

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 except 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



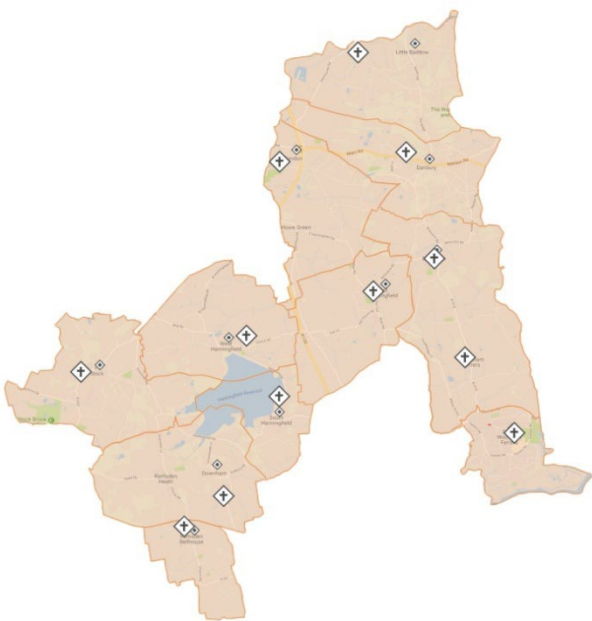


## Compass Churches

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](http://www.compasschurches.org.uk)

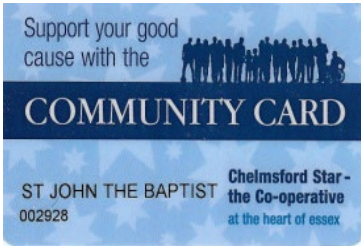


- Alex Cooper





# 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

### 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.

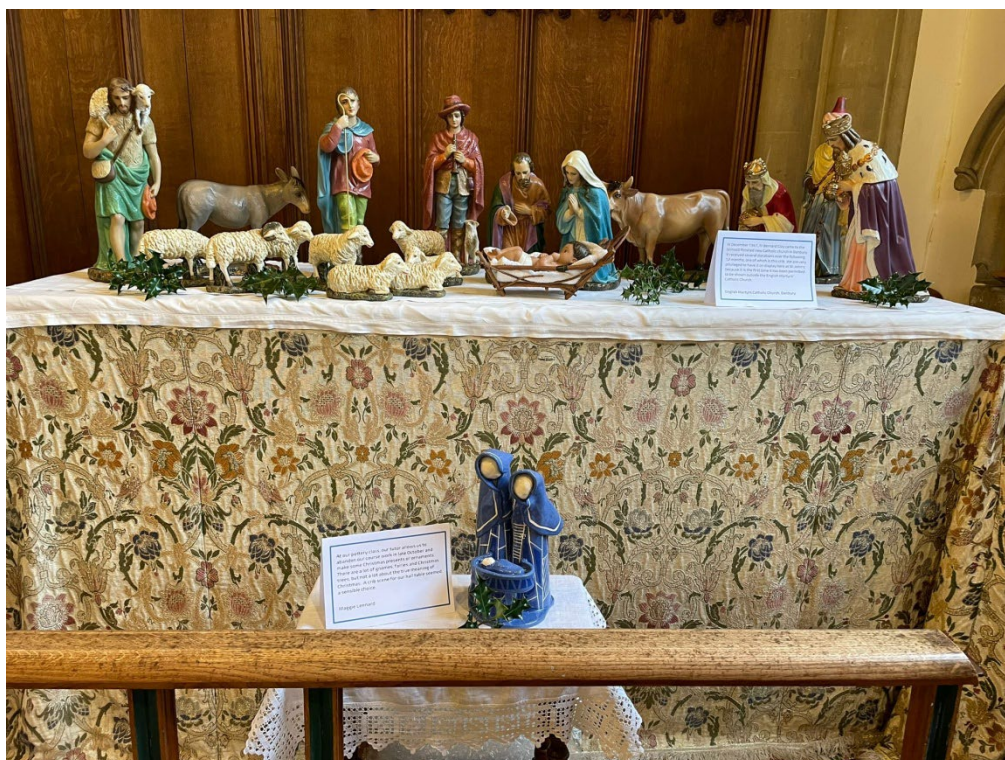
The plan was to have a mini Christmas Market outdoors with Gluhwein, German sausages, preserves, cards, floral decorations and a raffle - - all to add to the fun of the day.

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.

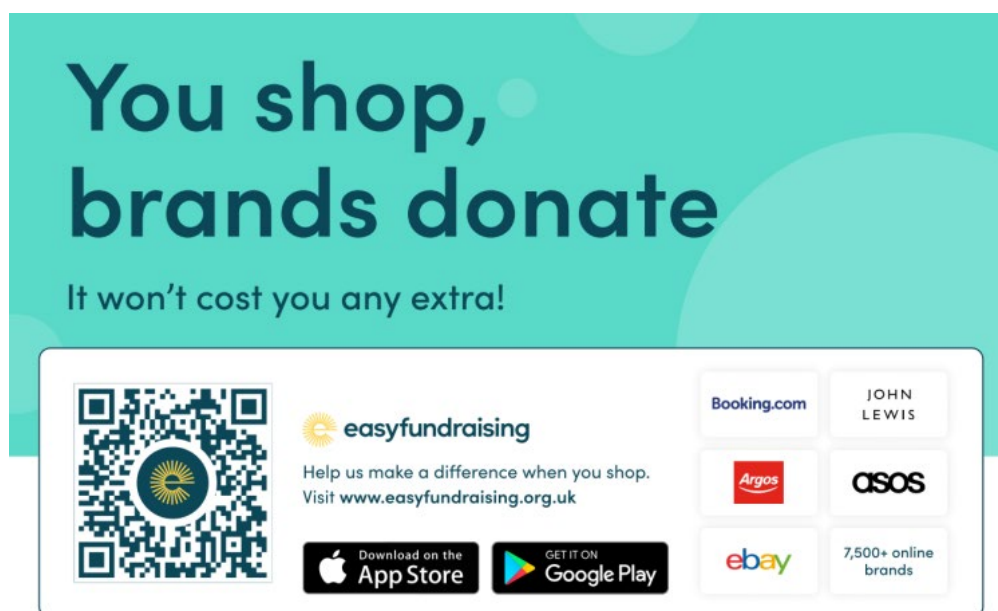
In July there will be the usual Family Barbeque.

Looking to the end of the year, plans are in place for another Christmas Tree Festival on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

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 hostelrys 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 10-12, all are welcome to come along!) and everyone who helps keep the church running.

- Alex Cooper

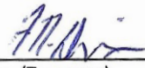
# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## 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
<b>Income</b>				
£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
<b>£104,928</b>		<b>£120,825</b>	<b>£4,167</b>	<b>£116,657</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
-£3,016 Grants to Charities	7	-£3,988		-£3,988
-£4450 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
<b>-£109,070</b>		<b>-£108,563</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>-£108,563</b>
-£4,143 Net Surplus/Deficit		£12,262	£4,167	£8,095
<b>Balance Sheet</b>				
<b>Net Assets</b>				
£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	
<b>£188,160 Total Net Assets</b>		<b>£200,421</b>	<b>£177,238</b>	<b>£23,183</b>
<b>Funds</b>				
7604 Endowment Funds	12	£7,604	£7,604	
73467 Restricted - Other	12	£77,635	£77,635	
15089 Unrestricted funds	12	£23,184		£23,184
<b>96160 Total Cash funds</b>		<b>£108,422</b>	<b>£85,239</b>	<b>£23,184</b>
92000 Restricted - Clergy Housing	12	£92,000	£92,000	
<b>£188,160 Total funds</b>	12	<b>£200,422</b>	<b>£177,239</b>	<b>£23,184</b>

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

  
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	Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended December 31st 2024		2024
Total	Statement of Financial Activities		
	Note 1: Planned Giving, collections etc		
	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted
£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 CHES	-£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**

<u>2023</u>		<u>2024</u>	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>
<b>Note 8 : Other Church Expenses</b>			
-£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
<b>-£39,692</b>	<b>-£40,237</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>-£40,237</b>
<b>Note 9: Events Committee</b>			
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
<b>£6,745</b>	<b>£13,549</b>		<b>£13,549</b>
<b>Note 10: Cash on Deposit</b>			
£85,226 Deposit A/C Cent Bd of Finance	£99,750		
£10,934 Current A/C Barclays	£8,671		£8,671
<b>£96,160</b>	<b>£108,421</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£8,671</b>

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

**Note 11: Liabilities**

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**

<b>Note 12: Funds</b>	<b>At Jan 1 2024</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>During 2024 Exp</b>	<b>At Dec 31 2024</b>
<b><u>Endowment Funds</u></b>				
Wigan Grave	£6,580			£6,580
Turner Gift	£1,024			£1,024
Sub Total Endowment	<b>£7,604</b>			<b>£7,604</b>
<b><u>Restricted Funds</u></b>				
Church Building & land	£33,346			£33,346
Village Friends	£37,430	£2,942		£40,372
Other Restricted Transactions	£2,691	£1,225		£3,916
Sub Total	<b>£81,071</b>	<b>£4,167</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£85,238</b>
Clergy Housing Fund	£92,000			£92,000
Total Restricted Funds	<b>£173,071</b>	<b>£4,167</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£177,238</b>
<b><u>Unrestricted Funds</u></b>				
General Fund	£8,465	£116,657	-£108,563	£16,560
Church Building & land	£6,624			£6,624
Total Unrestricted	<b>£15,089</b>	<b>£116,657</b>	<b>-£108,563</b>	<b>£23,184</b>
<b>Total: All Funds</b>	<b>£188,160</b>	<b>£120,825</b>	<b>-£108,563</b>	<b>£200,422</b>

TRUSTS: WIGAN GRAVE & TURNER GIFT. In 2017 at the instigation of Chelmsford Diocese, the PCC applied 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. 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 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

## **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 31<sup>st</sup> 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