



St John's Church,
Danbury

Annual Report 2026

Contents

Authorised Lay Preachers.....	5
Bellringers Report.....	6
Café Praise.....	8
Chalice and Serving Ministry	9
Charity Giving	9
"The Chosen" - a Lent Study Course.....	10
Compass Churches	11
Events.....	12
Easy Fundraising.....	15
Flowers.....	16
Health & Safety	17
Landisdale Almshouse and Unknown Donor Charity	18
Ladies Who Lunch	19
Livestreaming Services	19
Men's Group	20
Mothers Union	20
Music Report	21
Prayer Ministry	22
Sunday Children's Club.....	22
Tea and coffee.....	23
World Vision.....	23
List of Sidespeople.....	25
DEANERY SYNOD (CHELMSFORD DEANERY)	26
FABRIC.....	27
SAFEGUARDING	29
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	30

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 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: 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 30 th May	1280 Plain Bob Major	Rung immediately after the service of thanksgiving and remembrance celebrating the life of Mary Roast, who died on 10 th 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 16 th September	1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major	Especially arranged and rung as an 80 th birthday compliment to Sue Spurgeon
Sunday 28 th 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.

- 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.

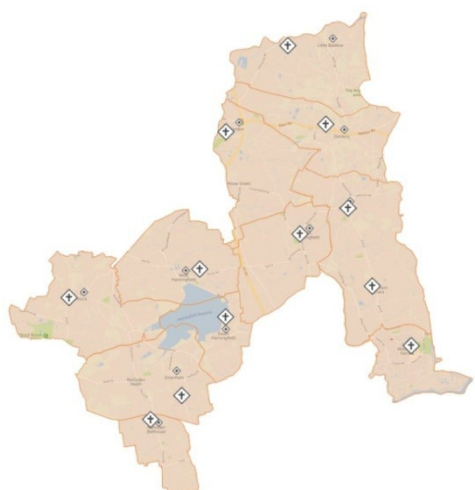
Attendance was good throughout the course, and there was clear appreciation for the accessible format, which welcomed those with a range of familiarity with Scripture.

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



- 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

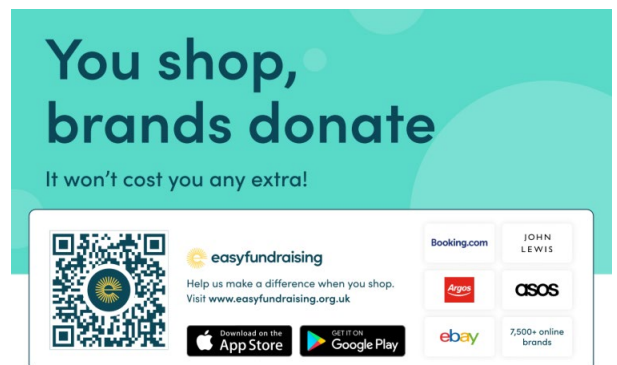
We have Tower and Teas on June 13, and Patronal Festival on June 27 with a Summer Afternoon Tea. There will be our Annual BBQ on July 10 and a Crib Festival on December 5 with an exciting concert by Grammaticus on December 6. Let's hope for another successful year of events.

- 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:

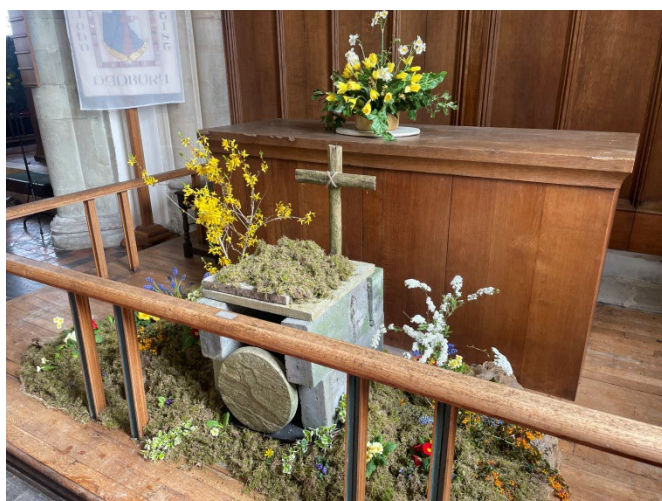
1. Go to: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/danburystjb> and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to Danbury St John Baptist Church at no extra cost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

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 welcome 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, Organist 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.

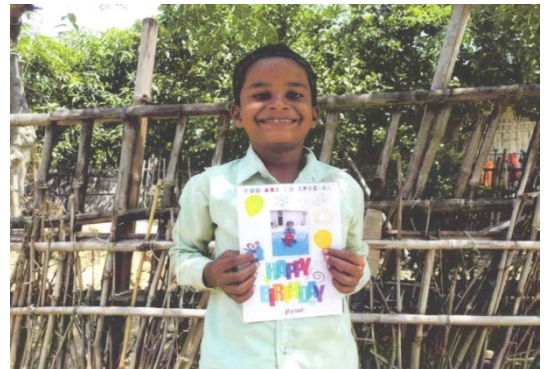
- Jenny Hagger

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.

Hello!

नमस्ते !



My message for you

तपाईंको लागि मेरो सन्देश

ध्यायी ST JOHN THE BAPTIST नमस्ते

Bat Ball

तपाईंले पठाउनु भएको विशेष उपहारको लागि धन्यवाद। म यहाँ सज्जै छु आशा छ कि तपाईं पनि त्यहाँ सज्जै हुनुहुन्छ होला। तपाईंले पठाउनु भएको ८०० ग्राट मैले खाने तौरीको तेल १ लिटर र सैम्पु किलिनिङ १६ पिस, कुरता सलवार २ सेट, देराप्प मैसल १ सेट किने र अब म कुरता सलवार लगाएर स्कूल पढ्न जान्छु र घरमा आमाको तौरीको तेलमा तरकारी बनाउनु हुन्छ र मैसो पनि पनि लुगाहरू र सबैलाई राम्रो सँग टराप्पमा राख्छु र सैम्पुले हाट साफा गरछु र मलाई मासु भात खान्न छोरै मन पर्छ। तपाईंको मन पर्ने खाना कुन हो? तपाईंको विशेष उपहारको लागि धन्यवाद।

तपाईंको ध्यायी-जियाल

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

Child ID NPL-213448-0169

बालबालिकाको नाम

बालबालिकाको आईडी

This letter was completed

☐ By myself☒ With the help of a community facilitator / family member

यो पत्र मेलेले व्यक्ति

म आफैले

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 the 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 our 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

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 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

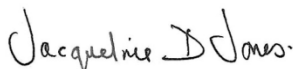
28 Danbury Vale

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

<u>2024</u>			<u>2025</u>	
<u>Statement of Financial Activities</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>
	Note			
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:



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

<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Total	Statement of Financial Activities
	Note 1: Planned Giving, collections etc
	Total Restricted Unrestricted
£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
	Note 3: 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

<u>2024</u>		<u>2025</u>	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>
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 Park Repairs/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: 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 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
Endowment 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 Restricted 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 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