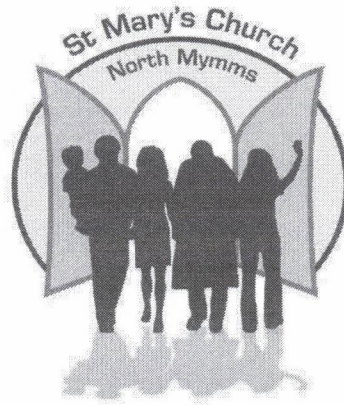


St. Mary's Church

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:

<i>Team Vicar</i>	The Reverend Ruth Barr	Chair
<i>Associate Priest</i>	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					
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 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 2023

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.

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

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
	Sacristy	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