 – 39) of whom are not resident within the parish.

Life events for 2023:

- There were 3 weddings, 2 at St Mary's and one for a teacher from St Mary's school who was married in her parish church at Ponsbourne.
- We conducted 19 baptisms
- We conducted 18 funerals, 13 of which included a full service at the church before burial or cremation.
- We held 17 Burial of Ashes services here at St Mary's, either in our Garden of Remembrance or in the New Churchyard.

It has been a busy year, with various occasional offices held as well as regular services and special occasions marked.

Our choir-led Choral Evensong is on the 1st Sunday each month, except January, August and December and it is a beautiful, contemplative type service. There are usually more people in the choir than the congregation, so we sit together in the sanctuary. Please consider joining us.

The Sunday club meets on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month, and has been going from strength to strength. The congregation enjoy seeing what the nursery & primary school aged children have been learning.

Rev Ruth goes into St Mary's School each week to lead collective worship and the children enjoy their daily time of meeting with God and it is a wonderful start to the day. The whole school, arriving by coach, visits the church four times a year for their Easter, End of Summer term, Harvest and Christmas services. This is a wonderful collaboration between school and church and having members of the church community on hand to welcome the children, staff and parents has been lovely. This leads to the children being more engaged when we then ask them to make their displays for our Hope railings.

In July, we took the hard decision to stop the Oasis cafe. There were rarely any visitors and the team was putting in a lot of effort to provide something that didn't seem to be appreciated. This is not a failure, as we had a go at offering this for the 22 months that it did run, but it is also as important to know when to draw the line under something and wonder what else can be done.

St Mary's are well known for the wonderful concerts that they offer and 2023 was no exception.
In February, we enjoyed listening to the Bella Cora choir
In September we had The Young Musician's Showcase
November was the King's Chamber Orchestra
December was a concert from the Positif Choir.
Please do consider supporting these musical events as they are always wonderful.

Our termly children's events are also gaining in popularity, and we have people coming from all over to attend and enjoy the afternoon of games, crafts, food and fun.
Spring term: each Easter Monday we have an Easter Egg Hunt.
Summer: Our very popular Teddy Bears' Picnic.
Autumn: As an antidote to the darkness of Halloween, we offer an Angels and Light Party.
We have trialled these events as free tickets as they are all missional. The purpose of each of these events is to help people find our church, to let families know we know how to have fun, to put on an event that is well organised, and doesn't cost a family a lot of money.

March 2023 saw the start of our monthly Wild Worship afternoon. We meet in the churchyard, regardless of the weather, under the gazebo and have 90 minutes of making something connected with nature, or that benefits wildlife, we always cook something on the camp-fire and eat it out in the open. We meet with God in a very gentle way and have had anywhere up to 25 people join us. Very often someone walking their dog, or visiting a grave will have a cup of hot chocolate offered to them, or a slice of freshly baked bread with home-grown honey. It is on the 4th Sunday each month from 2-3.30pm. Come and give it a try.

March and November are great months to have a clear out at home. Capitalising on this, our Coffee mornings and cake sales are always popular for people to come and have a look around good quality things beautifully displayed on the tables then sit and enjoy delicious cakes and biscuits while chatting to their friends. We need a bigger parish room! Each time, we then appreciate the team of volunteers who take to local charity shops what has not sold, so the whole community benefits and we raise some much needed funds for the church.

We hosted our very first Arts Festival this year, which was for one week in September, and was hugely successful. We know it took a lot of work to pull it together after visits to other such events elsewhere and our thanks go to all those involved, both in the advance research, purchasing of resources, advertising, setting up the large number of stands, and during the week itself for ticket sales, and purchases.

October is when we turn our eyes towards the coming winter months and so appreciate the opportunity to come together for a Harvest Supper presented so beautifully by our catering team. There is also usually a quiz or two to keep us on our toes.

St Michael's Parish Room is a much used and much loved space that has been decorated with bunting that matches the season or event. Please take a moment to enjoy it next time you are in there, or when getting a coffee after the service. Thank you again to the team who keep it looking so beautiful.

The next big change was our toddler group, called Coffee Pots & Tiny Tots. After struggling with declining numbers, we researched what makes people choose a toddler group. With a great team behind us, we then laid out the parish room into zones and made the group weekly instead of fortnightly. We introduced healthy snacks for the kids and added groups on Facebook to get the word out. Within a few weeks, numbers had started to rise and we now average about 15 babies and toddlers each week.

We changed our contracted mowing team to a new company in 2023, who will look after the new churchyard (behind the hedges area). We have been very pleased with the way they have been so respectful of the area they tend and keep it looking as tidy as possible, despite the higgledy-piggledy layout of the graves. We pay quite a hefty sum for this work, but it is important to keep the grounds neat. We still need more volunteers for the churchyard around the church itself, so if you are able to help even once a month, from April to November time, that would be fantastic.

Pastoral Care

It is always a privilege to visit members of our parish who are unable to attend church due to age or infirmity. We would like this to be lay-led, so are setting up a pastoral visiting team who will be authorised and equipped to visit people at home and hospital and offer pre-consecrated communion, if this is required. If you would like to be paired up with someone and trained in this, please let us know.

Deanery Synod

Three members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structure of the church.

Items discussed over the year based on presentations by guest speakers were Rev. Canon David Kesterton who talked about Asylum Seekers and Refugees, giving some case studies of various people who had been at their church and the way in which they had been helped. Kate Ford – gave a talk on "One off gifts and legacies." Kate talked to us about how we can prepare our churches to be ready to receive financial gifts. Rev Tim Bull – Diocesan Director of Vocations, gave us a brief account of his background and how this was relevant to AI. His starting question was *"How worried should we be?"* He concluded with *"We don't need to worry about AI, we need to worry about the people using AI"*.

Financial Review

The accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis, which is consistent with those of last year.

Receipts from all sources in 2023 were £138,788 (2022 - £141,655) whilst £135,071 (2022 - £140,738) was paid to provide Christian ministry from St. Mary's Church. That resulted in an excess of receipts over payments of £3,718 (2022 – £917).

OSSIF funds of £6,628 were received in 2023 for capital type projects, but a total of £5,865 remained unallocated and has been carried forward to use on capital projects undertaken in 2024. Other grants totalling £795 were received for church and churchyard expenses and two grants of £1,000 each to sponsor the Arts Festival were received.

The church received £17,475 in respect of the Curate's property in Bulls Lane and spent £5,538 maintaining the property. Dividends and bank interest of £942 were received during the year.

£72,297 was paid during the year as our contribution towards the Diocesan parish share, an increase of £875 on the previous year.

10% of pledged income raised in 2022, together with special collections this year, totalling £7,303 was spent on away giving to overseas missions, relief agencies and home missions.

From a financial point of view, it was pleasing to see another surplus for the year, but it should be borne in mind £6,615 was received in the year for projects that will be completed in 2024. A special mention of the fundraising committee must be made for their efforts this year. Cash reserves at the year end, totalled £37,162 and can be split £28,092 for Unrestricted & Designated funds, £7,570 for Restricted funds and £1,500 for Endowment funds. We do have some major capital expenditure earmarked for 2024, so we do need to keep on top of our fundraising this year.

Reserves policy

In 1991, the St. Michael's fund was established following the sale of the St. Michael's Chapel of Ease, with the income being available for general purposes and the capital being available for capital projects only. At 31 December 2023, the balance on this fund amounted to £15,495. It is the policy of the PCC that this fund should be preserved until such time in the future when it may be required.

It is also the policy of the PCC to set aside each year an appropriate sum to put into the Fabric fund, to fund any major works that may become necessary on the church buildings. This year, no further sum was set aside for the fabric provision and the balance at 31 December 2023 of this fund remained at £10,000.

It is the policy of the PCC to preserve these funds as much as possible to enable the interest earned on them to make an impact on our annual running costs, to provide for emergencies and to enable future generations of church members to benefit.

Ruth Barr

Approved by the PCC on 24th April 2024 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Ruth Barr (PCC Chair)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE PCC OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, NORTH MYMMS

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 9 to 13, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act)

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent 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

examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;

follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and

state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of this report

My 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 2016 edition.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee 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 these accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

(1) which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records 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.

Philip Cox

P Cox
87 Dellsome Lane
Welham Green
North Mymms
Hatfield
AL9 7NE
24TH APRIL 2024

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S, NORTH MYMMS

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Funds 2022 £
RECEIPTS						
Incoming resources from donors	5 (a)	67,174	-	-	67,174	69,282
Other voluntary incoming resources	5 (b)	18,367	10,570	-	28,937	24,869
Incoming resources from operating activities						
- to further the Council's objects	5 (c)	8,809	-	-	8,809	9,437
- to generate funds	5 (d)	15,333	-	-	15,333	19,224
Income from fixed assets & investments	5 (e)	18,208	209	-	18,417	17,308
Other incoming resources	5 (f)	118	-	-	118	1,535
TOTAL RECEIPTS		128,009	10,779	0	138,788	141,655
PAYMENTS						
Costs of generating funds	6 (d)	7,135	2,917	-	10,052	7,834
Grants	6 (a)	7,303	-	-	7,303	7,216
Activities relating to the work of the church	6 (b)	113,379	2,460	-	115,839	122,780
Church management and administration	6 (c)	1,877	0	-	1,877	2,908
TOTAL PAYMENTS		129,694	5,377	0	135,071	140,738
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS		(1,684)	5,402	0	3,718	917
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS						
		(1,684)	5,402	0	3,718	917
CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND AT 1ST JANUARY 2023		29,776	2,168	1,500	33,444	32,527
CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023		28,092	7,570	1,500	37,162	33,444

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S, NORTH MYMMS

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Funds 2022 £
CASH FUNDS						
Bank current accounts		**3,801**			**3,801**	4,709
Bank deposits		**24,291**	**7,570**	**1,500**	**33,361**	28,736
		28,092	**7,570**	**1,500**	**37,162**	33,444
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS						
Gift aid recoverable		**7,494**			**7,494**	7,961
Sundry debtors		**0**				
		7,494	**0**	**0**	**7,494**	7,961
Investment Assets	3					
296 Investment Fund Income Shares at mid market value				**6,691**	**6,691**	6,116
ASSETS RETAINED FOR CHURCH USE						
Curate's House		**14,250**			**14,250**	14,250
Office equipment		**2,289**			**2,289**	2,139
		16,539	**0**	**0**	**16,539**	16,389
LIABILITIES						
Light & heat		**3,224**			**3,224**	2,385
PAYE		**621**			**621**	497
		3,845	**0**	**0**	**3,845**	2,882
		48,280	7,570	8,191	64,041	61,028

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S, NORTH MYMMS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2 Assets retained for church use include the curate's house, a freehold property at 21 Bulls Lane, Welham Green, shown at cost, and office equipment shown at cost.

3 FUND DETAILS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	General £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £
Chancel Fund		955	6,691	7,646
OSSIF Fund		5,865		5,865
Wild worship				0
Churchyard Fund			1,500	1,500
Stained Glass Window		750		750
Fabric Fund designated	10,000			10,000
St. Michael's Fund designated	15,495			15,495
General Fund	22,785			22,785
	48,280	7,570	8,191	64,041

4 **DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS**

North Mymms Chancel Fund was established in the mid 1940's as part of the Tithe Redemption Commission following legislation passed in the 1930's to enable Landowners with a liability for the insurance and repair of a particular chancel to discharge that liability by making a "once and for all" end of payment. The capital is to be retained in order to provide an income for the future, but the income may be applied towards the insurance of the chancel or, more generally, towards the repair and maintenance of the chancel and the rest of the Church and Churchyard.

The St. Michael's fund was was established in 1991 when St. Michael's Chapel of Ease was sold for £67,252. After consultation with the Diocese, and in line with a PCC resolution dated 10th January 1992, the proceeds of the sale have been invested by the Diocesan Board of Finance, as directed by the PCC, with the income being available for general ecclesiastical purposes affecting the parish and the capital being available for capital projects only.

The Old School Site Investment Fund (OSSIF) was established in 1985 following the sale of the old school site in Welham Green, with the beneficiaries being St. Mary's Parochial Church Council of North Mymms and St. Mary's JMI School. The income is distributed annually by its Trustees, the Diocesan Board of Finance, on the recommendation of the Local Committee, after consideration of respective submissions from each of the beneficiaries. The Local OSSIF Committee approved the following policy as regards its operation on 17th October 1986, and re-affirmed it in March 1995.

- The capital is to be used only for capital projects directly in line with the requirements of the Trust Deed.
- Any capital used is to be replaced from interest, within one year if possible, within five years at most.
- Interest to be used primarily for capital type projects, with preference to improvement projects rather than maintenance projects, and only in exceptional circumstances for running expenses.

The Churchyard Endowment Fund was established in 1993, following a legacy of £1,000 from Miss Pamela Stone. In 1994, a gift of £500 was received from Miss Dorothy Wastell. These are permanent endowments which require the income to be applied towards the maintenance of the churchyard.

5 INCOMING RESOURCES

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Receipts						
5(a)	Incoming resources from donors					
	Planned giving	**47,196**	-	-	**47,196**	48,486
	Gift aid recovered	**13,908**	-	-	**13,908**	14,181
	Loose collections - services	**3,140**	-	-	**3,140**	3,428
	Occasional collections	**2,117**	-	-	**2,117**	2,206
	Special collections	**813**	-	-	**813**	981
		67,174	**0**	**0**	**67,174**	69,282
5(b)	Other voluntary incoming resources					
	Grants for church & churchyard	**0**	**2,795**		**2,795**	5,524
	OSSIF		**6,628**		**6,628**	6,413
	Donations & legacies	**18,367**	**1,147**		**19,514**	12,932
		18,367	**10,570**	**0**	**28,937**	24,869
5(c)	Income from operating activities: to further the Council's objects					
	Bookstall	**0**	-	-	**0**	0
	St. Michael's Room	**1,020**	-	-	**1,020**	645
	Fees and charges	**7,234**	-	-	**7,234**	8,407
	Candles	**555**	-	-	**555**	385
		8,809	**0**	**0**	**8,809**	9,437
5(d)	Income from operating activities: to generate funds					
	Memorial garden plaques	**2,556**	-	-	**2,556**	1,943
	Events	**12,777**	-	-	**12,777**	17,281
		15,333	**0**	**0**	**15,333**	19,224
5(e)	Income from fixed assets & investments					
	Bank & Building society interest & dividends	**733**	**209**	-	**942**	408
	Rent from 21 Bulls Lane	**17,475**	-	-	**17,475**	16,900
		18,208	**209**	**0**	**18,417**	17,308
5(f)	Other ordinary incoming resources					
	Sundry income	**118**	-	-	**118**	1,535
		118	**0**	**0**	**118**	1,535
	TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	**128,009**	**10,779**	**0**	**138,788**	141,655

Grants for church and churchyard includes £45 from the War Graves Commission and £750 from North Mymms Charitable Trust towards the repair of the stained glass window.
Grants of £2,000 being £1,000 from Herts County Council and £1,000 from North Mymms Charitable Trust were received for sponsorship of the Arts Festival which took place in September.

6	RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023	Funds 2022 £
6(a)	Grants					
	Overseas missions	**800**	-	-	**800**	1,376
	Relief agencies	**946**	-	-	**946**	500
	Home missions, secular & others	**5,557**	-	-	**5,557**	5,340
		7,303	**0**	**0**	**7,303**	7,216
6(b)	Activities directly relating to the work of the church					
	Parish share	**72,297**	-	-	**72,297**	71,422
	Clergy expenses	**592**	-	-	**592**	498
	Salaries	**10,639**	-	-	**10,639**	9,025
	Telephone	**846**	-	-	**846**	835
	Organist	**1,560**	-	-	**1,560**	1,755
	Choir	**360**	-	-	**360**	234
	Subscriptions	**689**	-	-	**689**	906
	Sacristry	**82**	**200**	-	**282**	253
	Power & water	**14,251**	**0**	-	**14,251**	18,277
	Insurances	**2,618**	**0**	-	**2,618**	2,434
	Repairs & maintenance	**2,566**	**640**	-	**3,206**	2,767
	Upkeep of churchyard	**3,971**	**727**	-	**4,698**	8,662
	Children & youth work	**307**	**263**	-	**570**	697
	Capital type expenditure	**0**	**630**	-	**630**	2,335
	Memorial garden plaques engravings	**427**	-	-	**427**	311
	Sundries	**2,174**	**0**	-	**2,174**	2,194
	Entertaining	**0**			**0**	175
		113,379	**2,460**	**0**	**115,839**	122,780
6(c)	Church management and administration					
	Printing & stationery	**1,877**	-	-	**1,877**	1,844
	Stewardship	**0**	-	-	**0**	0
	Equipment & photocopier expenses	**0**		-	**0**	1,064
		1,877	**0**	**0**	**1,877**	2,908
6(d)	Costs of generating funds					
	Cost of events	**2,027**	**2,487**	-	**4,514**	1,943
	Expenses of 21 Bulls Lane	**5,108**	**430**	-	**5,538**	5,891
		7,135	**2,917**	**0**	**10,052**	7,834
	TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	**129,694**	**5,377**	**0**	**135,071**	140,738

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY'S NORTH MYMM

England & Wales - Charity number 1130079

Accounts

St. Mary's Church
North Mymms

2022 Annual Report and Accounts

for the Parochial Church Council of
St. Mary's Church, North Mymms

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, NORTH MYMMS

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St. Mary's Church, North Mymms
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31st December 2022

Administrative Information

St Mary's Church is situated in the parish of North Mymms. It is part of the Diocese of St Albans within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, North Mymms Park, Hatfield, Herts, AL9 7TN.

- The Parish Administrator and Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Lisa Large.
- The Church banks with Barclays Bank.
- The Independent Examiner is Mr Philip Cox.
- The Church's Electoral Roll Officer is Mrs Victoria Sinclair Crake.
- The Church's Treasurer is Mr Graham Nicholas.

The Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary's Church, North Mymms was registered in 2009 with the Charity Commission under registration number 1130079. PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

Team Vicar	The Reverend Ruth Barr	Chair
Associate Priest	The Reverend Penny Thomson	
Wardens	Mr Martin Ferdinando	(Until 5 June 2022)
	Mrs Gill Peplow	(Until 5 June 2022)
	Mr. Rupert Lee	(From 5 June 2022)
	Mrs Marion Freeman	(From 5 June 2022)
PCC Secretary	Mrs Nicola Sherlock	
Representative on the Deanery Synod:	Mr Peter Dalling	
	Mr Byron Hopkins	
	Mrs Karen Hopkins	(From 26 September 2022)
Elected Members		
	Mrs Sue Crawley	
	Mrs Pamela Davis	
	Mrs Lisa Large	
	Mr Michael Glass	
	Mr Geoffrey Boothby	
	Mrs Victoria Sinclair Crake	
	Mr Graham Nicholas	
	Mr Richard Jackson	(From 15 May 2022)
Co-Opted	Mrs Jacqui Boulton	(From 26 September 2022)

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All eligible church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The Parish is part of the Hatfield Team Ministry which members in addition to St Mary's are; St Etheldreda's;, Hatfield; St Luke's, Hatfield, St Michael and All Angels, Birchwood, Hatfield; St John's, Hilltop, Hatfield and St John's, Lemsford. The Team Rector who is based at St Etheldreda's Church is Fr. Darren Collins.

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St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the parish priest, the Reverend Ruth Barr, and the Churchwardens in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. Our vision statement is "Our vision for St. Mary's is to be an outward looking and welcoming Church, catering for all age groups and helping the local communities to experience God's love and grow in faith."

Safeguarding

St Mary's PCC remains committed to ensuring the safeguarding of our children, young people and vulnerable adults whilst engaged in activities at St. Mary's Church. All PCC members hold a current DBS check. Safeguarding is on the agenda of every meeting.

The current safeguarding policy is displayed outside the church office with a summary in the porch. The policy is reviewed annually by the PCC and various additional policies have been introduced in the past year in accordance with Diocesan requirements. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). The documents, 'Protecting all God's children' and 'Promoting a safer church' have also provided guidance.

Achievements, Performance & Review of the Year

As of 31st Dec 2022, there were 112 (2021 – 110) parishioners on the church electoral roll, 39 (2021 – 38) of whom are not resident within the parish.

Life Events: There were 11 Weddings, 1 Wedding Blessing, 19 Baptisms, 22 Funerals and 16 Burial of Ashes held at St Mary's.

We made the difficult decision to cease weekly live-streamed church services as we no longer had enough people able to fulfil this role as they were already doing other things within the service.

As much as possible, 2022 saw the church returning to what is the new normal, post-Covid interruptions.

1St Sunday each month:
The 8am traditional Book of Common Prayer service is now held once a month.

We have re-visited the monthly All-Age service at 10am and are ensuring there is something for all ages, it's not just for children.

The 6.30pm Choral Evensong is also on the 1st Sunday each month except for the months of Dec and January (for safety's sake as it is dark)

As we now have more children regularly attending Sunday mornings, we have started a Sunday Club in the parish room and children then join the service for Communion, held on the 2nd and 3rd Sunday each month.

The Hope Railings outside the church are now regularly decorated with pictures, poems, prayers and knitted items relevant to the celebration. The church team are enjoying that St Mary's School are helping, one year-group at a time, to provide items for this, both written and drawn.

Baptisms – We have partnered with the Noah's Ark Children's Hospice for our baptisms and share any donations between St Mary's and this charity.

The Oasis café is on the 2nd Wednesday each month from 2-4pm in the parish room and is an opportunity for people to catch up over cake & coffee, for friendship and mutual support.

We now have a child-focused event each term:

Spring - Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Monday
Summer - Teddy Bears' Picnic
Autumn - Angels & Light Party

We enjoyed hosting a number of concerts during the year, for fundraising and entertainment purposes:
King's Chamber Orchestra,
The Positif Choir,
The Sonorite Jazz quartet

In June, we had a Platinum Jubilee Tea party which was well-attended and enjoyed by all who came.

We have decided to hold 2 coffee-mornings alongside bric-a-brac and book sales, one in May & one in March to help raise our funds and the church profile.

Harvest Supper was, as always, much appreciated by all those who came and shared lovely food and fellowship.

The local community, who are not regular members of our church but are connected to us, were welcomed at both the February Civic Service and the November Remembrance Day service. Both services saw the church full to overflowing.

After PCC & Archdeacon's approval, filming took place in and around the church in November for a well-known dramatized series, which boosted our income and was good publicity for our location. We plan on having a screening night when it is released later in 2023.

Pastoral Care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to age or infirmity. Pastoral visiting was conducted by the Vicar and the Associate Priest.

Deanery Synod

Three members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structure of the church.

Items discussed over the year based on presentations by guest speakers were Living in Love and Faith, an introduction to the national project on exploring Christian teaching and our understanding of Identity, Sexuality, Relationships and Marriage a talk by the new Diocesan Secretary, and David White explaining his role at the Diocese. We had reports from the General Synod, and Madeline Russell of the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust explained their work and their available grants for churches.

Financial Review

The accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis, which is consistent with those of last year.

Receipts from all sources in 2022 were £141,655 (2021 - £123,497) whilst £140,738 (2021 - £134,379) was paid to provide Christian ministry from St. Mary's Church. That resulted in an excess of receipts over payments of £917 (2021 – excess of payments over receipts of £10,883 for the year).

OSSIF funds of £6,413 were received in 2022 and have been used for capital type projects, the main ones being replacement windows at Bulls Lane, a clergy list board, tree surgery and a shed for the churchyard. Other grants totalling £5,524 were received for church and churchyard expenses.

The church received £16,900 in respect of the Curate's property in Bulls Lane and spent £5,891 maintaining the property. Dividends and bank interest of £408 were received during the year.

£71,422 was paid during the year as our contribution towards the Diocesan parish share, a reduction of £156 on the previous year.

10% of pledged income raised in 2021, together with special collections this year, totalling £7,216 was spent on away giving to overseas missions, relief agencies and home missions.

From a financial point of view, it was pleasing to see a surplus for the year, albeit a small one and a special mention of the fundraising committee must be made for their efforts this year. Cash reserves at the year end, totalled £33,444 and can be split £29,776 for Unrestricted & Designated funds, £2,168 for Restricted funds and £1,500 for Endowment funds. We do have some major capital expenditure earmarked for this so we need to keep on top of our fundraising this year.

Reserves policy

In 1991, the St. Michael's fund was established following the sale of the St. Michael's Chapel of Ease, with the income being available for general purposes and the capital being available for capital projects only. At 31 December 2022, the balance on this fund amounted to £15,000. It is the policy of the PCC that this fund should be preserved until such time in the future when it may be required.

It is also the policy of the PCC to set aside each year an appropriate sum to put into the Fabric fund to fund any major works that may become necessary on the church buildings. This year, no further sum was set aside for the fabric provision and the balance at 31 December 2022 of this fund was £10,000, a reduction of £5,000 from last year.

It is the policy of the PCC to preserve these funds as much as possible to enable the interest earned on them to make an impact on our annual running costs, to provide for emergencies and to enable future generations of church members to benefit.

Ruth Barr.

Approved by the PCC on 7th May 2023 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Ruth Barr (PCC Chair)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST. MARY'S, NORTH MYMMS

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 8 to 12, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act)

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent 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

examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;

follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and

state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of this report

My 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 2016 edition.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee 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 these accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

(1) which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records 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.

P Cox
87 Dellsome Lane
Welham Green
North Mymms
Hatfield
AL9 7NE

7th May 2023

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S, NORTH MYMMS

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Funds 2021 £
RECEIPTS						
Incoming resources from donors	5 (a)	69,282	-	-	69,282	66,614
Other voluntary incoming resources	5 (b)	12,057	12,812	-	24,869	28,500
Incoming resources from operating activities						
- to further the Council's objects	5 (c)	9,437	-	-	9,437	7,168
- to generate funds	5 (d)	19,224	-	-	19,224	5,473
Income from fixed assets & investments	5 (e)	17,117	191	-	17,308	15,051
Other incoming resources	5 (f)	1,535	-	-	1,535	690
TOTAL RECEIPTS		128,652	13,003	0	141,655	123,497
PAYMENTS						
Costs of generating funds	6 (d)	5,410	2,424	-	7,834	2,766
Grants	6 (a)	7,216	-	-	7,216	5,936
Activities relating to the work of the church	6 (b)	113,814	8,966	-	122,780	124,206
Church management and administration	6 (c)	2,908	0	-	2,908	1,471
TOTAL PAYMENTS		129,348	11,390	0	140,738	134,379
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS		(696)	1,613	0	917	(10,883)
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS						
		(696)	1,613	0	917	(10,883)
CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND AT 1ST JANUARY 2022		30,472	555	1,500	32,527	43,410
CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022		29,776	2,168	1,500	33,444	32,527

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S, NORTH MYMMS

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Funds 2021 £
CASH FUNDS						
Bank current accounts		2,752			2,752	785
Bank deposits		27,024	2,168	1,500	30,692	31,742
		29,776	2,168	1,500	33,444	32,527
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS						
Gift aid recoverable		7,961			7,961	5,988
Sundry debtors		0				
		7,961	0	0	7,961	5,988
Investment Assets	3					
296 Investment Fund Income Shares at mid market value				6,116	6,116	6,932
ASSETS RETAINED FOR CHURCH USE						
Curate's House		14,250			14,250	14,250
Office equipment		2,139			2,139	2,139
		16,389	0	0	16,389	16,389
LIABILITIES						
Light & heat		2,385			2,385	3,305
PAYE		497			497	389
		2,882	0	0	2,882	3,694

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S, NORTH MYMMS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2 Assets retained for church use include the curate's house, a freehold property at 21 Bulls Lane, Welham Green, shown at cost, and office equipment shown at cost.

3 FUND DETAILS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	General £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £
Chancel Fund		746	6,116	6,862
OSSIF Fund		297		297
Wild worship		750		750
Churchyard Fund		375	1,500	1,875
Fabric Fund designated	10,000			10,000
St. Michael's Fund designated	15,000			15,000
General Fund	26,244			26,244
	51,244	2,168	7,616	61,028

4 DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS

North Mymms Chancel Fund was established in the mid 1940's as part of the Tithe Redemption Commission following legislation passed in the 1930's to enable Landowners with a liability for the insurance and repair of a particular chancel to discharge that liability by making a "once and for all" end of payment. The capital is to be retained in order to provide an income for the future, but the income may be applied towards the insurance of the chancel or, more generally, towards the repair and maintenance of the chancel and the rest of the Church and Churchyard.

The St. Michael's fund was was established in 1991 when St. Michael's Chapel of Ease was sold for £67,252. After consultation with the Diocese, and in line with a PCC resolution dated 10th January 1992, the proceeds of the sale have been invested by the Diocesan Board of Finance, as directed by the PCC, with the income being available for general ecclesiastical purposes affecting the parish and the capital being available for capital projects only.

The Old School Site Investment Fund (OSSIF) was established in 1985 following the sale of the old school site in Welham Green, with the beneficiaries being St. Mary's Parochial Church Council of North Mymms and St. Mary's JMI School. The income is distributed annually by its Trustees, the Diocesan Board of Finance, on the recommendation of the Local Committee, after consideration of respective submissions from each of the beneficiaries. The Local OSSIF Committee approved the following policy as regards its operation on 17th October 1986, and re-affirmed it in March 1995.

- The capital is to be used only for capital projects directly in line with the requirements of the Trust Deed.
- Any capital used is to be replaced from interest, within one year if possible, within five years at most.
- Interest to be used primarily for capital type projects, with preference to improvement projects rather than maintenance projects, and only in exceptional circumstances for running expenses.

The Churchyard Endowment Fund was established in 1993, following a legacy of £1,000 from Miss Pamela Stone. This is a permanent endowment, which requires the income to be applied towards the maintenance of the churchyard.

5 INCOMING RESOURCES

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Receipts						
5(a)	Incoming resources from donors					
	Planned giving	**48,486**	-	-	**48,486**	50,373
	Gift aid recovered	**14,181**	-	-	**14,181**	14,121
	Loose collections - services	**3,428**	-	-	**3,428**	2,027
	Occasional collections	**2,206**	-	-	**2,206**	83
	Special collections	**981**	-	-	**981**	10
		69,282	**0**	**0**	**69,282**	66,614
5(b)	Other voluntary incoming resources					
	Grants for church & churchyard	**0**	**5,524**		**5,524**	5,595
	OSSIF		**6,413**		**6,413**	6,207
	Donations & legacies	**12,057**	**875**		**12,932**	16,698
		12,057	**12,812**	**0**	**24,869**	28,500
5(c)	Income from operating activities: to further the Council's objects					
	Bookstall	**0**	-	-	**0**	1
	St. Michael's Room	**645**	-	-	**645**	947
	Fees and charges	**8,407**	-	-	**8,407**	6,002
	Candles	**385**	-	-	**385**	218
		9,437	**0**	**0**	**9,437**	7,168
5(d)	Income from operating activities: to generate funds					
	Memorial garden plaques	**1,943**	-	-	**1,943**	1,821
	Events	**17,281**	-	-	**17,281**	3,652
		19,224	**0**	**0**	**19,224**	5,473
5(e)	Income from fixed assets & investments					
	Bank & Building society interest & dividends	**217**	**191**	-	**408**	187
	Rent from 21 Bulls Lane	**16,900**	-	-	**16,900**	14,864
		17,117	**191**	**0**	**17,308**	15,051
5(f)	Other ordinary incoming resources					
	Sundry income	**1,535**	-	-	**1,535**	690
		1,535	**0**	**0**	**1,535**	690
	TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	**128,652**	**13,003**	**0**	**141,655**	123,496

Grants for churchyard includes £1,350 from North Mymms Parish Council and £45 from the War Graves Commission. Grants for capital type projects include £1,000 from Herts County Council Locality Budget Scheme and £1,100 from North Mymms Recreation and Charitable Trust towards major tree work in the churchyard. £500 was received from DBF for Wild Worship and £250 for the Easter Egg Hunt. £1,279 was received from Diocese towards energy payments.

6	RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022	Funds 2021 £
6(a)	Grants					
	Overseas missions	**1,376**	-	-	**1,376**	700
	Relief agencies	**500**	-	-	**500**	891
	Home missions, secular & others	**5,340**	-	-	**5,340**	4,345
		7,216	**0**	**0**	**7,216**	5,936
6(b)	Activities directly relating to the work of the church					
	Parish share	**71,422**	-	-	**71,422**	71,578
	Clergy expenses	**498**	-	-	**498**	364
	Salaries	**9,025**	-	-	**9,025**	7,283
	Telephone	**835**	-	-	**835**	677
	Organist	**1,755**	-	-	**1,755**	1,235
	Choir	**234**	-	-	**234**	285
	Subscriptions	**906**	-	-	**906**	922
	Sacristry	**253**	-	-	**253**	410
	Power & water	**16,998**	**1,279**	-	**18,277**	15,501
	Insurances	**2,434**	**0**	-	**2,434**	2,313
	Repairs & maintenance	**2,767**	**0**	-	**2,767**	3,122
	Upkeep of churchyard	**3,310**	**5,352**	-	**8,662**	8,700
	Children & youth work	**697**	**0**	-	**697**	1,093
	Capital type expenditure	**0**	**2,335**	-	**2,335**	9,347
	Memorial garden plaques engravings	**311**	-	-	**311**	258
	Sundries	**2,194**	**0**	-	**2,194**	734
	Entertaining	**175**			**175**	384
		113,814	**8,966**	**0**	**122,780**	124,206
6(c)	Church management and administration					
	Printing & stationery	**1,844**	-	-	**1,844**	1,310
	Stewardship	**0**	-	-	**0**	0
	Equipment & photocopier expenses	**1,064**		-	**1,064**	161
		2,908	**0**	**0**	**2,908**	1,471
6(d)	Costs of generating funds					
	Cost of social events	**1,943**	-	-	**1,943**	2,232
	Expenses of 21 Bulls Lane	**3,467**	**2,424**	-	**5,891**	534
		5,410	**2,424**	**0**	**7,834**	2,766
	TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	**129,348**	**11,390**	**0**	**140,738**	134,379

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY'S NORTH MYMM

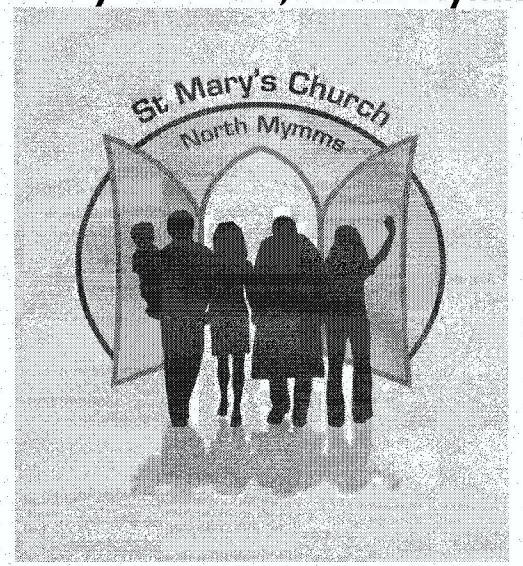
England & Wales - Charity number 1130079

Accounts

St. Mary's Church
North Mymms

2021 Annual Report and Accounts

for the Parochial Church Council of
St. Mary's Church, North Mymms



THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, NORTH MYMMS

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St. Mary's Church, North Mymms
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31st December 2021

Administrative Information

St Mary's Church is situated in the parish of North Mymms. It is part of the Diocese of St Albans within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, North Mymms Park, Hatfield, Herts, AL9 7TN.

- The Parish Administrator and Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Lisa Large.
- The Church banks with Barclays Bank.
- The Independent Examiner is Mr Philip Cox.
- The Church's Electoral Roll Officer is Mrs Victoria Sinclair Crake.
- The Church's Treasurer is Mr Graham Nicholas.

The Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary's Church, North Mymms was registered in 2009 with the Charity Commission under registration number 1130079. PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2021 until the date this report was approved are:

Team Vicar	The Reverend Ruth Barr	Chair
Associate Priest	The Reverend Penny Thomson	
Wardens	Mr Martin Ferdinando	Vice Chair
	Mrs Gill Peplow	
PCC Secretary	Mrs Nicola Sherlock	
Representative on the Deanery Synod:	Mr Peter Dalling	
	Mr Byron Hopkins	
Elected Members	Mr Rupert Lee	
	Mrs Sue Crawley	
	Mrs Pamela Davis	
	Mrs Lisa Large	
	Mr Michael Glass	
	Mr Geoffrey Boothby	
	Mrs Victoria Sinclair Crake	
	Mrs Sue Connatty	(Until 16 May 2021)
Co-Opted	Mr Graham Nicholas	
	Mrs Marion Freeman	(From 4th July 2021)

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All eligible church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The Parish is part of the Hatfield Team Ministry which members in addition to St Mary's are; St Etheldreda's, Hatfield; St Luke's, Hatfield, St Michael and All Angels, Birchwood, Hatfield; St John's, Hilltop, Hatfield and St John's, Lemsford. The Team Rector who is based at St Etheldreda's Church is Fr. Darren Collins.

Objectives and Activities

St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the parish priest, the Reverend Ruth Barr, and the Churchwardens in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. Our vision statement is "Our vision for St. Mary's is to be an outward looking and welcoming Church, catering for all age groups and helping the local communities to experience God's love and grow in faith."

Safeguarding

St Mary's PCC remains committed to ensuring the safeguarding of our children, young people and vulnerable adults whilst engaged in activities at St. Mary's Church. All PCC members hold a current DBS check. Safeguarding is on the agenda of every meeting.

The current safeguarding policy is displayed outside the church office with a summary in the porch. The policy is reviewed annually by the PCC and various additional policies have been introduced in the past year in accordance with Diocesan requirements. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). The documents, 'Protecting all God's children' and 'Promoting a safer church' have also provided guidance.

Achievements and Performance

At 31st December 2021, there were 110 parishioners (2020 - 110) on the church electoral role, 38 (2020 – 36) of whom are not resident within the parish.

Unfortunately, we entered into 2021 much as we had in 2020 in partial lockdown and in church services once again cancelled. As the year progressed we had hoped that we would be able to celebrate Easter relatively normally, but the restrictions caused by the pandemic continued. Measures restricting numbers at funerals and weddings, maintaining social distancing and no coffee and tea after services continued. Our Mission Action Plan was revised, but via a series of Zoom meetings. 'Coffee Catch Ups' over Zoom maintained a virtual contact, but inevitably many parishioners felt isolated. A resurgence of the virus also affected Easter although we did manage to have an Easter Egg hunt in the Churchyard, but numbers strictly limited. Our APCM was held in May, with only the Vicar, Treasurer, Wardens and PCC actually meeting, socially distant and the remaining PCC and congregation attending virtually. Slowly, and tentatively we continued with in-church services and we held a successful Teddy Bears' Picnic in July. Our Remembrance Sunday service saw much of our pre pandemic ceremony restored and hopes were raised as we approached the Christmas Tree Festival in December which

was very successful in attendance, participation and financially. Whilst we didn't go back into full lockdown again, numbers were well down over the Christmas period with the emergence of the Omicron variant of the virus. Throughout the year, Zoom has been an invaluable tool and our YouTube streaming has enabled many more people to view our services than would have been possible in person. There were 8 Baptisms, 10 Weddings and 20 funerals held during the year.

Pastoral Care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to age or infirmity. As in 2020, Pastoral visiting was conducted by ordained ministers or lay members of the Hatfield Team. Pastoral visits had to cease during lockdown, except for end-of-life visits by priests, and during this time contact was maintained by telephone, email and post.

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structure of the church. The main issues discussed at the meetings covered a talk on how to care well in isolation lockdown, insights into helping church growth, the Pastoral support scheme, Deanery Safeguarding and proposals for Christmas coming out of strict Covid restrictions.

Review of the Year

The year started with the country still in a pandemic lockdown. Our usual events like Snowdrop Sunday was a virtual one, with the congregation encouraged in the days leading up to and after, to visit the churchyard independently. The usual Civic Service was not held due to the restrictions. On a more positive note, our Easter Trail of boards around the churchyard and the tomb enabled us to share the Easter message with access to the church restricted. Communal singing indoors was not permitted, but on Easter Day we were able to conclude our Easter Day service outdoors in the Spring sunshine to sing the Easter Anthem 'Thine Be The Glory'. Our outdoor Easter Egg Hunt and Teddy Bear parachuting tea party were two notable events drawing many families. Our fifth Christmas Tree Festival was, despite concerns over the virus, a success. The 'Walk to Bethlehem' in the churchyard and the crib were again a popular addition to what we had on offer at St Mary's. Two concerts in the year also provided a much needed fillip to parishioners. Our Vicar Ruth and Associate Priest Penny continued to lead us in worship throughout the year, be it virtually or in person. Our revised Mission Action Plan gave us inspiration on what we needed to do to achieve our goals. Our first Wild Worship event took place in October, celebrating angels and light. Our Oasis café commenced as did our Coffee Pots and Tiny Tots group. However, the shadow of the pandemic continued to influence how these fresh expressions of our involvement with the community were conducted. Although the year ended with an alarming increase in virus infections, the congregation ended the year in hope for a better 2022.

Financial Review

The accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis, which is consistent with those of last year.

Receipts from all sources in 2021 were £123,496 (2020 - £116,440) whilst £134,379 (2020 - £137,720) was paid to provide Christian ministry from St. Mary's Church. That resulted in an excess of payments over receipts of £ 10,883 (2020 – excess of payments over receipts of £21,280 for the year.

OSSIF funds of £6,207 were received in 2021 and have been used for capital type projects, the main ones being the stained glass window refurbishment, landscaping of the memorial garden, furniture for St. Michael's room and the tree pollarding. Other grants totalling £5,595 were received for church and churchyard expenses.

The church received £14,864 in respect of the Curate's property in Bulls Lane and spent £534 maintaining the property. Dividends and bank interest of £187 were received during the year.

£71,578 was paid during the year as our contribution towards the Diocesan parish share, a reduction of £1,938 on last year.

10% of pledged income raised in 2020, together with special collections this year, totalling £5,936 was spent on away giving to overseas missions, relief agencies and home missions.

From a financial point of view, it was pleasing to see income from planned giving and collections from services up by some £3,900 from the previous year but we still showed a deficit for the year albeit much reduced when compared to the previous year. Cash reserves on the non-designated general fund at 31st December 2021 totalled £220 with a further £15,252 designated for capital type items and £15,000 designated for major repairs/ refurbishment. The initial budget for 2022 projects another deficit with increased expenditure on major repairs and refurbishment. Thus, serious fund raising needs to be considered during the coming years.

Reserves policy

In 1991, the St. Michael's fund was established following the sale of the St. Michael's Chapel of Ease, with the income being available for general purposes and the capital being available for capital projects only. At 31 December 2021, the balance on this fund amounted to £15,252. It is the policy of the PCC that this fund should be preserved until such time in the future when it may be required.

It is also the policy of the PCC to set aside each year an appropriate sum to put into the Fabric fund to fund any major works that may become necessary on the church buildings. This year, no further sum was set aside for the fabric provision and the balance at 31 December 2021 of this fund remained at £15,000.

It is the policy of the PCC to preserve these funds as much as possible to enable the interest earned on them to make an impact on our annual running costs, to provide for emergencies and to enable future generations of church members to benefit.

Ruth Barr

Approved by the PCC on 4th May 2022 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Ruth Barr (PCC Chair)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST. MARY'S, NORTH MYMMS

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 7 to 11, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act)

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent 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

examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;

follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and

state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of this report

My 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 2016 edition.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee 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 these accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

(1) which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records 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.

P Cox
87 Dellsome Lane
Welham Green
North Mymms
Hatfield
AL9 7NE
4th May 2022

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S, NORTH MYMMS

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021 £	Funds 2020 £
RECEIPTS						
Incoming resources from donors	5 (a)	66,614	-	-	66,614	60,215
Other voluntary incoming resources	5 (b)	14,880	13,620	-	28,500	31,466
Incoming resources from operating activities						
- to further the Council's objects	5 (c)	7,168	-	-	7,168	6,241
- to generate funds	5 (d)	5,473	-	-	5,473	1,800
Income from fixed assets & investments	5 (e)	14,875	176	-	15,051	15,345
Other incoming resources	5 (f)	690	-	-	690	1,373
TOTAL RECEIPTS		109,700	13,796	0	123,496	116,440
PAYMENTS						
Costs of generating funds	6 (d)	2,766	-	-	2,766	3,476
Grants	6 (a)	5,936	-	-	5,936	5,438
Activities relating to the work of the church	6 (b)	108,761	15,445	-	124,206	127,086
Church management and administration	6 (c)	1,471	0	-	1,471	1,720
TOTAL PAYMENTS		118,934	15,445	0	134,379	137,720
EXCESS OF PAYMENTS OVER RECEIPTS		(9,234)	(1,649)	0	(10,883)	(21,280)
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS						
		(9,234)	(1,649)	0	(10,883)	(21,280)
CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND AT 1ST JANUARY 2021		39,706	2,204	1,500	43,410	64,690
CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021		30,472	555	1,500	32,527	43,410

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S, NORTH MYMMS

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021 £	Funds 2020 £
CASH FUNDS						
Bank current accounts		**785**			**785**	4,958
Bank deposits		**29,687**	**555**	**1,500**	**31,742**	38,452
		30,472	**555**	**1,500**	**32,527**	43,410
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS						
Gift aid recoverable		**5,988**			**5,988**	5,973
Sundry debtors		**0**				983
		5,988	**0**	**0**	**5,988**	6,956
Investment Assets	3					
296 Investment Fund Income Shares at market value				**6,932**	**6,932**	6,052
ASSETS RETAINED FOR CHURCH USE						
Curate's House		**14,250**			**14,250**	14,250
Office equipment		**2,139**			**2,139**	2,139
		16,389	**0**	**0**	**16,389**	16,389
LIABILITIES						
Light & heat		**3,305**			**3,305**	2,952
PAYE		**389**			**389**	423
		3,694	**0**	**0**	**3,694**	3,375

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S, NORTH MYMMS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2 Assets retained for church use include the curate's house, a freehold property at 21 Bulls Lane, Welham Green, shown at cost, and office equipment shown at cost.

3 FUND DETAILS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	General	Restricted	Endowment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Chancel Fund		555	6,932	7,487
OSSIF Fund		0		0
Churchyard Fund			1,500	1,500
Fabric Fund designated	15,000			15,000
St. Michael's Fund designated	15,252			15,252
General Fund	18,903			18,903
	49,155	555	8,432	58,142

4 **DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS**

North Mymms Chancel Fund was established in the mid 1940's as part of the Tithe Redemption Commission following legislation passed in the 1930's to enable Landowners with a liability for the insurance and repair of a particular chancel to discharge that liability by making a "once and for all" end of payment. The capital is to be retained in order to provide an income for the future, but the income may be applied towards the insurance of the chancel or, more generally, towards the repair and maintenance of the chancel and the rest of the Church and Churchyard.

The St. Michael's fund was was established in 1991 when St. Michael's Chapel of Ease was sold for £67,252. After consultation with the Diocese, and in line with a PCC resolution dated 10th January 1992, the proceeds of the sale have been invested by the Diocesan Board of Finance, as directed by the PCC, with the income being available for general ecclesiastical purposes affecting the parish and the capital being available for capital projects only.

The Old School Site Investment Fund (OSSIF) was established in 1985 following the sale of the old school site in Welham Green, with the beneficiaries being St. Mary's Parochial Church Council of North Mymms and St. Mary's JMI School. The income is distributed annually by its Trustees, the Diocesan Board of Finance, on the recommendation of the Local Committee, after consideration of respective submissions from each of the beneficiaries. The Local OSSIF Committee approved the following policy as regards its operation on 17th October 1986, and re-affirmed it in March 1995.

- The capital is to be used only for capital projects directly in line with the requirements of the Trust Deed.
- Any capital used is to be replaced from interest, within one year if possible, within five years at most.
- Interest to be used primarily for capital type projects, with preference to improvement projects rather than maintenance projects, and only in exceptional circumstances for running expenses.

The Churchyard Endowment Fund was established in 1993, following a legacy of £1,000 from Miss Pamela Stone. This is a permanent endowment, which requires the income to be applied towards the maintenance of the churchyard.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S, NORTH MYMMS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

5 INCOMING RESOURCES

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Receipts						
5(a)	Incoming resources from donors					
	Planned giving	**50,373**	-	-	**50,373**	43,448
	Gift aid recovered	**14,121**	-	-	**14,121**	11,495
	Loose collections - services	**2,027**	-	-	**2,027**	5,025
	Occasional collections	**83**	-	-	**83**	0
	Special collections	**10**	-	-	**10**	247
		66,614	**0**	**0**	**66,614**	60,215
5(b)	Other voluntary incoming resources					
	Grants for church & churchyard	**250**	**5,345**		**5,595**	2,445
	OSSIF		**6,207**		**6,207**	6,037
	Donations & legacies	**14,630**	**2,068**		**16,698**	22,984
		14,880	**13,620**	**0**	**28,500**	31,466
5(c)	Income from operating activities: to further the Council's objects					
	Bookstall	**1**	-	-	**1**	59
	St. Michael's Room	**947**	-	-	**947**	225
	Fees and charges	**6,002**	-	-	**6,002**	5,787
	Candles	**218**	-	-	**218**	170
		7,168	**0**	**0**	**7,168**	6,241
5(d)	Income from operating activities: to generate funds					
	Memorial garden plaques	**1,821**	-	-	**1,821**	1,800
	Social events	**3,652**	-	-	**3,652**	-
		5,473	**0**	**0**	**5,473**	1,800
5(e)	Income from fixed assets & investments					
	Bank & Building society interest & dividends	**11**	**176**	-	**187**	270
	Rent from 21 Bulls Lane	**14,864**	-	-	**14,864**	15,075
		14,875	**176**	**0**	**15,051**	15,345
5(f)	Other ordinary incoming resources					
	Sundry income	**690**	-	-	**690**	1,373
		690	**0**	**0**	**690**	1,373
	TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	**109,700**	**13,796**	**0**	**123,496**	116,440

Grants for churchyard includes £1,300 from Herts Parish Council and £45 from War Graves Commission.
Grants for capital type projects include £1,000 from Herts County Council towards the repair of the stained glas windows in the church, £2,000 from North Mymms Recreation and Charitable Trust and £1,000 from DBF towards Wild Worship.

6	RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021	Funds 2020 £
6(a)	Grants					
	Overseas missions	700	-	-	700	600
	Relief agencies	891	-	-	891	900
	Home missions, secular & others	4,345	-	-	4,345	3,938
		5,936	0	0	5,936	5,438
6(b)	Activities directly relating to the work of the church					
	Parish share	71,578	-	-	71,578	73,516
	Clergy expenses	364	-	-	364	382
	Salaries	7,283	-	-	7,283	7,322
	Telephone	677	-	-	677	696
	Organist	1,235	-	-	1,235	945
	Choir	285	-	-	285	107
	Subscriptions	922	-	-	922	418
	Sacristry	410	-	-	410	685
	Power & water	15,501	-	-	15,501	7,767
	Insurances	2,313	0	-	2,313	2,287
	Repairs & maintenance	2,983	139	-	3,122	5,601
	Upkeep of churchyard	3,411	5,289	-	8,700	9,981
	Children & youth work	423	670	-	1,093	220
	Capital type expenditure	0	9,347	-	9,347	13,977
	Memorial garden plaques engravings	258	-	-	258	1,333
	Sundries	734	0	-	734	1,785
	Entertaining	384			384	64
		108,761	15,445	0	124,206	127,086
6(c)	Church management and administration					
	Printing & stationery	1,310	-	-	1,310	878
	Stewardship	0	-	-	0	0
	Equipment & photocopier expenses	161		-	161	842
		1,471	0	0	1,471	1,720
6(d)	Costs of generating funds					
	Cost of social events	2,232	-	-	2,232	176
	Expenses of 21 Bulls Lane	534	-	-	534	3,300
		2,766	0	0	2,766	3,476
	TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	118,934	15,445	0	134,379	137,720