THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DANBURY ST JOHN BAPTIST

England & Wales · Charity number 1130296

Details

Other names	DANBURY ST JOHN BAPTIST PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-06-23
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	23 Beaumont Park Danbury Chelmsford CM3 4DE
Phone	07966 266256
Email	alanrdixon@aol.com
Website	www.stjohnbaptistdanbury.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Public worship open to all, a sacred place for personal prayer and contemplation. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved. Teaching and promotion of Christianity through sermons, courses, groups, events, together with activities for parents and toddlers and special needs groups. Supporting other charities in the UK and abroad. Maintaining the historic Church building.

Classification

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

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Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£109,986	£110,712	-	-
2024-12-31	£120,825	£108,563	-	-
2023-12-31	£104,928	£109,071	-	-
2022-12-31	£115,044	£94,233	-	-
2021-12-31	£90,014	£88,158	-	-
2020-12-31	£84,721	£79,792	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Jacqui Jones	Chair	2018-09-28
ALISON COOPER		2012-05-08
Alan Roger Dixon		2022-01-10
Alexander Ian Cooper		2014-04-06
Janine Archer		2024-04-21
Joan Graham		2024-04-21
Stephen Baddely Arthurs		2020-03-15
Susan Ann Priestley		2025-03-16
Sylvia Hennem		2024-04-21

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DANBURY ST JOHN BAPT

England & Wales - Charity number 1130296

Accounts

St John's Church,
Danbury

Annual Report 2026

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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE Revd Canon Jacqui Jones

CHURCHWARDENS Vacancy

AUTHORISED LAY PREACHERS Jenny Molyneux-Berry & Janet Arthurs

TREASURER Alan Dixon

PARISH SECRETARY Nicola Telling

PCC SECRETARY Vacancy

DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES
Steve Arthurs & Alex Cooper

MMU COMPASS CHURCHES REPRESENTATIVE
Alex Cooper

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Alex Cooper	Steve Arthurs
Alison Cooper	Susan Priestley
Janine Archer	Sylvia Hennem
Joan Graham	

BANKERS
Barclays Bank plc, 40/41 High Street, Chelmsford
Sort 20-19-95 Account 90982571

LEGAL ADVISOR
Diocesan Registrar, 53, New St., Chelmsford

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER
Mr Michael Ovendon, 10 Hyde Lane, Danbury

REGISTERED CHARITY NO.
1130296

The full PCC meets monthly accept for August. Ad hoc PCC meetings are called when necessary. On most occasions a representative from St Mary's Little Baddow has been in attendance. Agendas over the last twelve months have been full and varied and minutes are available to be viewed any time upon request.

Baptisms: 6
Marriages: 2 couples
Funerals in church or at crematorium: 18
Interments of ashes: 16

Report compiled by Alex Cooper, thanks to all contributors

Authorised Lay Preachers

As long ago as November 2013, Jenny and I were licensed as Authorised Local Preachers by the Diocese after a period of training.

That authority has been renewed for both of us periodically since then, and the last time for myself in April this year. Prior to the most recent renewal I needed to re attend some Safeguarding courses and the relevant Safeguarding certificates have been awarded. Due to some health issues, Jenny has not yet applied for renewal of her licence, but may still do so when she feels able.

I am also delighted to say that at the end of last year, Paul Hagger, with the support of Rev Jacqui and the PCC, applied to become an Authorised Local Preacher and is currently undergoing the necessary training. I know he will receive the same encouragement from Revd Jacqui and the congregation that we have received over many years.

In the last year, Jenny has preached twice, and I have preached on 12 occasions, usually on the 3rd Sunday of the month at the Eucharist service. As well as at the Remembrance Day service in church for those who cannot attend the main service at the War Memorial.

Both Jenny and I have also given talks at Café Praise services on 13 occasions between us, as referred to in that report. We take the opportunity of attending preaching and theological or study courses either in person or by zoom. In the last year we attended a course at the Cathedral on the Nicene Creed.

We are fortunate in knowing in advance what the lectionary readings are on which to base a sermon, as well as often knowing the hymns which may feature. We pray that our words have meaning according to God's word; and endeavour to give those who hear us food for thought for the coming week, and always encouragement in faith.

- Jennifer Molyneux-Berry and Janet Arthurs

Bellringers Report

The tower bell ringers enjoyed a very busy year and continue to practice every Wednesday evening and prioritise Sunday service ringing. Practice nights are a great deal of fun and we benefit from some very regular visitors, which helps us to improve our general ringing. The bells themselves remain in good mechanical order, with routine maintenance checks during the year as necessary.

We hosted a SE District 8 Bell Advanced practice on Sat 22nd February and on Saturday 12th April our bells were used by the Essex Ringing Course. Friday 8th May was the 80th anniversary of VE Day and we arranged a band to ring from 6.30pm in line with the national commemorations.

On 10th May Mary Roast, one of our longest serving ringers and choristers, sadly passed away. A local band rang a quarter peal of 1260 mixed Doubles on Tuesday 14th May. Her funeral was held on 30th May and a band of senior officers of the Essex Association of Change Ringers rang a QP of 1280 Plain Bob Major.
On Saturday 21st June we assisted with the annual Tower and Teas open tower event, and we were pleased to enjoy wonderfully warm weather and a constant stream of visitors. The following day, Sunday 22nd June we took part in the call change competition at Terling and along with many other bands we relaxed in the churchyard, playing outdoor games. Our team came 2nd in the competition.

Friday 10th August saw the 80th anniversary of VJ Day, and we arranged a band of ringers to take part in the nationwide commemorations at 6.30pm. On Saturday 27th September, again our tower hosted a SE District 8 bell advanced practice.

A group of us took part in the SE District Quiz Night at Springfield Church and enjoyed playing our part in raising funds for EACR's bell restoration account. We received a set of 4 new bell ropes from Ellis's as agreed at the tower AGM.

Over 5th-7th December, we sponsored a Christmas Tree for the Christmas Tree Festival. Many thanks to Christine for decorating it. Our handbell ringers had a very successful Christmas season and received donations to the value of £707.00. It was agreed that the proceeds would be donated to Little Havens.

During the year, Danbury received many requests for the use of the bells, and bands came from St Albans, Hackney and Suffolk among others. Our thanks to all those who kindly agreed to welcome the visitors. We also thank everyone within the parish for their help and support with arranging the events we have been lucky enough to take part in, and enabling visitors to enjoy the use of our bells.

Please see below a table showing the peals and quarter peals that were arranged and rung at Danbury during 2025.

Date	Method	Footnote
Wednesday, 14 May 2025	1260 Mixed Doubles	In loving Memory of Mary Roast, who sadly passed away on 10/5/25. Life Member of the Essex Association. The entire Danbury Band and John Macefield wished to be associated with this quarter peal.
Friday 30th May	1280 Plain Bob Major	Rung immediately after the service of thanksgiving and remembrance celebrating the life of Mary Roast, who died on 10th May aged 86. A life-long ringer at this tower, and Life Member of the Essex Association of Change Ringers.
Sunday, 27 July 2025	1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor	Visiting band from Essex
Wednesday, 6 August 2025	1344 Spliced Surprise Major	Visiting band from Hertford County Association
Sunday, 31 August 2025	1344 Spliced Surprise Major	Visiting band from Essex
Tuesday 16th September	1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major	Especially arranged and rung as an 80th birthday compliment to Sue Spurgeon
Sunday 28th September	5088 Lincolnshire Surprise Major	Visiting band from Essex

- Mike Ovenden – Ringing Master, Tracy Southgate – Tower Secretary

Café Praise

This informal Service of the Word is held in the meeting room, on the 4th Sunday of the month, unless there is a clash with e.g. Patronal Festival.

The theme of the service often, although not always, follows the lectionary readings. There is no set liturgy, so the pattern of the service may vary. However, the hymns, readings, prayers, time for reflection on our wrongdoings and prayer for forgiveness, together with a declaration of our faith, and of course the Lord's Prayer, are there; all the things that you would expect to see in a Service of the Word.

What makes this service different is the seating around café style tables of 4 or 6 people, with tea/coffee, cakes and sometimes bacon rolls, served during the service. The joy of catching up with old friends, making new friends; facing each other instead of the back of someone else's head in the pew in front is, we are told, much appreciated and the numbers attending bear that out.

The seating allows people to talk and listen to each other, learn a little bit more about each other, hear other's views and opinions, and explore topics in a safe and friendly way, building on fellowship. There are always one or two talks about the readings, and a question or two for discussion. That is an opportunity that is unique to this service. We can all learn something from each other – including those leading the service. Feedback can sometimes surprise us with something that we hadn't thought of!

The service is led by one or more of us who have prepared the readings, hymns, talks etc in advance. This year due to ill health, Jenny has been unable to join as often as she would like, although we hope to welcome her back very soon. On one occasion Tiggy read a talk that Jenny had prepared. And having had a taster, Tiggy is now involved in preparing and leading. It is very much a service where anyone can be involved, and other people often read the readings, and lead us in prayers.

A special thanks to those who prepare the room, prepare and serve refreshments, Paul playing the music, and Alex providing technical support. And not forgetting Jenny Hagger preparing and guiding children's activities based on the theme that week. It is wonderful to see the creative contributions from the children's imaginations.

If you would like to contribute, don't be shy. It's a people led service and we would love to hear from you with any ideas.

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- Janet Arthurs, Jenny Molyneux-Berry, Tiggy Farrow, Alex Cooper

Chalice and Serving Ministry

Soon after writing last year's report, St Johns received a request from the Bishop of Chelmsford to return to the common cup during Communion. Tincturing is no longer allowed in the Church of England. However, some people are uncomfortable with sharing the chalice and partake in communion by receiving in one kind or come forward for a blessing instead.

The change means that this year I must re-emphasise how desperately thin on the ground we are for servers and chalice assistants.

I am grateful that Janine Archer has taken to the serving role extremely well, but that still means that there are only 3 servers, Janine Archer, Brian Harris and myself, for the 3 Sunday Eucharists per month, 4 Thursday communion services per month, plus additional Eucharists at eg Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Patronal Festival etc.

With family, holidays and other commitments it is a difficult juggling act to ensure that one of us 3 is always available to serve. I would urge anyone considering becoming a server, or even just learning how to set up the altar and being willing to clear away afterwards, which would help the priest enormously, to come and talk to me. We really do need your assistance.

Which brings me on to Chalice Assistants. They are now needed with the return to a traditional communion. Age and health have taken their toll. We only have 3 chalice assistants, Katie, Rachel and Christine, and myself when I am not serving and it is simply not enough, particularly when taking holidays into account. On occasion I have been both server and chalice assistant and this is really difficult.

So please, please, please do consider offering your service for these essential roles. It really is a privilege to take part in the Eucharist service from a different viewpoint, and be able to support the Priest in giving communion. And in serving others, you are serving God. It takes a little training and practice, but you would not be asked to serve alone or administer the chalice until you felt ready to do so.

Being willing to give it a try is a first step, and I would be happy for anyone thinking of offering to sit beside me in the sanctuary when I'm serving. You would receive every encouragement from me and Revd Jacqui. If you think you may have a calling for this ministry, please do come and have a chat with me, absolutely without obligation.

- Janet Arthurs - Sacristan

Charity Giving

St John's continues to support a number of charities, this year we supported –

- Friends of Essex Churches Trust
- CHESS Homeless Charity
- World Vision
- Quadrant Trust (pictures below)
- Safer Places

- Alex Cooper

"The Chosen" - a Lent Study Course

During Lent 2026, we ran a six-week study group based on selected scenes from The Chosen, meeting weekly for one hour.

The course aimed to deepen our understanding of Jesus' ministry through Scripture, reflection, and discussion. It also encouraged participants to engage more intentionally with Lent as a season of spiritual growth, aided by scenes from the television show "The Chosen".

Each session combined short video clips with Bible readings, guided discussion, and prayer. The themes explored over the six weeks were:

- Being known and called by God
- Responding to Jesus' call
- Encountering living water and transformation
- Learning to pray
- Loving those on the margins
- Trusting Jesus in times of difficulty

The use of visual storytelling helped bring the Gospel accounts to life and encouraged thoughtful and honest discussion. Participants engaged well with the material, and there was a strong sense of openness and reflection within the group.

Particular highlights included discussions around compassion and the cost of discipleship, as well as the opportunity to consider how the experiences of the disciples and those around them might resonate with our own lives today. The final session, focusing on trust in the midst of uncertainty and hardship, provided a meaningful conclusion as we approached Holy Week.

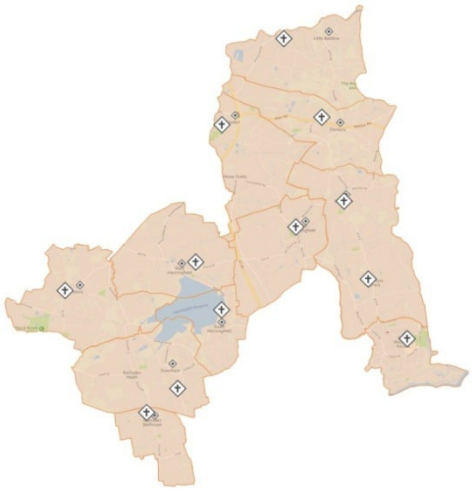
Attendance was good throughout the course, and there was clear appreciation for the accessible format, which welcomed those with a range of familiarity with Scripture.

We are grateful to all who attended and contributed. The group provided a valuable opportunity for fellowship, learning, and spiritual reflection during Lent.

The Chosen is available to watch free of charge on its website and mobile app. With the next season continuing the story towards the crucifixion, it may provide a valuable starting point for future Lent study groups.

- Paul Hagger & Alex Cooper

Compass Churches



Compass Churches continues to bring together our group of parishes in shared worship, fellowship, and mission. The partnership includes the churches of Little Baddow (St Mary the Virgin), Danbury (St John the Baptist), Sandon (St Andrew), East Hanningfield (All Saints), Bicknacre (St Andrew), Woodham Ferrers (St Mary the Virgin), South Woodham Ferrers (Holy Trinity), Stock Harvard (All Saints), West Hanningfield (St Mary & St Edward), Downham (St Margaret), South Hanningfield (St Peter), and Ramsden Bellhouse (St Mary the Virgin).

Since being commissioned in 2018, Compass Churches has continued to meet regularly, with triannual gatherings providing an opportunity to share ideas and explore how we can grow and develop our faith together across the group as well as helping each other in the day to day running of the parishes.

Revd Jacqui is serving as clergy chair, supported by Revd Jacqui Pearson and Revd Jacqui King.

The weekly Thursday morning service continues to be held online via Zoom, enabling participation from across our churches. Further details of joint services, events, and activities can be found at www.compasschurches.org.uk

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- Alex Cooper

Events

Spring Afternoon Tea

In March we held a Spring Afternoon Tea in the Meeting Room. All tickets were sold. Tables were laid with white cloths, decorated with beautiful flower arrangements and set with vintage china. Serving dishes were laden with delicious savoury and sweet treats and glasses were filled with fizz.

Music was provided by Paul Hagger, playing piano, Sarah Dixon playing her harp and Debra Aloba singing.

A raffle was held, prizes were won and over £1,000 was raised.

A big thank you to all the ladies and gentlemen who did the catering, and to the waitresses who did such a splendid job. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Patronal Festival

Our Patronal Festival 2025 was celebrated with a full weekend of events.

On Friday, we were entertained by Men2Sing, Saturday was our Tower and Teas event and visitors from all parts of Essex came to climb the Tower and enjoy the views – then stayed to enjoy refreshments and try their hand at various stalls.

On Sunday, the congregation were invited to celebrate after the service as glasses of fizz and canapes were served. In the afternoon Grammaticus gave us a wonderful concert, rounding off a very successful weekend.

Annual BBQ

The 2025 BBQ took place in July – not only was it the annual get together, but it was also a celebration marking Jenny MB's 90th birthday. Many friends, neighbours and church family members made it an afternoon to remember for Jenny and the wider community.

Xmas Tree Festival

Following on from the success of the Xmas Tree Festival of 2023, it was decided to repeat the event. This time there were 35 trees inside and 4 outside. Each tree inside was decorated by a different village organisation – each with a different theme, different colour scheme and one even had its own train running around its branches.

Refreshments and stalls were set up in the Meeting Room. The stalls all sold out. Father Xmas visited and presented gifts. Decorations were made by the children and we enjoyed an enormous turnout. There were some trees left after the weekend, which were quickly snapped up by local families for a donation – all adding to the funds.

Thank you to everyone who has helped throughout the year at all our fundraising events. Without you, none of this would be possible.

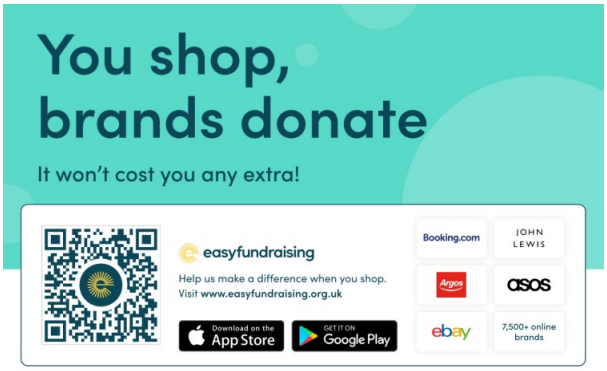
Looking to 2026

We have Tower and Teas on June 13, and Patronal Festival on June 27 with a Summer Afternoon Tea. There will be our Annual BBQ on July 10 and a Crib Festival on December 5 with an exciting concert by Grammaticus on December 6.
Let's hope for another successful year of events.

- Joan Graham

Easy Fundraising

Can I remind you that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations for Danbury St John Baptist Church with Easyfundraising.



There are over 4,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds.

All you need to do is:

1. Go to: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/danburystjb and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to Danbury St John Baptist Church at no extra cost to you whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and the church will be really grateful for your donations. You have helped raise over £600 so far!

- Alex Cooper

Flowers

This year we welcomed Michelle to our group of church arrangers, making us now 10 members very much enjoying our turns. We have continued to avoid using floral foam for most weekly arranging, & strive to become more sustainable as is recommended by our diocese. Our costs are mostly covered by church funds with kind donations from members gratefully accepted.

Anyone wishing to sponsor a pedestal in memory of a loved one or for an anniversary or birthday celebration should contact me on 07740482556, email suzms@hotmail.co.uk or speak to me at church to get details.

- Suzanne Gaywood
  - Flower Warden

Health & Safety

Our Our safety record continues to be excellent, no accidents have been reported to visitors, worshipers', volunteers or people working on the Church. This due to the hard work of everyone in our Church teams, who plan volunteer work, services and events to avoid risks to those attending.

With the increase in our hugely successful monthly concerts, increased attendance at our principal services and the number of events in both church and our meeting room, additional work and responsibility falls on the organisers of these events. We maintain a library of Risk Assessments for events and services that we have built over the years. These are reviewed and updated to cater for each event. These assessments and the safety measures contained are communicated to the organising teams. At our big events a pre-public admission briefing is provided for the stewards and/or Sidespeople.

The front line of our protection for those using St. Johns are our volunteers', sidesmen, stewards, and helpers who keep our congregations safe throughout the year. We will be appealing for new members to join the Sidesmen Team. They will be offered training before the commencement of their duties. It's not onerous, but is essential for smooth running and safety at our church events and services.

The use of the Meeting Room increased again during the last year, and we now have village organisations and Church sponsored groups using the room on most days every week, even providing full meals on at least one day each week. All users of the Meeting Room have been provided with guidance on the use of the facilities and means of avoiding risk. The Meeting Room contains extensive video presentation and media equipment, all with comprehensive instructions on how to use it safely

St. John's Health and Safety Policy is reviewed, updated, and approved by the PCC each year, the policy aims to be user friendly and not prescriptive, it is kept up to date to serve relevant needs. This takes much thought and research. If you have a question about the facilities or how the meeting room can be used, please ask Alan, Alex, or Steve A.

Our inspection and certification regime for fixtures and fittings, lightning protection, firefighting equipment and electrical installations continues on a quarterly basis. Any discrepancies are remedied as soon as possible and always before they become a problem.

The keeping of all certification and inspection documents is a legal requirement which cannot be ignored and needs regular review.

Let's make 2026 another safe, happy, and enjoyable year.

- Stephen Arthurs

Landisdale Almshouse and Unknown Donor Charity

The four Almshouses on Church Green in the heart of Danbury continue to offer shelter and good quality housing to the needy of the parish. These familiar homes are owned and maintained by the Landisdale Trust. The Trust built and has maintained the Almshouses on Church Green. Since 1313 when John and Margaret Landisdale gave land in Danbury, Purleigh and Woodham Walter "for the relief of the poor and the repair of the church". The Charity has continued to provide help for the needy of Danbury ever since.

An area of land off Maldon Road at the west of the village, adjacent to Littlefields and known as Sandpit Field was bequeathed to the Trust many years ago. There is proven need for social housing in Danbury and the Landisdale Trust is able to provide some support. It has been our aim to build some Almshouses on Sandpit Field for some time, and after discussion with residents and the Parish Council, this proposal was included in the Danbury Neighbourhood Plan. Things have started to accelerate with regard to the use of a small part of Sandpit Field to establish a small development of 9 Almshouses for the needs of Danbury residents.

The Trust is in discussions with Chelmsford City Council regarding pre-application planning advice regarding this development. We have got as far as an outline site layout and proposed buildings.

This will now be reviewed by CCC planners, and their comments will influence the final design.
Only a small part of the area will be used for Almshouses, leaving the remainder for open space and continued agricultural use.
We can now begin the work of planning for the development and ensuring that the high standards set by the Church Green Almshouses are continued in the new buildings.
It will still be some years before the new development is ready for occupancy, but the Trust will ensure that it provides a fitting setting for the Almshouses and environment for residents who are in need of a safe and secure home.

The Trust welcomes applications from people who have been a Danbury resident for at least 10 years and who are in need of somewhere to live. Please apply to the address below.The address of the Clerk to the charity is:

The Clerk to the Charity.,
Danbury Landisdale Charity,
P. O. Box 933,
Colchester.
Essex. CO3 3TQ.

- Alison Cooper and Stephen Arthurs

Ladies Who Lunch

We meet on the second Thursday of the month, usually at The Bell, Woodham Walter. About 7-12 ladies attend the lunch, and it is open to all ladies who enjoy good food and a chat.

- Ann Poulard

Livestreaming Services

Livestreaming continues to be an important part of St John's ministry, making worship accessible to those unable to attend in person and extending our reach beyond the church building.

Over the past year, improvements have been made to enhance both the quality and reliability of our services. Regular Sunday services typically attract 45–50 viewers, with higher numbers for special occasions such as Remembrance Sunday and services around Easter and Christmas.

Livestreaming has also enabled family and friends from across the world to join weddings and funerals held at St John's.

We remain committed to developing and refining this aspect of our ministry, ensuring it continues to support inclusion, connection, and engagement in our worshipping community

.

- Alex Cooper

Men's Group

SSt. John's Men's Group has enjoyed some memorable evenings at their monthly event, each full of good food and good cheer.

The Bakers Arms at Eve's Corner is still our favoured venue and Kayley has gone out of her way to provide exceptional meals for our special events. We enjoyed Haggis and Cranachan on Burns Night, plus some very special whisky and a full address to the haggis from David Graham., Roast Beef for St. Georges Day and other special requests.

Our convivial group meet on the last Thursday of each month December this year was held along with Community Carols at the Bakers Arms, the evening was very much enjoyed by all.

We enjoy good food, good ale, good company, good friends and good conversation. We are definitely not polically correct and few subjects are closed from discussion.

Our numbers vary between 6 and 12 and allow comfortable imbibing and lively discussion, ages range between teens and eighties.

All gentlemen of the parish, their friends and guests are made most welcome.

- Stephen Arthurs

Mothers Union

We have 19 members this year, about 10 -14 attend the meetings, we have 11 meetings during the year.

We heard about CHESS, and our MU Project, English for Women, both of which are doing very well. Julie Gilligan read some of her poems, we enjoyed a Strawberry Tea, and a Songs of Praise afternoon.

We enjoy tea, cake and conversation. Anyone is wel come to come and join us.

We meet on third Wednesday afternoons in the Meeting Room.

- Ann Poulard

Music Report

Last year, I reflected that 2024 felt like the point when we really began to spread our wings musically within the wider community. I am very pleased to say that this momentum has continued throughout 2025 and into 2026. Music remains a powerful way of welcoming people into our church, both for services and concerts, many of whom might not otherwise come through our doors.

Week by week, we continue to offer strong musical worship, with a motet most Sundays. However, we do need to be honest about the challenges ahead. Our regular choir is ageing together, and attracting new members has become increasingly difficult. Unless something changes significantly, it is likely that our weekly church choir may not be sustainable over the next 5–10 years. While this is not easy to acknowledge, it underlines the importance of the work we are now doing to plan for the future.

One encouraging step has been the development of the St John's Festival Choir, which already shows promise in ensuring that high-quality choral music remains part of our life as a church, even if only on special occasions.

Musical highlights from 2025 included:

- A continued programme of excellent and varied concerts, featuring musicians from many different genres
- A rich and moving sequence of music during Holy Week and Easter, including a particularly reflective Good Friday service based on the last words of love from the cross
- A very successful *Come and Sing* performance of John Stainer's *The Crucifixion* in April
- A stirring *Come and Sing* event on Remembrance Sunday featuring Karl Jenkins' Requiem
- Record-breaking attendance at our candlelight carol service, with standing room only

Looking ahead to 2026, there is much to be positive about:

- Plans are underway for a *Come and Sing Gospel* event
- We have begun the search for our first ever Organ Scholar, who will work alongside Paul and receive financial support towards formal organ lessons – an exciting and hopeful development
- We are exploring tonal improvements to our organ, which celebrates its 90th birthday this year, to make it more effective for congregational singing and more enjoyable for organists and listeners alike
- Welsh Chamber Choir Cor Aduniad, accompanied by Emma Gibbins, Organst at Chelmsford Cathedral, will be coming to perform a candlelit concert for us on Saturday 31st October (Halloween!!)
- The Grammaticus Choir will perform a Christmas Cantata for us during the Crib Festival weekend in December

As always, anyone with a love of singing is very welcome to join our friendly choir. For those who prefer not to commit regularly, future *Come and Sing* events will continue to offer opportunities to take part.

- Paul Hagger, Organist and Director of Music

Prayer Ministry

The previously established range of Prayer Ministry has continued with good use being made of the Prayer Board located near the Memorial book on the south side of the church.

In addition to people who read the board and pray for the requests, they are also referred to in the intercessions during the main Sunday service.

Alternatively, the weekly pew leaflet lists names of those who are unwell who have requested prayers for themselves or for others, and also those who have recently died. It is important when requesting that a name of someone sick be added, that permission is sought from that person first, before asking Revd Jacqui to add their name to the prayer list. It is also helpful if Revd Jacqui can be updated from time to time as to how that person is faring. Prayers for those named on the pew leaflet are also referred to in the intercessions during the main Sunday service.

Additionally, on the first Sunday in the month, children who have been baptised at St Johns during that month in the 10 years previously are remembered in prayers as they continue on their spiritual journey. Their names are listed each month on the Prayer Board.

If you wish to have personal face to face private prayer, then please contact Revd Jacqui in the first instance.

- Jennifer Molyneux-Berry

Sunday Children's Club

Our Sunday Children's Club continues to be a warm and welcoming part of church life. We meet twice a month: on the second Sunday in the church building and again on the fourth Sunday during Café Praise in the meeting room.

At present, five children attend regularly, with a further three joining us from time to time, along with their parents. Each session includes a fun and creative craft activity linked to the weekly Bible readings or church festivals. These activities help make the readings more meaningful and accessible for children – and, judging by the smiles and enthusiasm, they enjoy them very much!

If you would like to join us for worship but are concerned about keeping your children engaged, please do come along. And if you know families who might be interested, we would be delighted if you invited them. Everyone is very welcome.

- Jenny Hagger

Tea and coffee

Refreshments are served after every Sunday service and continue to be a much appreciated part of our fellowship together. Many thanks go to Steve, Tiggy, Christine, David, and Alison, whose generosity and time make this possible each week.

Although there is no charge, donations are collected. Any small surplus helps with replacing mugs and equipment and also contributes towards the costs of the Children's Sunday Club.

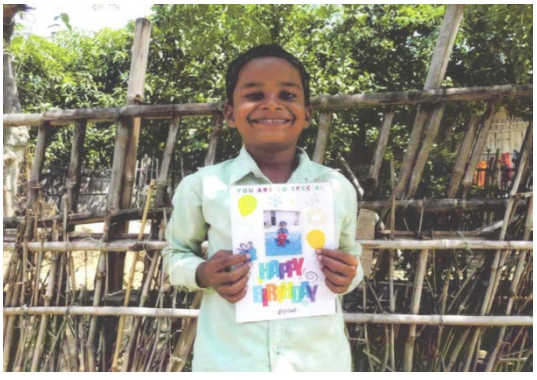
If you are looking for a simple and friendly way to become more involved in church life, helping with refreshments is an excellent place to start. If you are interested, please speak to Jenny.

- Jenny Hagger

World Vision

Falancia who lives in Mozambique writes with warm greetings to our entire church family & thanks us for the kind gift, sent by our PCC. She writes 'we managed to purchase one mattress, one wooden bed, two ducks for breeding for sale to earn money to buy school supplies & also for food, two African fabrics one skirt, one shirt & one pair of slippers'. She ends with 'many thanks for fulfilling my wishes & improving my life.'

Glory in Malawi wrote 'Dear Danbury, St John the Baptist, thank you for the gift of money. We managed to buy 3 iron sheets, 2 bags on maize & clothes. My family will be able to build modern house with the iron sheets, & the maize will add up to our food reserve & I will look presentable in new clothes.'



Jiyaul in Nepal was also sent an equal share of £550 donated by our PCC which I know he has received, but we're still waiting for his letter & pictures of his gift. If it arrives in time it will be attached.

Through the charity World Vision we have been sponsoring children across the world for the last 28 years. We have three at a time, with the length of sponsorship varying depending on the progress of the Area Development Project (ADP). The monthly sponsorship payments are made by members of our church, for our church, & we thank them most heartily. The annual gifts from our PCC are most gratefully received by the children, their families & the projects supporting them, with part of the funds used for the community.

World Vision
NEPAL | UNITED KINGDOM

Hello!

नमस्ते !

My message for you

तपाईको लागि मेरो सन्देश

प्यारो ST JOHN THE BAPTIST नमस्ते

Bat Ball

तपाईले पठाउनु भएको विशेष उपहारको लागि धन्यवाद। म यहाँ सञ्चै छु आशा छ कि तपाई पनि त्यहाँ सञ्चै हुनुहुन्छ होला। तपाईले पठाउनु भएको CAN बाट मैले खाने तोरीको तेल 1 लिटर र सैम्पु किलिनिक 16 पिस, कुरता सलवार 2 सेट, दराज मैरल 1 सेट किने र अब म कुरता सलवार लगेर स्कुल पढन जान्छु र घरमा आमाले तोरीको तेलमा तरकारी बनाउनु हुन्छ र मेरो जति पनि लुगाहरु छ सबैलाई राम्रो सँग दराजमा राख्छु र सैम्पुले हाट साफा गरेछु र मलाई मासु भात खान धेरै मन पर्छ। तपाईको मन पर्ने खाना कुन हो? तपाईको विशेष उपहारको लागि धन्यवाद।

तपाईको प्यारो-Jiyaul

Translation

अनुवाद

Dear ST JOHN THE BAPTIST,
Namaste! (Greeting in Nepali)
Thank you very much for the special gift you sent. I am fine here and i hope that you are also fine there. From the special amount you sent I bought mustard oil- 1 liter, shampoo- 16 pieces, kurtha suruwal (traditional female attire)- 2 set and 1 cupboard. Now I go to the school wearing the kurtha suruwal. Mother cooks vegetable curry in mustard oil. I keep all my clothes in the wardrobe in a proper way. I use the shampoo for maintaining cleanliness. I like to eat meat and rice very much. Which is your favorite food ? Thank you very much for your special gift.
Yours Lovingly,
Jiyaul
Note: This letter has been written by Field Mobiliser as the child cannot write in Nepali properly.

Child Name MUSTAFA, Jiyaul
बालबालिकाको नाम

Child ID NPL-213448-0169
बालबालिकाको आइ डी

This letter was completed
यो पत्र लेख्ने व्यक्ति

☐ By myself
म आफैंले

☑ With the help of a community facilitator / family member
सामुदायिक सहजकर्ता वा परिवारका सदस्यको सहयोगले

- Suzanne Gaywood

List of Sidespeople

Clare Collier
John Douthwaite
Steve Farrow
Tiggy Farrow
Ana Gil
Jean Hunt
Rachel Perry
Nicola Telling

[updated April 2026]

DEANERY SYNOD (CHELMSFORD DEANERY)

The Chelmsford Deanery Synod continues to provide an important forum for churches across the Deanery to meet together for shared mission, governance, and support. The Synod meets regularly throughout the year at different parishes, offering opportunities for discussion, learning, and collaboration.

During the past year, Synod has considered a range of significant topics. These have included Parish Share and financial sustainability, with ongoing efforts to improve transparency and encourage full participation across parishes. While contributions remain below target, there are signs of growing collaboration, with some churches supporting others in meeting their commitments.

We have also heard from a number of guest speakers, including diocesan representatives and Bishop Guli, whose visit prompted valuable discussion around the challenges of clergy availability and the provision of Holy Communion, particularly in rural and multi-parish settings. Concerns about the sustainability of smaller churches and the increasing pressures on clergy were widely shared.

Other areas of focus have included safeguarding at General Synod level, environmental responsibility through Eco Church initiatives, and the wellbeing of clergy, with a particular emphasis on mental health and sustainable ministry. Synod has also continued to engage with wider diocesan priorities, including mission, outreach, and the growth of younger congregations.

A highlight of the year was the Deanery Day held at Meadgate, which brought together representatives from across the Deanery for a morning of shared learning and encouragement. Sessions included prayer and reflection, practical support for church buildings (including access to grants and energy tools), creative outreach initiatives such as community cafés and film screenings, and models of multi-parish working. These discussions offered valuable insights and practical ideas for churches as they respond to current challenges.

St John's Church continues to be represented by Revd Canon Jacqui Jones, Steve Arthurs, and Alex Cooper.

We give thanks for the work of the Deanery Synod and all who contribute to it, and to its continuing to work together in the year ahead.

- Alex Cooper

FABRIC

Last year was our year for a quinquennial inspection, for the first time this was carried out by our recently appointed Architects: Inkpen Downie Associates. The inspection was very detailed over two days and included all roofs, weatherproofing, structural and internal aspects of the church building. Our Church building was inspected from the top of the tower to be bottom of the boiler room.

We await the full report before we can plan how the necessary work can be carried out, yes, It is inevitable that some work will be required and the PCC is prepared for this. We will plan a rolling maintenance programme, doing the urgent work first and the less urgent during the five years to our next inspection. The Quinquennial report will give an order of priority for work to maintain and enhance or historic Grade 1* Church Building. We are already planning some work to improve drainage in the boiler room and replacement of the bird mesh in the bell chamber.

It is left to the PCC and church community as to how it raises funds for this work. But our regular fundraising events, concerts and regular giving contributions (don't forget to use 'Gift Aid') all make this essential work possible.

Maintenance during 2025: we held our now annual Workday in May with plenty of support from parishioners and success with both annual maintenance and Quinquennial 'must do's'. As usual, lots of repair jobs and annual maintenance work was completed. Some of the specialist work like re-mounting the south chancel gutter, relaying the south doorstep surface and stonework repairs inside the clergy vestry was carried out by Lodge and sons. The meeting room floor was repaired and resealed. It is planned to replace the outdated meeting room heating during 2026.

We carry out testing of Portable Electrical Appliances every 5 years based on the amount of usage. This was carried out in the last year and all equipment found wanting was repaired or disposed of.

We suffered some water ingress to the boiler room last winter and the flood alarm was triggered several times. We will be making modifications to the sump during the summer to provide a better arrangement for the pump and alarm floats.

Churchyard Volunteer Team

Anyone with an hour to spare is welcome to join the team, just turn up on a Wednesday morning ready for as much work as you feel inclined to do.

We are in discussions with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) about possible re-use of the existing churchyard for continued burials. We commissioned a comprehensive survey of the existing graves and memorials, so we now have detailed information on the layout of existing graves in our 4 churchyards. The discussions with the DAC are progressing well with various options being investigated.

Faculty Applications

None this year

Future Improvements

Restoring the clock and renovating its face is a major task but is not currently within our financial capacity and will have to be postponed for the time being.

- Steve Arthurs, Fabric Officer

Thanks to Steve Arthurs, the churchyard gang (Paul, Steve, Phil and Graham), Alan Dixon and everyone who comes to help on work days, those who attend the monthly cleaning sessions (held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 10-12, all are welcome to come along!) and everyone who helps keep the church running.

- Alex Cooper

SAFEGUARDING

There were no reported safeguarding incidents.

The Church of England takes safeguarding seriously and we have a diocesan safeguarding officer see: https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-contacts.

The Diocese of Chelmsford is committed, as part of the Christian Church living in the spirit of the Gospel, to protect and care for everyone and aims to be a beacon of best practice in safeguarding. Looking the other way is not an option.

- Ensuring that its volunteers, clergy, advisers and lay people achieve the standards laid down in the Safeguarding Policies of the Church of England.
- Working with individuals who have criminal convictions, or where other safeguarding risks are identified, to ensure that they, and all members of the church community are safeguarded.
- Holding to account all persons responsible for the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults in the Diocese.

I attended the Safeguarding service in Chelmsford cathedral last October. Bishop Guili takes safeguarding very seriously. It was an opportunity to meet other safeguarding officers and the diocese team. The next one is on June 8th 2026 if anyone would like to come with me, please let me know.

A Dashboard demonstration was held on April 16th and I along with several others enjoyed a useful guide as to how to record activities relating to safeguarding that happen in our Parish.

I held training sessions for those interested and several people from Danbury and Little Baddow attended in February and March,. We all passed with 100% score! I will hold some more next year. All the courses are available on-line from the diocese web site Safeguarding Training | The Diocese of Chelmsford.

- Alison Cooper

Independent Examiner's Report

To the PCC of Danbury St John the Baptist

I report on the attached accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2025, which are set out on pages 1 to 4.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner:

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act)
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145 (5)(b) of the Act and
- State whether any particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act and
   - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

   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.

Recoverable Signature

X

Mike Ovenden
28 Danbury Vale
Signed by: b32a22ba-14b2-4dcb-aad1-f89c3226b429

Parochial Church Council of Danbury St John the Baptist
Financial Statements for the year ended December 31st 2025

2024				2025	
	Statement of Financial Activities	Note	**Total**	**Restricted**	**Unrestricted**
	Income				
£51,185	Planned Giving, collections etc	1	£47,925		£47,925
£2,942	Village Friends	2	£2,941	£2,941	
£13,549	Events	9	£15,836		£15,836
£1,135	Grants Received	3	£60	£60	
£7,809	Wedding & Funeral Fees		£9,427		£9,427
£10,806	Meeting Room Income	4	£11,730		£11,730
£13,600	40 Millfields - Rental Income	5	£13,134		£13,134
£1,695	Garden of Remembrance		£1,850		£1,850
£18,103	All Other Income	6	£7,083	£457	£6,626
£120,824			**£109,986**	**£3,458**	**£106,528**
	Expenditure				
-£3,988	Grants to Charities	7	-£3,162		-£3,162
-56069	Parish Share		-£56,069		-£56,069
-£7,285	Meeting Room Expenses	4	-£9,987		-£9,987
-387	40 Millfields Expenses	5	-£403		-£403
-£597	Garden of Remembrance		-£1,104		-£1,104
-£40,237	Other Church Expenses	8	-£39,987	-£7,678	-£32,310
-£108,563			**-£110,712**	**-£7,678**	**-£103,034**
£12,262	Net Surplus/Deficit		-£726	-£4,220	£3,494
	Balance Sheet				
	Net Assets				
£108,421	Cash at Bank and on deposit	10	£107,696	£81,018	£26,678
£92,000	Property, 40 Millfields	5	£92,000	£92,000	
£200,421	**Total Net Assets**		**£199,696**	**£173,018**	**£26,678**
	Funds				
7604	Endowment Funds	12	£7,604	£7,604	
77635	Restricted - Other	12	£73,414	£73,414	
23184	Unrestricted funds	12	£26,678		£26,678
108423	Total Cash funds		**£107,696**	**£81,018**	**£26,678**
92000	Restricted - Clergy Housing	12	£92,000	£92,000	
£200,423	Total funds	12	**£199,696**	**£173,018**	**£26,678**

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 9th February 2026
and signed on its behalf by:

Jacqueline D Jones.

Canon Jacqui Jones (Chairman)

Alan Dixon (Treasurer)

Parochial Church Council of Danbury St John the Baptist
Financial Statements for the year ended December 31st 2025

2024 Total		2025 Total	Restricted	Unrestricted
	Statement of Financial Activities			
	Note 1: Planned Giving, collections etc			
£41,832	Parish Giving Scheme	£41,582		£41,582
£1,641	Non PGS	£1,266		£1,266
£2,538	Gift Aid	£597		£597
£1,135	SumUp	£1,200		£1,200
£4,040	General Collections	£3,281		£3,281
£51,186		**£47,925**		**£47,925**
	Note 2: Village Friends			
£2,942	Parish Giving Scheme	**£2,941**	**£2,941**	
	Note3: Grants			
£1,075	Danbury Parish Council: Churchyard			
£60	War Graves Commission: Churchyard	£60	£60	
£1,135		**£60**	**£60**	
	Note 4: Meeting Room			
£10,806	Fees from Letting	£11,730		£11,730
	Expenses:			
-£2,419	Cleaning	-£2,406		-£2,406
-£3,686	Electricity & Water	-£4,884		-£4,884
£0	Repairs & Mtce	-£1,517		-£1,517
-£330	Glebe Rent	-£330		-£330
-£850	Insurance	-£850		-£850
£3,521		**£1,743**		**£1,743**
	Note 5: Millfields			
	The PCC owns the curates house at 40 Millfields, purchased in 1989 for £92,000			
	The capital value is restricted to the clergy fund; net operating surplus /deficit is General Fund			
£13,600	Net Rental Income	£13,134		£13,134
-£387	Insurance	-£403		-£403
£13,213		**£12,731**		**£12,731**
	Note 6: Other Income			
£4,524	Interest (CCLA)	£4,428		£4,428
£10,000	Legacy - Clive Willey			
£980	Other Donations/Bequests	£100		£100
£188	CoOp Card	£53		£53
£43	Other Income			
£90	Landisdale Charity	£457	£457	
£2,278	Rectory Car Park Income	£2,046		£2,046
£18,103		**£7,083**	**£457**	**£6,626**
	Note 7 : Grants to Charities			
-£1,100	Friends of Essex Churches	-£550		-£550
-£550	CHESS	-£550		-£550
-£550	World Vision	-£550		-£550
-£550	Safer Places	-£550		-£550
-£550	Quantock Christian Trust	-£550		-£550
-£100	Danbury Parish Council			
-£66	Essex Wildlife			
-£100	RBL Poppy Appeal	-£100		-£100
-£422	The Childrens' Society (Christingle)	-£312		-£312
-£3,988		**-£3,162**		**-£3,162**

Parochial Church Council of Danbury St John the Baptist
Financial Statements for the year ended December 31st 2025

2024		2025		
		Total	Restricted	Unrestricted
	Note 8 : Other Church Expenses			
-£3,389	Insurance	-£3,849		-£3,849
-£2,728	Gas	-£4,337		-£4,337
-£2,157	Electricity/Water/Waste	-£2,385		-£2,385
-£821	Daisy. Telephone and WiFi	-£920		-£920
-£2,698	Surveys/Architect Fees	-£1,888		-£1,888
-£7,537	New Piano			
-£2,222	Organ & Choir	-£1,520		-£1,520
-£1,606	Building & Car ParkRepairs/Maint	-£9,185	-£7,678	-£1,507
-£339	Bank Charges	-£199		-£199
-£163	Clergy Expenses			
-£660	Churchyard & Lawn Mowers	-£1,805		-£1,805
-£5,811	Secretarial	-£4,703		-£4,703
-£784	Church Flowers	-£623		-£623
-£4,877	Boiler Repairs			
-£672	New Signs	-£3,633		-£3,633
-£672	Gazebos			
-£3,103	All Other	-£4,941		-£4,941
-£40,239		**-£39,987**	**-£7,678**	**-£32,310**
	Note 9: Events Committee			
4772	Summer Fayre/Flower Festival	£2,700		£2,700
£1,400	Tree Festival/Crib Festival	£3,400		£3,400
£7,376	Concerts & Events	£9,736		£9,736
£13,548		**£15,836**		**£15,836**
	Note 10: Cash on Deposit			
£99,750	Deposit A/C Cent Bd of Finance	£104,178	£81,018	£23,160
£8,671	Current A/C Barclays	£3,518		£3,518
£108,421		**£107,696**	**£81,018**	**£26,678**

The final quarter's interest was paid on 3rd January 2026

Note 11: Liablities
The accounts are now prepared on a 'Receipts and Payments' basis.
There are no significant liabilities, most of the meeting room payments relating to 2026 arrived in January.
Utility payments are paid by monthly direct debits.

Parochial Church Council of Danbury St John the Baptist
Financial Statements for the year ended December 31st 2025

Note 12: Funds	At Jan 1 2025	Income	During 2025 Exp	At Dec 31 2025
Endowmnent Funds				
Wigan Grave	£6,580			£6,580
Turner Gift	£1,024			£1,024
Sub Total Endowment	**£7,604**			**£7,604**
Restricted Funds				
Church Building & land	£33,346			£33,346
Village Friends	£40,372	£2,941	-£7,678	£35,636
Other Resticted Transactions	£3,916	£517		£4,433
Sub Total	**£85,238**	**£3,458**	**-£7,678**	**£81,018**
Clergy Housing Fund	£92,000			£92,000
Total Restricted Funds	**£177,238**	£3,458	**-£7,678**	**£173,018**
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	£16,560	£106,528	-£103,034	£20,054
Church Building & land	£6,624			£6,624
Total Unrestricted	**£23,184**	**£106,528**	**-£103,034**	**£26,678**
Total: All Funds	**£200,422**	£109,986	-£110,712	**£199,696**

TRUSTS: WIGAN GRAVE & TURNER GIFT. In 2017 at the instigation of Chelmsord Diocese, the PCC applied to have the capital in these trusts tranferred from the Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance to the PCC. Sums of £3700.71 (Wigan Grave) and £705.20 (turner Gift) were transferred n Aril 2017 and were include as income in the 2017 accounts.
WIGAN GRAVE: The capital sum (originally donated in 1966 by Aline Wigan, widow of Brigadier General J T Wigan) is now held by the PCC. It is for the maintenance of the Church & churchyard so long as the Wigan Grave is kept in good order and repair.
TURNER GIFT: capital sum is for the upkeep of fabric or internal adornment of the Church or any special object relating therto which may require the raising of special funds; not for ordinary church expenses. The decision as to manner of use is with the Rector and churchwardens.

Church building/land: private donation, bequests, gifts (inc fund raising) given or raised specifically for the purpose

Village Friends: During 2014 the Rector wrote to alll households in the parish requesting financial support. The resulting income, much of which is in the form of PGS Direct Debits, which are ongoing into the future, is to be used exclusively for the maintenance and restoration of the Church building.

Other specific grants and donations that have been used for the purpose given. Danbury Parish Council & War Graves Commission (Churchyard), special collections etc

Clergy Housing Fund: Represents value of the curates house at 40 Millfields at purchase in 1989

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DANBURY ST JOHN BAPT

England & Wales - Charity number 1130296

Accounts

St John's Church, Danbury

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE Revd Canon Jacqui Jones

CHURCHWARDENS Vacancy

AUTHORISED LAY PREACHERS Jenny Molyneux-Berry & Janet Arthurs

TREASURER Alan Dixon

PARISH SECRETARY Nicola Telling

PCC SECRETARY Vacancy

DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES
Steve Arthurs & Alex Cooper

MMU COMPASS CHURCHES REPRESENTATIVE
Alex Cooper

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Alex Cooper	Paul Walton
Alison Cooper	Stephen Farrow
Janine Archer	Steve Arthurs
Joan Graham	Sylvia Hennem
Jonathan Telling	

BANKERS
Barclays Bank plc, 40/41 High Street, Chelmsford
Sort 20-19-95 Account 90982571

LEGAL ADVISOR
Diocesan Registrar, 53, New St., Chelmsford

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER
Mr Michael Ovendon, 10 Hyde Lane, Danbury

REGISTERED CHARITY NO.
1130296

The full PCC meets monthly accept for August. Ad hoc PCC meetings are called when necessary. On most occasions a representative from St Mary's Little Baddow has been in attendance. Agendas over the last twelve months have been full and varied and minutes are available to be viewed any time upon request.

Baptisms: 13
Marriages: 4 couples
Funerals in church or at crematorium: 16
Interments of ashes: 14

Report compiled by Alex Cooper, thanks to all contributors

Authorised Lay Preachers

Over 10 years ago we were authorised as Local Lay Preachers by the Diocese after a period of training. That authority has been periodically renewed with the support of the Priest and the PCC.

Since the last Annual Report, Jenny has moved from Danbury to Chelmsford. With the need to settle into her new home, she no longer felt she could preach on a regular basis in Eucharist services. However, she does still preach at Café Praise services as recorded in that section of this report. Between us we have given talks on 12 occasions in Café Praise.

I continue to preach usually on the third Sunday in the month at a Eucharist service and have done so on 8 occasions since the last Annual Report, as well as at the Remembrance Day service in church for those who cannot attend the main service at the War Memorial.

The Diocese emphasises that Authorised Local Preachers are part of the preaching ministry within the church. We have been very pleased to be able to exercise this ministry with the encouragement of Revd Jacqui at both Eucharist and non-Eucharist services.

We have attended Preacher Training courses and Safeguarding courses as and when required by the Diocese either in person or online.

A sermon or shorter talk at any service would usually be based upon the lectionary readings, and in preparation we pray that our words have meaning according to God's word. We endeavour to give those who hear us some food for thought for the week ahead, or for discussion in Café Praise, and always encouragement in faith.

In this work we continue to be grateful for the support, and encouragement of Revd Jacqui, Paul Hagger, PCC and the congregation.

- Jennifer Molyneux-Berry and Janet Arthurs

Café Praise

Café Praise services usually held on the 4th Sunday of the month in the meeting room continue to be well supported. This informal service with tea/coffee, cakes or sometimes bacon rolls is a relaxed way to enhance fellowship and take time to explore faith with others.

The real joy of the service is that people are sitting around a table facing others, keeping up with old friends or making new friends, instead of seeing the back of someone's head in the pew in front.

Despite its informality, it is still a Service of the Word which includes Bible readings, hymns, prayers, a time for reflection on our wrongdoings, a Declaration of Faith and talks by one or other of those leading the service; all the elements of a church service but with no set liturgy. The added extra is the chance to have a discussion on the readings and/or talks. Sitting in small groups, people are not so shy of asking questions or contributing their thoughts without embarrassment. And we learn from the feedback; it is so true that we can all learn something from each other.

This year we have covered such topics as e.g. coming to faith slowly or by sudden conversion; renewal; being called when celebrating St Matthew; rediscovering the Old Testament on Bible Sunday; Mary's journeys on 4th Sunday in Advent; communicating God's word to others, and trust in God.

Although led by one or two of us, other people have contributed by reading, leading prayers, and enacting a drama of a tax collector being called! The children, encouraged by Jenny Hagger and others, always have a contribution to make, often very imaginative, and enjoy showing us what they have been making before our final prayers.

We are enormously grateful to Paul (and Nick when Paul is away) for the music, Alex for enabling those who cannot join us in person to do so online, and all the numerous people, particularly the Hagger and Cooper families who prepare the room, and make and serve refreshments. Café Praise is very much a team effort and it wouldn't happen without them.

Being a varied service, not always led by the same people, Café Praise is flexible enough to be open to new ideas. So, if you would like to share any thoughts on what you would like to see included, or have a view on something you don't think works, please come and tell us so we can consider any changes. And if you would like to contribute, don't be shy, it's a people led service and we would love to hear from you.

- Janet Arthurs, Jenny Molyneux-Berry, Alex Cooper

Chalice and Serving Ministry

At the time of writing, those attending Eucharist services at this church receive the sacrament in two kinds by tincturing so there is no need of Chalice Assistants, the servers preparing the altar appropriately.

In last year's Chalice and Serving Ministry report I emphasised how thin on the ground the number of servers were and that we desperately needed more volunteers. At that time servers at the 9.30 Sunday Eucharists on 3 or 4 Sundays a month, plus additional Eucharists at e.g. Faure Requiem, Maundy Thursday consisted of just 4 people, Brian Harris, David Gandell, Samantha Ball and myself.

And my heartfelt thanks go to them, and to Barbara and Sheila who set up the altar in the Lady Chapel for the Thursday Communion.

During this last year, David Gandell had completed 18 years of faithful service to the ministry of being a server, but felt that the time had come to stand down. He was thanked for all he had done at the last service at which he served on 29th September.

Sadly, Samantha also felt that her commitment to this ministry was becoming too difficult to maintain, not living in Danbury and with maintaining her family life. She too was thanked for her many years of ministry at a service on 8th December.

And then there were two left for Sundays……..,

Brian and myself who, like Barbara and Sheila, are not getting any younger. We also have family commitments, and lives outside the church, and cannot always cover for each other on holiday. I am delighted to say that Janine Archer has volunteered to become a server, and she is presently learning the ropes alongside Brian and myself.

However, like us, she also has other commitments and there will be some Sundays when none of us are available. So please, please, do consider volunteering for this essential ministry. It really is a privilege to take part in the service from a different viewpoint and be able to support the Priest in giving communion. It takes a little training and practice, but you would not be asked to serve alone until you felt ready to do so. Being willing to give it a try is the first step, and you would receive every encouragement from me and Revd Jacqui.

If you are at all tempted towards serving (this is one temptation you need not resist) please come and have a chat, absolutely without obligation.

- Janet Arthurs - Sacristan

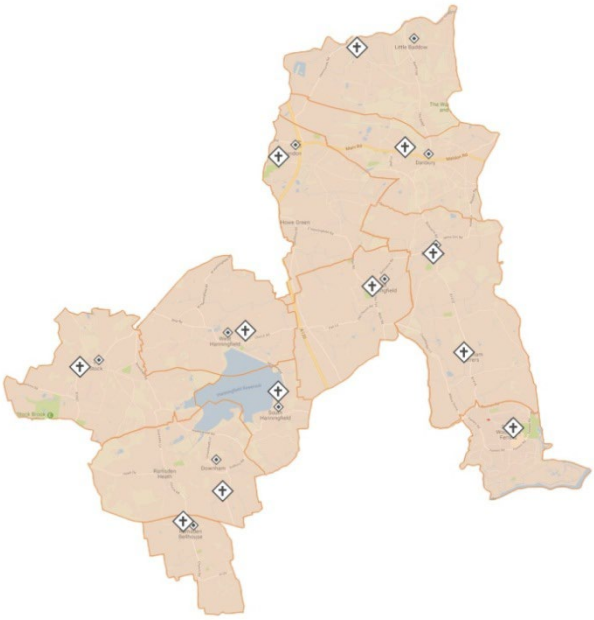
Charity Giving

St John's continues to support a number of charities, this year we will be looking to restart a steering committee that can look at and put charities forward to PCC to back.
This year we supported –

- Friends of Essex Churches Trust
- CHESS Homeless Charity
- World Vision (report on page 20)
- Quadrant Trust (pictures below and over the page)
- Safer Places

- Alex Cooper

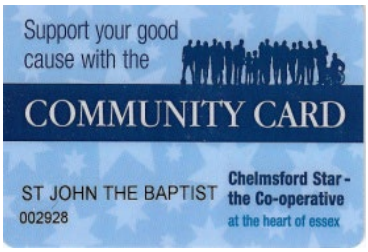
Compass Churches



- Alex Cooper

Compass Churches has continued to have triannual meetings to discuss ways we can move our faith forwards together.
Revd Jacqui is now the clergy chair, with the other 2 clergy members being Revd Jacqui Pearson and Revd Jacqui King.
The weekly morning services on Thursdays have continued online via zoom. For details of events at the churches and services we hold together, please visit www.compasschurches.org.uk

Coop Community Cards



The Chelmsford Star Community Card continues to provide the church with funds which accrue each time we produce our card in local Star Coop stores or in the Quadrant store in Chelmsford High Street.
It is such an easy way to help the church.
Unfortunately the Coop are not issuing any new cards so if you have a card but are not using it please pass on to someone who will use it or give it back to me.
But DO please continue to use the card as much as you can whilst it is still possible to do so.

- Sue Ferguson

Events

Patronal Festival

To celebrate our Patronal Festival in 2024, we held a Flower Festival with the theme 'The Beauty of the Earth' inspired by the hymn 'For the beauty of the earth'. Flower clubs and individual arrangers were invited to join us in producing over 20 individual arrangements each representing one facet of the Earth's beauty, or a line from the hymn. The festival was held over four days from Friday 21st to Monday 24th of June. On each of the days, thanks to our indefatigable team of caterers, refreshments were available either in the Meeting Room or outside in the garden.

The total cost of the actual Flower Festival was covered by an amazing level of sponsorship from individuals and organisations, both locally and from further afield. To thank these sponsors a special Midsummer 'Bubbles and Blooms' evening was held in the church, giving everyone not only a glass of fizz but an opportunity to see all the wonderful exhibits. Visitors came from near and far and many returned for repeat visits, bringing more friends and relatives, which at the end

of the day meant we could say we had definitely reached out to our community, but also that we had raised nearly £5,000.

Thank you to everyone who played a part in making the festival such a success.

Open Tower

Our annual open tower saw great views from the tower this year, a bit windy but enjoyable. Thanks to all who helped in the tower and with the stalls and refreshments and helped raised over £700.

Crib Festival

Following the success of our Crib Festival in 2022 we decided to repeat the event in December 2024. The date was set for Saturday December 7th, and a grand total of 88 cribs from around the world were lent by parishioners and friends. These were displayed in the church along with a brief history about each one on the evening of December 6th ... ready for the following day.

The plan was to have a mini Christmas Market outdoors with Gluhwein, German sausages, preserves, cards, floral decorations and a raffle - - all to add to the fun of the day.

However the storm had other ideas and after a few extremely strong gusts of wind and lashing rain, not to mention a collapsed gazebo and a few broken tiles, it was decided that the stalls should move into the Meeting Room and the trusty band of BBQ volunteers would continue to cook outdoors.

Despite the atrocious weather, a huge number of visitors came to admire the cribs, partake of the seasonal fare, and spend their money at our stalls - - most of which were sold out.

It was indeed a memorable day and we raised over £1,400.
Again, we must thank everyone who played a role in the success of the day.

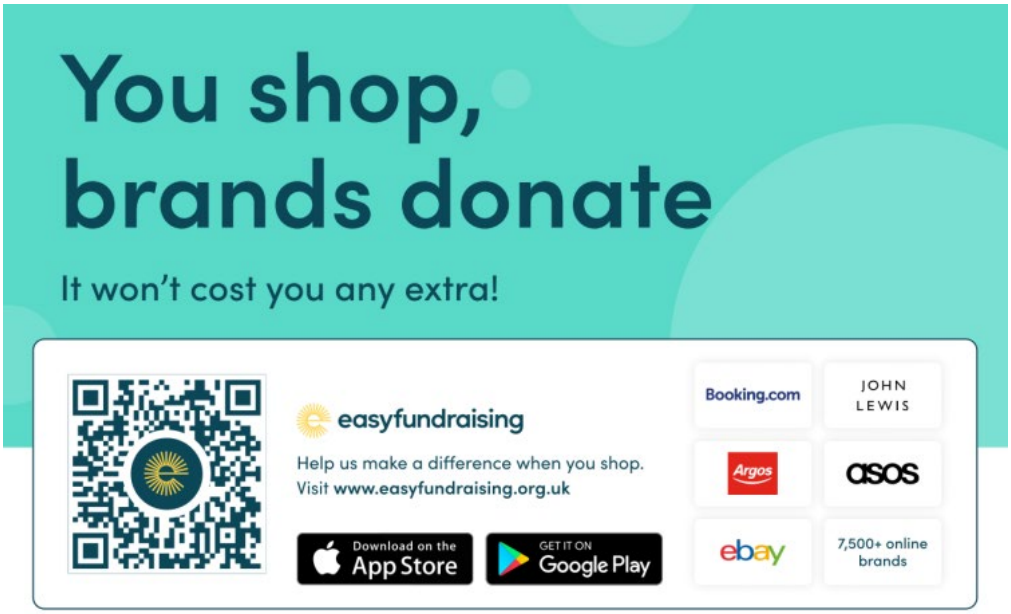
Future Events

Looking to the future, we have Spring 'Afternoon Tea and Tunes' coming on March 23rd (which, at the time of writing this report, is actually all sold out). Then in the summer, to celebrate our 2025 Patronal Festival we have a concert on Friday evening, 20th June, with Men2Sing; Saturday will be 'Open Tower' with teas and stalls; and on Sunday, 22nd June, there will be a special service in church in the morning, and an afternoon concert when we will enjoy a performance given by Grammaticus.
In July there will be the usual Family Barbeque.
Looking to the end of the year, plans are in place for another Christmas Tree Festival on December 7th.

Let's hope we can make all these events great successes and bring many more of our community together.

- Joan Graham & Alison Cooper

Easy Fundraising



Can I remind you that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations for Danbury St John Baptist Church with Easyfundraising.
There are over 4,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds.
All you need to do is:

1. Go to: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/danburystjb and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to Danbury St John Baptist Church at no extra cost to you whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Danbury St John Baptist Church will be really grateful for your donations.

- Sue Ferguson

Flowers

'Beauty of the Earth' was the theme for our hugely successful flower festival last June, which was inspired by the popular hymn 'For the beauty of the Earth.' It involved a lot of hard work in planning and in staging, stewarding over the weekend and providing refreshments for all our visitors. The exhibits were created by members of our flower team and invited arrangers from flower clubs and churches in the area, including St Mary's Little Baddow and Chelmsford Cathedral Flower Guild. Thank you to all those who took part in whatever capacity. Special thanks to our sponsors and donors, and congratulations to our most efficient coordinator Joan Graham.

- Suzanne Gaywood
  - Flower Warden

Health & Safety

Our safety record continues to be excellent, with no reported accidents. This due to the hard work of everyone in our Church teams, who plan services and events to avoid risks to those attending.

With the increase in our hugely successful monthly concerts, increased attendance at our principal services and the number of events in both church and our meeting room, additional work and responsibility falls on the organisers of these events. We maintain a library of Risk Assessments for events and services that we have built over the years. These are reviewed and updated to cater for each event. These assessments and the safety measures contained are communicated to the organising teams. At our big events a pre-public admission briefing is provided for the stewards and/or Sidespeople.

The front line of our protection for those using St. Johns are our volunteers', sidesmen, stewards, and helpers who keep our congregations safe throughout the year.

The use of the Meeting Room increased again during the last year, and we now have village organisations and Church sponsored groups using the room for meals and refreshments on most days every week. All users of the Meeting Room have been provided with guidance on the use of the facilities and means of avoiding risk. The Meeting Room now contains extensive video presentation and media equipment, all with comprehensive instructions on how to use it safely

St. John's Health and Safety Policy is reviewed, updated, and approved by the PCC each year, the policy aims to be user friendly and not prescriptive, keeping it up to date and relevant needs much thought and research.

Our insurers requested we increase the frequency of our inspection and certification of lightning protection and electrical installations. These inspections take a lot of organising to ensure all of the equipment is available and accessible. Access to all parts of our buildings must also be provided.

The keeping of all certification and inspection documents is a legal requirement which cannot be ignored and needs regular review.

We continue our quarterly inspections and checks of fire and safety equipment, lighting and access routes continue. These ensure our safety systems are in place and capable of use in an emergency.

Let's make 2025 another safe, happy, and enjoyable year.

- Stephen Arthurs

Landisdale Almshouse and Unknown Donor Charity

The four Almshouses on Church Green in the heart of Danbury continue to offer shelter and good quality housing to the needy of the parish. These familiar homes are owned and maintained by the Landisdale Trust. The Trust built and has maintained the Almshouses on Church Green. Since 1313 when John and Margaret Landisdale gave land in Danbury, Purleigh and Woodham Walter "for the relief of the poor and the repair of the church". The Charity has continued to provide help for the needy of Danbury.

An area of land off Maldon Road adjacent to Littlefields known as Sandpit Field was bequeathed to the Trust many years ago. Based on local need we would like to provide a further 10 Almshouses on Sandpit Field.

Only a small part of the area will be used for Almshouses, leaving the remainder for open space and continued agricultural use. This proposal has been included in the 'Danbury Neighbourhood Plan'.

We can now begin the work of planning for the development and ensuring that the high standards set by the Church Green Almshouses are continued in the new buildings.

Though it will be some years before the new development is ready for occupancy, the Trust will ensure that it provides a fitting environment for residents of the village who are in need of a safe and secure home.

The Trust welcomes applications from people who have been a Danbury resident for at least 10 years and who are in need of somewhere to live. Please apply to the address below.

The incumbent of St. John the Baptist, Danbury, is always invited to sit on the board of trustees. All of whom are local people who endeavour to maintain a service to the village. We are looking for interested local people who would like to become Trustees. There are only four meeting a year where decisions on budget and aims are decided.

The charity also owns and lets allotments on Ludgores Lane. Each year half of the small annual rental income from the allotments is donated for the maintenance of St. Johns. Applications can be made at the address below:

The address of the Clerk to the charity is:

The Clerk to the Charity.,
Danbury Landisdale Charity,
P. O. Box 933,
Colchester.
Essex. CO3 3TQ.

- Alison Cooper and Stephen Arthurs

Ladies Who Lunch

About nine or ten ladies have enjoyed lunch at The Bell, Woodham Walter on the second Thursday of the month. There is a warm welcome and the food is always good.

- Ann Poulard

Livestreaming Services

In 2025, livestreaming remains a vital part of St John's ministry, making worship accessible to all. What began as a response to the pandemic has now become a key aspect of our outreach, with regular Sunday services drawing 45-50 viewers and special events attracting even more.

Over the past year, I've enhanced the processes, improving quality and reliability. Café Praise has transitioned from Zoom to Google Meet.

Livestreaming continues to connect our congregation beyond the church walls, ensuring inclusivity for those unable to attend in person. We remain committed to refining and enhancing this platform, using technology to deepen spiritual engagement and community connection.

This has also allowed families using St John's for wedding and funerals to have people join from other parts of the world.

- Alex Cooper

Men's Group

St. John's Men's Group continues to enjoy a monthly dining evening full of good food and good cheer.

After short journey around the hostelries of Danbury we have settled on The Bakers Arms at Eve's Corner as our current venue. The resident chef caters to our needs and choices.
Our recent Burns Supper was a celebration of Scotland's National Poet with no less than 4 kilted gentlemen, and a full 'Address to the Haggis' by David Graham culminating in a hearty thrust to the centre of the beast to expose the full rich steaming feast. This was accompanied by two very special Highland Malt Whiskies.

Desert was another Highland treat, Alan Dixon had prepared a delicious Cranachan.

Our convivial group meet on the last Thursday of each month (except December) to enjoy good food, good ale, good company and good conversation. We are definitely not politically correct and few subjects are closed from discussion.
Our numbers vary between 6 and 12 and allow comfortable imbibing and lively discussion, ages range between teens and eighties.
All gentlemen of the parish, their friends and guests are made most welcome.

- Stephen Arthurs

Mothers Union

This year began well as we welcomed a new member, sadly, one member had to leave.
We heard about MAF, the Leprosy Mission, an orphanage in Romania, and travelled around China. Our outing was again lunch at Butts Green Nursery and we enjoyed a Strawberry Tea.
Most members were able to come to most meetings, Marian looks after the teapot, Barbara and Sheila take care of the Bring and Buy, and members help with whatever needs doing, which makes MU a happy group to belong to.

- Ann Poulard

Music Report

2024 was a year when I sense that we really started to spread our wings in the community with our musical offering. For some years our outreach has been developing strongly but we are now becoming known among the local music makers as a place to come to make good music for an appreciative and receptive audience. I receive a regular stream of approaches from very talented musicians (including some well-known professional performers) asking to come to St John's. This is bringing many people into our church on a regular basis, a large proportion of whom would not ordinarily come through our doors.

As ever we continue to provide a solid musical offering at our scheduled services week by week with a motet most weeks and, of course, our usual closing voluntaries. Our choir performs from its extensive repertoire whilst also growing that repertoire on an ongoing basis.

Highlights of 2024 included:-

- The purchase of a beautiful new tall upright piano by Kawai (enabled by the income derived from musical events) which has seen extensive concert and service use;
- A truly excellent programme of concerts by a varied and talented group of musicians, covering many musical genres;
- An extensive programme of music during Holy Week and Easter including a moving service on Good Friday based around last words of love;
- Many of our choir and friends singing at the marriage of my daughter Abigail to her wife Sheldon in February;
- Well-loved musical interludes in church during our Flower Festival in June;
- A full church for a riotous "Not the Last Knight of the Proms", which also saw some excellent performances of popular songs by Abba;
- A moving liturgical "Come and Sing" performance of Faure's Requiem mass in All Souls-Tide;
- Probably our largest congregation ever for our candlelight carol service when there was over 300 people in church.

I am really pleased with the way that our musical offering continues to grow. That growth has already continued into 2025 when we have started to develop our evening concert offering.

Development of our youth offering remains on the radar. I have started to develop that in the background but hope to take that out into school before too long.

As always, we welcome anyone to our friendly choir, so if you have an inclination to sing, then do step forward. There will be further "Come and Sing" events for those that don't want to commit to a regular commitment.

- Paul Hagger, Organist and Director of Music

Safeguarding

There were no reported safeguarding incidents.

The Church of England takes safeguarding seriously and we have a diocesan safeguarding officer see: https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-contacts

The Diocese of Chelmsford is committed, as part of the Christian Church living in the spirit of the Gospel, to protect and care for everyone and aims to be a beacon of best practice in safeguarding. Looking the other way is not an option.

- Ensuring that its volunteers, clergy, advisers and lay people achieve the standards laid down in the Safeguarding Policies of the Church of England.
- Working with individuals who have criminal convictions, or where other safeguarding risks are identified, to ensure that they, and all members of the church community are safeguarded.
- Holding to account all persons responsible for the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults in the Diocese.

I have completed my Leadership Safeguarding Training.
I hope to set up training sessions for anyone interested in basic safeguarding on a Saturday in the meeting room later this year.

- Alison Cooper

Sunday Children's Club

Our children's club runs on the 2nd Sunday of the month in the church and also on the 4th Sunday in café praise in the meeting room.

At present we have 5 children who attend regularly with another 3 children who drop in from time to time, and of course their parents. On these Sundays we have a craft activity based around the weekly readings or festivals, which make the readings more accessible and which the children seem to enjoy.

If you want to join our worship but are concerned about keeping your children occupied, then do come along to the club. If you know of anyone with children that might be interested, then do invite them along. Everybody is welcome!

- Jenny Hagger

Tea and coffee

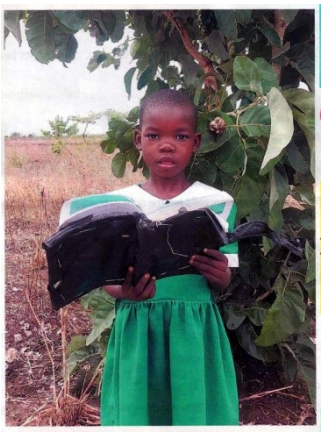
We serve refreshments after every Sunday service albeit being provided by an ever decreasing team of helpers. Many thanks to Steve, Tiggy, Alison and Christine for providing this service that we all enjoy.
We do not charge for this but monies are collected and the small profit that is made goes to replacing mugs etc and helping the costs of the Childrens' Sunday club.

If you wish to become involved in helping more with the church then this is a good place to start. If interested please speak to Jenny.

- Jenny Hagger

World Vision

We have recently received thank you letters & photos from our three sponsored children, Falancia in Mozambique, Jiyaul in Nepal and Glory in Malawi, in response to the generous gift of £550 from our PCC at the end of last year. A very welcome gift divided equally, to benefit the children, their families and their communities. The children have expressed their gratitude for our support & special gifts, and send us their love and best wishes.



- Suzanne Gaywood

List of Sidespeople

Clare Collier
John Douthwaite
Steve Farrow
Tiggy Farrow
Ana Gil
Jean Hunt
Rachel Perry
Nicola Telling

[updated February 2025]

DEANERY SYNOD (CHELMSFORD DEANERY)

The Chelmsford Deanery Synod continues to serve as a forum for churches across the Deanery to come together in shared mission, governance, and support. The past year has seen the Clergy Chair and Area Dean Revd Tim Ball retire and is looking forward to Revd Simon Pearce becoming the new Area Dean.

Meetings and Collaboration:

The Synod meets four times a year, rotating between different parishes, allowing members to experience and understand the unique contexts and challenges of each church community. These meetings provide valuable opportunities for clergy and lay representatives to discuss key issues, hear from guest speakers, and explore ways to strengthen the Church's impact within the wider community.

Key Discussions and Initiatives:

Over the past year, the Synod has engaged with a variety of topics, including mission and outreach, social justice concerns, and the role of the Church in a rapidly changing society. We have been privileged to hear from guest speakers representing charities and initiatives that work with the homeless, refugees, and those facing economic hardship. These discussions have reinforced the importance of the Church's role in supporting the most vulnerable in our community.

Parish Share and Financial Stewardship:

The apportionment of Parish Share remains a function of the Deanery Synod, ensuring that financial resources are distributed fairly to support clergy, church administration, and wider diocesan responsibilities. The current funding model continues to be reviewed, with efforts being made to enhance transparency and fairness. While challenges remain, progress is being made to refine the process and ensure sustainable financial stewardship across the Deanery.

Representation:

St. John's Church is represented on the Deanery Synod by Revd Canon Jacqui Jones, Steve Arthurs, and Alex Cooper.

We thank all those who have contributed to the work of the Deanery Synod over the past year and look forward to another year of fruitful discussion and collaboration.

- Alex Cooper

FABRIC

In 2024 we were able to appoint Ben Downie of Inkpen Downie Architecture and Design as the specialist Architect for the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist, Danbury. His appointment has been approved by the Diocesan Advisory Committee. Ben has already visited the church twice and is in process of evaluating the various woodworm surveys and appointing a Structural Engineer to advise on necessary remediation.

In October/November 2025 Ben will be compiling the 5 yearly Quinquennial Report on the condition of St. Johns which is required by the diocese. This will include a list of work needed. At St. John's we aim to complete all advised repairs as quickly as possible and usually complete essential work within the proposed timeframe.

Maintenance in 2024

We held our now annual Workday in May with great success, as usual lots of jobs were completed, some started and even some finished. There is always more to do. We will try to get the remaining Quinquennial work completed before the next inspection is due in November. This will involve some specialist contractors, with whom we are already in discussion.

Quarterly inspections of accident records, church lighting, electrical supplies, electrical equipment, fire detection, fighting and protection, are carried out and recorded.
We carry out testing of Portable Electrical Appliances every 5 years based on the amount of usage. This was carried out in the last year and all equipment found wanting was repaired or disposed of.

Our boiler has had some of its control circuitry replaced and is currently working well, we are sure that you enjoy or warm church.
The boiler resides in a cellar under the church which is cold and damp. It is drained by a sump pump which has lasted at least 25 years. An observant visitor noticed that the flood alarm system was flashing to warn us of a problem. Fortunately, there wasn't too much rain at the time, and we were able to replace the worn-out pump with a new one before the water rose high enough to do any damage.

The Meeting Room floor has started to lift near the patio doors. A specialist has been commissioned to investigate and rectify the problem.

Churchyard Volunteer Team

The Churchyard enjoyed its own workday in September when volunteers augmented the usual Wednesday team. Some heavy pruning was carried out, some gravestones returned to the vertical and railings painted. The churchyard always looks well cared for by our Wednesday morning work team, who have every reason to be pleased with their achievements.
As part of our agreements with the Chelmsford City Tree officer we pollard the 6 Lyme trees at the north of the church every 2 years, this year it fell later than usual, but was efficiently carried out by the team who also disposed of the cut branches.

Anyone with an hour to spare is welcome to join the team, just turn up on a Wednesday morning ready for as much work as you feel inclined to do.

We are in discussions with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) about possible re-use of the existing churchyard for continued burials. We commissioned a comprehensive survey of the existing graves and memorials, so we now have detailed information on the layout of existing graves in our 4 churchyards. The discussions with the DAC are progressing well with various options being investigated.

Faculty Applications
One faculty was applied for in 2024/25 - the memorial stone for Joe Roast, a faculty was required as there is an icon of a bell on the stone. This is still in process.

Future Improvements
Restoring the clock and renovating its face is a major task but is not currently within our financial capacity and will have to be postponed for the time being.

- Steve Arthurs, Fabric Officer

Thanks to Steve Arthurs, the churchyard gang (Paul, Steve, Phil and Graham), everyone who comes to help on work days, those who attend the monthly cleaning sessions (held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 10-12, all are welcome to come along!) and everyone who helps keep the church running.

- Alex Cooper

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Parochial Church Council of Danbury St John the Baptist
Financial Statements for the year ended December 31st 2024

2023				2024	
	Statement of Financial Activities	Note	**Total**	**Restricted**	**Unrestricted**
	Income				
£51,031	Planned Giving, collections etc	1	£51,185		£51,185
£3,193	Village Friends	2	£2,942	£2,942	
£6,930	Events	9	£13,549		£13,549
£60	Grants Received	3	£1,135	£1,135	
£10,728	Wedding & Funeral Fees		£7,809		£7,809
£10,110	Meeting Room Income	4	£10,806		£10,806
£13,200	40 Millfields - Rental Income	5	£13,600		£13,600
£2,200	Garden of Remembrance		£1,695		£1,695
£7,476	All Other Income	6	£18,103	£90	£18,013
£104,928			**£120,825**	**£4,167**	**£116,657**
	Expenditure				
-£3,016	Grants to Charities	7	-£3,988		-£3,988
-54450	Parish Share		-£56,069		-£56,069
-£10,431	Meeting Room Expenses	4	-£7,285		-£7,285
-432	40 Millfields Expenses	5	-£387		-£387
-£1,051	Garden of Remembrance		-£597		-£597
-£39,690	Other Church Expenses	8	-£40,237	£0	-£40,237
-£109,070			**-£108,563**	**£0**	**-£108,563**
-£4,143	Net Surplus/Deficit		£12,262	£4,167	£8,095
	Balance Sheet				
	Net Assets				
£96,160	Cash at Bank and on deposit	10	£108,421	£85,238	£23,183
£92,000	Property, 40 Millfields	5	£92,000	£92,000	
£188,160	**Total Net Assets**		**£200,421**	**£177,238**	**£23,183**
	Funds				
7604	Endowment Funds	12	£7,604	£7,604	
73467	Restricted - Other	12	£77,635	£77,635	
15089	Unrestricted funds	12	£23,184		£23,184
96160	Total Cash funds		**£108,422**	**£85,239**	**£23,184**
92000	Restricted - Clergy Housing	12	£92,000	£92,000	
£188,160	Total funds	12	**£200,422**	**£177,239**	**£23,184**

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 10th February 2025
and signed on its behalf by:

Jacqueline D Jones.
Canon Jacqui Jones (Chairman)

Alan Dixon (Treasurer)

Parochial Church Council of Danbury St John the Baptist
Financial Statements for the year ended December 31st 2024

2023 Total	Statement of Financial Activities	2024 Total	Restricted	Unrestricted
	Note 1: Planned Giving, collections etc			
£41,994	Parish Giving Scheme	£41,832		£41,832
£1,846	Non PGS	£1,641		£1,641
£2,590	Gift Aid	£2,538		£2,538
£898	SumUp	£1,135		£1,135
£3,703	General Collections	£4,040		£4,040
£51,031		**£51,185**		**£51,185**
	Note 2: Village Friends			
£3,193	Parish Giving Scheme	£2,942	£2,942	
	Note3: Grants			
£0	Danbury Parish Council: Churchyard	£1,075	£1,075	
£60	War Graves Commission: Churchyard	£60	£60	
£60		**£1,135**	**£1,135**	
	Note 4: Meeting Room			
£10,110	Fees from Letting	£10,806		£10,806
	Expenses:			
-£2,376	Cleaning	-£2,419		-£2,419
-£1,964	Electricity & Water	-£3,686		-£3,686
-£4,634	Repairs & Mtce			£0
-£270	Glebe Rent	-£330		-£330
-£298	Sound System			
-£829	Insurance	-£850		-£850
-£59	Sundry			£0
-£320		**£3,521**		**£3,521**
	Note 5: Millfields			
	The PCC owns the curates house at 40 Millfields, purchased in 1989 for £92,000			
	The capital value is restricted to the clergy fund; net operating surplus /deficit is General Fund			
£13,200	Net Rental Income	£13,600		£13,600
-£355	Insurance	-£387		-£387
-£102	Maintenance			
£12,743		**£13,213**		**£13,213**
	Note 6: Other Income			
£2,591	Interest (CCLA)	£4,524		£4,524
£0	Legacy - Clive Willey	£10,000		£10,000
£2,014	Other Donations/Bequests	£500		£500
£185	CoOp Card	£188		£188
£317	Other Income	£43		£43
£480	CAF	£480		£480
£230	Landisdale Charity	£90	£90	
£1,844	Rectory Car Park Income	£2,278		£2,278
£7,661		**£18,103**	**£90**	**£18,013**
	Note 7 : Grants to Charities			
	Friends of Essex Churches	-£1,100	2023 cheque presented in 2024	-£1,100
-£550	CHESS	-£550		-£550
-£550	World Vision	-£550		-£550
-£550	Safer Places	-£550		-£550
-£550	Quantock Christian Trust	-£550		-£550
-£154	DEC			
-£100	Danbury Parish Council	-£100		-£100
-£92	Essex Wildlife	-£66		-£66
-£90	RBL Poppy Appeal	-£100		-£100
-£380	The Childrens' Society (Christingle)	-£422		-£422
-£3,016		**-£3,988**		**-£3,988**

Parochial Church Council of Danbury St John the Baptist
Financial Statements for the year ended December 31st 2024

2023		2024 Total	Restricted	Unrestricted
	Note 8 : Other Church Expenses			
-£3,318	Insurance	-£3,389		-£3,389
-£2,401	Gas	-£2,728		-£2,728
-£1,202	Electricity/Water/Waste	-£2,157		-£2,157
-£728	Daisy. Telephone and WiFi	-£821		-£821
-£498	Maintenance	-£1,606		-£1,606
-£6,750	Surveys	-£2,698		-£2,698
	New Piano	-£7,537		-£7,537
-£1,377	Organ & Choir	-£2,222		-£2,222
-£317	Altar			
-£241	Bank Charges	-£339		-£339
-£763	Clergy Expenses	-£163		-£163
-£3,111	Churchyard & Green	-£660		-£660
-£5,805	Secretarial	-£5,811		-£5,811
-£637	Church Flowers	-£784		-£784
	Boiler Repairs	-£4,877		-£4,877
	New Sign	-£672		-£672
	Gazebos	-£672		-£672
-£1,093	Majumber Bench	£0		
-£8,010	Replacement Sound System	£0		
-£758	Glebe Rent Expenses	£0		
-£2,683	All Other	-£3,103		-£3,103
-£39,692		**-£40,237**	**£0**	**-£40,237**
	Note 9: Events Committee			
1728	Summer Fayre/Flower Festival	£4,772		£4,772
£672	Tree Festival/Crib Festival	£1,400		£1,400
£4,345	Concerts & Events	£7,376		£7,376
£6,745		**£13,549**		**£13,549**
	Note 10: Cash on Deposit			
£85,226	Deposit A/C Cent Bd of Finance	£99,750		
£10,934	Current A/C Barclays	£8,671		£8,671
£96,160		**£108,421**	**£0**	**£8,671**

The final quarter's interest was paid on 3rd January 2025

Note 11: Liablities
The accounts are now prepared on a 'Receipts and Payments' basis.
There are no significant liabilities, most of the meeting room payments relating to 2025 arrived in January.
Utility payments are paid by monthly direct debits.

Parochial Church Council of Danbury St John the Baptist
Financial Statements for the year ended December 31st 2024

Note 12: Funds

	At Jan 1 2024	Income	During 2024 Exp	At Dec 31 2024
Endowmnent Funds				
Wigan Grave	£6,580			£6,580
Turner Gift	£1,024			£1,024
Sub Total Endowment	**£7,604**			**£7,604**
Restricted Funds				
Church Building & land	£33,346			£33,346
Village Friends	£37,430	£2,942		£40,372
Other Resticted Transactions	£2,691	£1,225		£3,916
Sub Total	**£81,071**	**£4,167**	**£0**	**£85,238**
Clergy Housing Fund	£92,000			£92,000
Total Restricted Funds	**£173,071**	**£4,167**	**£0**	**£177,238**
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	£8,465	£116,657	-£108,563	£16,560
Church Building & land	£6,624			£6,624
Total Unrestricted	**£15,089**	**£116,657**	**-£108,563**	**£23,184**
Total: All Funds	**£188,160**	**£120,825**	**-£108,563**	**£200,422**

TRUSTS: WIGAN GRAVE & TURNER GIFT. In 2017 at the instigation of Chelmsord Diocese, the PCC applied to have the capital in these trusts tranferred from the Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance to the PCC. Sums of £3700.71 (Wigan Grave) and £705.20 (turner Gift) were transferred n Aril 2017 and were include as income in the 2017 accounts.
WIGAN GRAVE: The capital sum (originally donated in 1966 by Aline Wigan, widow of Brigadier General J T Wigan) is now held by the PCC. It is for the maintenance of the Church & churchyard so long as the Wigan Grave is kept in good order and repair.
TURNER GIFT: capital sum is for the upkeep of fabric or internal adornment of the Church or any special object relating therto which may require the raising of special funds; not for ordinary church expenses. The decision as to manner of use is with the Rector and churchwardens.

Church building/land: private donation, bequests, gifts (inc fund raising) given or raised specifically for the purpose

Village Friends: During 2014 the Rector wrote to alll households in the parish requesting financial support. The resulting income, much of which is in the form of PGS Direct Debits, which are ongoing into the future, is to be used exclusively for the maintenance and restoration of the Church building.

Other specific grants and donations that have been used for the purpose given. Danbury Parish Council & War Graves Commission (Churchyard), special collections etc

Clergy Housing Fund: Represents value of the curates house at 40 Millfields at purchase in 1989

Independent Examiner's Report

To the PCC of Danbury St John the Baptist

I report on the attached accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 4.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner:

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act)
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145 (5)(b) of the Act and
- State whether any particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act and
   - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

   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.

Recoverable Signature

X

Michael Ovenden
15 King's Tower, Marconi Plaza, Chelmsford
Signed by: Michael Ovenden

7 February 2025

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DANBURY ST JOHN BAPT

England & Wales - Charity number 1130296

Accounts

ST JOHN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

PARISH CHURCH OF
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, DANBURY

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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE Revd Canon Jacqui Jones

CHURCHWARDENS Vacancy

AUTHORISED LOCAL PREACHERS Jenny Molyneux-Berry & Janet Arthurs

TREASURER Alan Dixon

PARISH SECRETARY Nicola Telling

PCC SECRETARY Vacancy

DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES
Steve Arthurs & Alex Cooper

MMU COMPASS CHURCHES REPRESENTATIVE
Alex Cooper

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Alex Cooper	Paul Walton
Alison Cooper	Stephen Farrow
Jonathan Telling	Steve Arthurs

BANKERS
Barclays Bank plc, 40/41 High Street, Chelmsford
Sort 20-19-95 Account 90982571

LEGAL ADVISOR
Diocesan Registrar, 53, New St., Chelmsford

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER
Mr Michael Ovendon, 10 Hyde Lane, Danbury

REGISTERED CHARITY NO.
1130296

The full PCC meets monthly accept for August. Ad hoc PCC meetings are called when necessary. On most occasions a representative from St Mary's Little Baddow has been in attendance. Agendas over the last twelve months have been full and varied and minutes are available to be viewed any time upon request.

Baptisms: 9
Marriages: 4 couples
Funerals in church or at crematorium: 28
Interments of ashes: 11

Report compiled by Alex Cooper, thanks to all contributors

Authorised Local Preachers

Over 10 years ago we were authorised as Local Preachers by the Diocese following a period of training. That authority has been periodically renewed with the support of the Priest and PCC.
Since the last Annual Report, we have preached at both Eucharist services and Services of the Word a total of 17 times. That includes preaching and leading Services of the Word at All Saints, the parish church of East Hanningfield at the request of the Area Dean whilst that church is in vacancy.
We have also led Café Praise services and given 12 talks at those services which are referred to in a separate report.
The Diocese emphasises that Authorised Local Preachers are part of the preaching ministry within the church. We are very pleased to be able to exercise this ministry with the encouragement of Revd Jacqui at both Eucharist and non-Eucharist services.
We attend Preacher Training Courses and Safeguarding courses as and when required by the Diocese either in person or online.
A sermon at any service would usually be based upon the lectionary readings, and in preparation we pray that our words have meaning according to God's word. We endeavour to give those who hear us some food for thought for the week ahead, or for discussion in Café Praise, and encouragement in faith.
This year we are leading a Lent study group and there is a separate report on this. In all this work we are grateful for the support and encouragement of Revd Jacqui, Paul Hagger, PCC and the congregation.

- Jennifer Molyneux-Berry and Janet Arthurs

Bellringers

Practices now start at 6,30pm for the beginners with more advanced ringers arriving at 7.30pm. There have also been silent practices during the week for members to learn to pull bells up and let them down

January was the funeral of Tom Roast, a former Danbury person who had learnt to ring at Danbury but had moved to Norwich the bells were rung by the locals and visiting ringers who knew him well.

The use of the bells was not requested for the Course but they were for the Training Day when a Quarter Peal was attempted. There were 18 ringers in the Belfry on Saturday 6 May to celebrate the coronation of King Charles 3rd. – each ringer was given a badge in commemoration of the occasion.

There were several groups of visiting ringers during the year, one notable one was the Railway Drivers Union who had hired the 1942 Lodges coach from Chelmsford and were then worried if it would be able to get up the hill at Danbury.

Thanks to Ann and Caroline for meeting visitors and opening the Tower

The tower was open for the fete celebrating the Patronal Festival on Saturday 24 June 2023 – the weather was fine and trips up the tower were very popular.

Over the years an advanced practice has been held at Terling every month, this year it was distributed at towers around the District and was hosted by Danbury 3 times.

Danbury was requested to host the Carol Service on Saturday 9 December, the Service Sheet was compiled by Rev Jacqui who also took the Service – the organist was Paul Hagger and refreshments were served by the Church Ladies.

During the year there were 3 Quarter Peals rung on the bells, 2 Peals and two handbell peals, which both included Ann Roder, congratulations on her first two quarters on handbells.

Ringing over the Christmas period was for the midnight service and Christmas Day morning.

REPORT FROM THE RINGING MASTER:

Service ringing had been possible on the vast majority of occasions, which is especially pleasing given that Revd Jacqui is so supportive of the ringing. Practises are also well supported, but even when a lot of people are away, it is usually possible to achieve something productive . Those who started learning at the time of "Ringing Remembers" campaign can now help out with the more recent "ring for the King" cohort, hopefully giving them a sense of how much they have achieved.

Everyone is making progress in one way or another, whether handling, call change ringing and calling, or method ringing, and contributing to practice or service ringing that is often impressive. Some of our newer ringers have got involved in the wider ringing community (e.g. Ann Roder taking advantage to ring her first quarter peal on tower and in hand during 2023). The Band as a whole are making progress with method ringing, and the ringers seem to gel in a way that there is more to ringing than just the ringing

- Sue Spurgeon – Secretary & Mike Ovenden - Ringing Master

Café Praise

Our Café Praise services are back in full swing taking place in the Meeting Room, usually, but not always, on the 4th Sunday of each month. June, being Patronal Festival, there was a Eucharist instead of Café Praise, but otherwise there has been a service each month.

Regulars will know that this is an informal service with tea/coffee, cakes or sometimes bacon rolls being served. The joy of the service is that people can sit around a table facing others, keeping up with or making new friends, rather than seeing the back of someones's head in the pew in front.

Despite its informality, it is still a Service of the Word including Bible readings, hymns, prayers, a time to reflect on our wrongdoings, a Declaration of faith and talks; all the elements of a church service but with no set liturgy. And there is an added extra – the chance to have a discussion on the readings or the talks. Sitting in small groups, people are not so shy of asking questions or contributing their thoughts, and we love the feedback. We can all learn something from each other.

Although led by one or two of us, other people have contributed to the service by reading, leading prayers and even a little bit of acting. The children, encouraged by Jenny Hagger on the theme of the service, always have a contribution to make, often very imaginative, and enjoy showing us what they have been making before our final prayers.

We are enormously grateful to Paul for the music, Alex for enabling those who cannot attend the service to join us by zoom, and all the numerous people, particularly the Hagger and Cooper families, who prepare the room and make refreshments. Café Praise is very much a team effort, and it wouldn't happen without them.

Being a varied service, not always led by the same people, no two services are the same, and it is flexible enough to be open to new ideas. So if you would like to share any thoughts on what you would like to see included, or what you don't think works, please come and tell us so we can consider any changes. And if you would like to contribute, don't be shy, it's a people led service and we would love to hear from you.

- Janet Arthurs, Jenny Molyneux-Berry, Alex Cooper

Chalice and Serving Ministry

The heading of this report is now something of a misnomer as we have not reverted to a shared chalice since Covid, and I do not know if or when we ever shall. But the ministry is as important as ever.

Just before Covid struck several new volunteers came forward to become chalice assistants. So it must be frustrating and disappointing that they cannot now do the work for which they volunteered.

However, there is a place for you! Please, please, consider coming forward to be a server at our Eucharist services. With at least 3 Eucharist services a month, plus special Eucharist services at eg Maundy Thursday, Patronal Festival, the need for more servers is greater than ever before.

My heartfelt thanks go to Brian, David and Samantha who serve at the 0930 services, and to Barbara and Sheila who serve at the Thursday services. However, none of us is getting any younger, and there will come a day when one or more of us are unable to serve. Even now, it is very difficult when it comes to holidays or other commitments to be able to cover all the services, so we desperately need more people to share this ministry.

I have asked nicely, and I have asked bluntly, for more volunteers, and I do not know how long the few of us can keep going. It is really not difficult. Indeed it is a privilege to take part in the service from a different viewpoint and support the Priest in giving communion. Like any new skill, it just needs a bit of training and practice. If you are at all interested, I would welcome anyone to sit with me when I serve to see what it entails.

You would not need to serve alone unless and until you felt confident to do so, and would receive every encouragement from Revd Jacqui and the existing servers.

If you are feeling a whisper of God in your ear calling you to volunteer, please come and have a chat with me at any time, absolutely without obligation!

- Janet Arthurs - Sacristan

Charity Giving

In April 2015 Anne Alderton and Michael Green put a paper to St John the Baptist PCC looking at the outcomes of a Review of Grants to Charities at that time.

A small committee, made up of PCC members and congregation members, formed a Charity Giving Committee under the chairmanship of Anne Alderton. The purpose being to look at those charities receiving funds from the Church and whether they were still appropriate or whether there would be others more deserving.

The chairmanship was taken over by Rev Clive Ashley, after the sad death of Anne Alderton, and the committee continued to meet to draft a Policy document. The main theme of this document was as follows:

- The appointment of a Charity Sub-Committee
- A long term commitment to give a sum equivalent to 8% of budgeted total of stewardship income
- All donations would be published by the PCC and made known/available to the congregation
- Will endeavour to support charities with a declared Christian foundation
- Monies will be distributed to the chosen charities at the same point in the year
- There will be an annual review of our six chosen charities

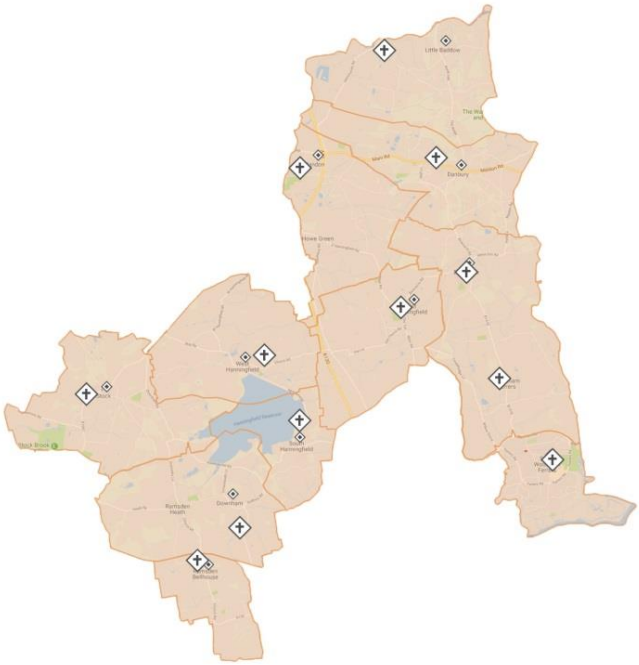
This policy was finally agreed at the PCC meeting in September 2016.

The Charity Sub-Committee was reconvened in early 2018 when Sylvia Beckett took over the chairmanship after the departure of Rev Clive Ashley. The 'review' for the year, 2020/21, has taken place and the sub-committee decided that the following charities would receive the funding – equal payments have been offered to…..

- Friends of Essex Churches
- C.H.E.S.S.
- World Vision
- Janet Muhindo
- St John's Discretionary Fund … will be replaced as it is used throughout the period
- Safer Places (the care of men and woman at risk)

- Sylvia Beckett

Compass Churches

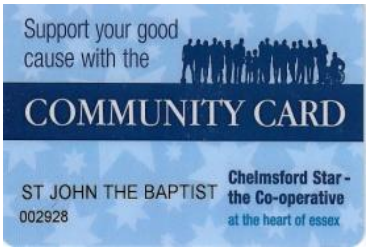


Compass Churches is made up of Little Baddow, St Mary the Virgin, Danbury, St John the Baptist, Sandon, St Andrew, East Hanningfield, All Saints, Bicknacre, St Andrew, Woodham Ferrers, St Mary the Virgin, South Woodham Ferrers, Holy Trinity, Stock Harvard, All Saints, West Hanningfield, St Mary & St Edward, Downham, St Margaret, South Hanningfield, St Peter and Ramsden Bellhouse, St Mary the Virgin.

Since being commissioned in 2018, we have continued to have quarterly meetings to discuss ways we can move our faith forwards together. The weekly morning services on Thursdays have continued online via zoom. For details of events at the churches and services we hold together, please visit www.compasschurches.org.uk

- Alex Cooper

Coop Community Cards



The Chelmsford Star Community Card continues to provide the church with funds which accrue each time we produce our card in local Star Coop stores or in the Quadrant store in Chelmsford High Street.
It is such an easy way to help the church.
Unfortunately the Coop are not issuing any new cards so if you have a card but are not using it please pass on to someone who will use it or give it back to me.
But DO please continue to use the card as much as you can whilst it is still possible to do so.

- Sue Ferguson

Events

6th May – Screening of the Coronation of King Charles in Church with Fizz and nibbles.

24th June – Open Tower and Summer Fayre. Great views from the tower this year, a bit windy but enjoyable. Thanks to all who helped in the tower and with the stalls and refreshments.

15th July – Church Family BBQ was enjoyed in the sunshine

21st October – the postponed concert (from COVID times) given by the Chelmsford Male Voice Choir took place and the music was greatly appreciated by all. Our thanks to all who helped make the event a success.

9th – 10th December - The Christmas Tree Festival was a success with most of the trees finding good homes after the event! Father Christmas made a visit and children young and old made Christmas tree decorations in the meeting room. My thanks go to all the sponsors, stewards and caterers who made this event possible.

Events planned for this year are:
Monthly Lunchtime concerts, see Music Report.

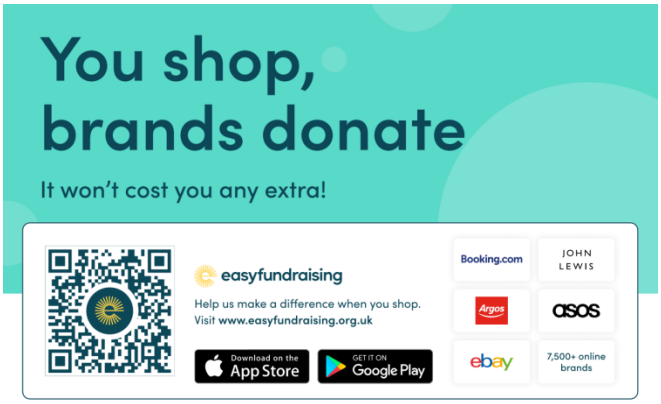
21st – 24th June	Flower Festival – The Beauty of the Earth.
12th July	Church Family BBQ.
13th July	Open Tower and Teas.
21st September	Not the Last Knight (of the Proms).
7th December	Crib Festival.

Next year (2025) – December - Christmas Tree Festival.

If you would like to organise an event for our Church please let me know.
(Please se e me after a church service or email: alisonjcooper@aol.com or mobile: 07968796805)

- Alison Cooper

Easy Fundraising



Can I remind you that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations for Danbury St John Baptist Church with Easyfundraising.
There are over 4,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds.
All you need to do is:

1. Go to: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/danburystjb and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to Danbury St John Baptist Church at no extra cost to you whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Danbury St John Baptist Church will be really grateful for your donations.

- Sue Ferguson

Flowers

Our team of arrangers are all involved in our upcoming flower festival taking place the weekend of 21st - 24th June. St John's church presents 'Beauty of the Earth' inspired by the popular hymn 'For the Beauty of the Earth' & all aspects of our planet that we love & wish to celebrate & protect. Thanks so much to Joan Graham for coordinating this year, to Sue Daniels for support & assistance with the production, & to Sylvia Beckett for marketing. Huge appreciation too to all arrangers & sponsors, & those involved in catering & stewarding over the weekend. It is a team effort! We look forward to welcoming you.

- Suzanne Gaywood

Health & Safety

Our safety record continues to be excellent, with no reported accidents. Though crossed fingers are most inappropriate. It's down to the hard work of everyone in our Church teams, who plan services and events to avoid risks to those attending.
When a change is made to the way that we used our church and its buildings a review of risk is carried-out. Where new risks are identified, a full risk assessment if carried-out, recorded and communicated to those involved in the activity.
Of equal improtence are our volunteers', sidesmen, stewards, and helpers who keep our congregations safe throughout the year. Their period of greatest worry is Christmas when several very busy services are taking place, some by candlelight. This requires extra vigilance and care to ensure the safety of the increased congregation in low light conditions and the safety of our very flammable building. We are assisted in this by our now extensive library of Risk Assessments which catalogue the risks and list measures to mitigate and reduce the risks and list measures to mitigate and reduce the hazards, but we are still reliant on our people to keep us safe.

The use of the Meeting Room increased again during the last year, and we now have village organisations and Church sponsored groups using the room for meals and refreshments every week. All users of the Meeting Room have been provided with guidance on the use of the facilities and means of avoiding risk. The Meeting Room now contains extensive video presentation and media equipment, all with comprehensive instructions on how to use it safely
St. John's Health and Safety Policy is reviewed, updated, and approved by the PCC each year, the policy aims to be user friendly and not prescriptive, keeping it up to date and relevant needs much thought and research.
Our insurers also have input into our Health and Safety policies and procedures. This year they have insisted that we increase the frequency of our inspections of the permanent electrical equipment, and Lightning protection provision. All of these inspections require time to organise and cost money. We always comply and our inspection regime is up to date and in compliance with all insurance, statutory and regulatory requirements.

We continue our quarterly inspections and checks of safety equipment, lighting and access routes continue. These ensure our safety systems are in place and capable of use in an emergency.
Since the end of covid the use of our church and meeting room has increased. Our very successful monthly concerts and community lunches bring a lot more people into our buildings and add to the work needed to maintain the premises. Anyone who would like to help out will be most welcome.

Let's make 2024 another safe, happy, and enjoyable year.

- Stephen Arthurs

Landisdale Almshouse and Unknown Donor Charity

The Almshouses on Church Green in the heart of Danbury continue to offer shelter and good quality housing to the needy of the parish. These familiar homes are owned and maintained by the Landisdale Trust. The Trust built and has maintained the Almshouses on Church Green. Since 1313 when John and Margaret Landisdale gave forty-two and a half acres of land in Danbury, Purleigh and Woodham Walter "for the relief of the poor and the repair of the church". The Charity has continued to provide help for the needy of Danbury. Our constitution requires that only long-term residents of Danbury qualify for this housing.

Part of the above bequest was land off Maldon Road adjacent to Littlefields known as Sandpit Field. Based on local need we would like to provide a further 10 Almshouses on Sandpit Field. Only a small part of the area will be used, leaving the remainder for open space and agricultural use. We hope the proposal will be included in the forthcoming 'Danbury Neighbourhood Plan'. Our proposal was well received by the village when it was included in the Danbury Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire four years ago. The plan is due to be published to the whole village for its approval and comment this year before it can formally be put forward for adoption.

The Trust welcomes applications from people who have been a Danbury resident for at least 10 years and who are in need of somewhere to live. Please apply to the address below.

The charity also owns and lets allotments on Ludgores Lane. These are used by many local residents to grow flowers for home and to enhance their fresh food provision. Each year half of the small annual rental income from the allotments is donated for the maintenance of St. Johns.

The incumbent of St. John the Baptist, Danbury, is always invited to sit on the board of trustees. All of whom are local people who try to provide and service to the village. We are looking for interested local people who would like to become Trustees. There are only four meeting a year where decisions on budget and aims are decided.

The address of the Clerk to the charity is:
The Clerk to the Charity.,
Danbury Landisdale Charity,
P. O. Box 933,
Colchester.
Essex. CO3 3TQ.

- Alison Cooper and Stephen Arthurs

Ladies Who Lunch

We meet once a month on the 2nd Thursday, and usually we go to The Bell in Woodham Walter. Not so many ladies came this year, an average of 7.
Any ladies are welcome to join us.

- Ann Poulard

Lent Group

With the generous hospitality of Tiggy Farrow, hosting the group in her home, we are currently leading a Lent group of 12 people over a period of 6 weeks. With a weekly commitment, it is not surprising that not everyone can attend every week, but when people have been unable to attend, they have still been able to read the book and thus "catch up" with discussions.
The book guiding our discussions this year is written by Bishop Guli, which adds an extra interest to the theme of the book "Cries for a lost Homeland." She describes the book as Reflections on Jesus' sayings from the cross, which indeed it is, but it has also enabled us to get to know our Bishop better. Each chapter gives much food for thought.
Meetings begin and end in prayer, and each week we have looked at a different chapter, the book conveniently having 6 chapters, with chapters 6 and 7 rolled into one. This has enabled us to focus on a different aspect each week and we have enjoyed exchanging thoughts and ideas in a relaxed way that has meant we can all learn from each other.
Taking part in the Lent group has enabled all of us, including ourselves to address our doubts and uncertainties without fear of embarrassment or lack of knowledge. So that at the end of each meeting we feel enriched for the hour or so spent with each other in discussing our faith.

- Jennifer Molyneux-Berry and Janet Arthurs

Livestreaming Services

As Over the past few years, St John's Church has embraced livestreaming as a means to extend its reach beyond physical boundaries, especially amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In March 2020, the closure of physical church spaces due to the pandemic presented St John's with an unprecedented challenge. As church's are deeply rooted in community engagement, the abrupt shift forced us to explore alternative ways to connect with our congregation. Initial efforts involved simple video recordings of sermons, gradually progressing towards more sophisticated remote services featuring live audio and music recordings.

Despite initial struggles and setbacks, St John's persevered in its commitment to fostering spiritual connection amidst adversity. The journey was marked by trial and error, with periods of experimentation and adjustment. Notably, the congregation endured months of limited attendance, with only a handful of individuals physically present in the church on Sunday mornings. However, through unwavering dedication and resilience, we overcame challenges and continuously improved our livestreaming capabilities.

Livestreaming enabled St John's to transcend physical barriers and cultivate a sense of community beyond the confines of the church building. Through platforms like YouTube, Zoom, and social media, congregants could participate in services remotely, fostering a spirit of inclusivity and fellowship. Special services, such as Café Praise, leveraged interactive platforms like Zoom to facilitate meaningful dialogue and engagement.

The livestreaming initiative has yielded promising results, with an average of 45 views per normal Sunday service. Special events, such as the service of lessons and carols and the Remembrance Sunday service, garnered significantly higher viewership, indicating strong engagement from the congregation. These figures underscore the importance of accessible digital platforms in reaching and connecting with our community.

While proud of our progress, St John's remains committed to continuous improvement and innovation. Constructive feedback from congregants is encouraged to enhance the quality and effectiveness of livestreamed services. Recent investments in updated sound systems have further improved the viewing experience, reducing technological barriers and fostering greater immersion in worship. Making café praise zoom services more reliable is our next challenge!

The livestreaming of church services has evolved into a cornerstone of St John's commitment to fostering spiritual connection and community engagement. While initially prompted by the challenges of the pandemic, our embrace of technology has transcended mere necessity, becoming an integral aspect of our ministry. Looking ahead, St John's remains dedicated to leveraging digital platforms to nurture fellowship, deepen spiritual connections, and serve our congregation with excellence, irrespective of external circumstances. Our journey with livestreaming reflects not just adaptation to adversity, but a genuine embrace of innovation and inclusivity in our worship practices.

- Alex Cooper

Meeting Room

The church uses the Meeting Room regularly. Café Praise, after-church coffee, PCC meetings, Compass Churches, and Parish Lunch are all regular fixtures. St John's School has also made use of the building. There are currently 16 repeat and regular users, and there have been 19 family celebrations of various types during the last 12 months.
Additionally, crockery has been well-utilised for Church concerts on Fridays.
The floor has been sanded and polished, the electrics tested and a smart meter installed. We are fortunate to have a regular weekly cleaner who maintains a high standard throughout the building.
On a personal note, after many years as bookings clerk, I feel the time is right to hand over this role. I have enjoyed meeting many people from varying backgrounds over the years and wish my successor the same enjoyment.

- Marian Kingsley

Men's Group

From our annual Burns Night celebration in January to our Pre-Christmas dinner in November St. John's Men's Group Enjoy a monthly evening of good food and good cheer.
The Cricketers Arms in Penny Royal Road continues as our venue and the resident chefs cater to our varied needs and unusual choices.
We try to select our menu a month in advance to give chef a chance to source the necessary ingredients, these decisions are usually friendly discussions, but personal preferences do get an airing. Those who don't fancy our choice can choose from the extensive menu.

Our convivial group meet on the last Thursday of each month (except December) to enjoy good food, good ale, good company and good conversation. We are definitely not polically correct and few subjects are closed from discussion.
Our numbers vary between 6 and 12 and allow comfortable imbibing and lively discussion, ages range between teens and eighties.
All gentlemen of the parish, their friends and guests are made most welcome.

- Stephen Arthurs

Mothers Union

We have 17 members this year, with an average attendance of 13-14 We had a variety of speakers.
David Whiting took us to Egypt, Kevin spoke about the Salvation Army shop in Maldon. Eileen showed us how to arrange flowers very beautifully, and Julie read some of her funny and moving poems. Our outing was a good lunch at Butts Green Nursery, and at our Strawberry Tea we welcomed the MU Diocesan President and her husband who is also a member.
Our monthly Bring and Buy stall raised £170.00 for MU Projects.
We drank many cups of tea and enjoyed several cakes.
A good year, come and join us anytime.

- Ann Poulard

Music Report

Another busy year for the music team. We continue to provide a solid musical offering week by week with a motet most weeks and, of course, our usual closing voluntaries (which are now streamed over YouTube).

Highlights of 2023 included:-

- The continued popularity of our monthly lunchtime concerts on the 2nd Friday of each month. The audience continues to grow and is rarely less than 80 in number and is often nearer to 100. We have had some excellent performances by very talented musicians throughout the year;
- A full and exciting programme of music for Holy Week and Easter, extending across the whole triduum;
- Uplifting music during the celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III in May. There was a service of the word for which we had a sizeable extended choir where a special coronation by Joanna Forbes L'estrange was performed concurrently with many parish churches across the UK and the rest of the world. Jamie Morley added excitement to the music with his trumpet;
- A very full church attending the candlelit service of lessons and carols at Christmas. This service was also live streamed.

I re-iterate that the musical offering at St John's continues to be varied, exciting and professional. However, I do consider that we do need now to try to give focus to developing a youth music offering and I will be trying to take this forward.

As always, we welcome anyone to our friendly choir, so if you have an inclination to sing, then do step forward.

- Paul Hagger, Organist and Director of Music

Prayer Ministry

The Prayer Board which was re-introduced last year and relocated near the Memorial Book has been well used. In addition to individuals who read the board and pray for the requests on the board, the requests are almost always referred to during the Intercessions in the main Sunday Service. An innovation this year has been to add the names of all the children baptised at St Johns over the last 10 years during the current month and these children are prayed for during Intercessions on the first Sunday of each month.

In addition people may request prayers for the sick to be named on the list printed each week in the Pew Leaflet but, if adding a name on someone else's behalf, please ask their permission first. Also on the Pew leaflet are the names of those who have recently died. Please contact Jacqui or one of the wardens if you wish to add a name.

If you are wanting personal face to face private prayer, then please contact Jacqui in the first instance.

- Jenny Molyneux-Berry

Quadrant Trust

Abundant Canon Janet Muhindo is a resident of Kinyamaseke village in South Rwenzori. She was a teacher by profession, clergy by calling.
Having served the Church of Uganda for over twenty years is now retired to this village.
Her latest news reads as follows:
'I bring Christian greetings from South Rwenzori, Kasese. I must tell you that you are ever in my thoughts and prayers. I can never forget your wonderful hospitality offered to me each time I visited, how can I forget what you have done for my vulnerable children, my schools that I once was in charge of. Kasese is hot now with spells of rain here and there. Three of the schools I am chairperson of have done wonderfully well. These are schools we have provided with solar lights, water collection tanks and text books. Bwera Secondary School was the best in the district and the region, and Kisinga Secondary had 16 grades for the first time ever! St. Barnabas model Primary School was the best in the town council! Also, thank you that you have continued sponsoring students in their education. This year we are supporting 8 students; 3 at university level, 3 in secondary schools, and 2 in tertiary colleges. Your support has given them hope and trust in the Lord.
You might be aware that it is not long ago when terrorists entered Uganda and brutally killed over 50 people on different days. The first at a school 3 miles away from where I live! Then an English couple were murdered near Queen Elizabeth National Park, about 4 miles away from me. The British Foreign Travel does not advice travelling to my district so Rosie was unable to visit my area. So I have been chasing after her. We were able to meet up at Mbarara and I was able to travel the 400km to meet her in Kampala. I thank you so much for putting a smile on my face but also touching Gods heart. Give my love to anyone who asks of me.'
Janet Muhindo

Rosie is the representative for the Church of Uganda Chidrens Ministry in the UK and visits Ugamda and is in regular touch with Janet.
Rosie says Janet is not strong, her diabetes is playing up and while she was visiting Uganda, Janet was suffering from Sciatica and thus was not able to walk far. Please do pray for her!

- Sue Ferguson

Safeguarding

There were no reported safeguarding incidents this year.
The Church of England takes safeguarding seriously and we have a diocesan safeguarding officer see: https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-contacts
The Diocese of Chelmsford is committed, as part of the Christian Church living in the spirit of the Gospel, to protect and care for everyone and aims to be a beacon of best practice in safeguarding. Looking the other way is not an option.

- Ensuring that its volunteers, clergy, advisers and lay people achieve the standards laid down in the Safeguarding Policies of the Church of England.
- Working with individuals who have criminal convictions, or where other safeguarding risks are identified, to ensure that they, and all members of the church community are safeguarded.
- Holding to account all persons responsible for the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults in the Diocese.

I have completed my Parish Safeguarding course on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and nearly completed my Safeguarding Leadership. I hope to set up some training sessions for anyone interested in basic safeguarding on a Saturday in the meeting room later this year.

- Alison Cooper

Sunday Children's Club

Our Children's' Club continues to be well supported by a core group of children and and their guardians on the 2nd Sunday of the month. We also make a similar provision at the Café Praise service on the 4th Sunday of the month. On the 2nd Sunday the children now meet in church in order that they can be more of a part of the service with the adults. The children do enjoy this.
If you want to join our worship but are concerned about keeping your children occupied, then do come along to the club. If you know of anyone with children that might be interested, then do invite them along. Everybody is welcome!

- Jenny Hagger

Tea and coffee

Our small group of volunteers continue to provide refreshments after the main Sunday service each week. We have recently made a sizeable donation to church funds as a result of what we have collected in donations.
As always, we are pleased to welcome new volunteers onto the rota. The current group remains very small. Please do come forward and help out if you can.

- Jenny Hagger

World Vision

As a church family we continue to sponsor children through the charity World Vision. Over the last 26 years we've sponsored 12 children from different countries including Ethiopia, Niger, Zimbabwe, India, Nepal, Mozambique & Malawi, wherever there's been a need for development & education. Thanks to our PCC & Charity Giving group for kind support & annual gifts to the children & their communities. At the end of last year we sent £550 to be divided between Jiyaul in Nepal, Falancia in Mozambique & Glory in Malawi. We look forward to hearing from them with photos of their gifts.

- Suzanne Gaywood

List of Sidespeople

Clare Collier
John Douthwaite
Steve Farrow
Tiggy Farrow
Ana Gil
Jean Hunt
Rachel Perry
Ann Richardson
Nicola Telling

[updated March 2024]

DEANERY SYNOD (CHELMSFORD DEANERY)

The Chelmsford Deanery Synod serves as a vital platform for communication, collaboration, and decision-making among the diverse array of churches within its boundaries. Over the past few years, the Synod has undergone significant changes, including expansions in membership and renewed focus on key issues facing the community.

Membership and Functioning:
Chelmsford Deanery comprises a dynamic mix of churches, with varying denominational affiliations and worship traditions. The precise number of member churches may fluctuate (as some churches within the group combine), but the Deanery continues to function effectively, facilitating robust communication and engagement.

Meetings and Engagement:
The Synod convenes four times a year at different parishes across the Deanery, fostering opportunities for interchurch dialogue and collaboration. These gatherings serve as invaluable forums for sharing insights, exchanging ideas, and exploring new directions for Christian ministry. Speakers at each meeting contribute fresh perspectives and encourage reflection on pertinent issues facing the community.

Representation and Leadership:
The appointment of representatives to the Deanery Synod, including lay representatives and clergy, remains a pivotal aspect of church governance. St. John's Church is represented by Revd Canon Jacqui Jones, Steve Arthurs and Alex Cooper. New volunteers are always welcomed.

Financial Stewardship and Transparency:
Deanery Synod, in collaboration with Mission and Ministry Units (MMUs), oversees the apportionment of Parish Share - how churches pay for and clergy (past in pensions, present in clergy salary and future in training) and the administration within the Deanery, Diocese and national Church. Efforts are underway to ensure fairness and transparency in the apportionment process, reflecting a commitment to equitable financial stewardship and mutual support among congregations. The new formula is currently in its second year and has had some snags but is improving.

Community Engagement and Outreach:
Beyond administrative functions, Deanery Synod actively engages with charitable organizations, missionary initiatives, and community development projects. These interactions provide valuable insights into local needs and opportunities for collaborative outreach, demonstrating the Synod's commitment to holistic ministry and social justice.

The Chelmsford Deanery Synod stands as a vibrant expression of unity and collaboration among diverse churches, committed to advancing the Kingdom of God in their communities. Through shared dialogue, strategic planning, and inclusive leadership, the Synod continues to navigate challenges and look for opportunities for growth and transformation. As we look to the future, the Synod remains steadfast in its mission to nurture faith, foster community, and extend God's love to all.

- Alex Cooper

FABRIC

Maintenance Last year we realised that we need the assistance of a specialist Architect. The PCC started on a quest to find the most appropriate candidate from a list of qualified Architects supplied by the Diocesan Advisory Committee. We hope that this can be completed in the spring.

During 2023 we were able to carry-out not just the usual round of regular maintenance issues, but also move forward with the surveys needed to enable decisions to be made regarding the longstanding and very costly remediation of woodwork in both the church main roof and the spire. The rope access survey in the spire took 3 men 5 days and has produced a comprehensive report. These surveys will enable our Structural Engineer and Architect to decide what work is necessary to preserve the antient building.

Our annual Church Workday on 27th May was very productive and was enjoyed by all. The amount of work done is always gratifying to those taking part and rewarding to the upkeep of our grounds and buildings. Our reliable roofer Lee Gamon carried-out some repairs to the church and meeting room roofs to keep both rain and squirrels from damaging our buildings.
There remains some Quinquennial work that we know of and hope to complete next year before our next mandated inspection in 2025. Remounting the gutter above the boiler room, is a quinquennial item, but new work is continually raising its head, we need to investigate voided plaster in the south nave. We may save some of this for advice from our new Architect when he is appointed.

Our insurers (Ecclesiastical Insurance) have required some additional checks on our electrical installations and lightning protection, shortening our periodical inspections from every 10 years to every 5 years. We have complied and all our inspection certification is up to date. Finding qualified specialists to carry-out these tests gets increasingly difficult and expensive. Our electrical inspection in 2023 cost over £1,100 and took 3 days to complete.
The annual heating system inspection and servicing revealed that our boiler is getting more difficult to maintain and will need expensive repairs next year.

The floor in the meeting room as been sanded and sealed. It now looks much better and can be more easily cleaned.

The new sound system in church has greatly improved our ability to hear words and music. It also broadcasts our weekly services over the internet. Alex continues to improve the broadcast facilities in both the church and the audio-visual equipment in the meeting room (a facility greatly enjoyed by our various meeting room users).

Churchyard Volunteer Team:
Every Wednesday morning, our Churchyard Volunteer Team takes care of the open spaces and hedges. They have enjoyed the use of a new tractor mower last year after the previous one mowed its last. The team greatly miss their 'Colonel in Chief' Clive Willey who died in December. The team soldier on and achieve excellent results while having good fun doing it. On a recent Archdeacons Visitation, our new Archdeacon the Venerable Jonathan Croucher complimented us on the excellent condition of our churchyard. Anyone with an hour to spare is welcome to join the team.

Faculty Applications:
None

Future Improvements:
Restoring the clock and renovating its face is a major task but is not currently within our financial capacity and will have to be postponed for the time being.
We may well face the cost of a new boiler in 2024 and the dreaded woodworm hasn't gone away.

- Steve Arthurs, Fabric Officer

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Independent Examiner's Report

To the PCC of Danbury St John the Baptist

I report on the attached accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 4.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner:

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act)
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145 (5)(b) of the Act and
- State whether any particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act and
   - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

   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.

7 March 2024

Michael Ovenden
10 Hyde Lane
Danbury

Parochial Church Council of Danbury St John the Baptist
Financial Statements for the year ended December 31st 2023

2022	Statement of Financial Activities	Note	2023 Total	Restricted	Unrestricted
	Income				
£49,443	Planned Giving, collections etc	1	£51,031		£51,031
£3,500	Village Friends	2	£3,193	£3,193	
£6,039	Events	9	£6,930		£6,930
£1,560	Grants Received	3	£60	£60	
£9,518	Fees		£10,728		£10,728
£9,990	Meeting Room Income	4	£10,110		£10,110
£13,200	40 Millfields - Rental Income	5	£13,200		£13,200
£3,294	Garden of Remembrance		£2,200		£2,200
£18,500	All Other Income	6	£7,476	£230	£7,246
£115,044			**£104,928**	**£3,483**	**£101,445**
	Expenditure				
-£2,561	Grants to Charities	7	-£3,016		-£3,016
-58662	Parish Share		-£54,450		-£54,450
-£6,082	Meeting Room Expenses	4	-£10,431		-£10,431
-457	40 Millfields Expenses	5	-£432		-£432
-£1,338	Garden of Remembrance		-£1,051		-£1,051
-£25,133	Other Church Expenses	8	-£39,690	-£6,028	-£33,662
-£94,233			**-£109,071**	**-£6,028**	**-£103,042**
£20,811	Net Surplus/Deficit		-£4,143	-£2,545	-£1,598
	Balance Sheet				
	Net Assets				
£100,303	Cash at Bank and on deposit	10	£96,160	£81,071	£15,089
£92,000	Property, 40 Millfields	5	£92,000	£92,000	
£192,303	**Total Net Assets**		**£188,160**	**£173,071**	**£15,089**
	Funds				
7604	Endowment Funds	12	£7,604	£7,604	
76012	Restricted - Other	12	£73,467	£73,467	
16687	Unrestricted funds	12	£15,089		£15,089
100303	Total Cash funds		**£96,160**	**£81,071**	**£15,089**
92000	Restricted - Clergy Housing	12	£92,000	£92,000	
£192,303	Total funds	12	**£188,160**	**£173,071**	**£15,089**

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on March 11th 2024
and signed on its behalf by:

Jacqueline D Jones.

Canon Jacqui Jones (Chairman)

Alan Dixon (Treasurer)

Parochial Church Council of Danbury St John the Baptist
Financial Statements for the year ended December 31st 2023

2022 Total	Statement of Financial Activities	2023 Total	Restricted	Unrestricted
	Note 1: Planned Giving, collections etc			
£42,625	Parish Giving Scheme	£41,994		£41,994
£1,766	Non PGS	£1,846		£1,846
	Gift Aid	£2,590		£2,590
£0	SumUp	£898		£898
£5,052	General Collections	£3,703		£3,703
£49,443		**£51,031**		**£51,031**
	Note 2: Village Friends			
£3,500	Parish Giving Scheme	£3,193	£3,193	
	Note3: Grants			
£1,500	Danbury Parish Council: Churchyard			
£60	War Graves Commission: Churchyard	£60	£60	
£1,560		**£60**	**£60**	
	Note 4: Meeting Room			
£9,990	Fees from Letting	£10,110		£10,110
	Expenses:			
-£1,816	Cleaning	-£2,376		-£2,376
-£2,297	Electricity & Water	-£1,964		-£1,964
-£66	Repairs & Mtce	-£4,634		-£4,634
-£330	Glebe Rent	-£270		-£270
	Sound System	-£298		-£298
-£786	Insurance	-£829		-£829
-£787	Sundry	-£59		-£59
£3,908		**-£321**		**-£321**
	Note 5: Millfields			
	The PCC owns the curates house at 40 Millfields, purchased in 1989 for £92,000			
	The capital value is restricted to the clergy fund; net operating surplus /deficit is General Fund			
£13,200	Net Rental Income	£13,200		£13,200
-£355	Insurance	-£382		-£382
-£102	Maintenance	-£50		-£50
£12,743		**£12,768**		**£12,768**
	Note 6: Other Income			
£813	Interest (CCLA)	£2,591		£2,591
£10,000	Donation - Sound System			
£1,350	Donation - Majumdar bench			
£2,615	Other Donations/Bequests	£2,014		£2,014
£1,283	SumUp (Now Included In Note 1)			
£132	Wall Safe (Now Included In Note 1)			
	Other Income	£317		£317
	CAF	£480		£480
£165	Landisdale Charity	£230	£230	£0
£2,142	Rectory Car Park Income	£1,844		£1,844
£18,500		**£7,476**	**£230**	**£7,246**
	Note 7 : Grants to Charities			
-£550	Friends of Essex Churches	cheque presented in 2024		
-£550	CHESS	-£550		-£550
-£550	World Vision	-£550		-£550
-£550	Safer Places	-£550		-£550
-£550	Quantock Christian Trust	-£550		-£550
	DEC	-£154		-£154
	Danbury Parish Council	-£100		-£100
	Essex Wildlife	-£92		-£92
£564	Discretionary fund, reverse			
-£100	RBL Poppy Appeal	-£90		-£90
-£275	The Childrens' Society (Christingle)	-£380		-£380
-£2,561		**-£3,016**		**-£3,016**

Parochial Church Council of Danbury St John the Baptist
Financial Statements for the year ended December 31st 2023

2022		2023		
		Total	Restricted	Unrestricted
	Note 8 : Other Church Expenses			
-£3,143	Insurance	-£3,318		-£3,318
-£1,812	Gas	-£2,401		-£2,401
-£613	Electricity/Water/Waste	-£1,202		-£1,202
-£613	Daisy. Telephone and WiFi	-£728		-£728
	Maintenance	-£498		-£498
-£2,044	Beetle Costs	-£6,750		-£6,750
-£1,094	Organ & Choir	-£1,377		-£1,377
	Altar	-£317		-£317
-£267	Bank Charges	-£241		-£241
-£1,167	Clergy Expenses	-£763		-£763
-£2,953	Churchyard & Green	-£3,111		-£3,111
-£4,599	Secretarial	-£5,805		-£5,805
	Majumber Bench	-£1,093	-£1,093	
-£536	Church Flowers	-£637		-£637
-£5,065	Replacement Sound System	-£8,010	-£4,935	-£3,075
£650	Glebe Rent Expenses	-£758		-£758
-£1,877	All Other	-£2,683		-£2,683
-£25,133		**-£39,690**	**-£6,028**	**-£33,663**
	Note 9: Events Committee			
318	Jumble Sale			
53	FOEC Ride & Stride			
1396	Summer Fayre	£1,728		£1,728
£575	Tree Festival/Crib Festival	£672		£672
£3,697	Concerts	£4,345		£4,345
	CoOp card	£185		£185
£6,039		**£6,930**		**£6,930**
	Note 10: Cash on Deposit			
£62,635	Deposit A/C Cent Bd of Finance	£85,226	£81,071	£4,155
£37,668	Current A/C Barclays	£10,934		£10,934
£100,303		**£96,160**	**£81,071**	**£15,089**

The deposit account is showing the balance as at 30/09/2023
The final quarter's interest was paid on 3rd January 2024

Note 11: Liablities
The accounts are now prepared on a 'Receipts and Payments' basis.
Unrecorded liabilities at 31st December 2023 relate to uninvoiced gas, electricity and water usage amounting to less than £1,000. Meeting Room income of £858 was received in 2023 relating to 2024 usage..

Parochial Church Council of Danbury St John the Baptist
Financial Statements for the year ended December 31st 2023

Note 12: Funds	At Jan 1 2023	Income	During 2023 Exp	At Dec 31 2023
Endowmnent Funds				
Wigan Grave	£6,580			£6,580
Turner Gift	£1,024			£1,024
Sub Total Endowment	**£7,604**			**£7,604**
Restricted Funds				
Church Building & land	£33,346			£33,346
Village Friends	£34,237	£3,193		£37,430
Other Resticted Transactions	£8,429	£290	-£6,028	£2,691
Sub Total	**£83,616**	**£3,483**	**-£6,028**	**£81,071**
Clergy Housing Fund	£92,000			£92,000
Total Restricted Funds	**£175,616**	**£3,483**	**-£6,028**	**£173,071**
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	£10,063	£101,445	-£103,042	£8,465
Church Building & land	£6,624			£6,624
Total Unrestricted	**£16,687**	**£101,445**	**-£103,042**	**£15,089**
Total: All Funds	**£192,303**	**£104,928**	**-£109,070**	**£188,160**

TRUSTS: WIGAN GRAVE & TURNER GIFT. In 2017 at the instigation of Chelmsord Diocese, the PCC applied to have the capital in these trusts tranferred from the Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance to the PCC. Sums of £3700.71 (Wigan Grave) and £705.20 (turner Gift) were transferred n Aril 2017 and were include as income in the 2017 accounts.

WIGAN GRAVE: The capital sum (originally donated in 1966 by Aline Wigan, widow of Brigadier General J T Wigan) is now held by the PCC. It is for the maintenance of the Church & churchyard so long as the Wigan Grave is kept in good order and repair.

TURNER GIFT: capital sum is for the upkeep of fabric or internal adornment of the Church or any special object relating therto which may require the raising of special funds; not for ordinary church expenses. The decisiona as to manner of use is with the Rector and churchwardens.

Church building/land: private donation, bequests, gifts (inc fund raising) given or raised specifically for the purpose

Village Friends: During 2014 the Rector wrote to alll households in the parish requesting financial support. The resulting income, much of which is in the form of PGS Direct Debits, which are ongoing into the future, is to be used exclusively for the maintenance and restoration of the Church building.

Other specific grants and donations that have been used for the purpose given. Danbury Parish Council & War Graves Commission (Churchyard), special collections etc

Clergy Housing Fund: Represents value of the curates house at 40 Millfields at purchase in 1989

St John's School

The school has had another busy but successful year. In September the school received its first Ofsted inspection since January 2018. The headline result is that the school has maintained its overall 'Good' rating but also some 'outstanding' ratings in the key areas of 'behaviour', 'attitudes' and 'personal development'. The inspection report includes some very pleasing comments about the overall ethos and culture within the school which further emphasise the nurturing and supporting learning environment that is a credit to our parish and which gives so many of our young parishioners a great start on their educational journey.

There were some significant changes to the school's senior leadership team at the end of the last academic year. Deputy head Ms Bridget O'Reilly left the school after many years of dedicated service to the school, including the introduction of many regular fixture to the school year such as the annual spring farm visit and summer Triathlon event. Mr Toby Power has joined the school leadership team as deputy head teacher and Mrs Lois Barrett has become Assistant head teacher, thereby strengthening the schools leadership focus.

The school governors and leadership have updated the school strategy to build on the good foundations evidenced in the Ofsted report. The key focus areas for this year are to improve the Christian distinctiveness, to improve communication within the school and to parents and to raise the profile of reading throughout the school. A significant investment in new books has been made to achieve the later aim.

At the end of the last academic year the school received Eco school Green flag accreditation following great work by the school's Eco Club and by former deputy head Bridget O'Reilly.

- Stuart Bird – PCC Foundation governor

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DANBURY ST JOHN BAPT

England & Wales - Charity number 1130296

Accounts

Annual Report

2022-2023

Parish Church of
St John the Baptist,
Danbury

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE
Revd Canon Jacqui Jones

CHURCHWARDENS
Katie Bird
Alex Cooper

AUTHORISED LOCAL PREACHERS
Janet Arthurs
Jenny Molyneux-Berry

TREASURER
Alan Dixon

PARISH SECRETARY
Nicola Telling

DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES
Steve Arthurs
Alex Cooper

MMU COMPASS CHURCHES REPRESENTATIVE
Alex Cooper

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Steve Arthurs	Michael Green
Sylvia Beckett	Jonathan Telling
Alison Cooper	Paul Walton
Stephen Farrow	

BANKERS
Barclays Bank plc, 40/41 High Street, Chelmsford CM1 1BE
Sort 20-19-95 Account 90982571

LEGAL ADVISOR
Diocesan Registrar, 53, New St., Chelmsford CM1 1AT

ARCHITECTS
Shenstone and Partners St Paul's Institute, 302 The Highway, London

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER
Mr Michael Ovenden, 10 Hyde Lane, Danbury

REGISTERED CHARITY
1130296

Report compiled by Alex Cooper, thanks to all contributors

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AmazonSmile

Unfortunately Amazon has stopped its AmazonSmile programme that gave the church a small donation for purchases made by congregants, similar to easy fund raising. This officially ended on 20th February this year with a final donation payment later in the summer. Since 2021 it has raised over £150, which we wouldn't have had otherwise. A big thank you to everyone who used it.

- Alex Cooper

Authorised Lay Preachers

Nearly 10 years ago we were authorised as Local Preachers by the Diocese following a period of training. That authority has been periodically renewed with the support of the Priest and PCC.
Now that the church has been able to resume live services, we have both preached a total of 9 times at the Eucharist service, and twice at Services of the Word since the last Annual Report.
We have also led Café Praise and given 10 talks at those services, which are referred to in a separate report.
The Diocese emphasises that Authorised Local Preachers are part of the preaching ministry within the church. We are very pleased to be able to exercise this ministry during a Eucharist or Service of the Word, and to be able to work with and support Revd Jacqui in this way.
We continue to attend Preacher Training courses, either in person or online.
A Sermon at any service would usually be based upon the lectionary readings, and in preparation we pray our words have meaning according to God's word. We endeavour to give those who hear us some food for thought for the week ahead, or for discussion in Café Praise, and encouragement in faith.
Last year we also led a Lent Group and there is a separate report on this. In all our work we are grateful for the support of Revd Jacqui, the Churchwardens, Paul Hagger and the PCC.

- Jennifer Molyneux-Berry and Janet Arthurs.

Bell Ringers

2022 has been a very busy year for the Bell Ringers, practices have returned to normal except that practices start at 7.30pm with earlier practices for learners starting from 5.30pm, Mike and Cathy also organise practices with tied bells during the week. Ringing on Sundays is generally call changes, plain hunt or bob doubles. There have been several learners during the year including three D.O. E. students. The Association has requested that towers hold a recruiting campaign to "ring for the King", i.e. the Coronation of King Charles III on 15 May 2023.

During the year 2 quarter peals have been rung, one on Saturday 28 May to celebrate the 80th Birthday of Tony Spurgeon, the second on Sunday 18 September, rung fully muffled with the tenor open, In memory of Queen Elizabeth II. Congratulations to Stuart Bird on his first quarter. Both quarter peals arranged and called by Ann Woolley. The Danbury ringers also won the Call Change competition - with thanks to Ann Woolley.

June was the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, with many festivities and Bell Ringing when all Towers were requested to ring. The tower was also opened for the Patronal Festival at the end of June, the weather was kind and several visitors climbed to the top to admire the view

An afternoon outing was organised by Emily Watts on Saturday 13 August, 3 towers were visited in the Northern District - a good afternoon was had by all.

Thursday 8 September it was announced that Queen Elizabeth II had died, immediately flags were flown at half-mast and bells were muffled. Saturday 10 September Prince Charles was pronounced King Charles III - Sunday flags to be flown and bells rung open, Sunday September by 1.00pm bells to be muffled and flags flown at half-mast until after the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. A lot of hard work for the Steeple Wardens Nick Steinke and Stuart Bird. The Danbury Bell Ringers were pictured on the cover of the ringing world that week.

The ringers were also requested to ring for several weddings during the year, one being on Stephanie Ovenden when 2 quarters were rung by the Sussex ringers. Thanks to Sarah for arranging Wedding Ringing

During the autumn a new St. Georges flag was purchased by the PCC, the flag has the ensign of the Chelmsford Diocese on it - Our Rector Jacqui blessed the flag in the belfry on Christmas Morning

On Thursday 8 December members were told of the death of Mark Spurgeon, son of Tony and Sue, Mark was 51 and leaves a wife and two young daughters, he had been taught to ring by Tony whilst in his teens and had continued ringing at Writtle and Bedford, On December 21st. the ringers heard of the death of Tom Roast, Tom aged 81 had continued his ringing in Norwich where he had lived for several years and was the brother of Joe Roast and had been taught in Danbury by their Father E.W. Roast.

A social Evening was held at the home of Katy and Stuart Bird at the beginning of December members supplied food and a bottle and a good time was had by all.

The bells were rung half muffled for the Remembrance Service in November and open on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Morning.
Grateful thanks to Mike and Cathy for their extra time spent teaching learners during the sit week and on practice night.
Hand Bells 2022, practices began at the beginning of December with two new ringers, 4 venues were visited which included St. Josephs, Julia Wilson and New Riffhams on Christmas Eve. £350.00 was raised and it was agreed to send £400 to Farleigh Hospice.

- Sue Spurgeon

Café Praise

It has been wonderful that in this past year we have been able to return to "live" services in the Meeting Room, instead of recorded services on line. Those who are regulars will know that this is an informal service during which we are served tea or coffee, cakes and sometimes bacon rolls. It makes a change to sit around a table facing others, rather than seeing the back of somebody's head in the pew in front.
Despite its informality it is still a service which includes Bible readings, a time to reflect on our actions of the previous week, a Declaration of Faith, hymns, prayers and talks. So whilst the service has no set liturgy, unlike the services in church, all the elements of a service are still there. With an added extra – an opportunity for discussion on the readings or the talks. As we are sitting in small groups people are not so shy of asking questions or contributing to the general discussions, and we love the feedback. We all learn something from each other.
Now that we are back in our stride, other people have contributed by reading, leading prayers, a little bit of acting etc. And the children, encouraged by Jenny Hagger, always have a contribution to make, showing us the things they have been making or drawing.
We are enormously grateful to Paul for the music, Alex for the technology whereby you can join us by zoom if you cannot get to the service, and all the numerous people, particularly the Hagger and Cooper families, who prepare the room, make and serve refreshments.
Café Praise is very much a team effort, and it wouldn't happen without them. It is also a varied service, no two services being the same. So it is flexible enough to be open to new ideas. Please share any thoughts you might have on what you would like to see included, or what you don't think works, and we will consider any ideas for changes. It's your service, so don't be shy, please share your thoughts with us.

- Janet Arthurs, Jenny Molyneux-Berry & Alex Cooper

Chalice & Serving

It is unfortunate that just as we had new volunteers joining the team of Chalice Assistants, a shared chalice during the Eucharist had to cease due to Covid. We have moved on slightly insofar as the bread is now intincted in the wine, so communicants may receive communion in two kinds. However, with the prevalence of Covid still around, I cannot do not know if or when it will be possible to share a chalice. Therefore, there is not a need in the foreseeable future for Chalice Assistants.

So, I would plead with all those who plucked up the courage to become Chalice Assistants, and are frustrated and disappointed to not be able to do so, to now consider being a server. There is, in fact, less for the server to do now that there is no shared chalice.

My heartfelt thanks go to Brian, David, and Samantha who serve at the 930 services, and to Barbara and Sheila who serve at the Thursday and 8am Sunday services. But none of us is getting any younger, and there will come a day when one or more of us are no longer able to serve. It is very difficult now, when it comes to holidays, to be able to cover all the services, so we desperately need more people to share this ministry.

It is a privilege to take part in the service from a different viewpoint and support the Priest in giving Communion. It is really not difficult. Like any new skill, it just needs a bit of training and practice. I would welcome anyone to come and sit with me when I serve to see how it looks and I can explain what being a server entails. You would not need to do it alone and would receive every encouragement from the existing servers and Revd Jacqui. If you are feeling a little niggle of God calling you to volunteer, please come and have a chat to me any time, absolutely without obligation!

- Janet Arthurs – Sacristan

Charity Giving

In April 2015 Anne Alderton and Michael Green put a paper to St John the Baptist PCC looking at the outcomes of a Review of Grants to Charities at that time.

A small committee, made up of PCC members and congregation members, formed a Charity Giving Committee under the chairmanship of Anne Alderton. The purpose being to look at those charities receiving funds from the Church and whether they were still appropriate or whether there would be others more deserving.

The chairmanship was taken over by Rev Clive Ashley, after the sad death of Anne Alderton, and the committee continued to meet to draft a Policy document. The main theme of this document was as follows:

- The appointment of a Charity Sub-Committee
- A long term commitment to give a sum equivalent to 8% of budgeted total of stewardship income
- All donations would be published by the PCC and made known/available to the congregation
- Will endeavour to support charities with a declared Christian foundation
- Monies will be distributed to the chosen charities at the same point in the year
- There will be an annual review of our six chosen charities

This policy was finally agreed at the PCC meeting in September 2016.

The Charity Sub-Committee was reconvened in early 2018 when Sylvia Beckett took over the chairmanship after the departure of Rev Clive Ashley. The 'review' for the current year, 2022, has taken place and the sub-committee decided that the following charities would receive the funding – equal payments have been offered to the following…..

- Friends of Essex Churches
- C.H.E.S.S.
- World Vision
- Janet Muhindo
- St John's Discretionary
- Safer Places (the care of men and woman at risk)

- Sylvia Beckett

Child Sponsorship

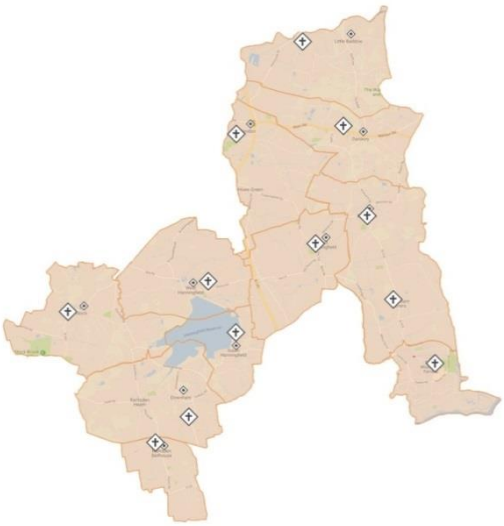
Last September we said farewell to Lakshmi our beautiful girl in Vaishali, India. We had sponsored her for about 6 years from age four. Her letters reports & pictures have been delightful. In her farewell letter which thanked us, she said that her wish for us is that we always help the poor. Her ambition is to become a doctor & we wish her every success.

As one area development project matures & the community left to manage, World Vision moves on to change lives elsewhere. we were given our chance to sponsor Glory who is 4 years old & lives in Thundu, Malawi one of Africa's poorest nations. There aren't enough schools, safe drinking water or doctors, & parents find it hard to grow enough food to feed their children. Our sponsorship will make a significant difference to Glory's life.

Thanks to our PCC for its generous gift of £550 last October to the children & their communities. It was divided equally between Falancia in Mozambique, Jiyaul in Nepal & Glory in Malawi. Thanks too to our regular sponsors & supporters who share this amazing journey with me, changing lives in communities around the world.

- Suzanne Gaywood

Compass Churches



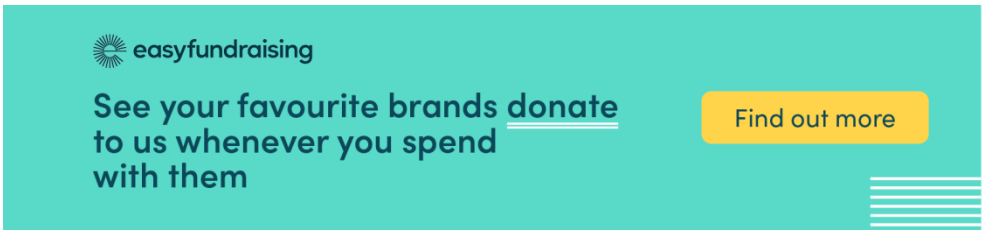
Compass Churches is made up of Little Baddow, St Mary the Virgin, Danbury, St John the Baptist, Sandon, St Andrew, East Hanningfield, All Saints, Bicknacre, St Andrew, Woodham Ferrers, St Mary the Virgin, South Woodham Ferrers, Holy Trinity, Stock Harvard, All Saints, West Hanningfield, St Mary & St Edward, Downham, St Margaret, South Hanningfield, St Peter and Ramsden Bellhouse, St Mary the Virgin.

Since being commissioned in 2018, we have continued to have quarterly meetings to discuss ways we can move our faith forwards together. The weekly morning services on Thursdays have continued, and we are looking forward to more joint services in the future. For details of events at the churches and services we hold together, please visit www.compasschurches.org.uk

- Alex Cooper

Coop Community Cards, Easy Fundraising

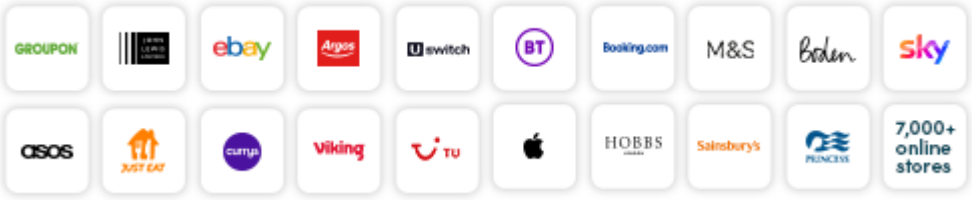
The Chelmsford Star Community Card continues to provide the church with funds which accrue each time we produce our card in local Star Coop stores or in the Quadrant store in Chelmsford High Street. It is such an easy way to help the church.
Our usage seems to have dropped considerably which is reflected in the amount of funds we have been able to claim. Please ask me for a card if you would like to help or if you have lost yours. I have a few available; but unfortunately the Coop is not supplying any new cards. But DO please continue to use the card as much as you can whilst it is still possible to do so.



Can I remind you that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations for Danbury St John Baptist Church with easyfundraising.
There are over 4,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds.
All you need to do is:

1. Go to: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/danburystjb/ and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to Danbury St John Baptist Church at no extra cost to you whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Danbury St John Baptist Church will be really grateful for your donations.



- Sue Ferguson

Deanery Synod

Chelmsford Deanery now consists of the combined North and South Chelmsford Deaneries these constitute a large number of churches of various followings from evangelical to romano/catholic., centred around Chelmsford City centre.
Our four meetings per year are held at various parishes around the Deanery providing an opportunity to meet with members of other churches and compare notes. The final meeting of 2022 took place at the Church of St. Francis, Beaulieu where the old parish of Boreham is being subsumed by the huge new Beaulieu development of thousands of houses. The church there exists as part of a community centre and is a base for its ever-expanding area and ministry.

Other meetings during the year have introduced us to charitable and missionary organisations providing help for the homeless and less advantaged of the area. We also greatly enjoyed a frank and informal discussion with Bishop Guli where we learned of her early life and her difficult journey to Britain, and her guiding faith.
Deanery Synod and the MMU's control the apportionment of Parish Share (that amount each Parish pays towards funding of the churches within the Deanery). This important part of the mutual support of churches and their Clergy is an essential function of the Deanery Synod, it is becoming fairer but needs to be less opaque. Let's hope that all will be revealed during the next twelve months.

- Stephen Arthurs

Duke of Edinburgh Volunteers

St John's Church has provided supervised volunteering opportunities for Duke of Edinburgh award at bronze (3 months) and gold level (18 months).
The young volunteers and supervisors have helped to remove excess ivy from hedges around the churchyard, clear the ground level gutters and remove leaves and weeds near the meeting room. They also vacuumed the pew cushions and swept the church thoroughly. A volunteer is assisting with Sunday morning services, learning the duties of sidesman and assisting with children's club. They also played the trumpet for Remembrance Sunday and read a lesson at the Christmas Carol service.
These contributions are very much appreciated by the PCC.

- Katie Bird

Events

Summer Fayre and Open Tower.
Thanks to all who helped make this event a success, despite the wind I think everyone had a good time. Well done Jacqui for beating my marble count! Rematch in June? Let's hope for clear skies and sunshine this year.

Church Family BBQ
A sharing of fellowship and food outside in the July evening sunshine.

Jumble Sale
Thanks to all the helpers who set up tables, chairs, sorted clothes, books, toys, bric-a-brac and auction items and helped clear up after the event. There are no plans for another going forward due to my difficulty obtaining helpers. If you would like to run one for our Church, please let me know.

Crib Festival
Our thanks go to Joan Graham for suggesting and running this event. There were a wonderful variety of cribs on display in church and our visitors enjoyed wandering amongst them and reading the descriptions beside each.

Thank you to Father Christmas and helper elf for visiting the meeting room with a gift of a bible story book for each child. Craft activities were undertaken by several children and some older but young of heart. Thanks to the refreshment team for keeping us all hydrated and fed.

Events planned for this year are:
Monthly Lunchtime concerts, see Music Report.
24th June - Open Tower and Summer Fayre.
21st July - Church Family BBQ - TBC
9th and 10th December - Christmas Tree Festival.

If you would like to organise an event for our Church, please let me know.
(See me after a church service or email: alisonjcooper@aol.com or mobile: 07968796805)

- Alison Cooper

Food Bank

12 years of austerity, the pandemic and current cost of living crisis has led to a huge increase in demand for food banks nationwide, currently over 2500% from 12 years ago (Trussel Trust & FullFact). There are now more than 2 foodbanks in the UK for every McDonald's restaurant.
Many individuals and families are struggling to afford basic necessities, including food, due to rising prices and stagnant wages. As a result, more people are turning to food banks for support.
The Church's food bank was started to help this increased demand, but it relies on donations to do so. Without your support, it is difficult to keep up with the growing need for assistance.
All donations to the Church's food bank are taken to Chelmsford Food Bank. Chelmsford Food Bank is a registered charity that provides emergency food and essentials supplies to people in crisis throughout the Chelmsford area. By working with Chelmsford Food Bank, the Church's food bank can ensure that all donations are distributed to those who need them most in a coordinated and effective way.
At our harvest festival, all the items brought and cash from the fresh produce sold after the service was all donated to the Chelmsford Food Bank.
The Church's food bank is doing important work to support those in the community who are experiencing food insecurity. Donations are needed now more than ever to help meet this need. Check in the porch for a recent list of in demand items, but any shelf stable food, toiletries and cleaning products are welcome.

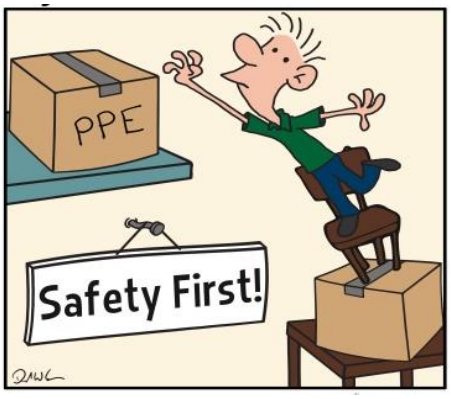
- Alex Cooper

Flower Arrangers

Our challenge in the last year has been learning to arrange using chicken wire for mechanics, instead of water retaining foam like Oasis which does not biodegrade for about 100 years! Following the lead of our cathedral flower guild with advice from the diocese we are being as ecological as we can be, but the angling of stems is impossible. Our congregation may have noticed the change in style due to this element, which is a small sacrifice to make towards saving our planet. We warmly welcomed Teresa & Diane who have joined us, & warm welcome back Jill! We look forward to starting again at Easter. Thanks to the PCC for our flower allowance and to generous donors for topping us up.

- Suzanne & the team

Health & Safety



St. John's continues to be a very safe place to visit. If we consider the number of people who use and visit our church, our safety record is one to be admired. We review any accidents or incidents each month at our Parish Church Council meeting and (if possible) modify the way we do things to minimise the chances of a repeat accident.

During the past year we have only had one incident that was serious enough to require medical

intervention. This involved a parishioner who fell in the Meeting Room. In this instance we improved access by increasing the number of handrails in the area.
Since the reduction in covid restrictions, we continue to monitor the rate of infection and reduce contact among our congregation to keep people healthy. One of our Church Wardens, Alex Cooper has been instrumental in keeping us as free from infection as far as possible. We should be grateful to him for his efforts over the last three years.

We should also commend the work of our volunteers', stewards and helpers who keep our congregations safe throughout the year. Their 'special time' and period of greatest worry is Christmas with several very busy services taking place by candlelight. This requires extra vigilance and care to ensure the safety of the increased congregation in low light conditions and the safety of our very flammable building. We are assisted in this by our library of Risk Assessments which catalogue the risks and list measures to mitigate and reduce the hazards, we are still reliant on our people to keep us safe.
The use of the Meeting Room increased during the last year and we now have village organisations and Church sponsored groups using the room for meals and refreshments much more than previously. All users of the Meeting Room have been provided with guidance on the use of the facilities and means of avoiding risk.
St. John's Health and Safety Policy is reviewed, updated, and approved by the PCC each year, the policy aims to be user friendly and not prescriptive, keeping it up to date and relevant needs much thought and research, especially when it seems that government regulations and requirements are constantly changing.
Our quarterly inspections and checks of safety equipment, lighting and access routes continue. These ensure our safety systems are in place and capable of use in an emergency. We also maintain regular checks by external specialists, some of which are a legal requirement. Included are our electrical installations, portable equipment, lightning protection, fire extinguishers and gas and heating systems.

Let's make 2023 a safe, happy, and enjoyable year.

- Stephen Arthurs

Ladies who Lunch

We were very pleased to meet all through the year. We often had lunch at The Bell in Woodham Walter, we also met at The Bell and The Griffin in Danbury, numbers range between six and twelve, all ladies are welcome.

- Ann Poulard

Landisdale Charity

Our Almshouses on Church Green Danbury continue to offer shelter and good quality housing to the needy of the parish. Our constitution requires that only long-term residents of Danbury qualify for this housing. The Landisdale Trust has maintained four Almshouses on Church Green Since 1313.

Based on local need we aim to build a further 10 Almshouses on land off Maldon Road adjacent to Littlefields. The land was bequeathed to the charity many years ago in support of the people of Danbury. Only a small part of the area will be used for the Almshouses, leaving the remainder in agricultural use. This area is known as Sandpit Field. We hope the proposal will be included in the forthcoming 'Danbury Neighbourhood Plan'. Our proposal was well received by the village when it was included in the Danbury Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire three years ago. The plan is due to be published to the whole village for its approval and comment later this year before it can formally be put forward for adoption.

The Trust welcomes applications from people who have been a Danbury resident for at least 10 years and who are in need of somewhere to live.

The charity also owns and runs allotments on Ludgores Lane. These are used by many local residents to enhance their fresh food provision. Each year half of the small annual rental income from the allotments is donated to St. Johns.

The incumbent of St. John the Baptist, Danbury, is always invited to sit on the board of trustees. All our trustees are local people who try to provide and service to the village.

The address of the charity is:
The Clerk to the Charity.,
Danbury Landisdale Charity,
P. O. Box 933,
Colchester.
Essex. CO3 3TQ.

Applications for consideration for Almshouse accommodation or allotments are welcome to the address above.

- Alison Cooper and Stephen Arthurs

Lent Group

With the generous hospitality of Tiggy Farrow, we were able to run a Lent study group over 6 weeks enjoyed by 7 people. Not everybody could attend every week, but it was good to be able to talk, study and exchange ideas in a relaxed setting.

The book we studied was "40 Women" by Ros Clarke with chapters on 40 women from the Bible. The book looked at some of the lesser known women in the Bible, many from the Old Testament, and some that none of us had ever heard of or knew

anything about! Whilst the book was about women, it was definitely not just for women, and we would have liked to have had some input from a male point of view.
It was certainly a challenging book and interesting to study and discuss.
At the time of writing this report in mid-January, I do not know if this church or St Mary's Little Baddow will be running Lent Courses this year.

- Jennifer Molyneux-Berry and Janet Arthurs

Men's Group

From our Burns Night celebration in January to our Pre-Christmas dinner in November St. John's Men's Group gatherings travel through the year following a seasonal and varied menu.
The Cricketers Arms in Penny Royal Road continues to provide delicious food to our varied tastes. We encourage Eugene the chef to show off his culinary skills and inventiveness. We haven't been disappointed yet.
We select our menu a month in advance to give chef a chance to assemble his thoughts and source the necessary ingredients, which recently included haggis from the Shetland Isles. Although the group usually small in number we are a social bunch and welcome guests and new members who like good food.
Our choice of main couse is dependent on an event or the season, and locally sourced food is a favourite. With then number of events coming in 2023 some fine celebrations are on their way.
Our convivial group meet on the last Thursday of each month (except December) to enjoy good food, good ale, good company and good conversation. We are definitely not polically correct and few subjects are closed from discussion.
Our numbers vary between 6 and 12 so we are never overwhelmed, ages range between teens and eighties.
All gentlemen of the parish, their friends and guests will be most welcome.

- Stephen Arthurs

Music

It has been good to return to normality, with our choir back in the choir stalls, singing un-masked. We have continued to provide a solid musical offering week by week with a motet most weeks and, of course, our usual closing voluntaries.
Highlights (and lowlights) of 2022 included:-

- The resumption of monthly lunchtime concerts on the 2nd Friday of each month. We have had some excellent performances by very talented musicians throughout the year. The concerts are regularly very well supported by the village (and beyond). We now have musicians approaching us, asking for the opportunity to come and perform for us;
- A full and exciting programme of music for Holy Week and Easter, extending across the whole triduum;
- Uplifting music during the celebration of the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. This included a lunchtime concert consisting entirely of music that had been performed at the coronation service in 1953;
- An extended choir performing solemn and reflective music at both our Sunday Eucharist and also at a special service marking the passing of Her Majesty the Queen;
- The return of Not the Last Knight of the Proms in November. A large audience attended including quite of a lot of youngsters who were both bemused and entertained by the high jinks taking place;
- A very well attended candlelit service of lessons and carols at Christmas. This service was also live streamed.

The musical offering at St John's continues to be varied, exciting and professional. This is especially gratifying in what is, after all, a small village church in a semi-rural setting. We are lucky to be surrounded by a talented and committed group of musicians that can enhance our worship week in, week out, be it in services or at concerts.
As always, we welcome anyone to our friendly choir, so if you have an inclination to sing, then do step forward. Also, if you have any suggestions of music that you would like to see included in our programme – either at services or lunchtime concerts – then do say.

- Paul Hagger

Mother's Union

We had nine meetings in 2022, June and July meetings were cancelled as it was so hot. We had two meetings about MU, David Whiting took us around Madagascar, we sang our favourite hymns, and heard about Power of Attorney, and had Carols, Readings and Cake in December.
Very sadly John Negus died and is greatly missed.
We have 17 members, most of whom come to every meeting, we welcome visitors to any of our meetings.

- Ann Poulard

Online Presence

Over the past few years, we have all come to realise that "Church" is not just a physical building or a location on a hill in Danbury. It is wherever the congregation of St John's is gathered to think about God. While we recognise that not everyone is comfortable with technology and social media, we have learned that faith can be practiced in new and innovative ways.
In March 2020, when places of worship across the country were forced to close their doors, we found ourselves in an unprecedented situation. As a church that is open 7 days a week, it was a difficult adjustment. As someone who regularly spends time working in the church during the week, you would be amazed how many people just pop in for a brief time.
Initially, we struggled to adapt, but we persevered. We started with a few videos of Jacqui's sermons and gradually worked our way up to a remote service with voice and music recordings. We even spent months with just Jacqui, Paul, and me sitting in a locked church on Sunday mornings. But we never gave up. I hope what people experience now is a relatively slick, livestreamed weekly service, where the at home/on holiday/generally elsewhere congregant can join in, and feel fellowship without feeling the technology getting in the way.
During lockdown we continued to find new ways to connect with our congregation, such as Elaine Mason setting up the St John's WhatsApp group, which is still active today and can be joined by contacting Tiggy Farrow. Jacqui and Nicky continued to email the pew leaflet, which included a reflection from Jacqui each week. And we even started using Facebook as a way to reach more people.
Through all of this, we have learned that the church is not just a physical space, but a community of people who come together to support one another in their faith journey. We may have had to adapt to new circumstances, but we have emerged stronger and more connected than ever before.
With the recent addition of the updated sound system, there are even fewer barriers between us and our worship.

- Alex Cooper

Quadrant Trust

Canon Janet Muhindo is a resident of Kinyamaseke village in South Rwenzori.
She was a teacher by profession, clergy by calling.
Having served the Church of Uganda for over twenty years has now retired to this village.
Janet continues to support the church in Kasese district and she reports over 450 students have now passed through our hands. They come to us when they have lost hope, some rejected by parents, boyfriends, in a real mess, some with malnourished babies abandoned with their mothers! They exit with joy most having received Jesus as their Saviour others having got one or two skills!!! What joy for me in my old age to see hopelessness turn into unending joy!!
The Covid epidemic greatly affected the education system; closing schools for two complete years. Some classes attended for only about 3 months others for two and that was counted as a complete year.
Following the rain in September many people lost their homes in a mud slide in Kigoro parish just North of Kasese.
I am so much thankful to you and to God who is working through you in a wonderful way.
Rosie Giles shall be visiting Uganda for three weeks in February 2023 and will be working with the Children's Ministry team, will visit Janet Muhindo in Kasese, and Bishop Amos Magezi in Northwest Ankole.
She will be sending us a detailed report in the Spring!
But Janet asks that we pray for them.
She Thanks God for:-

- Your generous continuous support
- Abundant provision of rain and harvest
- The girls who have finished their skills.
- The tanks for harvesting rain water.

- Sue Ferguson

Sound System Upgrade

The church has recently updated its sound system to provide better quality sound for our worship services and events. The updated system includes a new mixer and wireless microphones that enhance the clarity and volume of the sound, making it easier for all to hear and enjoy. It also includes new wired microphones in the nave and chancel to help the immersion of our hearing loop.

The sound system upgrade was completed in a timely and efficient manner by the installers from SFL, with minimal disruption to the church's activities. The new sound system has been well received by the congregation and has helped to enhance the worship experience.

In addition to the sound system upgrade, the church has also updated its audio and video recording capabilities. This allows us to record and share our services and events online, making them accessible to those who are unable to attend in person. The new recording equipment has also made it easier to live stream our services and events, reaching a wider audience.

This has been made possible by the generous donation from the family of Pam Walton, in her honour.

In conclusion, the sound system upgrade and recording capabilities have greatly improved the audio quality and accessibility of our worship services and events. We look forward to continued use and improvement of these resources to serve our congregation.

- Alex Cooper

Sunday Club

Our Childrens' Club continues to be well supported by a core group of children and their guardians on the 2nd Sunday of the month. We also make a similar provision at the Café Praise service on the 4th Sunday of the month. On the 2nd Sunday the service in church is projected onto a screen in the meeting room so that parents can participate in the service whilst attending to their children. We try to ensure that the childrens' activities reflect the liturgy on any particular Sunday. The children do enjoy joining the congregation in church at communion, staying until the end of the service.

If you want to join our worship but are concerned about keeping your children occupied, then do come along to the club. If you know of anyone with children that might be interested, then do invite them along. Everybody is welcome!

- Jenny Hagger

Tea & Coffee

We continue to provide refreshments after the main Sunday service each week despite the number of volunteers being rather thin on the ground.

In the past year we have replaced our stock of mugs with bone china mugs that are much prettier and pleasing than those which we previously had.
As always, we are pleased to welcome new volunteers onto the rota. The current group is very small and this is placing quite a strain on that group. Please do come forward and help out if you can.

- Jenny Hagger

Wilding churchyard

Churchyards are important for their habitats and as refuges for wildlife and plant life.
PCC has agreed to leave an area of the churchyard unmown for the benefit of nature until after the Patronal festival in late June. The area will be rotated each year. This year an area to the south of the church was cordoned off with signs explaining why the area was left uncut.
Wild flowers were identified including several plants known for healing properties such as lady's bedstraw, self-heal and yarrow. We also found rough hawkbit, ox eye daisies, ragwort, dandelions and buttercups, these attracted insects.

Several families joined a summer Bug Hunt event, the adults and children found caterpillars, spiders, wasps, bees, slugs and used Field Studies cards and the iNature app to try to identify them.
Old grave stones offer surfaces for lichens and in autumn fungi can be found in parts of the churchyard.
If you would like to get involved in future please contact the churchwardens.

- Katie Bird

Sidesperson List

Samantha Ball
Clare Collier
John Douthwaite
Steve Farrow
Tiggy Farrow
Jean Hunt
Rachel Perry
Ann Richardson
Nicola Telling

Updated March 2023

Thanks are given to Jamie Morley who has been helping with sidesman's duties as part of his volunteering work for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

MISSION STATEMENT

Since we have received God's reconciling love through Jesus Christ as Lord, we seek to reach out into the community in love, welcoming all without discrimination into God's family; to proclaim the Gospel faithfully in word and deed; to nurture all in faith and understanding; and to encourage each one to recognise and exercise their gifts, to the praise and glory of God and in the power of the Holy Spirit

Electoral Roll

As of March 2023 there are 98 people on St John's electoral roll, with 38 being non-resident in the parish.

- Nicky Telling

Fabric

2022 began with a backlog of maintenance work due to the impact of the pandemic. Despite the efforts of dedicated volunteers, certain tasks requiring professional expertise and specialised equipment or qualifications remain unfinished. Finding skilled professionals has been a challenge, but we were able to secure the services of a local roofer to repair the church roof and replace the felt on the equipment shed roof.

On May 21st, 2022, our annual workday took place and various tasks were accomplished, reducing our Quinquennial workload. However, larger tasks, such as the high level gutter above the boiler room, require a contractor and scaffold, which we are still seeking quotes for.

Churchyard Volunteer Team
Every Wednesday morning, our Churchyard Volunteer Team takes care of the open spaces and hedges. They have recently expanded the Memorial Garden and have plans to promote wildlife by creating fallow areas for bees, butterflies, and other insects as they did last year. Anyone with an hour to spare is welcome to join the team.

Churchyard Hedges and Fencing
The volunteers maintain the hedges to a high standard and regular trimming keeps the paths accessible and the area attractive. The fence to the north of the church, where an elderly Rowan tree was removed last year, has been filled with a silhouette of a First World War soldier, dedicated in time for Remembrance Sunday. The dwarf wall at the foot of the fence will be re-installed once the base of the Rowan has fully decomposed.

Woodworm Inspection
A Diocesan approved timber expert conducted a thorough inspection of the church roof last year, producing a list of repairs and treatments for affected areas. We are glad to say that these appear to be a lot easier, and somewhat cheaper, than was initially feared. The only part of the church not inspected was the spire, which requires a rope access specialist. Finding such specialists has been difficult, but we are continuing to try and complete the survey to have a comprehensive

understanding of the necessary work which will be done all at once, to minimise disruption. This is made more difficult by having to avoid large portions of the year to protect the bats.

Workdays
We are grateful for the support of Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme volunteers who have assisted with churchyard maintenance. At least one of these volunteers now joins our congregation regularly.

Faculty Applications
2 Faculties have been applied for in 2022/23–

- A one off Faculty to allow for a vertical monument in the current open churchyard, 1B.
- A new faculty is currently being considered by the diocese, replacing the current faculty on what monuments are allowed in churchyard 1B, to allow vertical monuments as well as flat ones.

Future Improvements
Restoring the clock and renovating its face is a major task, but is not currently within our financial capacity and will have to be postponed for the time being.

Finally, our Priest-in-Charge, the Churchwardens and PCC wish to thank our Fabric Officer, Steve Arthurs, our Churchyard Officer Clive Willey and our Treasurer Alan Dixon who work so hard to keep our church and churchyard in such an excellent condition. Visitors to the church frequently praise its appearance and upkeep, with the latest quinquennial report receiving positive remarks from the Archdeacon about its outstanding maintenance.

- Alex Cooper

Safeguarding

There were no reported safeguarding incidents.
The Church of England takes safeguarding seriously and we have a diocesan safeguarding officer see:
https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-contacts
The Diocese of Chelmsford is committed, as part of the Christian Church living in the spirit of the Gospel, to protect and care for everyone and aims to be a beacon of best practice in safeguarding. Looking the other way is not an option.

- Ensuring that its volunteers, clergy, advisers and lay people achieve the standards laid down in the Safeguarding Policies of the Church of England.
- Working with individuals who have criminal convictions, or where other safeguarding risks are identified, to ensure that they, and all members of the church community are safeguarded.
- Holding to account all persons responsible for the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults in the Diocese.

I have completed my Parish Safeguarding Officer Induction Training, as has Katie Bird.
Katie kindly volunteered to help so she can check my and Alex's DBS forms when they are due for renewal.

- Alison Cooper

Accounts

Parochial Church Council of Danbury St John the Baptist

Financial Statements

Year ended 31st December 2022

Summary

Total income for 2022 was £115,044, which exceeded the expenditure of £94,233 by £20,812.

Much of the income comes from the Parish Giving Scheme

Events, which include the Friday lunchtime concerts, the Summer Fayre, Not the Last Knight and the Crib Festival raised over £6,000.

Meeting Room bookings are very healthy raising income of almost £10,000.

Fees for weddings and funerals remain steady at around £9,500

Rental income from the house in Millfields remains steady at £13,200

Donations and Bequests amounted to around £15,000

Our main expenditure is to the Diocese for our Parish Share - £58,662. This will reduce in 2023 to £54,500.

Energy costs, whilst high at over £5,000, are protected at 2021 rates by fixed term contracts which run until September 2024 for electric and December 2025 for gas.

Alan Dixon

Treasurer

Parochial Church Council of Danbury St John the Baptist
Financial Statements for the year ended Dececember 31st 2022

2021	Statement of Financial Activities	Note	Total Funds	2022 Funds Restricted	Unrestricted
	Income				
£48,059	Planned Giving, collections etc	1	£49,443		£49,443
£3,884	Village Friends	2	£3,500	£3,500	
£734	Events	9	£6,039		£6,039
£1,560	Grants Received	3	£1,560	£1,560	
£9,515	Fees		£9,518		£9,518
£4,407	Meeting Room Income	4	£9,990		£9,990
£13,200	40 Millfields - Rental Income	5	£13,200		£13,200
£2,750	Garden of Remembrance		£3,294		£3,294
£5,905	All Other Income	6	£18,500	£11,515	£6,985
£90,014			£115,044	£16,575	£98,469
	Expenditure				
-£2,600	Grants to Charities	7	-£2,561		-£2,561
-54000	Parish Share		-£58,662		-£58,662
-£6,302	Meeting Room Expenses	4	-£6,082		-£6,082
-1129.6	40 Millfields Expenses	5	-£457		-£457
-£1,053	Garden of Remembrance		-£1,338		-£1,338
-£23,075	Other Church Expenses	8	-£25,133	-£5,065	-£20,069
-£88,159			-£94,233	-£5,065	-£89,168
£1,855	Net Surplus/Deficit		£20,812	£11,510	£9,301
	Balance Sheet				
	Net Assets				
£84,360	Cash at Bank and on deposit	10	£100,303	£83,615	£16,688
-£4,869	Net liabilities due within 1 year	11	£0	£0	£0
£92,000	Property, 40 Millfields	5	£92,000	£92,000	
£171,491	Total Net Assets		£192,303	£175,615	£16,688
	Funds				
7603.61	Endowment Funds	12	£7,604	£7,604	
64501.14	Restricted - Other	12	£76,012	£76,012	
7386.77	Unrestricted funds	12	£16,688		£16,688
79491.52	Total Cash funds		£100,303	£83,616	£16,688
92000	Restricted - Clergy Housing	12	£92,000	£92,000	
£171,492	Total funds	12	£192,303	£175,616	£16,688

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on February 13th 2023
and signed on its behalf by:

Jacqueline D Jones.
Canon Jacqui Jones (Chairman)

Alan Dixon (Treasurer)

Parochial Church Council of Danbury St John the Baptist
Financial Statements for the year ended Dececember 31st 2022

2021			2022	
Total	Statement of Financial Activities			
	Note 1: Planned Giving, collections etc	**Total**	**Restricted**	**Unrestricted**
£38,683	Parish Giving Scheme	£42,625		£42,625
£5,996	Non PGS	£1,766		£1,766
£3,381	General Collections	£5,052		£5,052
£48,059		£49,443		£49,443
	Note 2: Village Friends			
£3,884	Parish Giving Scheme	£3,500	£3,500	
	Note3: Grants			
£1,500	Danbury Parish Council: Churchyard	£1,500	£1,500	
£60	War Graves Commission: Churchyard	£60	£60	
£1,560		£1,560	£1,560	
	Note 4: Meeting Room			
£4,407	Fees from Letting	£9,990		£9,990
	Expenses:			
-£1,280	Cleaning	-£1,816		-£1,816
-£2,151	Electricity & Water	-£2,297		-£2,297
-£1,783	Repairs & Mtce	-£66		-£66
-£330	Glebe Rent	-£330		-£330
-£747	Insurance	-£786		-£786
-£10	Sundry	-£787		-£787
-£1,895		£3,908		£3,908
	Note 5: Millfields			
	The PCC owns the curates house at 40 Millfields, purchased in 1989 for £92,000			
	The capital value is restricted to the clergy fund; net operating surplus /deficit is General Fund			
£13,200	Net Rental Income	£13,200		£13,200
-£322	Insurance	-£355		-£355
-807.6	Maintenance	-£102		-£102
£12,070		£12,743		£12,743
	Note 6: Other Income			
£5	Interest	£813		£813
	Donation - Sound System	£10,000	£10,000	
	Donation - Majumdar bench	£1,350	£1,350	
£2,109	Other Donations/Bequests	£2,615		£2,615
£19	Wall Safe	£132		£132
	SumUp	£1,283		£1,283
£168	Landisdale Charity	£165	£165	£0
£1,400	Covid Volunteers	£0		£0
620	Church Heating Fees	£0		£0
1584	Rectory Car Park Income	£2,142		£2,142
£5,905		£18,500	£11,515	£6,985
	Note 7 : Grants to Charities			
-£500	Friends of Essex Churches	-£550		-£550
-£500	CHESS	-£550		-£550
-£500	World Vision	-£550		-£550
-£500	Safer Places	-£550		-£550
-£500	Quantock Christian Trust	-£550		-£550
	Discretionary fund, reverse	£564		£564
-£100	RBL Poppy Appeal	-£100		-£100
	The Childrens' Society (Christingle)	-£275		-£275
-£2,600		-£2,561		-£2,561

Parochial Church Council of Danbury St John the Baptist
Financial Statements for the year ended Dececember 31st 2022

2021		2022 Total	Restricted	Unrestricted
	Note 8 : Other Church Expenses			
-£2,990	Insurance	-£3,143		-£3,143
-£2,092	Maintenance/cleaning			
-£2,393	Gas	-£1,812		-£1,812
-£578	Electricity/Water	-£613		-£613
	Beetle Costs	-£2,044		-£2,044
-£645	Organ & Choir	-£724		-£724
-£608	Daisy. Telephone and WiFi	-£613		-£613
-£220	Bank Charges	-£267		-£267
-£657	Clergy Expenses	-£1,167		-£1,167
-£4,460	Churchyard & Green	-£2,953		-£2,953
-£4,474	Secretarial	-£4,599		-£4,599
-£300	Church Flowers	-£536		-£536
-£328	Copyright Licence	-£370		-£370
	Replacement Sound System	-£5,065	-£5,065	
-£1,270	Glebe Rent & Liability	£650		£650
-£2,059	All Other	-£1,877		-£1,877
-£23,075		-£25,133	-£5,065	-£20,069
	Note 9: Events Committee			
	Jumble Sale	£318		£318
	FOEC Ride & Stride	£53		£53
	Summer Fayre	£1,396		£1,396
£629	Tree Festival/Crib Festival	£575		£575
	Last Knight Proms	£277		£277
	Fri Lunchtime Concerts	£3,421		£3,421
£105	CoOp Star			
£734		£6,039		£6,039
	Note 10: Cash on Deposit			
£61,822	Deposit A/C Cent Bd of Finance	£62,635	£75,605	-£12,970
£22,538	Current A/C Barclays	£37,668		£37,668
£84,360		£100,303	£75,605	£24,698

Note 11: Liabilities
The accounts are prepared on a 'Receipts and Payments Basis. Unrecorded liabilities at 31/12/22 relate to uninvoiced gas, electricity and water usage amounting to less than £1200. The oustanding system costs are mainly met by donation.

Note 12: Funds

	At Jan 1 2022	Income	During 2022 Exp	At Dec 31 2022
Endowmnent Funds				
Wigan Grave	£6,580			£6,580
Turner Gift	£1,024			£1,024
Sub Total Endowment	**£7,604**			**£7,604**
Restricted Funds				
Church Building & land	£33,346			£33,346
Village Friends	£30,736	£3,500		£34,237
Other Resticted Transactions	£418	£13,075	-£5,065	£8,429
Sub Total	**£72,105**	**£16,575**	**-£5,065**	**£83,615**
Clergy Housing Fund	£92,000			£92,000
Total Restricted Funds	**£164,105**	**£16,575**	**-£5,065**	**£175,615**
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	£1,327	£98,469	-£89,732	£10,064
St John's Discretionary Fund	-£564		£564	£0
Church Building & land	£6,624			£6,624
Total Unrestricted	**£7,387**	**£98,469**	**-£89,168**	**£16,688**
Total: All Funds	**£171,492**	**£115,044**	**-£94,233**	**£192,303**

TRUSTS: WIGAN GRAVE & TURNER GIFT. In 2017 at the instigation of Chelmsord Diocese, the PCC applied to have the capital in these trusts tranferred from the Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance to the PCC. Sums of £3700.71 (Wigan Grave) and £705.20 (turner Gift) were transferred n Aril 2017 and were include as income in the 2017 accounts.

WIGAN GRAVE: The capital sum (originally donated in 1966 by Aline Wigan, widow of Brigadier General J T Wigan) is now held by the PCC. It is for the maintenance of the Church & churchyard so long as the Wigan Grave is kept in good order and repair.

TURNER GIFT: capital sum is for the upkeep of fabric or internal adornment of the Church or any special object relating therto which may require the raising of special funds; not for ordinary church expenses. The decisiona as to manner of use is with the Rector and churchwardens.

Church building/land: private donation, bequests, gifts (inc fund raising) given or raised specifically for the purpose

Village Friends: During 2014 the Rector wrote to alll households in the parish requesting financial support. The resulting income, much of which is in the form of PGS Direct Debits, which are ongoing into the future, is to be used exclusively for the maintenance and restoration of the Church building.

Other specific grants and donations that have been used for the purpose given. Danbury Parish Council & War Graves Commission (Churchyard), special collections etc

Clergy Housing Fund: Represents value of the curates house at 40 Millfields at purchase in 1989

Independent Examiner's Report
to the PCC of Danbury St John the Baptist

I report on the attached accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 5

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner:

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.
It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act)
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145 (5)(b) of the Act) and
- State whether particular matters have come to our attention

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

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.

11 Feb 2023

Michael Ovenden
10 Hyde Lane
Danbury

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DANBURY ST JOHN BAPT

England & Wales - Charity number 1130296

Accounts

Annual Report 2021/22

Parish Church of St John the Baptist,

Danbury

PCC Secretary's Report

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP
PRIEST-IN-CHARGE
Revd Canon Jacqui Jones
CHURCHWARDENS Alex Cooper & Katie Bird
AUTHORISED LOCAL PREACHERS Jenny Molyneux-Berry & Janet Arthurs
TREASURER Michael Green until January 1st 2022 / Alan Dixon since January 1st 2022
PARISH SECRETARY Nicola Telling
PCC SECRETARY Sue Ferguson until January 1st 2022
DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE
Steve Arthurs
MMU COMPASS CHURCHES REPRESENTATIVE
Alex Cooper
ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Steve Arthurs	Alison Cooper
Yvonne Bewick	Stephen Farrow
Katie Bird	Jonathan Telling
Paul Walton	

Bankers:
Barclays Bank plc, 40/41 High Street, Chelmsford CM1 1BE
Sort 20-19-95 Account 90982571
Legal Advisor:
Diocesan Registrar, 53, New St., Chelmsford CM1 1AT
Advisors: Architects
Shenstone and Partners St Paul's Institute 302 The Highway London E1W 3DH
Independent Examiner:
Mr Alan R. Dixon, 23 Beaumont Park, Danbury CM3 4DE
Registered Charity No.
1130296

The full PCC meets monthly accept for August.
Ad hoc PCC meetings are called when necessary.
On most occasions a representative from St Mary's Little Baddow has been in attendance.
Agendas over the last twelve months have been full and varied and minutes are available to be viewed any time upon request and a record is kept in a folder at the back of the church.

Due to the COVID pandemic, live services, baptisms, weddings and funerals have been greatly affected both in the number of services held and the number of people attending.
Here are the figures for 2021 which were offered to the Diocese for the year and are collated by the churchwardens;

Baptisms: 15
Marriages: 6 couples
Funerals in church or at crematorium: 33
Interments of ashes 16
Easter Day: 42 in person including 37 communicants, 106 online
Communicants on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day: 47
Number attending worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day: 52
Average Sunday attendance at 2 live services held in October: 64 adults

- Sue Ferguson

Parochial Church Council of Danbury St John the Baptist

Financial Statements

Year ended 31st December 2021

Summary

Total income of £90014 exceeded expenditure of £88159 resulting in a surplus for the year of £1855.

RESTRICTED FUNDS:

There was a surplus of £3884

1) Income that was received and spent in the year were (i) grants for the churchyard from Danbury Parish Council £1500 and War Graves Commission £60 (ii) income from the Landisdale Charity £168 for Church maintenance.

2) Income of £3884 was received from our Village Friends and retained within the Fabric Fund.

3) There were no special Collections during the year.

There were no major restoration projects to the church fabric, so the Fabric Fund increased by £3884 to £72105.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS:

There was a deficit of £2029 for the year.

Income at £84402 was £7937 up on 2020 partly due to the lessening effect of Covid, which allowed an improvement in meeting room bookings. Fee income from weddings and funerals were double 2020 levels and once-off donations were also significantly up. Disappointingly income from the Parish Giving Scheme and was down on last year. **Expenditure** overall was £8000 up on 2020 but this included an increased payment of £14000 towards our Parish Share (still not paid in full). Other expenditures were generally lower than last year although we did manage to spend almost £3000 extending the Garden of Remembrance.

Outlook for 2022:

Restricted: We face a major challenge in meeting the cost (up to £82000) to eradicate death watch beetle throughout the church roof and tower (presently subject to a further detailed survey to determine the real extent of the infestation). Substantial funds will need to be raised through grants and appeals.

Unrestricted: The PCC has approved a budget for 2022 which, if achieved, will allow a Parish Share payment of £59000 (£54000 in 2021) and continuing financial support to our designated charities.

Michael Green
01376 563871
Treasurer

January 10th, 2022

Page i	Accounting policies
Page ii	Consolidated financial statements
Pages iii-v	Notes to the accounts
Page vi	Independent Examiner's Report

Parochial Church Council of Danbury St John Baptist
Accounting Policies

Financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015) UK Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

Funds

Unrestricted Funds: the **General** and **Fabric** funds of the PCC are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for the general purposes of the PCC.

Restricted Funds: These are funds which include monies given for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are the main Fabric Fund, and grants towards churchyard maintenance from Danbury Parish Council and the War Graves Commission. Income from 'Danbury Friends' is restricted to Church Fabric. In addition, any collections at services for specific purposes, eg Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, are treated as 'restricted'.

Endowment Funds: In April 2017 the capital in 'Wigan Grave' & 'Turner Gift' funds was transferred from the Chelmsford Diocese to the PCC. The PCC will continue to use the capital and income for the prescribed purpose. The two funds are **The Wigan Grave** (maintenance of Church & Churchyard) and the **Turner Gift** (upkeep of fabric, equipment and ornaments in the Church).

General

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

Income

Income is accounted for gross, except where costs associated with fund raising events are minimal. Income is recognised only when received, except income tax recoveries which are included when the income is recognised. Income for the letting of the Meeting Room, 40 Millfields and the Rectory Car-park is recognised when it is due.

Expenditures

Expenditures are recognised when due, including estimates of unbilled gas and electricity at year-end. Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded. Any Diocesan parish share unpaid at 31 December is not shown as a liability.

Fixed assets

Consecrated property and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by S96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993. Moveable Church furnishings held by the Rector and Churchwardens on special trust from the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). They are not valued in the accounts.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Individual items of equipment costing more than £3000 are/will be depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years (there are presently no such items). Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £3,000 or less are written off on acquisition.

Current assets & liabilities

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December include income tax due not received. Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the C of E Central Board of Finance or the bank. Liabilities include rent received in advance for the Meeting Room and amounts owing for utilities.

January 10th, 2022

2020 Total Funds	Statement of Financial Activities	Note	FUNDS 2021 Total Funds	Rest -ricted	Unrest -ricted
£			£	£	£
	Income				
50584	Planned giving, collections etc	1	**48059.23**		48059
4066	Village Friends	2	**3884.34**	3884	0
1629	Events	9	**733.20**		733
1560	Grants received	3	**1560.00**	1560	0
4520	Fees		**9515.00**		9515
1468	Meeting Room income	4	**4407.00**		4407
13200	40 Millfields, rental income	5	**13200.00**		13200
2371	Garden of Remembrance		**2750.00**		2750
5324	All other income	6	**5905.35**	168	5737
0	Special collections	7	**0.00**		0
84721	Sub-total		**90014.12**	5612	84402
0	other Income	13			
84721	Total income		**90014.12**	5612	84402
	Expenditure				
-2600	Grants to Charities	7	**-2600.00**		-2600
-39898	Parish Share (£65388 - 1%)		**-54000.00**		-54000
-5134	Meeting Room expenses	4	**-6301.69**		-6302
-7806	40 Millfields expenses	5	**-1129.61**		-1130
-807	Garden of Remembrance		**-1052.78**		-1053
-23547	Other Church expenses	8	**-23074.67**	-1728	-21347
-79792	Sub-total		**-88158.75**	-1728	-86431
0	Major restoration works				0
-79792	Total expenditures		**-88158.75**	-1728	-86431
4929	**Net Surplus/-deficit**		**1855.37**	**3884**	**-2029**
	Balance Sheet				
	Net Assets				
81967	Cash at bank and on deposit	10	**84360.21**	72105	12255
250	Other assets	11	**250.00**	0	250
-4581	Liablities -due within one year	12	**-5118.69**	0	-5119
77636	Current Assets		**79491.52**	72105	7387
92000	Property, 40 Millfields	5	**92000.00**	92000	
169636	Total Net Assets		**171491.52**	164105	7387
	Funds				
7604	Endowment funds	13	**7603.61**	7604	
60617	Restricted- other	13	**64501.14**	64501	
9416	Unrestricted funds	13	**7386.77**		7387
77636	Total cash funds		**79491.52**	72105	7387
92000	Restricted- Clergy Housing	13	**92000.00**	92000	
169636	Total Funds	13	**171491.52**	164105	7387

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on January 10th 2022
and signed on its behalf by:

Jacquelin D Jones

Canon Jacqui Jones (Chairman)

Michael S Green (Treasurer)

Notes to the Financial Statements

2020 Total Funds	Statement of Financial Activities	FUNDS 2021 Total Funds	Rest -ricted	Unrest -ricted
£	**Note 1: Planned giving, collections etc**	£	£	£
5891	Planned Giving: non-PGS	4421.00		4421
31877	Planned Giving: Parish Giving Scheme	31118.78		31119
1744	General collections & Gift Aid	3380.69		3381
3336	Tax reclaimed: non PGS	1574.77		1575
7736	Tax reclaimed: Parish Giving Scheme	7563.99		7564
50584		48059.23		48059
	Note 2: Village Friends			
320	Planned Giving: non-PGS	320.00	320	
2944	Planned Giving: Parish Giving Scheme	2817.26	2817	
80	Tax reclaimed: non PGS	51.80	52	
721	tax reclaimed: Parish Giving Scheme	695.28	695	
4066		3884.34	3884	
	Note 3: Grants		0	
1500	Danbury Parish Council: Churchyard	1500.00	1500	
60	War Graves Commission: Churchyard	60.00	60	
1560		1560.00	1560	
	Note 4: Meeting Room			
1468	Fees from letting	4407.00		4407
-1516	Expenses: Cleaning	-1280.00		-1280
-2343	Electricity & water	-2151.10		-2151
-70	Repairs & mtce	-1783.00		-1783
-330	Glebe rent	-330.00		-330
-735	Insurance	-747.40		-747
-140	Sundry	-10.19		-10
-3667		-1894.69		-1895

Note 5: 40 Millfields

The PCC owns the curates house at 40 Millfields, purchased in 1989 for £92000.
The capital value is restricted to the Clergy Fund; net operating surplus/deficit is General Fund.

-7515	Maintenance	-807.60		-808
-292	Insurance	-322.01		-322
-7806	total costs	-1129.61		-1130
13200	net-rental income	13200.00		13200
5394	net surplus/-deficit	12070.39		12070

	Note 6: Other Income			
2000	Bequests			
288	Interest	4.94		5
657	Donations	2109.44		2109
0	Wall safe	18.97		19
130	Landisdale Charity	168.00	168	0
600	Covid volunteers	1400.00		1400
100	Church heating fees	620.00		620
1548	Rectory car park income	1584.00		1584
5324		5905.35	168	5737
	Note: 7 Grants to Charities			
-500	Friends of Essex Churches	-500.00		-500
-500	CHESS	-500.00		-500
-500	World Vision (Suzanne Gaywood)	-500.00		-500
-500	Safer Places	-500.00		-500
-500	Quantock Christian Trust (Rev Janet Muhindo)	-500.00		-500
-100	RBL Poppy Appeal	-100.00		-100
0	St John's Discretionary Fund	0.00		0
-2600		-2600.00		-2600
	SPECIAL COLLECTIONS			
0	Essex Clergy Charity			
0	DEC Indonesia Appeal			
0	Essex Wildlife Trust			
0	Remembrance Day: RBL Poppy Appeal			
0	Christingle: The Childrens' Society			
0	Sub total:	0.00		0
-2600	Total	-2600.00		-2600

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

2020 Total Funds £	Statement of Financial Activities	FUNDS 2021 Total Funds £	Rest -ricted £	Unrest -ricted £
	Note: 8 other church expenses			
0	Mission			0
-2940	Insurance	**-2989.61**		-2990
-4281	Maintenance/cleaning	**-2092.36**	-168	-1924
-1569	Gas	**-2393.26**		-2393
-495	Electricity/water	**-578.06**		-578
-333	Organ & choir	**-645.49**		-645
-107	Altar	**-361.83**		-362
-827	Covid supplies	**-407.24**		-407
-300	Daisy, telephone and WIFI	**-607.88**		-608
-211	Bank charges	**-219.77**		-220
-657	Clergy Expenses	**-656.57**		-657
-2509	Churchyard & Green	**-4460.39**	-1560	-2900
-8727	Secretarial	**-4473.77**		-4474
-100	Church Flowers	**-300.00**		-300
-335	Copyright licence	**-328.10**		-328
-70	Glebe rent & liability	**-1270.00**		-1270
-87	All other	**-1290.33**		-1290
-23547		**-23074.67**	-1728	-21347
0	**Note 9 Events Committee**			
0	Jumble Sale	0.00		0
0	Times and Seasons Concert	0.00		0
0	FOEC ride & stride	0.00		0
0	Tower & teas	0.00		0
803	Sunday morning teas	0.00		0
0	Flower Festival	0.00		0
0	Event advertising	0.00		0
19	www.easy fundraising	0.00		0
128	Star Co-op	105.00		105
0	Christmas Tree Festival	628.20		628
679	Fri lunchtime Concerts	0.00		0
0	Last Knight proms	0.00		0
0	Family BBQ	0.00		0
0	Church Tours	0.00		0
0	Fireworks	0.00		0
1629		733.20 0	0	733
	Note 10: Cash on deposit			
61817	Deposit, Cent Bd of Finance	**61822.02**	72105	-10283
20150	Current A/c Barclays	**22538.19**		22538
81967	Total cash	**84360.21**	72105	12255
	Note 11: Other Assets			
250	Last qtr: Income tax due, not claimed	**250.00**		250
0	Other	**0.00**		0
250	Total other Assets	**250.00**	0	250
	Note12: Liabilities			
-564	St John's Discretionary Fund	**-564.00**		-564
-1325	Meeting room rent in advance	**-200.00**		-200
-1252	Creditors, gas electricity & water	**-904.69**		-905
0	Grant, Allchurches Trust; not yet used	**-2250.00**		-2250
0	Glebe, survey liability	**-1200.00**		-1200
-1440	Rectory Car-park rent in advance	**0.00**		0
-4581	Total liabilities	**-5118.69**	0	-5119

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Note 13: Funds	At Jan 1 2021	During 2021 Income	Exp	transfr	At Dec 31 2021	
	£	£	£	£	£	
Endowment funds						
Wigan grave	6580.08		0.00		6580.08	
Turner Gift	1023.53		0.00		1023.53	
Sub-total Endowment	7603.61	0.00	0.00		7603.61	0
Restricted Funds						
Church building & land	33346.25			0.00	33346.25	0
Village friends	26852.11	3884.34			30736.45	0
Nave Floor Restoration	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Other restricted transactions	418.44	1728.00	-1728.00		418.44	0
sub-total	68220.41	5612.34	-1728.00	0.00	72104.75	0
Clergy Housing fund	92000.00				92000.00	0
Total restricted funds	**160220.41**	**5612.34** 0	**-1728.00**	**0.00**	**164104.75**	0
Unrestricted funds						
General Fund	1355.74	84401.78	-86430.75	2000.00	1326.77	0
St John's Discretionary Fund	-564.00			0.00	-564.00	0
Church building & land	8624.00			-2000.00	6624.00	0
Total Unrestricted	**9415.74**	**84401.78**	**-86430.75**	**0.00**	**7386.77**	0
Total: All Funds	**169636.15**	**90014.12**	**-88158.75**	**0.00**	**171491.52**	0

TRUSTS: WIGAN GRAVE & TURNER GIFT. In 2017, and at the instigation of Chelmsford Diocese, the PCC applied to to have the capital in these trusts transferred from the Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance to the PCC. Sums of £3700.71 (Wigan Grave) and £705.20 (Turner Gift) were transferred in April 2017 and were included as income in the 2017 accounts.

WIGAN GRAVE: The capital sum (originally donated in 1966 by Aline Wigan, widow of Brigadier General J T Wigan) is now held by the PCC. It is for the maintenance of the Church & churchyard so long as the Wigan Grave is kept in good order and repair.

TURNER GIFT: Capital sum is for the upkeep of fabric or internal adornment of the Church or any special object relating thereto which may require the raising of special funds; not for ordinary church expenses. decision as to manner of use is with the Rector and churchwardens.

Church building/land: private donation, bequests, gifts (inc fund raising) given or raised specifically for the purpose.

Village friends: during 2014 the Rector wrote to all households in the parish requesting financial support. The resulting income, much of which is in the form of PGS direct debits which are ongoing into the future, is to be used exclusively for the maintenance and restoration of the Church building.

Other specific grants and donations that have been used for the purpose given. Danbury Parish Council & War Graves Commission (Churchyard), special collections etc.

Clergy Housing Fund: Represents value of the curates house at 40 Millfields at purchase in 1989

St John's Discretionary Fund: In 2016 the Charitable Giving Committee (a sub-committee of the PCC) resolved to estabish a reserve to help local Danbury people in need. It is not necessarily spent in the year it is created. Any amount unspent at the year end is held in reserve

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT
To the PCC of Danbury St John the Baptist

I report on the attached accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2021 which are set out on pages i to v.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act)
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act) and
- state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

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.

Alan Dixon
23 Beaumont Park
Danbury

January10th, 2022

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DANBURY ST JOHN BAPT

England & Wales - Charity number 1130296

Accounts

PCC Secretary's Report

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP
PRIEST-IN-CHARGE
Revd Canon Jacqui Jones
CHURCHWARDENS Betty Sinclair & Alex Cooper
AUTHORISED LOCAL PREACHERS Jenny Molyneux-Berry & Janet Arthurs
TREASURER Michael Green
PARISH SECRETARY Nicola Telling
PCC SECRETARY Sue Ferguson
DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE
Steve Arthurs
MMU COMPASS CHURCHES REPRESENTATIVE
Alex Cooper
ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES
Steve Arthurs
Sylvia Beckett
Yvonne Bewick
Katie Bird
Alison Cooper
Stephen Farrow
Paul Hagger
Dennis Mason

Bankers:
Barclays Bank plc, 40/41 High Street, Chelmsford CM1 1BE
Sort 20-19-95 Account 90982571
Legal Advisor:
Diocesan Registrar, 53, New St., Chelmsford CM1 1AT
Advisors: Architects
Shenstone and Partners St Paul's Institute 302 The Highway London E1W 3DH
Independent Examiner:
Mr Alan R. Dixon, 23 Beaumont Park, Danbury CM3 4DE
Registered Charity No.
1130296

The full PCC now meets monthly after a period of bi monthly meetings.
Ad hoc PCC meetings are called when necessary.
On most occasions a representative from St Mary's Little Baddow has been in attendance.
Agendas over the last twelve months have been full and varied and minutes are available to be viewed any time upon request. Once the church is back to running in the usual way they will be available in the folder at the back of the church at all times.

Here are the figures for 2020 which were offered to the Diocese for the year and are collated by the churchwardens:
Due to the COVID pandemic, live services, baptisms, weddings and funerals have been greatly affected both in the number of services held and the number of people attending..
Here are the figures for 2020 which were offered to the Diocese for the year and are collated by the churchwardens;

Baptisms: 2 children (under 1 year), 2 adults
Marriages: 1 couple
Funerals in church or at crematorium: 26
Interments of ashes 16
There were no live services on Easter Day
Communicants on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day: 33
Number attending worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day: 44
Average Sunday attendance at 2 live services held in October: 22 adults

Parochial Church Council of Danbury St John the Baptist
Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2020.

2019 Total Funds	Statement of Financial Activities	Note	FUNDS 2020 Total Funds	Rest -ricted	Unrest -ricted
£			£	£	£
	Income				
55866	Planned giving, collections etc	1	**50584.29**		50584
4046	Village Friends	2	**4065.76**	4066	
7641	Events	9	**1629.20**	0	1629
1560	Grants received	3	**1560.00**	1560	
7250	Fees		**4520.00**		4520
8297	Meeting Room income	4	**1467.50**		1468
13200	40 Millfields, rental income	5	**13200.00**		13200
1850	Garden of Remembrance		**2370.70**		2371
4291	All other income	6	**5323.52**	2630	2694
600	Special collections	7	**0.00**	0	
104601	Sub-total		**84720.97**	8256	76465
0	other Income	13	**0.00**	0	
104601	Total income		**84720.97**	8256	76465
	Expenditure				
-4950	Grants to Charities	7	**-2600.00**	0	-2600
-64159	Parish Share (£64807 - 1%)		**-39897.80**		-39898
-7343	Meeting Room expenses	4	**-5134.14**		-5134
-733	40 Millfields expenses	5	**-7806.13**		-7806
-593	Garden of Remembrance		**-806.62**		-807
-23497	Other Church expenses	8	**-23546.86**	-1690	-21857
-101274	Sub-total		**-79791.55**	-1690	-78102
0	Major restoration works		**0.00**		
-101274	Total expenditures		**-79791.55**	-1690	-78102
3327	**Net Surplus/-deficit**		**4929.42**	6566	-1636
	Balance Sheet				
	Net Assets				
78342	Cash at bank and on deposit	10	**81967.16**	68220	13747
500	Other assets	11	**250.00**	0	250
-6135	Liablities -due within one year	12	**-4581.02**	0	-4581
72707	Current Assets		**77636.14**	68220	9416
92000	Property, 40 Millfields	5	**92000.00**	92000	
164707	Total Net Assets		**169636.14**	160220	9416
	Funds				
7604	Endowment funds	13	**7603.61**	7604	
54051	Restricted- other	13	**60616.80**	60617	
11052	Unrestricted funds	13	**9415.74**		9416
72707	Total cash funds		**77636.15**	68220	9416
92000	Restricted- Clergy Housing	13	**92000.00**	92000	
164707	Total Funds	13	**169636.15**	160220	9416

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on January 11th 2021
and signed on its behalf by:

Canon Jacqui Jones (Chairman)

Michael S Green (Treasurer)

Notes to the Financial Statements

2019 Total Funds	Statement of Financial Activities	FUNDS 2020 Total Funds	Rest -ricted	Unrest -ricted
£	**Note 1: Planned giving, collections etc**	**£**	£	£
6280	Planned Giving: non-PGS	**5891.37**		5891
31469	Planned Giving: Parish Giving Scheme	**31876.63**		31877
6784	General collections & Gift Aid	**1744.16**		1744
3757	Tax reclaimed: non PGS	**3336.05**		3336
7577	Tax reclaimed: Parish Giving Scheme	**7736.08**		7736
55866		**50584.29**	0	50584
	Note 2: Village Friends			
395	Planned Giving: non-PGS	**320.00**	320	
2854	Planned Giving: Parish Giving Scheme	**2944.33**	2944	
99	Tax reclaimed: non PGS	**80.00**	80	
699	tax reclaimed: Parish Giving Scheme	**721.43**	721	
4046		**4065.76**	4066	
	Note 3: Grants			
1500	Danbury Parish Council: Churchyard	**1500.00**	1500	
60	War Graves Commission: Churchyard	**60.00**	60	
1560		**1560.00**	1560	
	Note 4: Meeting Room			
8297	Fees from letting	**1467.50**		1468
-1806	Expenses: Cleaning	**-1515.90**		-1516
-2365	Electricity & water	**-2343.37**		-2343
-1921	Repairs & mtce	**-69.60**		-70
-300	Glebe rent	**-330.00**		-330
-728	Insurance	**-734.95**		-735
-223	Sundry	**-140.32**		-140
954		**-3666.64**	0	-3667
	Note 5: 40 Millfields			
	The PCC owns the curates house at 40 Millfields, purchased in 1989 for £92000.			
	The capital value is restricted to the Clergy Fund; net operating surplus/deficit is General Fund.			
-450	Maintenance	**-7514.50**		-7515
-283	Insurance	**-291.63**		-292
-733	total costs	**-7806.13**		-7806
13200	net rental income	**13200.00**		13200
12468	net surplus/-deficit	**5393.87**		5394
	Note 6: Other Income			
2000	Bequests	**2000.00**	2000	0
0	Interest	**288.49**	0	288
0	Donations	**657.03**	500	157
70	Wall safe	**0.00**		0
137	Landisdale Charity	**130.00**	130	0
0	Covid volunteers	**600.00**		600
500	Church heating fees	**100.00**		100
1584	Rectory car park income	**1548.00**		1548
4291		**5323.52**	2630	2694
	Note: 7 Grants to Charities			
-850	Friends of Essex Churches	**-500.00**		-500
-850	CHESS	**-500.00**		-500
-850	World Vision (Suzanne Gaywood)	**-500.00**		-500
-850	Safer Places	**-500.00**		-500
-850	Quantock Christian Trust (Rev Janet Muhindo)	**-500.00**		-500
-100	Eves Cnr Christmas event/RBL Poppy Appeal	**-100.00**		-100
0	St John's Discretionary Fund	**0.00**		0
-4350		**-2600.00**		-2600
	SPECIAL COLLECTIONS			
0	Essex Clergy Charity	**0.00**	0	
0	DEC Indonesia Appeal	**0.00**	0	
-125	Essex Wildlife Trust	**0.00**	0	
-100	Remembrance Day: RBL Poppy Appeal	**0.00**	0	
-375	Christingle: The Childrens' Society	**0.00**	0	
-600	Sub total:	**0.00**	0	
-4950	Total	**-2600.00**	0	-2600

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

2019 Total Funds	Statement of Financial Activities	Total Funds	FUNDS 2020 Rest -ricted	Unrest -ricted
£	**Note: 8 other church expenses**	**£**	£	£
0	Mission	**0.00**		0
-3007	Insurance	**-2939.83**		-2940
-655	Maintenance/cleaning	**-4281.02**	-130	-4151
-1864	Gas	**-1569.13**		-1569
-619	Electricity/water	**-494.61**		-495
-644	Organ & choir	**-333.48**		-333
-627	Altar	**-107.00**		-107
0	Covid supplies	**-827.20**		-827
-1186	Daisy, telephone and WIFI	**-299.73**		-300
-323	Bank charges	**-210.64**		-211
-802	Clergy Expenses	**-656.58**		-657
-7452	Churchyard & Green	**-2508.50**	-1560	-949
-4789	Secretarial	**-8727.20**		-8727
-345	Church Flowers	**-100.00**		-100
-275	Copyright licence	**-335.30**		-335
-909	All other	**-156.65**		-157
-23497		**-23546.86**	-1690	-21857
	Note 9 Events Committee			
	Jumble Sale	0.00		0
	Times and Seasons Concert	0.00		0
	FOEC ride & stride	0.00		0
	Tower & teas	0.00		0
	Sunday morning teas	803.00		803
	Flower Festival	0.00		0
	Event advertising	0.00		0
	www.easy fundraising	19.23		19
	Star Co-op	127.50		128
	Heritage Day teas	0.00		0
	Fri lunchtime Concerts	679.47		679
	Last Knight proms	0.00		0
	Family BBQ	0.00		0
	Church Tours	0.00		0
	Fireworks	0.00		0
7641		**1629.20**	0	1629
	Note 10: Cash on deposit			
61529	Deposit, Cent Bd of Finance	**61817.08**	68220	-6403
16814	Current A/c Barclays	**20150.08**		20150
78342	Total cash	**81967.16**	68220	13747
	Note 11: Other Assets			
428	Last qtr: Income tax due, not claimed	**250.00**		250
72	DVH 2019 in adv/Rectory car park income overdue	**0.00**		0
500	Total other Assets	**250.00**	0	250
	Note12: Liabilities			
-564	St John's Discretionary Fund	**-564.00**		-564
-375	Meeting room rent in advance	**-1325.00**		-1325
-1446	Creditors, gas electricity & water	**-1252.02**		-1252
-2790	Church Green roadway repairs	**0.00**		0
-960	Rectory Car-park rent in advance	**-1440.00**		-1440
-6135	Total liabilities	**-4581.02**	0	-4581

Parochial Church Council of Danbury St John the Baptist

Notes to the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

Note 13: Funds	At Jan 1 2020	Income	Exp	transf'r	At Dec 31 2020
Endowment funds	£	£	£	£	£
Wigan grave	6580.08				6580.08
Turner Gift	1023.53		0.00		1023.53
Sub-total Endowment	7603.61	0.00	0.00		7603.61
Restricted Funds					
Church building & land	33346.25			0.00	33346.25
Village friends	22786.35	4065.76			26852.11
Nave Floor Restoration	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
Other restricted transactions	-2081.56	4190.00	-1690.00		418.44
sub-total	61654.65	8255.76	-1690.00	0.00	68220.41
Clergy Housing fund	92000.00				92000.00
Total restricted funds	**153654.65**	**8255.76**	**-1690.00**	**0.00**	**160220.41**
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	2992.08	76465.21	-78101.55		1355.74
St John's Discretionary Fund	-564.00			0.00	-564.00
Church building & land	8624.00				8624.00
Total Unrestricted	**11052.08**	**76465.21**	**-78101.55**	**0.00**	**9415.74**
Total: All Funds	**164706.73**	**84720.97**	**-79791.55**	**0.00**	**169636.15**
	0	0	0	0	0

TRUSTS: WIGAN GRAVE & TURNER GIFT. In 2017, and at the instigation of Chelmsford Diocese, the PCC applied to to have the capital in these trusts transferred from the Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance to the PCC. Sums of £3700.71 (Wigan Grave) and £705.20 (Turner Gift) were transferred in April 2017 and are included as income in the 2017 accounts.
WIGAN GRAVE: The capital sum (originally donated in 1966 by Aline Wigan, widow of Brigadier General J T Wigan) is now held by the PCC. It is for the maintenance of the Church & churchyard so long as the Wigan Grave is kept in good order and repair.
TURNER GIFT: Capital sum is for the upkeep of fabric or internal adornment of the Church or any special object relating thereto which may require the raising of special funds; not for ordinary church expenses. decision as to manner of use is with the Rector and churchwardens.

Church building/land: private donation, bequests, gifts (inc fund raising) given or raised specifically for the purpose.

Village friends: during 2014 the Rector wrote to all households in the parish requesting financial support. The resulting income, much of which is in the form of PGS direct debits which are ongoing into the future, is to be used exclusively for the maintenance and restoration of the Church building.

Other specific grants and donations that have been used for the purpose given. Danbury Parish Council & War Graves Commission (Churchyard), special collections etc.

Clergy Housing Fund: Represents value of the curates house at 40 Millfields at purchase in 1989

St John's Discretionary Fund: In 2016 the Charitable Giving Committee (a sub-committee of the PCC) resolved to estabish a reserve to help local Danbury people in need. It is not necessarily spent in the year it is created. Any amount unspent at the year end is held in reserve

Independent Examiner's report
to the PCC of Danbury St John the Baptist

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2019, which are set out on pages i to v.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner
The charity's trustees consider that an Audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the charities act 2011 (the Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

(a) Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act
(b) Follow procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners in section 145(5)(b)of the Act and
(c) 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. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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

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

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.

Alan Dixon
23 Beaumont Park
Danbury

January 13th, 2020