

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY'S, EATON SOCON

England & Wales · Charity number 1130537

Details

Other names	ST MARY'S, EATON SOCON PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-07-14
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Marys Church Great North Road Eaton Socon St. Neots PE19 8EJ
Phone	01480352154
Email	vicarspa@eatonsocon.org
Website	www.EatonSocon.org

Activities

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

Activities: Regular diverse public worship open to all. Provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation. Teaching Christianity in accordance with the Scriptures and the Church of England, through sermons, courses and small groups. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved. Promoting the whole mission of the church through activities for people of all ages.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Religious Activities, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Cambridgeshire
- Central Bedfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£196,834	£163,884	-	-
2024-12-31	£162,232	£166,891	-	-
2023-12-31	£165,260	£164,968	-	-
2022-12-31	£166,249	£187,297	-	-
2021-12-31	£187,102	£184,365	-	-
2020-12-31	£162,126	£181,824	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
DEBORA JANE PHILLIPS		2024-04-21
David Gill		2026-01-11
Dr Anthony Brian Harris		2023-03-12
EDWARD Richard JARVIS		2012-06-29
Gavin Chapman		2023-03-12
JANE GOGARTY		2017-04-23
Jessica Rachel Mephram		2023-03-12
Julia Chapman		2023-03-12
Rev George Reginal Cobb		2025-04-26
Rev RAYMOND JOHN PORTER		2026-04-25
Scott Gary Grace		2025-04-06
Teresa Bryant		2022-03-13

Accounts



St Mary's Eaton Socon
THE CHURCH ON THE GREEN

**The Parochial Church Council of the
Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's,
Eaton Socon (Eaton Socon PCC)
Charity 1130537**

Report & Accounts

Financial Year Ending 31/12/2025

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St Mary's Eaton Socon – Annual Report and Accounts 2025

Legal & Administrative Details

Charity Name:	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's, Eaton Socon (Eaton Socon PCC)	
Charity Number:	1130537	
Governance:	The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956 as amended, Church Representation Rules 2006). The trustees are the members of the Parochial Church Council, which comprises the Vicar, the elected Churchwardens, and other members elected by those on the Church Electoral Roll.	
Charity Address:	St Mary's Church Great North Road Eaton Socon St Neots PE19 8EJ	
Website:	www.eatonsocon.org	
Trustees: (during 2025 and until the date this report was approved)	Vicar:	Rev Timothy Robb (died 07/01/2026)
	Churchwardens:	Mr David Gill (appointed 11/01/2026) Mr Edward Jarvis
	Deanery Synod:	Mrs Jane Gogarty (also Diocesan Synod) Mr Edward Jarvis
	Elected members:	Mrs Teresa Bryant Mr Gavin Chapman Mrs Julia Chapman Mr Scott Grace (appointed 06/04/2025) Dr Anthony Harris Mrs Jessica Mephram Mrs Debbie Phillips Mr Peter Salkield (resigned 06/04/2025) Mr Tom Salkield (resigned 06/04/2025)
	Co-opted members:	Rev George Cobb Rev Ray Porter (resigned 06/04/2025, and co-opted again 26/2/26)
Primary Banker:	Barclays Bank UK plc Leicester LE87 2BB	
Independent Examiner:	Malcolm Crawford CPFA 20 Rycroft Avenue St Neots PE19 1DT	

Trustees' Report

Aim and purpose

St Mary's Eaton Socon Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for co-operating with the Vicar in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to know God through his Son, Jesus Christ, and to live in the power of his Spirit both in the church and in their lives in the wider community.

It does this by providing:

- regular diverse public worship open to all
- sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation
- teaching in accordance with the Scriptures and the Church of England, through sermons, courses and small groups
- pastoral care, including visiting the sick and bereaved
- promoting the whole mission of the church through activities for people of all ages.

Many of these activities depend on the Church and Church Hall which the PCC is responsible for maintaining. The Church is Grade II* listed.

Public Benefit

The incumbent and the PCC are mindful of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. All are welcome to our activities, where we seek to know God better, and work out the implications in our lives. We are very conscious that as a church we exist more for the benefit of those outside the church than those within.

Church Leadership

It has been a hard year for the church as Rev'd Tim Robb, the Vicar, suffered from failing health through the year. While he continued to provide leadership in many ways, he was increasingly unable to be physically present until his death on 7 January 2026.

Fortunately part of Tim's legacy to this church was to establish a strong team to ensure the continued running of the church in his absence. The eldership team who assist the vicar in the spiritual oversight of the church and support the various ministry areas of the church continued in their role. Our youth and children's worker also took on additional duties.

Tim also built up a team of three retired clergy, a Reader and five Licensed Lay Leaders of Worship and others who helped to prepare, lead and preach at services, and fulfilled many other roles of spiritual leadership.

Worship and Evangelism

The PCC is committed to provide services that the congregation and the wider community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. Two main services each Sunday follow different styles of worship, one being more structured and liturgical, while the other is less structured, with a more modern style of music. Further opportunities for relevant worship are provided at the major Christian festivals.

All are welcome to attend our regular activities. During the year the average weekly attendance was around 98 for the Sunday morning services, and 18 for a Wednesday morning communion service.

As well as our regular services we enable the community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of new life, both physical and spiritual.

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In marriage public vows are exchanged with prayer for God's blessing, and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. During the year the church celebrated two infant baptisms and four adult baptisms by full immersion. Seven marriages were celebrated in the church, and one wedding blessing. Seventeen funerals were conducted in the church building, while clergy attended a further seven burials or cremations. Each of these events includes pastoral care and support for the people and families involved.

Prayer plays a very important part of the life of the church. Prayer meetings are held on two mornings during the week, with opportunity for extempore prayer by those present. A prayer chain alerts church members to specific needs within the church community.

Other Church Activities

Other activities take place in the church or hall on Sundays or during the week with discipleship and outreach objectives. These include:

- Crèche on Sunday mornings
- Children's (Sunday School) and young people's (Reactors) worship and teaching on Sundays
- HIVE - for children with additional needs or disabilities and their families on Sunday afternoons
- 'Learning together' – theology on Sunday evenings
- 'Café-on-the-Green' – an open café on Monday mornings
- Craft Group on Tuesday mornings
- 'Little Stars' – a toddlers' group on Wednesday mornings
- The bell ringers meet for practice on Wednesday evenings, ring regularly on Sunday mornings and also celebrate special occasions
- 'Fusion' – an open youth club on Friday evenings

Several Family events were held during the year, including an Easter Extravaganza, Light Night (alternative to Halloween) and a Christingle service.

The annual Holiday Club was held at the start of the school summer break when we welcomed some ninety primary-aged children for five mornings of fun, singing, games and discussion around how amazingly God made our bodies.

In the lead-up to Christmas the church hosted eight carol services for local nurseries and schools.

There were also monthly Wildlife Walks and churchyard working parties for appreciating and caring for God's creation, and two litter-picks when we showed practical care for the paths and streets around the church.

While ESCA (Eatons Community Association) held its annual May Day celebration on the neighbouring green, the church provided shelter, lunches, refreshments and toilets for the stallholders and hundreds of attendees.

In November, the church held its Christmas Fayre welcoming all for sales of crafts, gifts, toys, second-hand books and jigsaws, cakes, family photos etc as well as offering lunches and refreshments.

Other Organisations

Other charitable and community organisations also make regular use of the church premises including:

- Weekly after-school Youth Café on Mondays in term-time (run by Youth for Christ)
- Two weekly AA groups on Monday and Wednesday evenings (Alcoholics Anonymous)

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- Rainbows on Wednesdays, and Brownies on Thursdays
- Foodbank on Mondays and Fridays (St Neots Food Bank)
- Ladies' Choir on Fridays (until July)

St Neots Sinfonia, St Neots Choral Society and Riverside Theatre used the church for public performances on half a dozen occasions last year.

Global Mission

Helping those in need, whether physical or spiritual, is a demonstration of our faith. During 2025, we continued to support long-term mission partners working in Sri Lanka, Uganda and the UK. This included support for the local branch of Youth for Christ. Support is expressed in prayer and correspondence as well as financially. In 2025 5.5% of our overall expenditure was given to mission causes.

Inter-Church activities

St Mary's is a member of Churches Together for St Neots, but that group has sadly become inactive. The St Neots Food Bank trustees represent different churches across the town, and we make an active contribution to its work.

We partner actively with the local branch of Youth for Christ. One of their after-school cafes across the town is hosted and supported by St Mary's. We also partner with YfC, Open Door and River Church in taking a joint party of young people to camp at the annual Newday Festival in Norfolk.

Staff

In addition to the stipendiary Vicar, the PCC employs four part-time staff: a Children and Families Worker, Church Administrator, Vicar's PA and a Caretaker/Cleaner. Together they represent 1.3 full-time-equivalent posts.

St Mary's depends on volunteers for almost all other governance, organisation, leading of worship and pastoral care, stewarding and catering for activities. The church could not operate without the willing support of so many church members who serve God through the church in this way.

Buildings & Grounds

The church buildings have not required major attention over the year, though we have repaired some crumbling stonework and flashings over the South Porch, and installed CCTV cameras to oversee vulnerable areas where the Church and Hall meet.

The grounds are a closed churchyard, and are therefore maintained by the Town Council. The Creation Care Team is active in developing and maintaining the flower beds within the churchyard. They also provide planting and features that are beneficial to wildlife, with signs to inform the many members of the public who pass through the churchyard every day.

Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding policies for children and vulnerable adults are reviewed annually and there are approval procedures for all who work with children and young people including the obtaining of Disclosure and Barring Service clearances.

The PCC has complied, under section 5 of the Clergy Safeguarding and Discipline Measure (2016), in its duty concerning the House of Bishop's guidance in safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

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Plans for 2026

The principal concern of the coming year will be continuing to operate a full program with no full-time Vicar. The Churchwardens have assumed the legal responsibility of running the church, and we are in the process of seeking to appoint a new Vicar. We look forward to the next phase of St Mary's life.

Concerning the fabric of the church, we hope to replace the ageing carpet in the church nave and chancel. We are also concerned at the state of the wooden doors and windows of the Hall building and are seeking quotations and grants to enable us to renew them.

Financial Review

General Fund

The General fund carries most of the regular income and expenditure of the Church, and we aim for it to roughly break even each year. The figures are shown below. Total income for 2025 was £146,198 (2024 £141,010) and total payments £145,999 (2024 £138,821), giving a small surplus of £199 (2024 £2,189).

Income and Expenditure Summary - General Fund

General Fund :-	2025	2024	Change
INCOME			
Planned giving	89,822	87,061	2,761
Offerings & donations	11,940	13,898	-1,958
Gift Day (w/o Gift Aid)	7,009	6,497	512
Gift Aid	24,004	23,055	949
Other Income	13,423	10,499	2,924
TOTAL INCOME	146,198	141,010	5,188
SPEND			
Parish share	72,000	67,400	4,600
Ministry - Services	2,881	4,064	-1,183
Ministry - 0-18	1,596	1,620	-24
Ministry - Fellowship	473	428	45
Global/Local mission	8,110	5,491	2,619
People costs	36,429	34,232	2,197
Buildings	17,556	19,549	-1,993
Printing & publicity	4,249	3,999	250
Office & admin	2,705	2,038	667
TOTAL SPEND	145,999	138,821	7,178
Surplus / deficit	199	2,189	-1,990

Note that with the introduction of a new Treasurer and systems, some income and spend categories have been changed between 2024 and 2025. The 2024 figures have been restated where necessary according to the 2025 classification, but comparisons are not all exact.

Nearly three quarters of income comes from planned giving (with its attendant Gift Aid) – regular donations made by Church members. The remainder comes from offerings, the Gift Day and from miscellaneous sources – mostly from hiring out the buildings or from the charges we have to make for weddings and funerals. Overall, income increased from 2024 by a welcome £5,188.

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Expenditure though also increased, mainly because of deliberate decisions by the PCC to give more money away. We decided to increase our mission giving from 5% to 7.5% of expected planned giving, and to increase from last year our contribution to the Diocese through the Parish Share. People costs, mostly pay for our invaluable part-time staff, increased in line with the increase in the Real Living Wage. We were fortunate that we didn't need any expensive building work to be done.

But our break-even depended on our underpaying the Parish Share relative to the Diocese's request. In 2024 we underpaid by £13,480, and in 2025 by £8,586. The PCC wants to pay the Parish Share in full, but had little alternative over the last two years.

Designated Funds

Summary information on each of the designated and restricted funds is given in Notes 14 to 16 towards the end of this document.

The Children, Youth, Events and Catering funds have been separated out because they receive donations or entry charges for various activities. By separating them the respective leaders can manage their own income and spend. The Children and Youth funds are expected to break even year-on-year. (Those activities also have a modest budget from the General Fund.) The Events (Mayday and Christmas Fayre) and Catering funds make a profit which is transferred out each year to benefit other Church funds. (The figures in Notes 14 and 15 show two years' worth of transfers, as the 2024 transfers were made at the start of 2025.)

Last year the PCC agreed a reserves policy, which aims to keep at least £35,000 in our General and designated funds. We renamed the Legacy fund to Reserves fund, and we would hold there the amount needed to keep the General and designated funds up to the required level. We also created a Development fund to hold any surplus amount, representing the money available for the PCC to spend at its discretion.

About the same time as we agreed this reserves policy we received an unexpected anonymous donation of £15,000. The PCC decided that this generous donation should be used to achieve the minimum required by our reserves policy. It hasn't been used to fulfil a tangible project, but behind the scenes we are very grateful that it has put our financial position on a firm foundation.

Restricted Funds

During the year we decided that the larger restricted funds, which contribute to the amount we can put into our deposit account, should receive a share of our interest income, as described in Note 1.13.

In May we received a bequest from the estate of Wendy Piercy, a former Tower Captain, 'for the bells at the Church'. The bequest, of just over £12,000, has been put into a new restricted fund.

The Worship and Tower clock funds have been fully used and were closed at the year end.

During the year the PCC reviewed the Boiler-flues fund. It had originated in an appeal for a Boiler fund in 2018, and the 'flues' were added in 2021 to reflect concern at the time. The original appeal wording allows the fund to be used on any work to maintain or replace the Church heating system. Accordingly the name was changed to Church heating fund to better reflect the scope of the appeal.

Looking Ahead

Our expected income for 2026 has been boosted by the increase in planned giving that we have seen and also the pledges made at the Gift Day. Our budgeted income, not including a Gift Day, is about £500 more than last year's actual income.

On the other hand, our expected spend is about £5,700 above our actual spending last year. This increase is driven mostly by inflation including a 7% rise in staff pay (based on the Real Living Wage) and some additional hours. Overall our General fund budget expects a loss of £5,000. The PCC believes this is a reasonable challenge in the circumstances.

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Since we set the budget, the picture is less certain with the loss of Tim Robb, our Vicar, and a period of Vacancy. But we pray that God will continue to use St Mary's in the work of his Kingdom, and that Church members will continue to support it.

Reserves Policy

The charity aims to hold a minimum of £35,000 (which is approximately three months of expenditure) as unrestricted cash, so that the charity has time to adapt should income decrease or, for example, an expensive building repair be required. At the year end, the charity held unrestricted cash of £48,378.

Investments Policy

Funds not required for day-to-day operations are held in a CCLA CBF Church of England Deposit Fund, which has clear environmental, social and governance criteria for its investments. There are no other investments.

Responsibilities of Trustees under charity law

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

1. select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
2. observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
3. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
4. state whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
5. prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signature

This report was approved by the trustees, and is signed on their behalf by:

Name

Signature

Date

Independent Examiner's Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's, Eaton Socon (Eaton Socon PCC) ('the charity') for the year ended 31/12/2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiners Qualification

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, which is one of the listed bodies.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner's Details

Name: Malcolm Crawford CPFA

Address: 20 Rycroft Avenue
St Neots
PE19 1DT

Signature

Date

Statement of Financial Activities

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Incoming Resources					
Donations & Legacies	2	152,660	18,387	171,047	141,179
Charitable Activities	2	12,275	520	12,795	6,944
Investments	2	1,811	493	2,305	1,707
Trading Activities	2	9,751	936	10,687	12,403
Total incoming resources		176,497	20,336	196,834	162,232
Resources Used					
Charitable Activities	3	155,137	7,786	162,923	165,449
Raising Funds	3	554	89	643	1,442
Governance Costs	3	318	0	318	0
Total resources used		156,009	7,875	163,884	166,891
Net Incoming / Outgoing Resources (before transfers)		20,488	12,461	32,949	-4,659
Fund Transfers In	15	13,417	406	13,823	3,616
Fund Transfers Out	15	13,583	240	13,823	3,616
Net Incoming / Outgoing Resources (before gains/losses)		20,322	12,627	32,949	-4,659
Investment Gains (or Losses)		0	0	0	0
Net Incoming / Outgoing Resources (before Asset Revaluation)		20,322	12,627	32,949	-4,659
Asset Revaluation		0	0	0	0
Net Movement of Funds		20,322	12,627	32,949	-4,659
Total Funds Brought Forward		28,416	13,873	42,289	46,948
Total Funds Carried Forward		48,738	26,500	75,238	42,289

Prior year adjustments – see Note 10.

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Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Current Assets					
Cash	11	47,373	26,674	74,047	44,418
Accounts Receivable	12	1,906	26	1,932	1,417
Prepayments	12	1,055	0	1,055	68
Total		50,333	26,700	77,034	45,902
Non-Current Assets					
Fixed Assets	1.9	0	0	0	0
Investments		0	0	0	0
Total		0	0	0	0
Non-Current Assets					
Accounts Payable	13	1,284	200	1,484	3,327
Deferred Income	13	312	0	312	286
Total		1,596	200	1,796	3,613
Non-Current Liabilities					
Long Term Loan / Mortgage		0	0	0	0
Total		0	0	0	0
Total Net Assets (Assets Minus Liabilities)		48,738	26,500	75,238	42,289
Represented by Funds					
General		15,434	0	15,434	15,235
Reserve (previously Legacy)		18,237	0	18,237	3,000
Development		12,719	0	12,719	0
Events		0	0	0	4,818
Catering		344	0	344	2,727
Children's events		1,083	0	1,083	1,577
Youth events		921	0	921	1,059
Church heating (previously Boiler-Flues)		0	8,338	8,338	8,742
Buildings net zero		0	456	456	216
Church lighting		0	329	329	360
Worship		0	0	0	63
Hymnal		0	2,516	2,516	1,660
Tower clock		0	0	0	491
Utility		0	835	835	835
Craft group		0	100	100	100
Creation Care		0	134	134	157
Children's work		0	274	274	250
Newday		0	267	267	0
Youth work		0	714	714	1,000
Pastoral care team		0	113	113	0
Church bells		0	12,425	12,425	0
Total Funds		48,738	26,500	75,238	42,289

Signature

These accounts have been approved by the trustees, and are signed on their behalf by:

Name

Signature

Date

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of Preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 'SORP2019' (the "Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) ("the Charities SORP"), with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102") and with the Charities Act 2011). The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as set out in FRS 102.

The principles adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out in the accounting policies below.

1.2 Going Concern

The Trustees consider St Mary's Eaton Socon PCC to be a going concern at the date of approving the accounts. There are no material uncertainties that the charity can continue as a going concern for the next year.

1.3 Key Risks & Uncertainties

The charity is exposed to various risks, including operational, financial and reputational risks. The trustees are developing a Risk Management Policy and Procedures.

1.4 Fund Accounting

Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have set aside resources for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or the terms of a specific appeal. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the Note 16.

1.5 Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is probable that the resources will be received, and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

- All voluntary income from members of the charity is recognised as donations and are included in full, with associated Gift Aid receivable, in the Statement of Financial Activities.
- Grants where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Income resources from charitable trading activities such as the letting of the building are accounted for when invoices are drawn up.
- Donated services and facilities, and gifts in kind, are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified.
- Gifts for onward sale are accounted for at the time of sale at the amount actually realised.
- Volunteer time, the value of voluntary support for the work of the charity, is not included in the accounts but is described in the Trustees Annual Report.
- Investment Income is included in the accounts when receivable

1.6 Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out the resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

1.7 Governance Costs

Governance costs include costs associated with the independent examination of the financial statements, compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and any other expenditure incurred on the strategic management of the charity. Governance costs are shown within Note 3.

1.8 Liability Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

1.9 Tangible Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets have not been identified as the practice is that expenditure on assets with a useful life of more than one year is charged to the year of purchase and not spread across more than one year.

The deeds to the Church and its curtilage are held by The St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance (Charity 248887) as custodian trustee.

1.10 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme through Nest Pensions. Employer contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

1.11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

1.12 Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation

The trustees do not consider that there are any material sources of estimation or uncertainty at the balance sheet date that could result in a material adjustment to the carrying values of assets and liabilities in the next reporting period.

1.13 Allocation of Interest

From each interest payment, the rate received is applied to that part of any restricted fund that has been above £2,000 for the whole of the interest period. The remainder is applied to the General fund.

1.14 Acting as Agent

On occasion the charity receives money on behalf of others, which it banks and then pays out. Most of these payments are for weddings and funerals which include statutory and other fees due to the PCC, but also statutory fees to the Diocese and payments to clergy and others. This income is received as agent and the income, and the related payments, are excluded from these accounts; any money that has not been distributed by the year end is recognised as a creditor.

The total of such transactions in 2025 was £11,828. At the year-end there were accounts payable of £200 (2024: £500), being deposits received against future weddings.

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2 Analysis of Income

	Current Year 2025			Prior Year 2024		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Donations & Legacies						
Donations	125,763	3,632	129,395	111,553	1,835	113,388
Gift Aid	24,397	338	24,735	23,268	73	23,341
Grants	0	2,200	2,200	800	1,650	2,450
Legacies	2,500	12,216	14,716	2,000	0	2,000
Total Donations & Legacies	152,660	18,387	171,047	137,621	3,558	141,179
Charitable Activities						
Event charges	4,660	510	5,170	1,390	0	1,390
Sales	970	10	980	1,333	0	1,333
Wedding, funeral fees	6,646	0	6,646	4,221	0	4,221
Total Charitable Activities	12,275	520	12,795	6,944	0	6,944
Investments						
Bank Interest	1,811	493	2,305	1,707	0	1,707
Total Investments	1,811	493	2,305	1,707	0	1,707
Trading Activities						
Fundraising events	4,978	936	5,914	7,832	0	7,832
Rental Income	4,773	0	4,773	4,571	0	4,571
Total Trading Activities	9,751	936	10,687	12,403	0	12,403
Total incoming resources	176,497	20,336	196,833	158,675	3,558	162,233

Prior year adjustments – see Note 10.

3 Analysis of Expenditure

	Current Year 2025			Prior Year 2024		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Charitable Activities						
Admin	3,419	0	3,419	9,223	0	9,223
Advertising	4,249	0	4,249	0	0	0
Bank Charges	92	4	96	0	0	0
Buildings and grounds	17,556	3,269	20,825	19,549	14,132	33,681
Children & Youth	5,609	4,131	9,739	7,007	0	7,007
Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ministry	7,011	383	7,393	6,506	1,339	7,845
Mission & charitable giving	8,100	0	8,100	5,491	0	5,491
Parish share	72,000	0	72,000	67,400	0	67,400
People Costs	37,102	0	37,102	34,802	0	34,802
Total Charitable Activities	155,137	7,786	162,923	149,978	15,471	165,449
Raising Funds						
Event costs	554	89	643	1,442	0	1,442
Total Raising Funds	554	89	643	1442	0	1442
Governance Costs						
Governance Costs	318	0	318	0	0	0
Total Governance Costs	318	0	318	0	0	0
Total resources used	156,009	7,875	163,884	151,420	15,471	166,891

Prior year adjustments – see Note 10.

4 Staff Costs

The total staff employment costs for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

Description	Current year	Prior year
Gross wages and salaries:	£34,653	£30,970
Employers NI costs:	£0	£0
Employers Pension costs:	£344	£281

The average number of employees during the year was 4 (prior year 4). Average full-time equivalent was 1.3. No employees received salaries at a rate of more than £60,000 per annum.

5 Independent Examination Fees

The Independent Examiner kindly provides his services free of charge. The Independent Examiner for the prior year also gave his services free of charge.

6 Trustee Remuneration

None of the trustees serving during 2025 have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity.

7 Trustee Expenses

During the year one trustee incurred out-of-pocket expenses totalling £1,135. All expenses were incurred for the day-to-day running of the charity's activities.

This excludes repayments for items or services bought by trustees as agent for the PCC.

8 Trustee Donations

During the year the total aggregated donations made to the charity by the trustees or people closely connected to them was £33,270. £150 of this amount was to the Tower Clock (restricted) fund and £180 was to the Worship (restricted) fund; there were no other conditions attached to the donations. (Total aggregate donations from prior year were £28,116.)

9 Transactions with Related Parties

There were no transactions with related parties during the accounting period.

10 Prior Period Adjustment

With the introduction of a new Treasurer and systems, some income and spend categories have been changed between 2024 and 2025. The 2024 figures have been restated where necessary according to the 2025 classification, but comparisons are not all exact.

St Mary's Eaton Socon – Annual Report and Accounts 2025

11 Cash at Bank and in hand

Cash Analysis

Description	Amount
Barclays Business Account	6,085
CCLA Deposit Account	66,554
Payment processors etc	1,163
Cash	245
Total	74,047

Payment processors includes Parish Giving Scheme and card payment processors.

12 Debtors

Accounts Receivable

Description	Amount
Gift Aid	1,802
Trade Debtors	130
Total	1,932

Prepayments

Description	Amount
Deposit for new utility account	212
Prepayments	843
Total	1,055

13 Creditors

Accounts Payable

Description	Amount
Accruals	0
Deposits held	200
Finance Lease Liabilities	0
Tax & Social Security	0
Trade Creditors	1,284
Total	1,484

Deferred Income

Description	Amount
Advance payment	312
Total	312

St Mary's Eaton Socon – Annual Report and Accounts 2025

14 Analysis of Charitable Funds

	Current Year 2025					Prior Year 2024				
Fund Name	Opening Balance	Income	Spend	Fund Transfers	Closing Balance	Opening Balance	Income	Spend	Fund Transfers	Closing Balance
Unrestricted funds										
General fund	15,235	146,198	145,999	0	15,434	13,046	141,010	138,821	0	15,235
Designated funds										
Reserve (previously Legacy)	3,000	15,000	2,063	2,300	18,237	1,000	2,000	0	0	3,000
Development	0	2,500	898	11,117	12,719	0	0	0	0	0
Events	4,818	4,853	554	-9,117	0	6,813	3,875	3,270	-2,600	4,818
Catering	2,727	3,445	1,828	-4,000	344	817	4,250	2,980	640	2,727
Children's events	1,577	3,280	3,474	-300	1,083	781	4,386	3,966	376	1,577
Youth events	1,059	1,221	1,193	-166	921	289	3,153	2,383	0	1,059
Designated Total	13,181	30,299	10,010	-166	33,304	9,700	17,664	12,599	-1,584	13,181
Unrestricted Total	28,416	176,497	156,009	-166	48,738	22,746	158,674	151,420	-1,584	28,416
Restricted funds										
Church heating (previously Boiler-Flues)	8,742	278	682	0	8,338	12,984	0	4,242	0	8,742
Vestry	0	0	0	0	0	7,000		9,600	2600	0
Buildings net zero	216	0	0	240	456	0	216	0	0	216
Church lighting	360	0	31	0	329	360	0	0	0	360
Worship	63	225	288	0	0	63	0	0	0	63
Hymnal	1,660	856	0	0	2,516	1,460	200	0	0	1,660
Tower clock	491	1,988	2,479	0	0	0	491	0	0	491
Utility	835	0	0	0	835	985	0	150	0	835
Craft group	100	0	0	0	100	0	100	0	0	100
Creation Care	157	255	38	-240	134	229	218	290	0	157
Children's work	250	1,900	1,876	0	274	0	250	0	0	250
Newday	0	1,859	1,758	166	267	0	0	0	0	0
Youth work	1,000	300	586	0	714	0	1,000	0	0	1,000
Wednesday Welcome	0	0	0	0	0	105	1084	1189		0
Outreach groups	0	0	0	0	0	1016			-1016	0
Pastoral care team	0	250	137	0	113	0	0	0	0	0
Church bells	0	12,425	0	0	12,425	0	0	0	0	0
Restricted Total	13,874	20,336	7,875	166	26,501	24,202	3,559	15,471	1,584	13,874
TOTAL	42,289	196,833	163,884	0	75,238	46,948	162,232	166,891	0	42,289

St Mary's Eaton Socon – Annual Report and Accounts 2025

15 Fund Transfers

Description	From	To	Amount
Move Newday balance into new restricted fund (start of year)	Youth events	Newday	166
Little Stars surplus (start of year)	Children's events	Reserve (previously Legacy)	300
Catering surplus (start of year)	Catering	Reserve (previously Legacy)	2,000
Zero Events at start of year	Events	Development	4,818
May Day net profit	Events	Development	1,621
Carbon offset for 2024	Creation Care	Buildings net zero	240
Christmas Fayre net profit	Events	Development	2,678
Annual transfer of catering profits (close of year)	Catering	Development	2,000

16 Fund Descriptions

Name	Description
General	General Fund
Reserve (previously Legacy)	Holds funds needed to keep total unrestricted funds to reserve target.
Development	Holds funds above reserve level, and therefore represents the amount that can be used for one-off projects such as significant building work
Events	Operating fund for May Day, Christmas Fayre etc
Catering	Operating fund for catering and meals
Children's events	Operating fund for children's activities
Youth events	Operating fund for youth activities
Church heating (previously Boiler-Flues)	Work on Church heating system
Buildings net zero	Expenditure to reduce buildings' carbon footprint
Church lighting	Church lighting
Worship	Music equipment for 10:30 service
Hymnal	To maintain or replace 'Jason' music hardware
Tower clock	Repair of tower clock
Utility	To relieve individual cases of fuel poverty, at Vicar's discretion
Craft group	Craft group
Creation Care	Creation Care Group
Children's work	Grants and donations for children's work
Newday	Towards costs of Newday youth festival
Youth work	Grants and donations for youth work
Pastoral care team	Donations for pastoral care
Church bells	Bequest to PCC 'for the bells at the Church'

Accounts

Charity Commission Annual Return 2023

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY'S, EATON
SOCON

Charity registration number: 1130537

Most of the information you give in this form will become publicly available on the Register of Charities. Any field that the Charity Commission will not display will be clearly marked.

This document is a record of the information provided in the Annual Return 2023.

Financial period

Financial period start date

01/01/2023

Financial period end date

31/12/2023

Income and spending

Income £

£165,260

Spending £

£164,968

Number of contracts from government

How many contracts (other than grant agreements) did your charity receive from central government or a local authority during the financial period for this return?

0

Number of grants from government

How many grants did your charity receive from central government or a local authority during the financial period for this return?

0

Income breakdown

Donations and legacies (excluding Endowments Received)

£147,475

Charitable activities

£9,904

Other trading activities

£5,954

Investments

£1,927

Other

£0

Corporate donations

What was the value of your charity's single highest value donation received from a corporate donor during the financial period of this return?

£0

Donations from individuals

What was the value of your charity's single highest value donation received from an individual during the financial period of this return?

£420

Donations from related parties

What was the value of your charity's single highest value donation received from a related party during the financial period of this return?

£0

Recipients of grants

Please round all figures to the nearest pound (do not enter decimal points or commas). Individuals

£0

Other charities

£0

Other organisations that are not charities

£0

Trustee payments

Excluding out of pocket expenses, for what were any of the trustees paid during the financial period for this return?

☒ e. None of the trustees have been paid

Did any of the trustees resign and take up employment with your charity in the financial period of this return?

No

Income from outside the UK

Did your charity receive income from outside of the United Kingdom in the financial period of this return?

No

Delivering activities outside the United Kingdom

Did your charity deliver charitable activities outside of the United Kingdom in the financial period of this return?

No

Spending outside England & Wales

Did your charity spend funds outside of the United Kingdom in the financial period of this return?

No

Trading subsidiaries

Does the charity have any trading subsidiaries?

No

Charity contact details correct

Is the contact address displayed from the Register of Charities, correct?

Yes

Charity headquarters details correct

Is this the same address that you use as your charity's administrative headquarters?

Yes

Charity contact address

ST. MARYS CHURCH

GREAT NORTH ROAD

EATON SOCON

ST. NEOTS

PE19 8EJ

Charity Headquarters address

ST. MARYS CHURCH

GREAT NORTH ROAD

EATON SOCON

ST. NEOTS

PE19 8EJ

Membership type

Is the charity part of a wider group structure with a parent body and subsidiary bodies?

no, the charity is not part of a wider group structure

Employment contract types

People were permanently employed by your charity

4

People were on fixed-terms contracts with your charity

0

Self-employed people were working for your charity

0

Total overseas employees

How many of the people above work on behalf of your charity outside of the United Kingdom?

0

Total employee payroll

What was the total amount spent on employee payroll during the financial period relating to this return?

£28,819

Employees' salaries

Did any of your charity's employees receive total employment benefits of £60,000 or more in the financial period of this annual return?

No

Governance policies

Internal charity financial controls policy and procedures

Yes

Safeguarding policy and procedures

Yes

Financial reserves policy and procedures

Yes

Complaints policy and procedures

Yes

Serious incident reporting policy and procedures

Yes

Internal risk management policy and procedures

Yes

Trustee expenses policy and procedures

Yes

Trustee conflicts of interest policy and procedures

Yes

Investing charity funds policy and procedures

No

Campaigns and political activity policy and procedures

No

Bullying and harassment policy and procedures

Yes

Social media policy and procedures

Yes

Engaging external speakers at charity events policy and procedures

No

Safeguarding

Has your charity provided services to children and/or adults at risk in the financial period of the return?

Yes

a. All required standard DBS checks have been obtained

Not applicable

b. All required enhanced DBS checks have been obtained

Yes

c. All required enhanced with Barred List(s) DBS checks have been obtained

Yes

d. DBS checks are not required other than Basic DBS checks

No

Serious Incidents

Has your charity reported all Serious Incidents (including any historical incidents) that the charity became aware of during the financial period of this return?

There were no incidents to report

External risk and impact

Donations,

Positive

Other income - grants

Unknown/No Change/Not Applicable

Other income - contracts

Unknown/No Change/Not Applicable

Other income - investment

Unknown/No Change/Not Applicable

Expenditure on charitable activities

Positive

Expenditure on overheads

Positive

Number of volunteers

Unknown/No Change/Not Applicable

Number of employees

Unknown/No Change/Not Applicable

Number of trustees

Unknown/No Change/Not Applicable

Fundraising activities

Positive

Capacity to deliver services

Unknown/No Change/Not Applicable

Total service demand

Unknown/No Change/Not Applicable

Volunteers

Excluding trustees, provide an estimate of the number of volunteers who carried out charitable activities on behalf of your charity in the United Kingdom during the financial period of this return?

0

Privacy statement

Any information you give us will be held securely and processed only in accordance with the rule on data protection. We will not disclose your personal details to anyone unconnected to the Charity Commission unless:

- **you have consented to their release; or**
- **we are legally obliged to disclose them; or**
- **we regard disclosure as either (a) necessary so that we can properly carry out our statutory functions or (b) necessary in the public interest.**

We may share and disclose information about you with relevant public authorities, regulatory bodies and agencies, outside the Charity Commission but only if:

- **we can lawfully do so; and**
- **we decide that disclosure is necessary for national security, crime detection, prevention, and law enforcement, or other issues in the public interest**

Information we collect about you

We will use this information:

To enable us to carry out our statutory functions and duties;

This will include the following actions:

- (a) update, consolidate, and improve the accuracy of our records;**
- (b) undertake crime detection and prevention and law enforcement and assist the third parties specified above to investigate or prevent crime and carry out law enforcement;**
- (c) data analysis, testing, research, statistical and survey purposes**

Information we receive from other sources.

Information we receive from other sources

We may combine this information with information you give to us and information we collect about you.

We may use this information and the combined information for the purposes set out above (depending on the types of information we receive).

We will ensure that any such disclosure and use is proportionate; considers your right to respect for your private life; and is done fairly and lawfully in accordance with the data protection principles of the Data Protection Act.

The Data Protection Act 1998 regulates the use of 'personal data', which is essentially any information, however stored, about identifiable living individuals.

As a 'data controller' under the Act, the Charity Commission must comply with it. Any changes we may make to our privacy statement in the future will be set out in the replacement version of this form.

Please check back frequently to see any updates or changes to our privacy policy.

Declaration

Your role at the charity (select one):

☒ **Trustee**

Given names

ROY BERT

Family name

NOTLEY

Telephone number

01234589308

Email

finance@eatonsocon.org

Date submitted

12/07/2024

It is a criminal offence under section 60 of the Charities Act 2011 for anyone to knowingly or recklessly provide false or misleading information to the commission; this includes

suppressing, concealing or destroying documents.

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Annual Report

2023



St Mary's Eaton Socon

THE CHURCH ON THE GREEN

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Vicar's Welcome

Welcome to St Mary's Eaton Socon 2023 Annual Report.

Inside you'll find reviews of the various activities, ministries and events that St Mary's is engaged in – you may need two or three cups of coffee or tea to get through it all! All these things reflect the vibrant and growing life of St Mary's, which we give thanks for.

In last year's Annual Report, I quoted the Theologian Dr Julie Robb saying *The church family can only be the community God desires if every member and every gift are valued*. Whilst this continues to be my vision for the church, 2023 has been a challenging year in which it needs to be recognised that some people have struggled to live as this community.

In one of my recent sermons (17 March) we reflected on what it means to live as God's chosen people. This means learning to be intentional about how we choose to live as a community of faith. This is a way of life that requires each of us to get rid of those destructive things in our lives and to clothe ourselves with Godly things.

Things we need to rid ourselves of, as the Apostle Paul reminds us of in Colossians 3:8-9 include *anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other...* Again, as Paul reminds us in Ephesians 4:25 *Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbour, for we are all members of one body*.

Having put off these things, we are then called to clothe ourselves, as Paul reminds us in Colossians 3:12-14 *with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity*.

This is how the Christian Church is called to live – this is how we are all called to live as God's community here in Eaton Socon.

As we continue to journey through 2024, it is my prayer that all of us will take these words of Scripture into our lives and let the Holy Spirit continually embed them within each of us as we are transformed into Christ's likeness, so that we may be a community where every member and every gift is valued. What will your response be?

With every blessing for the year ahead.

Tim



PCC Report

The PCC continue to meet most months, although the format of the meeting changed slightly this year. To encourage more people to be on the PCC, meetings were changed to alternate Tuesdays and Thursdays. This new format has worked well. During the year 1 person resigned.

FINANCE

The Treasurer, Roy Notley, presents a full review of the accounts at each meeting for general, designated and restricted funds. Constant reviews of likely finance outcome for the year were discussed, especially towards the later months as it became clear that financing of general funds was going to need extreme monitoring.

During the year the PCC sanctioned an upgrade of the vestry to make it more suitable for groups to use for meetings. The work for this was commissioned midway through the year. However, due to the failure of obtaining any start date for the work, a new contract with a different supplier was approved in February 2024. This project is funded from restricted funds.

In order to accommodate the growing cashless society, application for a heavily discounted donation station has been submitted. This is a prominent tabletop giving station which would potentially increase card/phone giving in church.

The 2024 budget was discussed and revised many times again due to the uncertainties of what 2024 would bring, particularly concerning the large gap between income against expenditure.

MINISTRY

As no Churchwarden places were filled in 2023, the PCC agreed to increase the number of Assistant Churchwardens to compensate. This has worked well throughout the year.

It was agreed to restore the offer of wafer and shared cup, dipped wafer and disposable set post covid at all the services and also bring back sharing the Peace.

The Pilot Eldership Group (PEG) completed its term as a working group and the Eldership was established as a permanent group. Initially comprising four members, it is envisaged that the membership of this group will grow in time. The Eldership will present a quarterly status report to the PCC.

It was agreed, as part of the development of the Mission Action Plan, to develop the concept of a 3:16 service and its practicalities. It was agreed to start an Alpha and Youth Alpha course in the Autumn term.

YOUTH

The PCC were pleased that the start of the Youth Café and other youth activities were drawing interest from outside the church family and that we should all be keen to encourage this growth as much as we possibly can.

ADMIN

Modelling God's love to everyone is what we are working on: The goals that St Mary's has to develop Church life in all its aspects has been defined in a completion time scale schedule.

Windows 10 support terminates in October 2025 rendering six Church laptops unsupported. Options to replace/update some or all of them are being explored by the PCC.

The PCC approved the extended study leave in 2024 for the Vicar.

PCC Report Continued

PCC minutes are written up and, once ratified, are displayed with the Treasurer's Report in the South Porch.

My thanks go to the Trustees of the Eaton Socon PCC for all their hard work during the year, to all the Assistant Churchwardens, to Ed Jarvis for taking the minutes, to all the staff and especially to Rev'd Timothy Robb for everything he does.

Brenda Notley



Safeguarding Report

St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon is committed to being a safe place for all and we are working with the Diocesan guidelines to ensure this is maintained. The St Mary's '*Safeguarding for All Policy*' was updated in January 2023 to reflect ongoing changes within the church. It is based upon the Diocesan Safeguarding policies '*Protecting All God's Children*' and '*Promoting A Safe Church*' (which covers vulnerable adults). St Mary's Church has adopted the principles and practices of safer recruitment and work is being carried out to update all documents involved in the process.

As the church activities involving children continue to expand, new volunteers have come forward and the necessary safer recruitment and checks have been carried out so that this could be done safely. As the Church of England has recommended all DBS checks are renewed every three years.

All Safeguarding Training is delivered online. Records are kept of those who have undergone Safeguarding training so that, in line with Diocesan recommendations, renewal every three years can be prompted.

There is a regular Safeguarding item on PCC agendas allowing for the PCC to be kept informed on Safeguarding matters and to discuss initiatives as they arise. St Mary's Church is now on the Parish Dashboard, a system for ensuring that all necessary Safeguarding requirements have been completed. Work is in hand to review the National Safeguarding Standards statements

Names and contact details of the vicar, the Safeguarding Officer and the Children's Advocate are displayed within the church along with advice helpline numbers. This information is also clearly signposted on the parish website. If there are any Safeguarding matters that need to be brought to our attention, please contact any of these people in confidence.

Jane Gogarty

The Life of St Mary's in 2023/24

Often with the passing of time, one doesn't take in all that happens in the life of the church. The following is a snapshot of some of what's happened over the last 14 months. If you want to find out more about any aspect, please ask.

January – June 2023

Area of Church Life	What's happened
Pastoral Care	Redeveloped Team to offer Ministry in Care Homes post Covid
HIVE	Started in 2022, this continues to build and reach families with additional needs children in our community and further afield
Lunch Club	Started monthly weekday café ministry in January 2023
Youth Café	Term Time Weekly Café for Secondary School aged Youth started February 2023
Fusion (Friday Youth)	Redeveloped Fusion to reach Youth Café Youth
Church Rotas	New person appointed to sort Church Service rotas

July – December 2023

Area of Church Life	What's happened
Church & Holiday Club BBQ	Held a great BBQ for Holiday Club & Church people
Harvest Lunch	Lots of people sat down to a superb 2 course Church Harvest Lunch
Eldership	Eldership formed in July 2023 out of Pilot Eldership Group, to help oversee the Spiritual life of the church. Eldership reports to PCC.
Assistant Churchwardens	Rebuilt Assistant Churchwardens Team – still a few more people required!
High Level Church Clean	3 PCC members and the Caretaker undertook a High Level Clean of the Pillar Archways etc
Reactors	Ran Youth Alpha in the Autumn Term
Life Groups	Compiling a database of available Study Material
Prayer Life of Church	Prayer Area in Church revamped
Alpha	Restarted Alpha in October
Café on the Green	Larger Team in place to help run this initiative
Sunday School	Revamped post covid
Finance Leaflet	Production of Yearly Finance Leaflet
Church Publicity	Started to revamp Church Publicity and info in Church Hall and Porch
Christmas Decoration	Team to decorate the Church for Christmas

January 2024+

Area of Church Life	What's happened
Church Policies	Revamping Church Policies and responsible people to update them
Low Level Church Clean	½ Day to clean the Church!
Mission Action Plan	Completed new Mission Action Plan for the Diocese, focusing on 316 service
316 Service	Launched a new service initiative called 316, aiming to attract families we don't see on Sunday mornings
Lay Leaders of Worship Course	5 people from St Mary's attending the Diocesan Lay Leaders of Worship course to enable them to be licensed to lead in different capacities

These are but some of the things that have been happening – what would you like to learn more about?



Last Thursday of the month 12noon – 2pm

Fellowship and Food

Two course meal - £4 per person

To book contact office@eatonsocon.org



Treasurer's Report

This was yet another challenging year with income unable to keep pace with ever rising expenditure costs.



St Mary's Eaton Socon
THE CHURCH ON THE GREEN

Overall income was £149249 and expenditure £153703 within the General ministry and maintenance fund resulting in a deficit of £4454.

Planned giving income fell by £4102, cash collections and sundry donations were up by £4564, lump sum pledges including gift aid were £9013, including £5006 deferred from 2022 and other income was down by £2040. Deposit account interest though was up by £1322. Overall, total income for the year was up by £3837.

Expenditure too was up by £8421. Parish Share £2449, energy costs £3962 and building related costs by £2259. Staff costs were up by £2799. All other expenditure lines were down by £3048. Mission giving was 5.27% of planned giving. This is well below our minimum target of 10% but without sufficient income we are unable to meet that goal.

I would strongly recommend you read the Planned Giving Report for 2023. The number of regular givers is falling, and the average amount being given, especially at the top end of the scale, is also falling. Can you afford to give more? Are your contributions gift aided? Are you new to St Mary's and have not yet got around to a regular tythe?

Do please pray about a regular tythe to support St Mary's Eaton Socon.

DESIGNATED FUND

Fundraising events in 2023 raised £3496 and a legacy of £1000 was received. There was no major expenditure on buildings or equipment in 2023. Funds were £3317 at end of 2022 so now stand at £7813.

Other designated funds are held for Catering, Children events and Youth.

Funds at start of year were £1672 including reallocations from restricted. Catering events raised £275, Childrens events raised £205 and Youth activities net costs were £265 giving a net surplus of £215. Funds at end of year were £1887. Total designated funds were in surplus by £4711 in year and now stand at £9700.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

General account and designated accounts all relate to unrestricted funds. Although the General Account was in deficit by £4454, the designated fund was in surplus by £4711 so overall the net surplus of unrestricted funds rose by £257. The cumulative unrestricted fund reserves are £22746. There was no major expenditure on buildings or equipment in 2023.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

There was little movement in restricted funds during the year.

Cumulative restricted funds for future developments now stand at £20344.

In addition, there are restricted funds for Outreach, Worship and Church Groups.

These funds at start of year were £3443 after transfers to Designated and, after all activity in the year, were £3858 at close.



Treasurer's Report Continued

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024

This has again been a challenging budget to prepare. Income from giving can only be based upon what is happening right now. We think planned giving will fall by £2000, as will sundry donations. Lettings and occasional fees are also predicted to fall also by £2000. Expenditure is expected to be around the same as 2023 so the budget shows an expected deficit of £10250.

My thanks to all who have assisted in the preparation of these Accounts, with particular thanks to Gavin and Tim for their solid support and assistance. As you are aware, I am ready to pass on the role of Treasurer. I do pray that there is someone out there who will come forward to take it on. I will always be available to guide you through all that is involved.

Roy B Notley

Planned Giving Report

Around 92% of St Mary's income needed to come from giving/donations to resource its rising costs for ministry/upkeep of buildings. In 2023 regular giving was down by £4102 from 2022. Giving of all kinds was £462 up on 2022, excluding Gift Days. All giving amounted to 89% of expenditure. It is evident from the statistics that the numbers giving on a regular basis are falling and not being replaced by new givers. Also, the number giving at the higher end of the scale is also falling. This is resulting in ever falling income from regular planned giving but being compensated in part by sundry donations and gift days.

There was only one new regular giver in 2023. Do you consider yourself a regular member at St Mary's? If so, do give some prayerful thought to commencing planned regular giving.

Giving was via the following streams:	2021	2022	2023	
Direct Debits (Parish Giving Scheme)	29195	30848	28492	20.82%
Bank Standing Orders	59993	56706	59292	43.34%
On-line Debit/Credit Cards (Stripe)	690	720	566	0.41%
Dedicated Numbered Envelopes	3277	2938	21	0.02%
Gift Aid Reclaim from HMRC	20563	20925	19664	14.37%
PLANNED GIVING	113718	112137	108035	78.96%
Gift Aid envelopes	293	1107	1144	0.84%
Cash Offertories	2816	6067	6225	4.55%
Casual donations	5805	5618	9503	6.95%
Gift Aid Reclaim from HMRC	1324	2417	2901	2.12%
Gift Day	0	4719	9013	6.59%
ADHOC GIVING	10238	19928	28786	21.04%
TOTAL GIVING	123956	132065	136821	

Planned Giving Report Continued

<u>Monthly giving spread.</u>			
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Up to £25	17	16	14
£26 and £50	32	27	22
£51 and £100	21	19	17
£101 and £200	10	14	13
£201 and £300	10	7	6
Over £300	2	4	3
	92	87	75



At the start of the year there were 87 regular givers: 21 increased their regular amount and 2 decreased.

1 started regular giving but 13 stopped, leaving 75 regular givers at the end of 2023.

On behalf of the PCC of St Mary's, Eaton Socon we give our sincere thanks for your sustained regular giving.

The 2024 budget is again challenging and will need your extra support to protect the services provided.

For regular donation via the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) go to eatonsocon.org, click on **DONATIONS** then tab down and click on **Parish Giving Scheme Website**. Click on **Regular Giving** then follow the instructions.

Remember, apart from regular giving by Direct Debit through the PGS you can give by Bank Standing Order through your own bank.

There are many other ways of donating available to the occasional giver:

PARISH GIVING SINGLE DONATION www.parishgiving.org.uk (parishcode 320632297)

ONLINE BANKING direct bank transfer to Eaton Socon PCC – 20.74.81 60347043

CREDIT/DEBIT CARD by sum-up card reader

CHURCH WEBSITE by various donate buttons on www.eatonsocon.org

TEXT GIVING by text message SMES to 70085 Default is £10

EASY FUNDRAISING using St Mary's as nominated charity

GIFT AID ENVELOPES on finance table or back of seat (folding money only please)

MONEY by cash or cheques in offertory baskets in church when open

Please note giving by means of options 3,4 or 5 above will incur a commission charge deducted at source from your contribution.

We encourage you to continue to review the support you can afford, which is so vital to St Mary's.

Our charity registration number is 1130537 and we greatly value your financial support.

Roy B Notley

Eldership Report

Some years after its original concept by the Vicar and the Bishop of St Albans and a year and a half of active planning by a working group, an eldership was established and approved by the PCC to start from July 2023. The sharing of leadership at a senior level is recognised as a healthy and robust format, helping in balanced decision-making and critically allowing more time for consultations with those actively involved in church ministry and activities.

The areas we especially consider and oversee together are: pastoral and prayer; life groups; children and youth ministry; training and courses and church services. We wish to appoint and support more people to serve in all these areas to help our church to grow in numbers and maturity on a solid foundation. Our role complements that of the PCC and churchwardens and we look forward to those working relationships developing and taking shape as we move forward.

Another challenging aspect of our work is having to deal with problems and difficult situations which inevitably occur from time to time in the work of God's Kingdom. The lay elders have been glad to be able to support Tim at these times and to share in sorrows as well as joys. It has reminded us how much our leaders need our prayers.

We meet monthly or more often when required and consider each of the above areas in turn as well as specific issues of concern to the Vicar. We don't want to be an exclusive "holy huddle" so please get to know us, share your ideas and concerns about church life with us, and bear with us as we feel our way in this new role.

Chris Harris, Edward Jarvis, Tim Robb, Ali Wood.

Church Administrator's Report

Well, in October of this year, I will be celebrating having worked for Tim and St Mary's for eight years. This makes me the longest serving member of office staff ever! Where has the time gone?

The office remains an extremely busy and productive environment with lots of people needing lots of things, but I enjoy supporting them, behind the scenes, in their endeavours for the Church. It wouldn't work without them. We support vulnerable groups here too and this, in all honesty, gives me the greatest pleasure. Their gratitude is, indeed, humbling.

My main duties include taking all bookings and ensuring that our management system (ChurchSuite) is as up to date as possible. If I have any spare time, it is always spent in getting ahead with the planning going forward. There are always emails and enquiries to answer, filing and invoicing to be done and often copious amounts of printing to be tackled. I also make sure that the hall is nice and warm for our users – very important. These are just a few of the many tasks required to ensure the smooth running of this side of Church life.

The people I worked with previously joked many a time with me before I left that I would be going to an easy job and drinking tea all day. If only! I certainly do drink tea, often cold, made for me by the lovely people of St Mary's – for that I thank you most kindly. Sometimes I wish that it was a G&T but you can't have everything, can you?

Karen Mackenzie

Vicar's PA Report

I can't believe I've been in post for two years already!

I continue to undertake a wide variety of activities, with much of my time devoted to administration of Life events, such as Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. I continue to produce the monthly newsletter, liaising with many members of the church to ensure inclusion of up-to-date articles, news and forthcoming events.

Please let me know if there is anything you would like included!

I have been allowed to be creative when producing PowerPoint displays for services and the website, along with various posters, leaflets, booklets and cards.

The last few weeks have seen me drowning in reports while formatting and producing the APCM Reports booklet. Thank you everyone for your prompt contributions. The job is always varied, interesting, busy and fulfilling.

Thank you to Tim for not being an overbearing boss and to Karen for being the perfect colleague.

I love it when members of the church pop into the office, and a huge THANK YOU to those who keep me supplied with coffee!! Please continue to pop in and say hello.
Jane Gill

Pre-Marriage Course Report

In the spring of 2023 Barbara and I hosted the pre marriage course for 5 couples who were married in our church during the year. The course material is produced by Alpha International and is presented by Nicky and Sila Lee who are on the staff of HTB London. Three of the couples attended the 5 week course at church and the other 2 completed the course remotely.

It is always a pleasure to host this course as we know the couples benefit from it. We have received a lot of positive feedback and it is always gratifying to see the couples engage with the course as it progresses over the weeks.

The couples received good learning experiences and enjoyed a few 'light bulb' moments, we know that they will be better equipped for their marriage journey as a consequence. Barbara and I have also been reminded of a few points and we continue to learn!



Edward and Barbara Jarvis

Wildlife Walk Report

The Wildlife Walks resumed on Sunday 11th February following our break over the Christmas period and the floods. We follow the same walk each month as it is very informative seeing how the flora and fauna change through the seasons. We have information booklets on what we can expect to see during each season. We also do an eye spy and scavenger hunt, which were developed for children, but adults also enjoy them. I've tried to organise different activities for the group to do either on route or when we return to the Dragonfly, such as foraging, making fat balls for birds, making seed bombs, and live willow weaving. These have been very enjoyable, and so has the tea and cakes, and updates on the otters and kingfisher that can be viewed from the boat.

Audrey Hedges

Creation Care Team Report

The Creation Care Group was set up four years ago to help St Mary's enjoy and protect the environment around us. We want to show that we love creation because we love its Creator. We've made changes in our Church life, and encourage Church members to make changes in their own lifestyles too. Our efforts were recognised by an Eco Church silver award in January 2023, and we plan to maintain and improve on that standard. This requires action in five areas:

Worship and Teaching – our worship and prayers often reflect our love and concern for creation. We had a special focus on two Sundays in September, when we used the theme suggested by the global Season of Creation movement: we are called to be at peace with creation, and to justly share its beauty and fruits with others.



Let Justice and Peace Flow
Season of Creation 2023
A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

Buildings – by far the biggest part of our 'carbon footprint' is the gas we burn to heat the Church and Hall, which has gone down by a third over the last two years! That's because we kept a much closer eye on the thermostats, while trying to keep giving visitors a warm welcome.



Land – we try to make the Churchyard a good place for wildlife, as well as its many human visitors. The meadow areas have enabled wild plants and creatures to thrive there. But sadly it has proved impossible to continue mowing large areas of long grass, and collecting the cuttings, so we've had to reduce those areas, and will be reducing again this year. We've introduced a small area of sown, native wild flowers alongside the main path – it produced a colourful display during the summer months, and we plan to add a second area nearby. We've also tamed the scrubby grass area beside the Hall, and are starting work to improve the fenced-off area under the Church tower, including a small pond.

The Town Council expect to start some tree maintenance shortly. The main task will be a heavy pruning of the ageing horse chestnut trees around the perimeter.

We're very grateful to the Town Council for their work and cooperation in the Churchyard. We're also grateful to all the people who've adopted beds in the Churchyard, or helped at the monthly Monday morning working parties. You're welcome to join us!

Community and Global Engagement and Lifestyle – we try to make sure that everyone has a copy of our home-grown leaflet of practical ways in which we can each enjoy more the world around us and do less damage to it. We're a Fairtrade Church. We've continued monthly walks on Sunday afternoons, weather permitting, to help people to enjoy our lovely local area, and we clear litter from over 3 miles of nearby paths and pavements a couple of times a year. Last year we introduced occasional Saturday-morning repair-and-alter sessions to help people extend the life of their clothes.



There's more information about us in our Green Shoots newsletter, which comes out once or twice a year. Also on the Church website at www.eatonsocon.org/creation-care, and about the Churchyard at www.eatonsocon.org/churchyard.

If you are interested, want to join in or know more, or have ideas, please contact one of us.

Anthony Harris, Audrey Hedges, Roger Peppiatt, Margaret Tabone.



Children and Families Ministry Report

Little Stars

Little Stars is a toddler group which runs on a Wednesday morning (term time). We welcome children from 0 to 4 years old alongside their grown up. We have free play, sensory play, craft, refreshments and always finish with a song time at the end.

Little Stars is well supported by our local community, with us seeing many come back with their 2nd or even 3rd child. We see an average of 25 children per week, which alongside parents means we regularly have a group of 40-50 on site.

In December we had our annual Christmas party where the children helped us retell the nativity story (which is always cute and chaos in equal measure), sang some Christmas songs, had some party food, and wished everyone a merry Christmas. This has been the same format for several years now and families love coming to it.

We have seen families from Little Stars attending other family events we have run across the year.

Creche and Sunday School



Creche runs for children under the age of 4yrs old and Sunday School takes children from 4+. Both groups run during the 10.30am Sunday Service. These groups have been a work in progress, with us still seeing numbers fluctuating as families have busy lives.

The creche is held in the church hall and is parent led (with a volunteer organising toys every week). Here the children can play, do crafts and the church service is live streamed for the parents.

Sunday School is held in the vestry and has 2 leaders per week guiding children through our Bible teaching, games, crafts and lots of fun. Sunday School is continuing to use a series of teaching called "Heartshapers", which teaches Biblical stories and how they can speak to our lives today.

HIVE

HIVE is a monthly group which is for children with additional needs / SEND and their siblings and families. This group has been running for 2yrs now and runs on a Sunday afternoon and is set up so that children can choose what activities to participate in. We have sensory items, a blackout tent, messy play, books, games, Lego, marble run, magna tiles, arts and crafts, and loads more! We then have refreshments and to finish we turn off the lights and have our projectors and light up items on.

The aim of HIVE is to support local families and provide them with a safe environment for all the children to meet and the parents to feel that they can relax for the time they're there.

In July 2023 ESCA very generously donated some money so that HIVE could book Eat N Play (soft play) hire for 2hrs. This meant that our HIVE families had exclusive use of the soft play and was very popular with all our families, especially those who feel that their child's needs mean they can't usually attend a public soft play session.

We have had contact with many families via HIVE and have begun to see some the HIVE families attending other events we have run. This is encouraging that families feel that St Mary's is welcoming to everyone and can be inclusive for their child.

Children and Families Ministry (Continued)

One off events

Throughout the year we hold one off events for children and families both in church and in the local community. At these events we get to meet new families as well as catch up with families who we haven't seen since the last event. This year we had –

Easter Eggstravaganza: our annual Easter family event held on the Saturday before Easter and is always well attended by families. This year we saw over 90 people attending for fun doing bunny crafts, sunflower planting, a scavenger hunt and fun and games.

Summer holiday club: 2023 was the first time we ran all 5 mornings (before this it had been 3 mornings). This was a step of faith and the church stepped up magnificently! We had 92 children booked in for a science themed holiday club – which went down a storm with plenty of fun experiments, making lava lamps, volcanoes and learning all about how God and science can go hand in hand. We also had some fantastic help from the local community, with some parents coming to help and 2 sixth form students from Longsands Academy joining us for some volunteering experience.



Light Night: our alternative Halloween which is usually held on the Sunday before Halloween. It provides families with a non-scary, fun alternative to all that is dark and frightening about Halloween and gives us the opportunity to talk about Jesus being the light of the world. This year we saw almost 100 people come and make lanterns, bracelets, crafts, play games and go on a night walk round the churchyard. We were also joined by 3 companies from the local community who provided the children with glitter designs, face painting and a chance to meet the character Rapunzel. These were all very generously provided free of charge.

Christingle: this is always a popular event with families and this year we saw almost 100 people attending. We had Christmas crafts and then we all made Christingles together. This was followed by the lighting of the Christingle and us all singing "Away in a Manger", which is always commented on by parents as to how lovely it is to have such a calm moment in a busy day. Again, we were joined by a local company who brought with them someone dressed up as a giant polar bear so children could come and take photos. This was very generously provided free of charge.

School's Work: This past year we have begun to get back into schools and provide assemblies to support the RE curriculum. Myself and Tim share assembly responsibility and have been into Bushmead and Crosshall Juniors as well as leading Bushmead, Crosshall Infant and Crosshall Junior Christmas services at church. The hope is to have opportunities to get back into Crosshall Infant School as we haven't been in there to do assemblies since before Covid.

I want to take this opportunity to give a massive thank you to everyone who has helped with our regular groups, one off events, holiday club and any other aspects of the children and families ministry over the past year. Your commitment to supporting this ministry is what enables us to connect to our church families and our local community and I certainly couldn't run them without everyone's support.



Liz Faulkner - Church, Community, Families & Children's Worker

Youth Ministry Report

REACTORS:

Reactors is our Sunday Youth Church where we have a lively session with good humoured banter, hot chocolate and healthy bible study. Jesus is at the centre of our sessions which are always opened in prayer followed by recording our prayer requests for the week which is then posted on our WhatsApp group chat. Eight regularly attend but this year we said goodbye to Sarah and Holly as they left for University. Whilst it is lovely to see them again when they come home, it is encouraging to know that they have both settled down into local churches where they now live.

At the start of 2023 we continued our series 'engage', a study book helping young people to discover who God is and what He's like; seeing what God's done for us through Jesus; and exploring practical ways of living for Him. We looked at John's gospel asking and exploring the question 'Who does John say Jesus is?'. We looked in Matthew to help us talk about spiritual growth and delved into Colossians to look at the characteristics of maturing Christians and how we can grow as Christians.

In June we started a course run by Ministry to Youth entitled Summer Survival Guide in which we looked at issues such as the state of one's mental health and how the decisions you make today can shape who you will become tomorrow.

After the summer break we started a series on The Armour of God and had fun playing Kahoot, an online quiz, about the different parts of the armour and what they stand for.

At the start of 2024 we started an exciting new course from Ministry to Youth focusing on relationships, both healthy and unhealthy, and how to recognise these in dating relationships, putting God in the centre of these relationships and acknowledging that God created us to live in love and harmony with each other.

The Youth Team and I are seeing young people in our church growing in their knowledge and faith and are excited at seeing an emergence of new young youth leaders, eager and willing. Thank you Jesus for your goodness and allowing us the privilege of discipling our wonderful young people.

Julia Chapman

FUSION:

Fusion continues to be a great time for the youth to get together weekly on a Friday and enjoy an evening filled with games, team challenges and sports. Along with the chance to chill and catch up with each other's news, it has been lovely to see friendships blossom and support networks grow. Excitingly we have seen the number of youth attending grow and we consistently have around 20-25 young people each week.

We have enjoyed trips to the Bowling Alley and of course the golden arches aka Mc Donalds, participated in a "band night", joined up with other local churches to hold end of term Youth nights/ parties and have even enjoyed ringing the church bells with the bell ringing team.



Youth Ministry Report (Continued)

In February, Anita White from Global Care came and gave a fantastic talk about the charity. Actually seeing the incredible positive impact they have on children and young people's lives who have so little, sometimes not even a home, was an extremely humbling experience.

In the Summer, many of us headed to Norwich for the Newday Festival where we had a total ball and spent a whole week learning more about God. We hope to continue welcoming new members.



Autumn brought our first music gig since Covid, where we enjoyed an evening with Soulbox and St Neots church Youth.

As Winter drew in and the nights became longer, we enjoyed S'mores around a campfire, enjoyed decorating the church for Christmas and helping out in the Nativity Play. To help promote our Youth groups, we splashed out on a very big big flag, maybe a little bit bigger than expected, and have continued updating our flyers. A big thank you to Holly Arnold for her artistic skills and time.

As we head into 2024, we look forward to our trips out, end of term parties, taskmaster challenges and games, continued fellowship with local churches and attending Newday with our friends Open Door and River Church.

We pray the youth continue to grow, make new friendships, cement old ones and, with the success of the Youth Café, we hope to continue welcoming new members.

Heather Arnold



Youth Ministry Report (Continued)

NEWDAY 2023:

With bags packed and goodbyes said, 16 of us headed off with our Open Door, River Church and other friends to Norwich Showground. Along with 8000 other young people and their leaders, we had a great week connecting and learning more about our amazing God through meetings in the morning and in the evening.

Many prayers were answered and the presence of the Holy Spirit felt among us as four of our youth connected and started their journey with God.

The big top was bigger than ever before and being able to worship with so many people was amazing especially when a church paraded all dressed up carrying a golden tabernacle to celebrate the "Gold" themed night!

New friendships were made as we spent time competing in games, physical and non-physical and sliding down a tarpaulin water slide, seeing how far we could slide off the end. Hanging out in the Cowsheds, taking part in the open mic challenge and completing the photo challenge on the last day were only a few of the things we got up to.

Newday 2024 is now open for booking and we look forward to heading that way again in the summer.



Thank you to everyone who supported our cake sales and car wash and helped us raise the money we needed to fund our trip.

We would like to take this opportunity to remember and say a big thank you to Simon De-Simone who kindly kitted us out for the car wash but sadly passed away after our first one.



Heather Arnold

YOUTH CAFÉ:

2023 saw the launch of the Youth Cafe at St Mary's which opened back in February. After a slow start the word got out and more young people from Ernulf Academy started turning up and enjoying a milkshake, toasted sandwich and fun with our volunteers.

We provide board and card games, table football, table tennis (very popular), a Wii machine and a craft table where we knit, make bracelets with bands and make models with grown up Playdough! We have hosted a Karaoke afternoon during one of our cafes and played Bingo.

We are now in the position of expecting between 20 -25 youngsters through the door, many of whom are becoming regulars. Whilst the numbers seem modest it is giving us the chance to really get to know these teenagers and many open up about family and school life. There are some sad stories and it is humbling to see how these young people cope with some of the situations they are faced with.

Youth Ministry Report (Continued)

Our vision was that a core number of teenagers would start to form at the cafe, a core that we could then encourage into our Friday night youth club, and then have the opportunity to learn more about why we want to help and be there for them, which is of course because we love Jesus and want to follow His example. I'm happy to report that many of the youth who attend the cafe are now coming along to Fusion, our Friday night club, and Reactors, our Sunday morning Youth Church.

During August we were able to take three unchurched children to the New Day Camp with us which is held on the Norwich Show Ground. They now attend Fusion and Reactors regularly. This summer we hope to take more teenagers from the Youth Cafe to New Day and have three boys who have already signed up!

I have to mention the 'Team'. The commitment of all the volunteers to honour their place on the rota and turn up each week shows consistency and stability to the youth attending the cafe and is a major contributor to it's success. We are always looking for more helpers who are able to come along once or twice a month during term times. Jobs vary from sitting on the front desk signing people in to making milkshakes, playing games, taking food orders or just talking to the youngsters and getting to know them.

We were blessed to have a member of the CoOp on our team, Davinia Milton, at the start of this venture. She managed to secure for us a £20.00 voucher each week to spend on food from the CoOp. Davinia has now moved on but we still get the food donation each week so we would like to thank her for her part in this. The manager of the local store has been down to see us and was most impressed. We'd like to thank the CoOp for their provision and God for putting in place the person on our team who could lead us to that provision. We also have a contact now at the Tesco Express across the road from church. They are happy to provide us with one off food parcels for things like end of term parties.

One of the highlights for me has been seeing a bunch of teenagers, normally glued to their phones, coming in, sitting round a table which sits about 10 people, and playing Uno, laughing and joking and having real fun. I don't interfere at this point as I feel this is what it's all about!

Another major highlight was in November when we took three of our youth, Nicholas Barrett, Alfie Fox and Chaniece Bayliss, down to London to be awarded a Youth Hero Award from Youth for Christ. This is a once a year event and this year it took place in the OXO Tower on the river Thames. We were treated to a three course lunch and wonderful views of the London skyline. Families came as well to watch as Nick and Alfie were awarded the Young Leaders Award and Chaniece was awarded the Youth Heroes Award. They each had to talk about their Christian journey and why they had been given the awards. After the event some went home whilst others then went into London to look at the Christmas lights and make the most of an amazing day.



We, the team, would value your continued prayers as we minister to our youth from Eaton Socon. We need strength and wisdom as we try to show them the love of Jesus and the wonderful life there is ahead of them if they are willing to open their hearts to Him. If you feel it on your heart to be a part of the Youth Cafe please contact Julia Chapman.

Julia Chapman, Angela Hoile, Barbara Jarvis, Gill Uings, Jane Gill, Mina Khaksari, Delphine Coe, Margaret and David Lygoe, Nick Barrett, Molly Ansell.



Music Group Report

The music group has continued to lead sung worship at the 10.30 services and occasional events throughout the year. Our numbers remain small, so we were delighted to be joined by Phil Gwilt on cello. We would love more people to join us - if you can play an instrument or are a reasonably confident singer, please consider if you would like to give it a try and speak to Phil Barrett or the Vicar to offer your talents!

Phil Barrett

Prayer Ministry Report

First of all thank you to everyone on the prayer mail for praying through all the prayer requests I send you. For those who are unaware of what this is. I receive prayer requests either by email or verbally, I then send these requests to a large group of folk who pray. If anyone is interested in being included in this please see me. May 23 saw our chancel turned into prayer zones where folk could come and pray either using the material available or praying for certain subjects as part of the Archbishop of Canterbury initiative Thy Kingdom come. Many came and spent an hour or so coming apart from the hustle and bustle. Had a lot of positive feedback.



This year I am away during Thy Kingdom Come but watch this space. We have reintroduced prayer after the morning services and thanks to Roger and Frances, David and Jane Gill and Edward for joining me in this ministry. There is also a prayer request board outside the chapel. Every prayer is prayed for. Prayer requests cards were given out at both Christmas Carol services and both sides of one of the blue boards were covered plus a lot more with these cards. I divided these up. Thank you to all who prayed for these requests. Inevitably there were a few silly ones but people were given the opportunity. This year we met together on Shrove Tuesday for a simple lunch of soup and roll and to spend a time in prayer to prepare ourselves for lent. Prayer is our life's breath and we need to pray corporately as did the early Christians as well as on our own. Please use the chapel for prayer, the prayer requests cards and prayer team. There is nothing too big or too small for God. None of this precludes praying with friends within the church.

Thank you to all who are involved in this vital ministry.

Barbara Jarvis

Alpha Course Report

This course began on Tuesday 7 November last year, and finished on Tuesday 6 February this year, meeting in the church hall each Tuesday apart from a short break over the Christmas and New Year period. The course included an 'away day', also in the church hall, on Saturday 6 January. Each meeting included an excellent cooked meal, provided by our wonderful catering team, with particular thanks to Christine Harris, Miriam Robertson, and Frances Peppiatt, who between them provided the majority of the meals, aided on occasions by one or two others. Sixteen individuals started the course, and twelve completed the course. Aside from the meal, each session would include watching a 25 minute video presentation on the subject for that session, followed by an hour of discussion and questions. This particular group participated really well in these discussions, and it was rewarding to see real spiritual growth within the members of the group. Those who completed the course were genuinely sorry that the course had finished - and it wasn't just because they now have to provide their own Tuesday evening meal!

George Cobb

Catering Team Report

The kitchen has seen an increasing amount of use over the last year for both church and community events. Some of the highlights have been:

Youth Cafe, Lunch Club, catering for the recent 12 week Alpha course and the Harvest lunch. The Brownies enjoyed making pizzas and an afternoon tea was prepared for a 100th birthday celebration. The washing up team worked hard at the May Day celebrations (and many other occasions) enabling us to use the Church crockery instead of takeaway packaging.

Gill, Chris, Frances, Miriam. Roger and Anthony (washing up team)

Café on the Green Report

The Monday Café continues to meet on Monday mornings between 10am—12noon during school term time.

A hot drink and often homemade cheese scones, along with sharing, laughter and support are enjoyed by 10-20 folk each session.

People of all ages come along, including: church folk, people living nearby, from care homes and some come with their carers.

Our vicar, Tim, is often in attendance too (occasionally he makes coffee and scones!) A team of six working in pairs provide this facility, but we would welcome more help.

Frances Peppiatt and Teresa Ansell



Craft Group Report

Tuesday mornings, the craft group are busy with their needles and their voices, as they chat, laugh, and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and a biscuit.

We have knitted, sewn and crocheted items for The May Day Celebrations, Easter themed craft, hats and scarves for the Samaritans Purse boxes and the Christmas Fayre, where tables were laden with our numerous contributions.

From our sales during the year, we were able to contribute £100 to the Church's general fund.

Other members of the congregation joined us to make Christmas cards for the prisoners at Littlehey, to send to family and friends, and to help Tim pack Christmas Hampers for local families.

Our numbers have continued to grow, but we have lost some very special people. You don't need to be crafty to be part of our group, you are more than welcome just to come along on a Tuesday morning at 10am for a cup of tea or coffee and of course a biscuit, and if you wish we would be more than happy to share our skills. Creating something, however small or simple is an achievement and is very uplifting.

Sue Hazzard

Pastoral Care Team Report

This was the second full year after the ending of Covid pandemic lockdowns. Reflecting that the church continued its post-pandemic regrowth, the team was 39% busier than in 2022, particularly visiting people at home and conducting care home worship. These increases reflected the freedom to socialise after the withdrawal of Covid restrictions.

The **statistics** speak for themselves (these do not include contacts from the vicar and from some of the retired clergy):

Activity	2023	2022
Visits to provide Holy Communion, including to Care Homes	24	11
Provision of Transport	14	9
Visits for other reasons	14	5
Care Home Worship (non HC services)	12	4
Texts, emails, letters	11	10
Phone calls	10	8
Meal provision at home	5	11
Visits to provide respite	1	6
Bereavement Tea	1	1
Hospital Visit	0	1
Total	92	66

The team lost one person, leaving ten people: Rev'd Tim Robb – leader
 Roger & Frances Peppiatt – coordinators Rev'd George & Mrs Marilyn Cobb
 Pam Branch David Ferris Brenda & Ian Ashford Sue Crook

Team meetings took place on 9th March and 2nd November.

The second **Bereavement Tea** took place in the church hall on Sunday 4th June. Invitations had been sent out to families whose loved one's funerals had been taken by either Tim or George and also to the wider church family. Due to the disappointing attendance, it was decided that our efforts for 2024 will be focussed on the provision of a light supper after the service of Memories, which is always well attended (the date for 2024 is Sunday 3rd November) and not hold a separate bereavement tea.

Care Home Services –David Ferris & Pam Branch continued to lead a small team conducting services (including 10 HC services) at The Hillings (15) and at Nelson Lodge (7). At these 22 services, these were the approximate total attendance numbers: Residents 129 Staff 24 Team 75

We believe this ministry is an important outreach of our church into the local community.

Roger is most grateful to Tim for his leadership and to the team members for their willingness to respond to need.

Our next team meeting is at 2:15pm Thursday 18th April 2024. We are considering ways in which the team can be involved in welcoming new members of the church and also how we can expand our work visiting people who are housebound.

Roger Peppiatt

World Mission Report

2023 was a good year for the World Mission Team and for the church as we had one of our mission partners return to England and visit St Mary's. We also had visits from our home mission partners as well.

In March the McClymont family, who live in London, joined us and Allen gave a very informative talk on OMF and what is currently happening in Asia. In July Jennifer from ACTIOS came and gave us a demonstration of one of her school assemblies. Mano was back from Sri Lanka and came to stay for a weekend in August giving a summary of what had been happening in Sri Lanka, both politically and in her Theological College. In 2024 we look forward to welcoming Teresha from Triumph Heart in Uganda and a return visit from Mano during the summer.

Due to the constraint on church finances we were unable to increase our giving again in 2023. Our partners have been very gracious and understanding and we trust the Lord will see them through.

Our current partners are:

Allen and Litsa McClymont at OMF International

Teresha and Israel Karahukayo at 'Triumph Heart' in Uganda

Jennifer Musson at ACTIOS

Dr Mano Emmanuel at Colombo Theological Seminary in Sri Lanka

Food.Gives was the charity we supported as a church for our Harvest Festival. We filled 11 boxes with non-perishable goods to send to persecuted Christians around the world. We also took part again in Operation Christmas Child and generously filled over 50 shoeboxes. The boxes from St Mary's were destined for Central Asia.

News letters continued to be received from our partners and can be found on the Mission Board in church. Please take time to read these and keep up to date with what our partners are doing.

At Christmas we sent Christmas wishes via email to our missionaries abroad and Christmas cards to our partners in the UK all signed by church members with words of encouragement and best wishes.

We are always looking for new members on our team. If you feel you would like to be part of the World Mission Team please contact Julia Chapman.

Thank you all for your continuing support and prayers. Julia Chapman, Gavin Chapman, Teresa Bryant, Stephen Bailey, David Ferris



Buildings and Fabric Team Report

The Church and Hall buildings continue to require attention and with limited financial resources, this can be a challenge.

The Vicar's vestry was due for a make-over during 2023 to make it more welcoming for use by the Sunday School but unfortunately this has been delayed but we are hoping this will happen in 2024.

This year the Electrical test and inspection of the church was required, resulting in remedial work to the Choir Vestry, Boiler Room and Vicar's Vestry. The work in the Vicar's Vestry is still outstanding as it is intended to be carried out when the decorating is done.

The M-Team (Maintenance) have once again had a busy year undertaking regular maintenance tasks around the church and hall buildings, keeping the church safe, secure and in reasonable condition. We also have responsibility for coordinating the annual inspections and servicing of equipment such as fire extinguishers, boiler servicing and electrical safety checks.

A big thank you to all who have volunteered and helped each month, and with a willing attitude have made the morning a more enjoyable experience. We are always keen to welcome anyone who would like to join in and help using their practical skills. Don't worry, we have tasks to suit all abilities!

Although these activities are important and serious, the morning can be a time of good fellowship and getting to know one another. And of course, there is always time for tea or coffee and a scone, thanks to the Cafe on The Green team.

Gavin Chapman



Audio Visual Report

The Audio Visual team has consisted of three members who provide the visual displays for the church services. We use a dedicated laptop with a program called Easy Worship which is configured for each service.

The 10:30 morning service is usually live streamed to YouTube with the loyal help of two cameramen who ensure the right picture is broadcast.

Sometimes technical issues don't quite go as planned and require some prompt action at the last minute! Anyway, matters are often resolved just in time.

A big thank you to all the team for your loyal service.

We are very keen to welcome newcomers, so if you would like to get involved with serving on the AV team do get in touch with one of us. We'll happily explain everything and support you until you are comfortable to run a service on your own.

Gavin Chapman

Life Group Report

The LIFE groups provide us with the opportunity to share fellowship and Christian teaching throughout the week, and they perform a very important function within the life of St Mary's.

Our church has 8 LIFE groups which meet locally, 2 groups meet during the day and 6 groups meet in the evening. During the last 12 months we have had the pleasure of welcoming some new group members and saying goodbye to some people who have moved on. Overall membership numbers are consistent year on year.

I would like to thank everyone who has taken part in the groups over the last year and trust that they have benefited from it. Also many thanks to all of the LIFE group leaders:

George Cobb	Yvonne Bradbury-White
Ray Porter	Julia and Gavin Chapman
Barbara Jarvis	Jane Gogarty
Julie Robb	Brian and Gylan Harrison

All of whom have given so generously of their time in support of this ministry. Thanks also to the group members who have deputised as and when needed.

Going forward we pray for an increase in LIFE group membership, to the glory of God.

Edward Jarvis

Living In Faith Encounters

Wednesday Welcome Report

This is a very friendly, relaxed group with 30 members providing an enjoyable break at 3pm on a Wednesday afternoon in the church hall.

We had four excursions this year, The Raptor Foundation, for a flying display and cream tea, The Stables with lunch, afternoon tea, plus walk around the grounds and meals at Roxton garden centre and the Christmas lunch at the Barley Mow.

There is a wealth of talent within the church family and this year Karen McKenzie read some of her poetry, Jane Gill introduced the St Neots handbell ringers, the Evergreens containing members of the congregation, sang for us twice and Leah Falzarono now takes the chair exercise sessions. Please see the photograph.

As always the U3A ukulele group entertained us to a sing along session, and we have had a number of speakers including St Neots museum and Healthwatch.

Next year we plan a similar format, however we are finding funding more difficult (Thank you this year to ESCA and Eaton Socon Charities for supporting us) and transport, as members give up their driving licences, for excursions.

A big thank you to Linda Mosser, Shirley Chappell, Clive and Marion Gisborne for their continued support each week.

Should you or anyone you know wish to come along please feel free to join us, you are very welcome.

Mike Gilham 07899 856636.



Foodbank Report

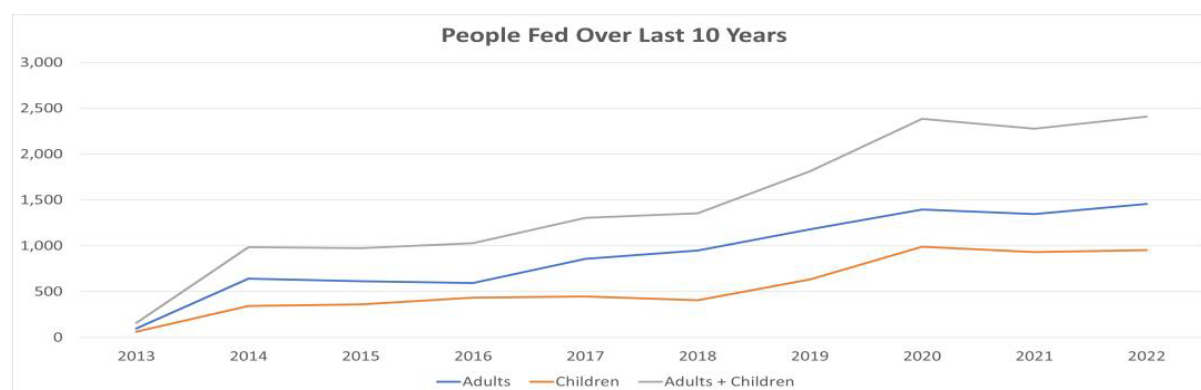
In 2023 overall St Neots Foodbank received 29.4 tonnes of food donation and distributed 32.4 tonnes, feeding 2686 people. As well as dried food the Foodbank distributes Waitrose vouchers that can be used for the purchase of fresh fruit and vegetables and eggs.

408 hampers were distributed at Christmas and £5,000 of Waitrose vouchers were distributed with the hampers.

Through MAST the community money advice service over £130,000 of debt has been managed.

The Foodbank is currently seeking larger, affordable premises as the current warehouse is not large enough to deal with the amount of food now coming in.

In October 2023 the Foodbank marked the 10th anniversary since opening in St Neots the graphs below show how the service has grown:



Adrienne Dunn has been the Project Manager for a number of years and is planning to stand down this year, so the Foodbank is looking for a new Project Manager or to share the work among two or three people. If anyone is interested, please speak to me.

David Gill

St Mary's Church Foodbank Distribution Centre

2023 was the first full year of operation of the centre since the pandemic. It was probably one of the busiest years we have experienced. We open every Friday (except bank holidays) between 10am – 12 noon. The team comprised 17 volunteers, 9 of whom are members of the St Mary's congregations. Roy Driver, the church caretaker, lives up to his name by collecting food every week from the nearby Foodbank warehouse and delivering it before each session starts.

During the year we gave out the following food parcels, benefitting about 400 people:

82 for single people and couples

34 for families of 3-4 people

27 for families of 5 or more people

Our "visitors" were also offered a hot drink and biscuits, "extras", hygiene products, pet food and Waitrose vouchers for fruit, vegetables and eggs. Importantly, they also had the opportunity to talk to a debt advisor (from Love's Farm Community Money Advice) who was present at nearly every session.

Each visitor requires a voucher from one of the Foodbank's professional partners in the community. We have now just about switched over to digital vouchers, which have many advantages over the old paper ones.

The Foodbank could not function without its hard-working volunteers. We are also grateful to St Mary's for the free use of the church on Friday mornings and permanent storage space for food.

Roger Peppiatt

Bellringing Report

The major nationwide ringing event of the year was the Coronation of King Charles the third and Queen Camilla. We were able to ring on the morning of the Coronation.

Unfortunately matters have not really improved since my last annual report. On a positive note we have usually been able to ring six for the 10.30 service most Sunday mornings. Cancellation of Sunday service ringing has been the exception.

Our previous long serving Tower Captain Wendy Piercey passed away during the year, we marked this event by ringing a quarter peal (45 minutes ringing) in her memory. Some of our long standing parishioners may remember Eric Lane who rang with us for 20 years and then moved away to Devon also sadly passed away, we were able to ring a quarter peal in his memory.

On a positive note we have had one new recruit who is progressing well and is able to ring with us on Sunday mornings. I'm pleased to say I was able to attend the Association of Ringing Teachers(ART) course in January 2023 and this has enhanced my teaching skills.

I'm also pleased to say the bells and fittings remain in good condition. This was confirmed following the recent inspection by Taylors of Loughborough. They congratulated us on how well our bells are maintained too.

To sum up I feel the future of bell ringing in Eaton Socon is uncertain. I believe that if ringing at Eaton Socon is to survive and thrive we need a whole band approach to recruitment and training and support from the Church and local community in helping us to find new recruits.

Finally I would like to thank Tim for being so supportive and also those who regularly support Sunday service ringing.

Michael Matthews (Tower Captain)



Repair and Alteration Shop Report

The first Repair and Alteration Shop was held in September 2023 and it was a busy and productive day. About 10 items of clothing were repaired or altered on the day, with three that I completed later at home as they needed replacement zips. We have our second one booked for Saturday 20th April, which I am looking forward to.

Audrey Hedges

Book Club Report

The Tea and Biscuits Book Club continues to meet regularly, about every five weeks, on Mondays 1.00pm to 2.00pm in the Church hall. We have had a wide variety of subjects to read this last year, some we loved, others not so much. It is an informal meeting where we have tea/coffee and biscuits and chat about the latest read giving our opinion. It's surprising how one person can love a book and another not. This is what makes it interesting. It also gives you a chance to read something you wouldn't normally choose. The library supplies the books and we give them a choice of what we'd like to read. There is a very small cost that we pay annually and works out about £5 per person per year. If you feel you'd like to join us and give it a go you'll be very welcome.

If you're interested please speak to Carole Robson or Sue Hazzard.

Churches Together in St Neots (CTSN)

This will be my final report as SMES representative for CTSN. I took over from Rosemary Pullinger in 2017 but now feel it is time to step back and allow, perhaps a younger person, to continue our church involvement. I gave notice of this in October 2023 to take effect from March 2024. I have been Secretary to CTSN since September 2019 and will also be relinquishing this role at the next CTSN AGM in October.

I have very much enjoyed my involvement and will continue without specific responsibility. I feel the organisation continues to fulfil a positive role as an umbrella for combined church activities and acting as a collective church presence within the town.

A new Chair, Sue Baker-Maher, Minister at Berkley Street Methodist Church, was elected to the group at the AGM on 12th October 2023 taking over from Ray Porter, who had served as Chair for three years.

The Working Group, from various churches within the town, met in May and September and the AGM took place in October. A Chair and Secretary meeting took place in November followed by a Working Group meeting in January 2024 where the group thanked Ray for his work as Chair and welcomed Sue.

Church Christmas Service dates and times once again appeared in Think Local in December. The Christian Performing Arts (CPA) held a Reflection Service on the Market Square on Good Friday which was well attended and also represented local churches with a choir at the Christmas Lights Switch On.

The warm clothing collection continued at our church supporting the work of the 'Three Pillars' charity.

Black Cat Radio continues to support Christian worship time led by ministers at 6a.m on Sunday mornings.

St Neots Directory is now available in printed form and includes details of our church under the heading 'Faith Communities'. www.stneotsdirectory.com

The CTSN website is www.churchestogetherinstneots.org.uk

CTSN continues to be the umbrella organisation for Thursday Food, the Bereavement Friendship group, Men's Forum and the Thursday café at the URC. Funds for a new cooker at Berkley Street to support Thursday Food were received from various churches and through a generous community grant from St Neots Town Council.

CTSN remains a vehicle to be used to support existing projects and new ones as they evolve.

Pam Branch

**CHURCHES
TOGETHER
in St Neots**

Deanery Synod Report



There were three Deanery Synod meetings during 2023 in March, July and October.

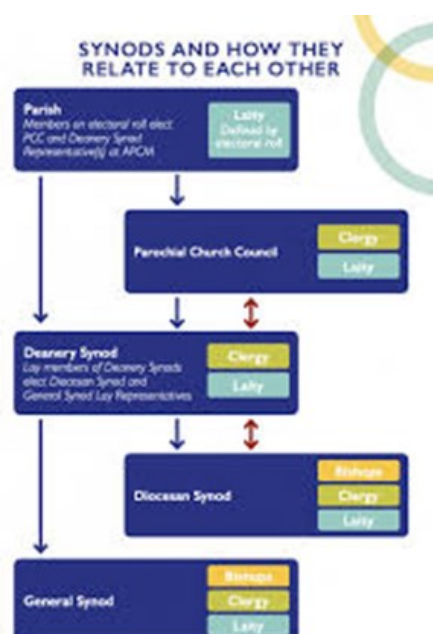
The March Synod was held at Dunton and commenced with the Eucharist and was followed by a report on the last meeting of the General Synod. This centred around the discussion on the Blessing of same sex marriages and reported on the very strong divisions in the Synod about this. The Finance Report showed that the Deanery finances are in a good position. 90% of the Parish share for the Deanery had been collected in 2022. The Deanery Mission Action Plan (MAP) was last updated four years ago and therefore needs to be revised. As the end of this triennium approaches, members were asked to encourage people to stand so that all Deanery Synod places should be filled.

The July Synod was held at Pottton and began with a talk from Rev'd Paul Davies, the Church Growth Officer. He spoke about the importance of MAP's as they helped parishes to see where they are now and to have a vision of where they are going in the future. Without a vision, things can stagnate. These are living documents and will necessarily change over time as some things are achieved and others change according to circumstances. Rosemary Bentley was re-elected as Lay Chair, Graham Daniels as Secretary and Ken Ebbage as Treasurer. The Deanery Project to support CHUMS was voted on to be extended for another year and members were asked to bring ideas for an overseas project for 2025.

The October Synod was held at Biggleswade and opened with a talk from Gillian Kern, Church of England Chaplain at Mount Prison who spoke about the Welcome Project. She explained her work as a prison Chaplain and how prisoners become Christians and about the support they need on leaving prison to maintain and grow their faith. The Welcome Directory was set up to help with the transition from prison to a church in their locality. Each church is encouraged to appoint a link person to enable this transition. There is a very good website to support this.

A report was given on the last meeting of the General Synod which centred around the Prayers of Love and Faith. The new deanery website is up and functioning at Biggleswadedeanery.org.uk.

Jane Gogarty



Diocesan Synod Report

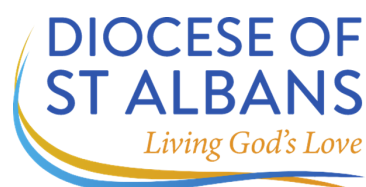
There were three meetings of the Diocesan Synod in 2023 in March, June and October.

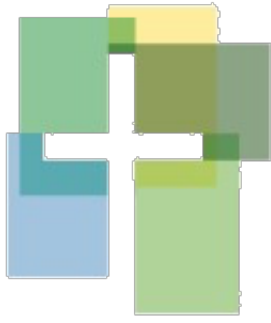
At the March Synod Bishop Alan welcomed Bishop Jane, the new Bishop of Hertford. His address centred around the work of the General Synod on Living in Love and Faith and the next steps towards preparing the Prayers of Love and Faith and the deep divisions that this process still reveals. He also spoke about the upcoming coronation and the opportunities this gave to bring communities together. The Synod was then given the opportunity to discuss the progress of the General Synod's Living in Love and Faith work. Jacob Kurien gave a report on the work of the Racial and Justice Action Group which is on track with its three-year Action Plan and is developing its policy. David White spoke about four grants that were available from the dioceses explaining what they were and how to apply for them. Tim Lomax and Dan Drew gave a talk on the Growing Younger and More Diverse project explaining the areas it covered and the initiatives it is promoting.

I was not present at the June Synod so can only give an outline report. There was an address from the Bishop of Belize, the Rt Reverend Philip Wright who was visiting for 'Windrush 75'. The annual report for the Diocesan Board of Finance was given. There was a brief update on Living in Love and Faith. The very Reverend J Kelly-Moore gave a presentation 'Pentecost to Advent: Revising our Cathedral's Ministry and Mission. Mrs Jillian Thomson gave a presentation on the Mother's Union. Updates were provided on the Growing Younger and More Diverse project and on Net Zero implementation.

At the October Synod in his opening address Bishop Alan urged everyone to pray for the situation between the Palestinians and the Israelis and for an end to the war. He also called for prayer about the work on the Prayers of Love and Faith and urged everyone to listen to each other whatever view we may hold. He also talked about the Net Zero Action Plan and that it was important for everyone to do their part. An update was given by Bishop Jane on the Growing Younger and More Diverse project. The Budget for 2024 was presented and accepted. This was the last that the Chair Colin Bird would present before his retirement. A presentation was made by Tom Abraham, the Net Zero Carbon Officer, on his work to identify the position of parishes and urged parishes too use the Energy Footprint tool. He highlighted the way some churches had addressed their heating need to reach net zero carbon. David White gave an update about the Parish Grant Scheme. Jacob Kurien gave a further update on the Racial and Justice Action Group.

Jane Gogarty





St Mary's Eaton Socon

THE CHURCH ON THE GREEN

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

and

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

with ACCOUNTS

Date 21st April 2024

12noon

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APCM AGENDA – Sunday 21st April 2024

In accordance with the Notices fixed to the Notice Boards, the Meeting of Parishioners for the purpose of appointing Churchwardens, and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held for St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon on Sunday 21st April 2024.

To be preceded by two Morning Services at 9am & 10.30am, at which the Vicar's report will be presented.

Meeting of Parishioners AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Meeting of Parishioners held on 12 March 2023
3. Appointment of Churchwardens
4. Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens (page 4)
5. Any other business concerning the Meeting of Parishioners

ASSISTANT CHURCHWARDENS FOR 2024/25

Stephen Bailey

Teresa Bryant

David Ferris

David Gill

Jane Gogarty

Peter Hedges

Edward Humphrey

Edward Jarvis

Jeannie Minchinton

Carole Robson

Yvonne Bradbury-White

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS HELD ON SUNDAY 12th March 2023

The meeting was opened at 12:02 by Rev'd Timothy Robb. Mr Edward Jarvis took minutes.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies from: Mr Stephen Bailey; Mrs Maggie Bailey; Mr Gavin Chapman; Mrs Julia Chapman; Mr Roger Brittain; Mrs Pauline Brittain; Mr Tom Salkield; Dr Kate Salkield; Mr Richard de Fraine; Mrs Sue Crook; Mrs Pam Wilkes; Mrs Joy Martin; Mrs Jessica Mephram; Mr Peter Mephram; Mrs Pat Lawrence; Mrs Miriam Robertson; Mrs Frances Peppiatt; Mrs Jenny Barrett; Mrs Jane Gill; Mrs Sheila Wren; Mrs Gill Uings; Mr Scott Grace; Mrs Shannen Grace; Mr James Faulkner; Mr Peter Salkield; Mr Michael Matthews; Mrs Sue Matthews.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting of Parishioners

The minutes of the last meeting held on 13th March 2022 had been circulated prior to the event.

There were no amendments.

The meeting agreed the minutes to be correct; **proposal to accept the minutes** Dr Julie Robb, **seconded by** Mrs Brenda Notley. **The motion was carried unanimously, with no abstentions.**

3. Appointment of Churchwardens

Timothy Robb gave the following statement: Due to ongoing discussions with the current Churchwardens over various issues, we will not be electing any Churchwardens today. Like last year, we will be calling another meeting of the Parishioners in due course at which we will elect Churchwardens.

4. Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens

The following names were put forward:

Mr David Ferris
Mrs Jane Gogarty
Mrs Teresa Bryant
Mrs Jeannie Minchinton

Proposed by Mrs Liz Faulkner and seconded by Mr Roy Notley. Carried unanimously with no abstentions.

5. Any other business

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12:09

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last Annual Parochial Church Meeting
3. Matters arising from Minutes (not covered in agenda)
4. Notification of any other business
5. To receive a copy of the revised Electoral Roll (page 10)
6. To consider a report of the Parochial Church Council (see Annual Report)
7. To accept the following 'Safeguarding of all' Statement:

St Mary's Church Eaton Socon affirms its commitment to safeguarding all God's people. We also confirm that the Trustees have complied with the duty to have 'due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The PCC are committed to being responsible for the wellbeing of everyone who comes through our doors.

8. To consider a report of the Treasurer and the independently examined accounts of the Parochial Church Council for 2023
9. Election of an Independent Examiner for the current financial year
10. Election of up to **5 (five)** lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council
11. Election of **1 (one)** lay representative to the Deanery Synod
12. To consider Reports of the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church, the Deanery Synod, various Committees and Activities of the Church
13. Results of elections to the Parochial Church Council
14. Commissioning of Lay Leaders of Worship
15. Consideration of any other business of Parochial or general church interest

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 12th March 2023

The meeting was opened at 12:09 by Rev'd Tim Robb.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were accepted as those recorded for the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

2. Minutes of last Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 13th March 2022 had been circulated prior to the event. There were no corrections.

It was proposed to accept minutes by Dr Roger Peppiatt and seconded by Mrs Carole Robson. Carried unanimously with 1 abstention.

3. Matters arising from Minutes

There were none

4. Notification of other business

None

5. To receive a copy of the revised Electoral Roll

Mrs Brenda Notley summarised additions and amendments to the Electoral Roll for 2023, which can be seen on page 10 of this report.

Proposed by Dr Roger Peppiatt, seconded by Mrs Carole Robson. Carried unanimously.

6. To consider a report of the Parochial Church Council

Rev'd Timothy Robb thanked Mrs Brenda Notley for writing the report which is to be found on pages 4&5 in the booklet, "2022 Annual Report" which has been circulated.

7. To accept the 'Safeguarding of all Statement'

"St Mary's Church Eaton Socon affirms its commitment to safeguarding all God's people. We also confirm that the trustees have complied with the duty to have "due regard to House of Bishops" guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The PCC are committed to being responsible for the wellbeing of everyone who comes through our doors."

Rev'd Timothy Robb thanked Mrs Jane Gogarty for her substantial contribution in this demanding role.

Acceptance of this statement was proposed by Mr Brian Elliott seconded by Mrs Liz Faulkner and carried unanimously, with no abstentions.

8. To consider a report of the Treasurer and the independently examined accounts of the Parochial Church Council for 2022

Mr Roy Notley presented the accounts and stated that the year-end balance for 2022 was +£130, staff hours and giving to missions had been maintained at a lower level to protect the finances. Mr Roy Notley stated that if we as a church increased our giving by a small amount in the coming year then both staff hours and giving to missions could be restored to their former levels.

Mrs Sarah Rimmer expressed her concern that mission giving had been reduced. Rev'd Timothy Robb agreed that it is a shame but that it was an unanimous PCC decision to protect the church's financial position given the size of deficit expected during the year.

Mrs Nanette Hesketh questioned why local mission giving was shown as zero in the 2022 accounts. Rev'd Timothy Robb stated that it was slightly misleading, as the church does in fact give to local missions but it is included in other areas of the accounts. In future this will be made clearer.

Mr Jim Biles asked if we had access to any government donations which may be used to support local missions. Rev'd Timothy Robb stated currently this is not the case but that in the future this could be pursued.

The report was proposed by Dr Phil Barrett seconded by Mrs Carole Robson and carried unanimously.

Rev'd Timothy Robb thanked Mr Roy Notley for his hard work and diligence during the year

9. Election of an Independent Examiner for the current financial year

Mr Roger Brittain acted as Independent Examiner for our accounts and has agreed to carry out this role for another year. Rev'd Timothy Robb thanked Mr Roger Brittain for his work.

Proposed by Mrs Brenda Notley, seconded by Dr Julie Robb, and carried unanimously with no abstentions.

10. Election of up to 5 lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council

Nomination forms were received from: Mrs Jessica Mephram, Mr Gavin Chapman, Mr Anthony Harris, Mr Peter Salkield and Mrs Julia Chapman.

These nominations were proposed by Mrs Liz Faulkner and seconded by Mrs Teresa Bryant, and carried unanimously with no abstentions.

11. To consider reports of the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church, Deanery Synod, various committees and activities of the Church

Mrs Jane Gogarty and Mr Edward Jarvis agreed to represent the church at the Deanery Synod

Proposed by Prof John Wood, **seconded by** Mr Brian Harrison, and carried unanimously with no abstentions.

12. Results of elections to the Parochial Church Council

Elections were not required.

Mr D Rimmer asked why there was no mention in the report of the Pilot Eldership Group. Rev'd Timothy Robb advised that the conclusions of the group would be reported to the PCC and would be included in future APCM's.

13. Consideration of any other business of Parochial or general Church Interest

Rev'd Timothy Robb thanked God for the past year which had been one of much change. He thanked everyone for attending and especially thanked those who were supporting the resourcing needs of the church, in particular thanking Mrs Carole Robson for her commitment to heading up the Mayday event and he requested that she receive support from the church in general with this task going forward. Rev'd Timothy Robb also thanked the team led by Jane Gogarty for their hard work in making the Christmas Fayre a success. He thanked Mrs Margaret Lygoe who stepped down from the PCC for her many years of support and contribution. He thanked the staff team, along with Christopher, Den and Corrie for their work. He thanked all those who are part of the various teams and ministries in the life of St Mary's. He thanked his wife Julie and daughter Sarah (and Millie) for their personal support. He also thanked Mr Edward Jarvis for taking the minutes.

The meeting closed at 12:49 with the saying of the Grace.

MEMBERS OF THE PCC – 2023/24

Members of the PCC are either ex officio, or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules, or may be co-opted.

Incumbent	The Rev'd Timothy Robb	Chairman
Assistant Curate	The Rev'd Christopher Scott	(until 6 August 2023)
Churchwardens	vacant	
Treasurer	Mr Roy Notley	
PCC Secretary	Mrs Brenda Notley	
PCC Minute Taker	Mr Edward Jarvis	
Diocesan Synod	Mrs Jane Gogarty	
Deanery Synod	Mrs Jane Gogarty Mr Edward Jarvis	(until 2026) (until 2026)
Elected Members	Mrs Teresa Bryant Mr Gavin Chapman Mrs Julia Chapman Mr Anthony Harris Mrs Jessica Mephram Mr Denis Rimmer Mr Peter Salkield Mr Tom Salkield	(until 2025) (until 2026) (until 2026) (until 2026) (until 2026) (resigned September 2023) (until 2026) (until 2025)
Co-options	Rev'd Ray Porter Rev'd George Cobb	

ELECTORAL ROLL 2023/24

The statistics of the roll as follows:-

The year 2023/24 started with 127 names on the Electoral Roll. During the year, the Roll was revised. 12 people were removed and 13 added. There were 4 people who had sadly died and 8 people who had moved away. This leaves 128 names now listed on the Roll who worship regularly here at St Mary's Eaton Socon, consisting of 81 female and 47 male.

Should your name, address, telephone number or email change in any way throughout the year, please let the Church Office know so that the records can be kept up to date.

Alternatively, if you are using the Smartphone 'ChurchSuite', you can amend your own details any time. If you would like more information about this facility, please contact the Church Office.

Brenda Notley (01234 589308)
Electoral Roll Officer

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS 2023

ST Mary's Eaton Socon Parochial Church Council Statement of Financial Activities

Dec-23

	CHURCH	DESIGNATED	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL 23	2022
RECEIPTS						
<i>Planned Giving</i>						
Bank	88350		88350		88350	88274
Envelopes	21		21		21	2938
Tax Recovered	23866	13	23879	48	23927	25475
Gift Day	7712		7712		7712	3820
Collections	7369		7369		7369	7174
Donations and Sundry Income	9503	3160	12663	940	13603	14683
Legacies		1000	1000		1000	0
Youth Work	0	5493	5493	0	5493	3628
Church Hall Lettings	4547		4547		4547	6036
Weddings and Funeral Fees	5954		5954		5954	6505
Fundraising Events	0	5353	5353	4	5357	5993
Interest Received	1927		1927		1927	605
TOTAL RECEIPTS	149249	15019	164268	992	165260	165131
PAYMENTS						
GRANTS						
Missionary and Charitable Giving	5694		5694		5694	5525
Other	0		0		0	40
MINISTRY						
Parish Share	79197		79197		79197	76748
Staff Expenses	3491		3491		3491	3977
Telephone	920		920		920	1119
0-18						
Youth Work	0	5493	5493	0	5493	6266
LIVING						
Fellowship	218		218		218	367
Pastoral	178		178	251	429	349
WORSHIP & PRAYER						
Worship	987		987	0	987	1330
Services	1412		1412	0	1412	1916
Kitchen	0	1327	1327		1327	0
Hall Hire	1224		1224		1224	1244
OUTREACH						
Outreach	123	959	1082	100	1182	468
Events	0	1660	1660	0	1660	3634
BUILDINGS						
General Maintenance/Equipt	5566	0	5566	606	6172	24567
Insurance	4822		4822		4822	4461
Gas	10604		10604		10604	7335
Electric	3014		3014		3014	2321
Water	240		240		240	211
Cleaning/Hygiene	720		720		720	387
MGMNT/ADMIN						
Staff Costs	28096	723	28819	0	28819	26374
Printing/copying	2574		2574		2574	3146
Post/Staty	427		427		427	551
Books/Posters	602		602		602	649
IT	2736	0	2736	0	2736	11946
Courses/Conf	0		0		0	19
OTHER ADMIN	746		746		746	1048
OTHER CHARGES	112	146	258	0	258	181
TOTAL PAYMENTS	153703	10308	164011	957	164968	186179
Excess/(Deficit)	-4454	4711	257	35	292	-21048

	CHURCH	DESIGNATED	GENERAL	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
BT FWD	17500	4230	21730	24926	46656
Net Movement in funds	-4454	4711	257	35	292
	13046	8941	21987	24961	46948
Transfer of funds		759	759	-759	0
	13046	9700	22746	24202	46948

ST Mary's Eaton Socon Parochial Church Council
Income and Expenditure Statement
Church General Fund as at:-

Dec-23

		2023	2022	VARIANCE
RECEIPTS				
P Giving	STO/PGS	88350	88274	76
	Envelopes	21	2938	-2917
Income Tax Recovered		19664	20925	-1261
INCOME PLANNED GIVING		108035	112137	-4102
Income Tax Recovered		2901	2417	484
Collections		7369	7174	195
Donations and Sundry Income		9503	5618	3885
OFFERING & SUNDRY DONS		19773	15209	4564
Gift Day		7712	3820	3892
Income Tax Recovered gift day		1301	899	402
GIFT DAY DONATIONS		9013	4719	4294
Youth		0	0	0
Church Hall Lettings		4547	6036	-1489
Weddings and Funeral Fees		5954	6505	-551
Fundraising Events		0	201	-201
Interest Received		1927	605	1322
INCOME OTHER		12428	13347	-919
TOTAL RECEIPTS		149249	145412	3837
PAYMENTS				0
GRANTS				
	Mission/Charitable	5694	5525	169
	Other	0	40	-40
MINISTRY				
	Parish Share	79197	76748	2449
	Staff Expenses	3491	3977	-486
	Telephone	920	1119	-199
0-18	Youth Work	0	464	-464
LIVING				
	Fellowship	218	367	-149
	Pastoral	178	12	166
WORSHIP				
	Worship	987	1254	-267
	Services	1412	1916	-504
	Hall Hire	1224	1244	-20
OUTREACH				
	Outreach	123	0	123
	Events	0	201	-201
BUILDINGS				
	Building Maintenance	5566	4030	1536
	Insurance	4822	4461	361
	Gas	10604	7335	3269
	Electric	3014	2321	693
	Water	240	211	29
	Cleaning	720	387	333
MGMNT/ADMIN				
	Staff Costs	28096	25297	2799
	Printing/copying	2574	3146	-572
	Post/Staty	427	551	-124
	Books/Posters	602	649	-47
	IT	2736	2911	-175
	Courses/Conf	0	19	-19
	Other Admin	746	1048	-302
	Other Charges	112	49	63
TOTAL PAYMENTS		153703	145282	8421
Net Excess/(Deficit)		-4454	130	-4584

ST Mary's Eaton Socon Parochial Church Council
Income and Expenditure Statement
Designated/Restricted Accounts as at :-

Dec-23

	2022	TFRS	INCOME	EXPENDS	2023	CD/FWD
GENERAL ACCOUNT FUNDS	17500		149249	153703	-4454	13046
DESIGNATED FUNDS						
LEGACY			1000		1000	1000
EVENTS	3317		4089	593	3496	6813
CATG EVENTS	423		3084	2976	108	531
CAFE GREEN all café on green	219	-100	326	159	167	286
CHILDREN EVENTS			2445	2171	274	274
LITTLE STARS	271		1112	1051	61	332
HIVE		305	342	472	-130	175
YOUTH CAFÉ		300	99	255	-156	144
EVENTS YTH		24	725	825	-100	-76
FUSION		151	626	748	-122	29
NEWDAY		79	1171	1058	113	192
TOTAL DESIGNATED	4230	759	15019	10308	4711	9700
RESTRICTED FUNDS						
BOILER/FLUES	12984				0	12984
VESTRY	7000				0	7000
NAVE	740			380	-380	360
FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS	20724	0	0	380	-380	20344
UTILITY	1236			251	-251	985
LUNCH CLUB	576	-200			0	376
OUTREACH	1812	-200	0	251	-251	1361
NEW DAY	79	-79			0	0
HIVE	305	-305			0	0
FUSION	175	-175			0	0
YOUTH EVENTS	559	-559	0	0	0	0
WORSHIP	0		63		63	63
HYMNAL	810		650		650	1460
MUSIC	810	0	713	0	713	1523
CRAFT	0				0	0
WED WELCOME	101		104	100	4	105
MENS	350				0	350
WOMEN	290				0	290
C CARE	280		175	226	-51	229
CHURCH GROUPS	1021	0	279	326	-47	974
TOTAL RESTRICTED	24926	-759	992	957	35	24202
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED	21730	759	164268	164011	257	22746
TOTAL RESTRICTED	24926	-759	992	957	35	24202
	46656	0	165260	164968	292	46948

ST Mary's Eaton Socon Parochial Church Council

BALANCE SHEET at 31st December 2023

	2023	2022
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible fixed assets-GNL		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	2036	2186
Short Term Deposits	43545	46620
Cash at bank and in hand	9484	10961
	55065	59767
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors due within one year	8117	13111
NET CURRENT ASSETS	46948	46656
LONG TERM LIABILITIES		
NET ASSETS	46948	46656
RESERVE FUNDS - GENERAL		
General at 01-01-23	17500	17370
Movement to date	257	-16430
Tfr to designated	-4711	16560
At 31-12-23	13046	17500
Desig Rsv at 01-01-23	4230	20790
Tfr from General funds	4711	-16560
Tfr from Restricted funds	759	
At 31-12-23	9700	4230
	22746	21730
RESERVE FUNDS - RESTRICTED		
BOILER/FLUES	12984	12984
VESTRY	7000	7000
NAVE	360	740
UTILITY	985	1236
LUNCH CLUB	376	576
NEW DAY		79
WORSHIP	63	0
HYMNAL	1460	810
WED WELC	105	101
MENS	350	350
WOMEN	290	290
FUSION		175
CREATION CARE	229	280
HIVE		305
At 31-12-23	24202	24926
At 31-12-23	46948	46656

CHARITIES COMMISSION FINANCIAL REPORTS



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

PCC of ST MARY'S EATON SOCON			Charity No (if any)	1130537
Annual accounts for the period				
Period start date	Jan-23	To	Period end date	Dec-23

Section A Statement of financial activities

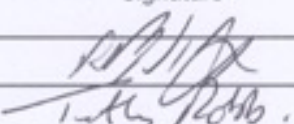
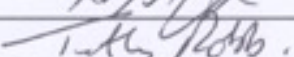
Recommended categories by activity	Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds £ F01	Restricted income funds £ F02	Endowment funds £ F03	Total funds £ F04	Prior year funds £ F05
Incoming resources (Note 3)						
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	S01	146,487	988	-	147,475	146,004
Charitable activities	S02	9,900	4	-	9,904	13,135
Other trading activities	S03	5,954	-	-	5,954	6,505
Investments		1,927	-	-	1,927	605
Separate material item of income	S05	-	-	-	-	-
Other	S06	-	-	-	-	-
Total	S07	164,268	992	-	165,260	166,249
Resources expended (Note 6)						
Expenditure on:						
Mission & Charitable Giving		5,694	-	-	5,694	5,525
Parish Share		79,197	-	-	79,197	76,748
Ministry	S08	10,839	351	-	11,190	10,770
Youth Work		5,493	-	-	5,493	6,277
Building Costs	S09	24,966	606	-	25,572	39,282
Fundraising		1,660	-	-	1,660	4,741
Administration	S11	3,740	-	-	3,740	13,883
Staff Costs		28,819	-	-	28,819	26,374
Print, Post & Stationery		3,603	-	-	3,603	3,697
Depreciation		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities		-	-	-	-	-
Separate material item of expense	S10	-	-	-	-	-
Other		-	-	-	-	-
Total	S12	164,011	957	-	164,968	187,297
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)	S13	- 1,670	35	-	- 1,635	- 21,653
Net gains/(losses) on investments	S14	1,927	-	-	1,927	605
Net income/(expenditure)	S15	257	35	-	292	- 21,048
Extraordinary items	S16	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers between funds	S17	759	- 759	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	S18	-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	S19	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	S20	1,016	- 724	-	292	- 21,048
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	S21	21,730	24,926	-	46,656	67,704
Total funds carried forward	S22	22,746	24,202	-	46,948	46,656

Section B

Balance sheet

		Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds £ F01	Restricted income funds £ F02	Endowment funds £ F03	Total this year £ F04	Total last year £ F05
Fixed assets							
Intangible assets	(Note 15)	B01	-	-	-	-	-
Tangible assets	(Note 14)	B02	-	-	-	-	-
Heritage assets	(Note 16)	B03	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	(Note 17)	B04	-	-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets		B05	-	-	-	-	-
Current assets							
Stocks	(Note 18)	B06	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	(Note 19)	B07	2,036	-	-	2,036	2,186
Investments	(Note 17.4)	B08	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand (Note 24)		B09	53,029	-	-	53,029	57,581
Total current assets		B10	55,065	-	-	55,065	59,767
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year							
	(Note 20)	B11	8,117	-	-	8,117	13,111
Net current assets/(liabilities)		B12	46,948	-	-	46,948	46,656
Total assets less current liabilities		B13	46,948	-	-	46,948	46,656
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year							
	(Note 20)	B14	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities		B15	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets or liabilities		B16	46,948	-	-	46,948	46,656
Funds of the Charity							
Endowment funds (Note 27)		B17	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted income funds (Note 27)		B18		24,202		24,202	24,926
Unrestricted funds		B19	22,746		-	22,746	21,730
Revaluation reserve		B20				-	
Total funds		B21	22,746	24,202	-	46,948	46,656

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval dd/mm/yyyy
	R B NOTLEY	25/02/2024
	T S ROBB	25/02/2024

Note 3 Analysis of income

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
Analysis						
Donations and legacies:	Donations and gifts	115,615	615	-	116,230	114,310
	Gift Aid	23,879	48	-	23,927	25,475
	Legacies	1,000	-	-	1,000	-
	General grants provided by government/other charities	500	325	-	825	2,580
	Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance donations	-	-	-	-	-
	Donated goods, facilities and services	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	5,493	-	-	5,493	3,639
	Total	146,487	988	-	147,475	146,004
Charitable activities:	Fundraising Events	5,353	4	-	5,357	7,099
	Church Hall Lettings	4,547	-	-	4,547	6,036
		-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	9,900	4	-	9,904	13,135
Other trading activities:	Wedding and Funeral Fees	5,954	-	-	5,954	6,505
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	5,954	-	-	5,954	6,505
Income from investments:	Interest income	1,927	-	-	1,927	605
	Dividend income	-	-	-	-	-
	Rental and leasing income	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	1,927	-	-	1,927	605
Separate material item of income:		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
Other:	Conversion of endowment funds into income	-	-	-	-	-
	Gain on disposal of a tangible fixed asset held for charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
	Gain on disposal of a programme related investment	-	-	-	-	-
	Royalties from the exploitation of intellectual property rights	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME		164,268	992	-	165,260	166,249

Other information:

All income in the prior year was unrestricted except for:
(please provide description and amounts)

Donations and Gifts £5523; Gift Aid £1050; events £363; grants £600 and £1155 other.

Where any endowment fund is converted into income in the reporting period, please give the reason for the conversion.

Within the income items above the following items are material: (please disclose the nature, amount and any prior year amounts)

Note 6 Analysis of expenditure

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
	Analysis					
Expenditure on Ministry:	Staff Expenses	3,491	-	-	3,491	3,977
	Telephone	920	-	-	920	1,119
	Fellowship	218	-	-	218	367
	Pastoral	178	251	-	429	349
	Worship	987	-	-	987	1,330
	Services	1,412	-	-	1,412	1,916
	Refreshments	1,327	-	-	1,327	-
	Hall Hire	1,224	-	-	1,224	1,244
	Outreach	1,082	100	-	1,182	468
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total expenditure on Ministry	10,839	351	-	11,190	10,770
Expenditure on building/utilities	Building Maintenance	5,566	606	-	6,172	24,567
	Insurance	4,822	-	-	4,822	4,461
	Heat, Light, Water	13,858	-	-	13,858	9,867
	Cleaning	720	-	-	720	387
	Total expenditure on buildings/utilities	24,966	606	-	25,572	39,282
Expenditure on admin costs	IT	2,736	-	-	2,736	11,946
	Other Admin/courses	1,004	-	-	1,004	1,937
	architect fees/mgmt svcs	-	-	-	-	-
	Equipment purchases	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total expenditure on Admin costs	3,740	-	-	3,740	13,883
Other	Mission & Charitable Giving	5,694	-	-	5,694	5,525
	Parish Share	79,197	-	-	79,197	76,748
	Youth Work	5,493	-	-	5,493	6,277
	Fundraising	1,660	-	-	1,660	4,741
	Staff Costs	28,819	-	-	28,819	26,374
	Print, Post & Stationery	3,603	-	-	3,603	3,697
	Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
	Total other expenditure	124,466	-	-	124,466	123,362
Separate material item of expense		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		164,011	957	-	164,968	187,297

Other information:

Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Activity or programme	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support Costs	Total this year	Total prior year
	£	£	£	£	£
Activity 1					
Activity 2					
Other					
Total					

Prior year expenditure on charitable activities can be analysed as follows:

Within the expenditure items above the following items are material: (please disclose the nature, amount and any prior year amounts)

Note 11 **Paid employees**
Please complete this note if the charity has any employees.

11.1 Staff Costs

	This year £	Last year £
Salaries and wages	28,580	26,180
Social security costs	-	-
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	239	194
Other employee benefits	-	-
Total staff costs	28,819	26,374

Please provide details of expenditure on staff working for the charity whose contracts are with and are paid by a related party

none

Please give details of the number of employees whose total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) fell within each band of £10,000 from £60,000 upwards. If there are no such transactions, please enter 'true' in the box provided.

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000

TRUE

Band	Number of employees
£60,000 to £69,999	
£70,000 to £79,999	
£80,000 to £89,999	
£90,000 to £99,999	
£100,000 to £109,999	

Please provide the total amount paid to key management personnel (includes trustees and senior management) for their services to the charity

11.2 Average head count in the year

The parts of the charity in which the employees work

	This year Number	Last year Number
Fundraising	-	-
Charitable Activities	-	-
Governance	-	-
Other	4	5
Total	4	5

11.3 Ex-gratia payments to employees and others (excluding trustees)

Please complete if an ex-gratia payment is made.

Please explain the nature of the payment

--

Please state the legal authority or reason for making the payment

--

Please state the amount of the payment (or value of any waiver of a right to an asset)

--

11.4 Redundancy payments

Please complete if any redundancy or termination payment is made in the period.

Total amount of payment

--

The nature of the payment (cash, asset etc.)

--

The extent of redundancy funding at the balance sheet date

--

Please state the accounting policy for any redundancy or termination payments

--

Section C

Notes to the accounts

(cont)

Note 19 Debtors and prepayments

Please complete this note if the charity has any debtors or prepayments.

19.1 Analysis of debtors

Trade debtors

Prepayments and accrued income

Other debtors

Total

This year	Last year
£	£
0	0
2036	2186
0	0
2036	2186

Please complete 19.2 where a material debtor is recoverable more than a year after the reporting date.

19.2 Analysis of debtors recoverable in more than 1 year (included in debtors above)

Trade debtors

Prepayments and accrued income

Other debtors

This year	Last year
£	£
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
Total	-

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 20 **Creditors and accruals**

Please complete this note if the charity has any creditors or accruals.

20.1 Analysis of creditors

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Accruals for grants payable	-	-	-	-
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-	-	-
Trade creditors	1,582	4,908	-	-
Payments received on account for contracts or performance-related grants	1,472	1,603	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	5,063	6,600	-	-
Taxation and social security	-	-	-	-
Other creditors	-	-	-	-
Total	8,117	13,111	-	-

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 24 **Cash at bank and in hand**

	This year £	Last year £
Short term cash investments (less than 3 months maturity date)	-	-
Short term deposits	43,545	46,620
Cash at bank and on hand	9,484	10,961
Other	-	-
Total	53,029	57,581

Section C Notes to the accounts (cont)

Note 27 Charity funds

27.1 Details of material funds held and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

Please give details of the movements of material individual funds in the reporting period together with a balancing figure for 'Other funds'. The 'Total funds' figure below should reconcile to 'Total funds' in the balance sheet.

** Key: PE - permanent endowment funds; EE - expendable endowment funds; R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and U - unrestricted funds*

Fund names	Type PE, EE R or UR *	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £
FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS	R		20,724		- 380	-	-	20,344
OUTREACH	R		1,812		- 251	- 200	-	1,361
YOUTH EVENTS	R		79			- 79	-	-
WORSHIP SUPPORT	R		810	713		-	-	1,523
CHURCH GROUPS	R		916	104	- 100	- 175	-	745
OTHER	R		585	175	- 226	- 305	-	229
	R					-	-	-
	R					-	-	-
	R					-	-	-
	R					-	-	-
	R					-	-	-
Other funds	N/a	N/a	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funds			24,926	992	- 957	- 759	-	24,202

Note 27 **Charity funds (cont)**

27.3 Transfers between funds

	Reason for transfer and where endowment is converted to income, legal power for its conversion	Amount
Between unrestricted and restricted funds	Consolidation of Youth groups and activities within designated funds	759
Between endowment and restricted funds		
Between endowment and unrestricted funds		

27.4 Designated funds

Planned use	Purpose of the designation	Amount
future projects	fund set aside for a variety of future projects under feasibility study	6813
legacy	funds received for future utilisation	1000
youth	funds set aside for growth of youth participation	1887

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

14 The Paddock
Eaton Ford
St Neots
Cambs
PE19 7SA

To Eaton Socon PCC

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention 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 2011 Act and section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met or to which in my opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Roger Brittain FCA

20-Feb-24

Accounts

Annual Report

2022



St Mary's Eaton Socon

THE CHURCH ON THE GREEN

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Vicar's Welcome

Welcome to St Mary's Eaton Socon 2022 Annual Report.

At a speech given at the Guildhall in the City of London in late November 1992, Queen Elizabeth II said: *1992 is not a year on which I shall look back with undiluted pleasure. In the words of one of my more sympathetic correspondents, it has turned out to be an 'Annus Horribilis'. I suspect that I am not alone in thinking it so.*

As I look back on 2022, I too would borrow the phrase 'Annus Horribilis' from the Queen to describe some of its events. Yes there have been some good things that have happened, including the gradual use of the kitchen; the appointment of my new PA, Jane Gill; the refurbishment of the Church Hall; the arrival of our new curate Christopher Scott, and the recent Christmas season of services and events. For these and other things, we have so much to be thankful for.

Yet, in the midst of these good things, some of our relationships with each other have been under pressure, resulting in disaffection and disunity. One of the contributing factors has been the message we heard repeatedly through Covid – a message ‘to look to one’s own interests.’

Whilst this may have been the right message for the country at that time, the Christian church has always been called to be a place that looks to and demonstrates an equal concern for every member of the community.

Thank-you to those who have shared this journey with me through 2022 – whilst there is still more rebuilding of relationships to be done, it is encouraging to share in both relationships that are the stronger for having been rebuilt and seeing the church reorientating its view that looks to the interests of each other and the needs of the whole church.

As the Theologian Dr Julie Robb once said: *The church family can only be the community God desires if every member and every gift are valued.*

This is the community we are called to be. So what are we waiting for? Let us all use 2023 to build up God's family here at St Mary's and in the wider community.

With every blessing

Tim



PCC Report

The PCC met 8 times during the year on a Thursday evening. The meetings take the same format, starting with prayer and a short reflection led by one of the members. This is followed by a short time of story sharing. Depending on the amount to be discussed, the meeting usually concludes around 10pm. During the year two people resigned which left the group short on numbers.

FINANCE

The Treasurer, Roy Notley, presents a full review of the accounts at each meeting for general, designated, and restricted funds. Constant reviews of likely finance outcome for the year were discussed, especially towards the later months as it became clear that financing of general fund was going to need extreme monitoring.

During the year the PCC sanctioned several expends on equipment and improvement projects, all funded where possible from grants, designated reserves or restricted accounts.

The 2023 budget was discussed and revised many times again due to the Uncertainties of what 2023 would bring, especially the steep rise in energy costs.

Purchase of a SumUp Card Reader at a cost of £79 was approved to enhance cash-free giving.

MINISTRY

Our new Curate, Christopher Scott, was welcomed on 3rd July and is proving to be a valuable asset to the life of St Mary's.

Initial discussions about starting up a Pilot Eldership Group (PEG) took place to prayerfully shape ideas which will enhance the life of the Church. This is still ongoing.

Administration of Holy Communion following Covid restrictions was considered. It was agreed that we must offer people Communion options that they feel safe with and that changes would be actioned as 'stepping stones' process back to normality from July and to be reviewed in the Spring of 2023.

A Lunch Club proposal offering an opportunity for adults to come together for physical, mental, relational and spiritual nourishment in a warm space was approved. This would be held monthly on the last Thursday.

YOUTH

The PCC reviewed and discussed issues raised by Liz Faulkner, our Children's Worker, concerning current Sunday School problems. A Focus Group was formed to address this issue and Liz attended the PCC meeting in December where an action plan was agreed. This would involve the use and development of the vestry for the older children, leaving the hall free for the creche. Parents would be encouraged to stay with their children as they would be able to follow the service as it would be streamed to the hall TV screen.

A proposal for a Youth Café starting mid-February 2023 in the Church Hall on Monday afternoons was approved.

PCC Report (continued)

FABRIC

The quiet area in the Church yard was completed in the first quarter of the year.

The Church hall refurbishment project was started, including installation of hall AV system, hall redecoration and new carpet and curtains, with a view to completion by August. This was completed mid-summer and is a big improvement. Provision of new chairs was deferred due to the extra cost.

A grant was received from HDC of £6000 in 2021 and the PCC agreed four projects to be resourced by this grant. These were the hall carpet, the Church platform wood panel replacement, safeguarding laptop and iPad for PTZ camera use.

The existing Wi-Fi access points needed to be replaced as they were no longer being supported by the manufacturer due to the technology being out of date. This was approved with the cost being taken out of the general budget.

A PA amplifier was on loan to the Church. This was returned to the owner and the purchase of a replacement, funded from designated funds, was approved by the Standing Committee.

A lighting proposal was agreed to replace the existing lighting with more economic LED lights and fitments. This project has been started.

ADMIN

It was agreed that a person needed to be in place to take over the production of the Church rotas. There is still no one in place to do this important job. The task has temporarily been covered by two PCC members. A paper seeking the way forward was presented to the PCC in January 2023. This matter is ongoing.

Due to it's age the laptop for Liz Faulkner needed to be replaced. This was approved.

PCC minutes are written up and, once ratified, they are displayed with the Treasurer's Report in the South Porch.

My thanks go to the Trustees of the Eaton Socon PCC for all their work during the year, to Denis Rimmer and Corrie Verduyn, the Churchwardens, to the Assistant Churchwardens, to Ed Jarvis for taking the minutes at each meeting, to all the staff, to Christopher Scott and especially to Rev'd Timothy Robb.

Brenda Notley



Treasurer's Report

YEAR ENDING 31.12.2022

CHURCH GENERAL ACCOUNT

This was yet another difficult year as we continued to return towards pre-pandemic days. Planned giving income fell by £1581, cash collections and sundry income were up by £4521. In addition, lump sum pledges including gift aid were £4719. There was no gift day in 2021. With increased hall lettings but fewer occasional services, other income was up by £1082 including £581 more from interest on deposit account. Overall, total income for the year was up by £5733 after taking out furlough grants of £3008 received in 2021.

Expenditure too was up by £5666. Parish Share £1899, staff expenses £2593 and energy costs £3966 were the highest, but building related costs were down by £2019 from last year and mission giving down by £4218 to 5% of planned giving income.

Many donations were received in November and December towards the high increase in energy costs perceived for 2023. All of these, amounting to £5006, have been deferred to 2023 to help offset those costs in that year. Similarly, there were a few expense items provided for within 2022 but deferred to 2023 amounting to £1792. The general fund remarkably ended the year with a gross surplus of £130! We should all be so grateful for God's endless provision.

DESIGNATED FUND

Fundraising events in 2022 raised £3434 to the designated fund created for major one-off costs involving buildings and/or equipment. This fund, including an HDC grant in 2021, stood at £19813 at start of year. The PCC sanctioned the go ahead for several projects falling under this category. These amounted to £19930 in all, thus reducing the fund to £3317 at end of year. A listing of these items will be included in the published accounts for 2022. Other designated funds are held for catering, Little Stars and Café on the Green. Funds at start of year were £977 and, after all activity in the year, were £913 at close.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

There were 5 restricted funds for future development at the start of 2022 amounting to £24019. The Kitchen/Hall project was completed as was the Quiet area project. There was no movement on the fund for Boiler/Flues or Vestry. These funds remain at £19984. Nave lighting work commenced late in the year at a cost so far of £1135, leaving £740 remaining for future changes. Cumulative restricted funds for future developments now stand at £20724. In addition, there are restricted funds for Outreach, Youth events, Worship and Church Groups. These funds at start of year were £5525 and, after all activity in the year, were £4202 at close.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023

This has again been a very difficult budget to prepare. Income from giving can only be based upon what is happening right now. We cannot assume church attendance will grow and, due to the current inflation rate and ever rising costs, we cannot assume giving will grow. We think income will be stagnant and boosted only by pledges received so far at the time of writing (9) and hopefully more to come as the year progresses. Expenditure is expected to be £11000 more than 2022, including an extra £9000 on energy costs (now expected to cost £19000 in a full year).

The final budget for 2023 shows a predicted deficit of £12400. We are confident that further pledges will go a long way to cutting that deficit substantially. My thanks to all who have assisted in the preparation of these Accounts, particularly a thanks to Gavin and Tim for their solid support and assistance.

Roy B Notley

Planned Giving Report

Around 90% of St Mary's income needs to come from giving/donations to resource its ever rising costs of ministry/upkeep of buildings. In 2022 regular giving was down by £1581 from 2021. Giving of all kinds was £8109 up on 2021. All giving amounted to 90.6% of expenditure.

Giving was via the following streams:

	2021	2022	
Direct Debits (Parish Giving Scheme)	29195	30848	23.36%
Bank Standing Orders	59993	56706	42.94%
On-line Debit/Credit Cards (Stripe)	690	720	0.55%
Dedicated Numbered Envelopes	3277	2938	2.22%
Gift Aid Reclaim from HMRC	20563	20925	15.84%
PLANNED GIVING	113718	112137	84.91%
Gift Aid envelopes	293	1107	0.84%
Cash Offertories	2816	6067	4.59%
Casual donations	5805	5618	4.25%
Gift Aid Reclaim from HMRC	1324	2417	1.83%
Gift Day	0	4719	3.57%
ADHOC GIVING	10238	19928	15.09%
TOTAL GIVING	123956	132065	

Monthly giving spread:

	2021	2022
Up to £25 per month	17	16
Between £26 and £50	32	27
Between £51 and £100	21	19
Between £101 and £200	10	14
Between £201 and £300	10	7
Over £300	2	4
	92	87

At start of year there were 92 regular givers; 17 increased their regular amount and 0 decreased; 8 started regular giving but 13 stopped leaving 87 regular givers at end of 2022.

On behalf of PCC of St Mary's Eaton Socon we convey our sincere thanks for your sustained regular giving. Only 2 now remain on dedicated numbered envelopes. The budget for 2023 is again extremely tight and will need your extra support to protect the services provided.

Remember, apart from regular giving by direct debit through Parish Giving Scheme and bank standing order there are many other streams for the occasional giver. there are many other streams of income available for the occasional giver.

1. **PARISH GIVING SINGLE DONATE.** parishgiving.org.uk (parishcode 320632297)
2. **VIA ON-LINE BANKING:** direct bank tfr to 'Eatonsocon PCC' 20.74.81 60347043
3. **CREDIT/DEBIT CARD:** by sum-up card reader.
4. **CHURCH WEBSITE** by various donate buttons on www.eatonsocon.org
5. **TEXT GIVING:** by text message SMES to 70085 Default is £10.
6. **EASYFUNDRAISING or SMILE AMAZON:** using St Mary's as nominated charity
7. **GIFT AID ENVELOPES:** by gift aid envelopes on finance table
8. **MONEY:** by cash or cheque in offertory baskets in church when open.

Please note: giving by means of options 3,4,or 5 above will incur a commission charge deducted at source from your contribution. We encourage you to continue to review the support you can afford which is so vital to St Mary's and we thank you for it.

Roy B Notley - Treasurer

Church Warden Report

This is the first church warden report from myself and Denis. We were elected in April 2022. This was followed by a service of commissioning in June in a church in Luton. We have therefore been in post less than a year. It has been a learning curve which is still on-going, and we have big boots to fill.

During this year, there have been major events in the world, which impact all of our lives, and the life of the church as well. We celebrated the life of Queen Elizabeth at her passing. We have welcomed a new King, Charles the 3rd. We witness the devastation of war in Ukraine, earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Closer to home many people face financial uncertainty, and all of us, including the church, have to adjust to the rising cost of living.

Throughout this time the church services have continued and slowly returned to normality. This has been the first full year post Covid and some Covid legacies remain. We are happy to have seen people gradually return to church, as well as welcoming new members. This year has also seen the re-start of Sunday evening events, both as St Mary's @6 as a praise and worship service, and as teaching sessions by Rev Ray Porter and Dr Julie Robb. Thanks to all who have contributed to any of those sessions.

We have also welcomed our curate Christopher Scott and his family into our church.

This year has also seen several people standing down from various volunteering roles. This is now leading to a situation where we need more volunteers in different roles, so as not to overburden those who continue to contribute to this invaluable ministry.

I want to thank all those who have contributed as a volunteer to the life of the church. I want to thank all assistant church wardens, sides people, tea makers, readers, intercessors, musicians, M-team members, creation care team members and many others. I am not going to mention everyone by name, but I am going to make 2 exceptions. We want to thank Margaret Lygoe for doing the rotas. We would also like to thank Teresa Ansell for her many years of service to the church.

During this year we have seen an up-grade of the church hall, which makes it into a much nicer and user-friendly space.

For the coming year there are plans to up-grade the vestry, as it is now used as a space for Sunday school.

Finally, we would like to thank Tim and everyone in church, for your patience as we settle into this role of church warden.

Our prayer is that God will bless our church and use it as a beacon of light for our community.

Corrie Verduyn and Den Rimmer.



Church Administrator's Report

Firstly, I must make note of the fact that I have worked for Tim and St Mary's for over six years now which makes me the longest serving member of office staff – ever!! For my sins, maybe!! I say that with a smile on my face.

The office is an extremely busy and productive environment with lots of comings and goings. The work is very varied and I don't know what will come at me from moment to moment. I love that variation and being able to assist all of the people who do great work for the Church behind the scenes. It wouldn't run without them.

My duties include: taking all bookings and ensuring that the management system (ChurchSuite) is as up to date as is possible, copious amounts of printing, invoicing and dealing with our hall hirers, taking telephone calls, answering the many emails we receive, the filing of all Church documentation so that it is easily accessible, making sure that the hall is warm for our users, looking after the First Aid boxes (a small but essential job), these are to name but a few of the many tasks required to ensure the smooth running of this side of Church life!

Most importantly, it's drinking, often cold, the plentiful and much-needed cups of tea made for me by the good people of St Mary's.

What would I do without you? Thank you most kindly.

Karen McKenzie

Vicar's PA Report

I took over as Vicar's PA in January 2022.

My first year has seen me undertaking various duties, including record keeping for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. This involves liaising with the family/couple, completing computer records, updating the church registers, liaising with funeral directors and the church treasurer.

I have prepared PowerPoints for Baptism services, incorporating photos of the child/children and their family members, to personalise the service for them.

Early in the year I updated the church policies, in line with updates from the Diocese or the PCC. I am responsible for keeping the church key register up to date. I have also produced or updated service booklets and the church Welcome Pack.

The last few weeks have seen me formatting and producing the APCM Reports booklet.

I have produced the monthly newsletter, liaising with many members of the church to ensure inclusion of up-to-date articles, news and forthcoming events. I have really enjoyed the opportunity to be creative with this. Please keep the articles coming!

I have produced various posters, information cards and other documents, as requested by the Vicar, and on occasion, other members of the church, including a 'Beware of the Wasps' poster for the churchyard.

The job is varied, interesting and busy and, as a relative newcomer, has proven to be a great way to get to know people in the church.

From day one I have felt welcomed and supported. Thank you, Tim, Karen and everyone!!

Please continue to pop in and say hello when I'm in the office.

Jane Gill

Safeguarding Report

St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon is committed to being a safe place for all and we are working with the Diocesan guidelines to ensure this is maintained. The St Mary's 'Safeguarding for All Policy' was updated in January 2023 to reflect ongoing changes within the church. It is based upon the Diocesan Safeguarding policies 'Protecting All God's Children' and 'Promoting A Safe Church' (which covers vulnerable adults). St Mary's Church has adopted the principles and practices of safer recruitment.

As the church activities involving children continue to expand, new volunteers have come forward and the necessary safer recruitment and checks have been carried out so that this could be done safely. As the Church of England has recommended all DBS checks are renewed every three years.

All Safeguarding Training is delivered online. Records are kept of those who have undergone Safeguarding training so that, in line with Diocesan recommendations, renewal every three years can be prompted.

There is a regular Safeguarding item on PCC agendas allowing for the PCC to be kept informed on Safeguarding matters and to discuss initiatives as they arise. St Mary's Church is now on the Parish Dashboard, a system for ensuring that all necessary Safeguarding requirements have been completed.

Names and contact details of the vicar, the Safeguarding Officer and the Children's Advocate are displayed within the church along with advice helpline numbers. This information is also clearly signposted on the parish website. If there are any Safeguarding matters that need to be brought to our attention, please contact any of these people in confidence.

Jane Gogarty

Pre-Marriage Course Report

This course is offered to couples who choose to get married in our church. The course is built upon universal principles about marriage that are relevant to any couple anywhere. The intention of the course is to help couples prepare for marriage and develop the habits that are needed to build a strong, healthy and lasting marriage.

The course addresses such topics as: communication, conflict, commitment, connection and the adventure of marriage. It is a course that comprises of five teaching sessions.

In spring 2022 we took two couples through the course, we recently took 3 couples through a second course, in addition 3 couples took the course on a home based manner.

We have been very encouraged by the way that the different couples have applied themselves to their marriage preparation and give thanks to God for them. All of the couples expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the learning received.

Edward and Barbara Jarvis

Creation Care Team Report

The Creation Care Group was set up three years ago to help St Mary's understand and respond to the developing environmental crises around us. We want to show that we love creation because we love its Creator. We've made changes in our Church life and encourage Church members to make changes in their own lifestyles too.

Our efforts were recognised by an Eco Church silver award this January, following our bronze award eighteen months ago. This required further progress in five areas:

Worship and Teaching – our worship and prayers often reflect our love and concern for creation, including a Sunday in June when we focussed on our individual responsibility to care. Over 80 people returned a questionnaire about their own attitudes and actions. Creation Care is also a regular part of the children's and young peoples' teaching.

Buildings – we've provided bins opposite the kitchenette to help people recycle batteries and ink cartridges. And the recent installation of LED lights in the Church will help to reduce our electricity use. By far the biggest part of our 'carbon footprint' is the gas we burn to heat the Church and Hall – we planned to turn the thermostats down a bit, but the recent unwelcome price rises have made us turn them down even further!

Land – we've continued managing the Churchyard to be of more benefit to wildlife, while keeping it a pleasant place for visitors. The meadow areas have enabled wild plants and creatures to thrive there – we have found about 60 species of plants, apart from the trees and grasses. A small new bed behind the Hall has grown a variety of herbs and vegetables as well as some sunflowers, and elsewhere we've added plants that will provide seeds for the birds. Of nine bird boxes, six were used last year. Our camera has caught a hedgehog and a fox visiting our feeding and watering point during the night, as well as birds and a family of mice. The 'Quiet Area' was completed to provide space for individuals or small groups to relax. A new noticeboard outside the Hall provides information for visitors – thank you to ESCA for helping with the cost of that.

Community and Global Engagement and Lifestyle – we've become a Fairtrade Church, starting with a successful stall at the Christmas Fayre. We've also started occasional walks to help people to enjoy our lovely local area. We try to make sure that everyone has a copy of our home-grown leaflet of practical ways in which we can each enjoy more the world around us and do less damage to it, and there are regular tips in our Newsletters.

The challenge now is to keep at the silver level, and to look for areas where we might improve further. We were pleased that the PCC has agreed a Church Environmental Policy.

We're very grateful to the Town Council for their work and cooperation in the Churchyard. We're also grateful to all the people who've adopted beds in the Churchyard, or helped at the Groundforce mornings or the monthly Monday working parties.

There's more information about us on the Church website at www.eatonsocon.org/creation-care, and about the Churchyard at www.eatonsocon.org/churchyard.

If you are interested, want to know more, or have ideas, please contact one of us.

James Faulkner, Anthony Harris, Audrey Hedges, Margaret Tabone, Roger Peppiatt.



Children and Families Ministry Report

Little Stars

Little Stars is a toddler group which runs at St Mary's on a Wednesday morning (term time). We welcome children from 0 to 4 years old alongside their grown up. We have free play, sensory play, craft, refreshments and always finish with a song time at the end.

Little Stars is well supported by both the church and local community, with us seeing many families who have left once their child goes to school but then re-join us with their 2nd or even 3rd child. We see an average of 25 children per week, which alongside parents means we regularly have a group of 40-50 on site.

In December we had our annual Christmas party where the children helped us retell the nativity story (which is always organised chaos!), sang some Christmas songs, had some party food, and gave every child a book about the nativity. This has been the same format for several years now and families love coming to it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Little Stars volunteers – we have a 6 person strong team with others stepping in to help as needed/cover holidays and we could not run without you all.

Creche and Sunday School

Creche runs for children under the age of 4yrs and Sunday School takes children from 4+. Both groups run during the 10.30am Sunday Service. These groups have been a work in progress, with us still seeing numbers fluctuating as families begin to get back into attending regularly.

Until the end of 2022 these groups both ran in the hall with the same volunteers managing both younger and older children, however, it was felt that this was not going to continue to be a workable situation with such a wide age range in one room.

Therefore, in January 2023 the decision to split the groups was taken to PCC, who approved it. So now we have the creche remaining in the hall and the Sunday School using the vicar's vestry for their sessions. Thank you for everyone who helped (and is helping to) transform the vestry into a useable space for the children. This choice has made a huge amount of difference to both groups, with the older ones being able to focus on their teaching and the younger ones having the whole hall space to play in. We also live stream the service into the hall for the parents of the creche children to engage with the service.

The Sunday School have begun a series of teaching called "Heartshapers", which teaches Biblical stories and how they can speak to our lives today. The creche also follow this series with short stories and craft activities being available if the toddlers want to engage with this.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who have helped in 2022 to keep Sunday School going and who have stepped forward in 2023 to help us move creche and Sunday School forward into this new format. We are still looking for individuals to help support this ministry so if you'd like to get involved then please speak to me.

HIVE

HIVE is a monthly group which is for children with additional needs / SEND and their siblings and families. This group runs on a Sunday afternoon and is set up so that

Children and Families Ministry (Continued)

children can choose what activities to participate in. We have sensory items, a blackout tent, messy play, books, games, Lego and arts and crafts, we then have refreshments and all come together for an activity (last time we made chocolate crispy cakes, it went down very well with everyone!). Each session has different activities, but the room setup is always the same and visual timetables help to guide the children through the session.

The aim of HIVE is to support local families and provide them with a safe environment for all the children to meet and the parents to feel that they can relax for the time they're there.

We have been running for 12 months and have seen several local families committing to this group and attending every time (with other families dropping in and out as their time allows) and through this we've been able to build relationships with them and support them as their children and themselves go through challenging times.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our HIVE volunteers, their commitment to this group enables it to run and give this vital support to our local families.

One off events

Throughout the year we hold one off events for children and families both in church and in the local community. At these events we get to meet new families as well as catch up with families who we haven't seen since the last event. This year was the first time back for our events after Covid, this year we had:

Easter Eggstravaganza: our annual Easter family event held on the Saturday before Easter and is always well attended by families. This year we saw over 70 people attending for fun; doing mask making, sunflower planting, candle making and a scavenger hunt.

Summer holiday club: a 3 morning holiday club for primary aged children which is filled with games, crafts, teaching and loads of fun. This year we had over 60 children attend from all different primary schools and SEN provision in the local area.

Light Night: our alternative Halloween which is usually held on the Sunday before

Halloween. It provides families with a non-scary, fun alternative to all that is dark and frightening about Halloween and gives us the opportunity to talk about Jesus being the light of the world. This year we saw over 50 people come and make lanterns, bracelets, pumpkin crafts, play games and go on a night walk round the churchyard.

Christingle: this is always a popular event with families and this year we saw a good number of families attending. We had Christmas crafts and then we all made Christingles together. This was followed by the lighting of the Christingle and us all singing "Away in a Manger", which is always commented on by parents as to how lovely it is to have such a calm moment in a busy day.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped within our one-off events / holiday club in the past year. Your commitment to supporting these events is what enables us to connect to our local community and I certainly couldn't run them without everyone's support.

Liz Faulkner - Church, Community, Families & Children's Worker

Youth Ministry Report

Wow...where do we start? 2022 has been a year with many changes and therefore lots of news to tell. We would like to start with the fab addition of two new leaders Joshua Smith and Jerome Duval to the team along with three Young Youth leaders... Holly Arnold, Sarah Robb and Steven Johnson. A very big welcome to you all! As you will soon read, our Youth have been busy over the year taking part in many activities and events....enjoy!

REACTORS: Reactors is our Sunday Youth Church where we have a lively session with good humoured banter, hot chocolate and healthy bible study. Jesus is at the centre of our sessions which are always opened in prayer followed by recording our prayer requests for the week which is then posted on our WhatsApp group chat. Eight regularly attend but this year we said goodbye to Sarah and Holly as they left for University. Whilst it is lovely to see them again when they come home, it is encouraging to know that they have both settled down into local churches where they now live. At the start of 2022 we continued our series 'engage', a study book helping young people to discover who God is and what He's like; seeing what God's done for us through Jesus; and exploring practical ways of living for Him. We looked at John's gospel asking and exploring the question 'Who does John say Jesus is?'. We looked in Matthew to help us talk about spiritual growth and delved into Colossians to look at the characteristics of maturing Christians and how we can grow as Christians. In June we started a course run by Ministry to Youth entitled Summer Survival Guide in which we looked at issues such as the state of one's mental health and how the decisions you make today can shape who you will become tomorrow. After the summer break we started a series on The Armour of God and had fun playing Kahoot, an online quiz, about the different parts of the armour and what they stand for. At the start of 2023 we started an exciting new course from Ministry to Youth focusing on relationships, both healthy and unhealthy, and how to recognise these in dating relationships, putting God in the centre of these relationships and acknowledging that God created us to live in love and harmony with each other. The Youth Team and I are seeing young people in our church growing in their knowledge and faith and are excited at seeing an emergence of new young youth leaders, eager and willing. Thank you Jesus for your goodness and allowing us the privilege of discipling our wonderful young people.

(Julia Chapman)

FUSION: Fusion continues to be a great time for the youth to get together weekly on a Friday and enjoy an evening filled with games, team challenges and sports. Along with the chance to chill and catch up with each other's weeks news, it has been lovely to see friendships blossom and support networks grow. Over the year we have enjoyed trips out to the Ice skating rink and Bowling Alley, have held end of term parties along with a very big water fight to start the new school year. In December, in conjunction with the churches in St Neots and Youth For Christ (YFC), we held our first ever Youth Disco funded by the Diocese of St Albans. As we head into 2023, we look forward to having a chance to ring St Mary's bells, learn some new board games, take part in a jamming night, support our chosen charities and of course, attend Newday with our friends Open Door and River Church. We pray the youth continue to grow in their fellowship and with the opening of the Youth Café, we hope to welcome new members.

(Heather Arnold)

Youth Ministry Report (Continued)

YOUTH CAFÉ: A new venture for St Mary's in 2023 is the launch of a Youth Cafe for Years 7-13 every Monday after school during the term. The Cafe is the initiative of Youth for Christ and serves as a warm safe place to drop into after school, free of charge, to hang out with friends, play games or do some crafting whilst enjoying drinks and snacks. No adults allowed, only DBS checked volunteers helping prepare food or willing to listen and chat. The Cafe is open to all with additional trips and events arranged throughout the term for them to enjoy, such as discos, roller skating and bowling. We are looking forward to what God has in store for us as we get to know more young people and their families in St Neots and we are especially blessed as 5 of our young people have stepped up to help and become youth volunteers. Thank you to Molly, Nicholas, Morgan, Alfie and Faith.

(Julia Chapman)

CHRISTMAS DISCO: In December this year, St Marys was the place to be as we held our first ever Youth Disco to all the young people who attended local Church Youth groups and YfC Youth Cafes. Supported by many Youth leaders/co-ordinators from these churches and Youth cafes, we opened our doors to 50+ Youth for an evening filled with music and fun. This was a free ticketed event thanks to the support of St Albans Diocese which allowed us to provide free entry, snacks and drinks and have the decks turned by SamPlayz, a local 13 year old. A great night was had by all that attended, the amount of energy seen would have powered the whole of St Neots, definitely no heating was needed once the party got started!!!! With the success of the night, we look forward to holding a disco every term with our next one planned for Friday 24th March.

(Heather Arnold)

NEWDAY 2022: With bags packed and goodbyes said, 13 of us headed off with our Open Door friends to Norwich Showground. Along with 7500 other young people we had a great week connecting and learning more about our amazing God through meetings in the morning and in the evening. Many prayers were answered and the presence of the Holy Spirit felt among us particularly as this year due to the Big Top company pulling out at the last minute, our evening service was held in a field totally open to the weather. However no rain was seen and the sun shone brightly the whole week. New friendships were made as we spent time competing in games, physical and non-physical, taking part in a massive water fight, hanging out in the Cowsheds and completing the photo challenge on the last night. We are still in awe as to how many young people can fit into a toilet cubicle! Newday 2023 is now open for booking and we look forward to heading that way again in the summer.

(Heather Arnold)

CHARITIES: The youth at St Mary's actively support two Christian charities, Global Care and Samaritan's Purse. Global Care supports the poorest and most vulnerable children around the world by supporting their families and providing the children with education. We support this charity because we appreciate the education that is available in this country and our hope is that in the future the same education will be available to all of God's children, able to grow up to be responsible caring adults and influencers of society. We raise money through sponsored events and in 2022

Youth Ministry Report (Continued)

we took on a 9 mile sponsored walk around Graffham Water pushing gallons of water on a sack barrow. This was to raise awareness of how many of the poorest families in the world have to walk miles in order to get fresh water. We managed to raise over £1,000 which went into Global Care's emergency fund. 2023 sees Global Care celebrating their 40th Anniversary so we are planning an extra special sponsored event to join in the party. So watch this space! Samaritan's Purse is a charity we also support by filling shoeboxes every winter to be distributed at Christmas to less fortunate children throughout Europe. In 2022 our shoeboxes went to Ukraine.

(Julia Chapman)

As we enter 2023, we have many things to look forward to.....Youth Café, Newday, charity events, continued Cake sales to name but a few. We have much to thank God for in particularly our Youth, young Youth leaders and all those that have supported us throughout the year...parents, carers, church and leaders.

Thank you Lord for everything!

Julia, Heather, Joshua and Jerome.



Music Group Report

The music group has continued to lead sung worship at the 10.30 services throughout the year. This year we were pleased to welcome back Carole Green on piano, to have some services led by Ali and Ros Loaker, and to introduce Kenny Bello-Ayoola and Jenny Barrett as occasional singers. A highlight was when the newly-formed youth band of Nick Barrett, Sarah Robb, Ben Salkield and Jonny Selley aided by (not-so-youthful) Peter Arnold took over to lead music in the New Day service in September.

The music teams each Sunday morning are still generally smaller in number than pre-COVID, and we are always interested in new musicians or singers joining us. Please speak to Phil Barrett or the Vicar if you think you might want to offer your talents!

Phil Barrett



Prayer Ministry Report

*Have we trials and temptations; is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.*



Praying both together and on our own is the life blood of being a Christian because it's what connects us to our amazing God.

In addition to your individual prayers over the past year (and thank-you for praying!), our corporate praying together in 2022 focused on the Day of Prayer in early February, and the weekly Prayer Meetings held on Tuesday & Thursday mornings at 9am.

As we look journey through 2023, there is a growing desire to grow more corporate opportunities to pray together, as well as offering prayer after the services again. If you would like to be part of these or other occasions to pray, please do let Tim know!

Tim Robb

Life Group Report

Life Groups exist to connect a small group of people both to each other and God. They help us grow in faith, whilst sharing life together. After all, Life stands for 'Living In Faith Encounters' – every time we meet together, our lives are enriched and we should be challenged to be more Christ like. As such, it is our vision that we are a church **of** Life (small) groups, rather than a church **with** Life Groups, where everyone is part of one!

Thank-you to everyone who has been part of a Life group during 2022 – the support they have been to so many has been much appreciated. Thank-you too, to David & Nanette Hesketh for their leadership up until mid 2022.

Looking ahead to 2023, it is our hope that the Life Groups will continue to grow, so do watch this space!

Tim Robb

Living In Faith Encounters

REAL Women Report

The ladies ministry restarted with 2 events last year starting with a coffee morning in September and then an afternoon tea in November. Both events were really well attended filling the church hall and show a heart for ladies getting together for fellowship, encouragement and laughter. A thought for the day and prayer was also shared at both events. We were so grateful for all the volunteers baking and helping on the day which was all part of the sharing and growing in friendship. A space we can comfortably come to and also invite friends.

We are currently praying about plans for further events this year allowing time for simply meeting together and growing in our accountability for each other. If you have a heart or passion for this ministry please speak to Kate Salkield.

1 John 3v18

Dear friends, let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth.

Catering Team Report

The Catering team have very much enjoyed using the new kitchen and equipping it as required,

Various events have been catered for during the past year including lunch after the APCM, welcome to new curate lunch, Harvest lunch, lunches for young families and special refreshments for the Jubilee. A trial of a monthly Lunch Club has just begun.

We are compiling a list of volunteers to help with the running of catering events eg people to lay tables, wash up, clear tables and help with food preparation – more volunteers are always welcome, please speak to a member of the catering team.

Gill Uings, Chris Harris, Frances Peppiatt, Carole Robson

Café on the Green Report

Cafe on the Green still offers a warm space for folk to come, relax and chat while enjoying home made scones made every week by Nanette. (Thank you Nanette) Each week is different as are the numbers.

This year has seen visits from the senior citizens with staff from the Hillings. Nanette held an impromptu mini service in the church one week where the folk joined in as much as they could with the Lord's Prayer. We have been able to pray for some of the folk too.

Every week there are three of us on hand to chat to our visitors. Myself, Nanette and Corrie. Once a month Frances Peppiatt comes to help too. The maintenance team pay us a visit once a month as do the creation care team and it is our joy to see them. They too enjoy the scones.

We have just had a new lady join us and really enjoys it.

We aim to create a warm, relaxing atmosphere where people can chat about anything they wish. A place to be themselves.

When appropriate we pray for them and hopefully show them the love of Jesus.

Thank you to Corrie and Nanette.

We look forward to the next step of our journey and for what God will do.

Barbara Jarvis

Craft Group Report

The Craft Group meet every Tuesday at 10.00am in the Church Hall and we have offered a warm welcome to new members who have arrived and said a sad farewell to some others.

We were very glad to be able to have a stall at the ESCA May Day celebration which had not been able to take place over the last two years due to the pandemic. During this time, we had not stopped crafting so had a lot of stock which was much appreciated. We again provided items for the Easter sale and the Christmas Fayre.

We all created 'hats' for the Innocent smoothie bottles which Age Concern benefit from when the 'hatted' bottles are sold. Once again, we were able to provide hats, gloves and scarves for the Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes, Christmas cards for Littlehey Prison and to help Tim pack Christmas hampers for local families.

We are always happy to welcome new members and you don't need any craft skills to join the group as we are happy to share our expertise whilst we chat.

Jane Gogarty

Pastoral Care Team Report

This was the first full year after the ending of Covid pandemic lockdowns. It was a year of returning to "normal" with one or two innovations.

The **statistics** speak for themselves:

Meal provision at home	11
Visits to provide Home Holy Communion	11
Texts, emails, letters	10
Provision of Transport	9
Phone calls	8
Visits to provide respite	6
Visits for other reasons	5
Care Home Worship	4
Hospital Visit	1
Bereavement Tea	1
Total	66

The team of eleven people remains unchanged:

Rev'd Tim Robb – leader Roger & Frances Peppiatt – coordinators
Rev'd George & Mrs Marilyn Cobb Pam Branch David Ferris
Brenda & Ian Ashford Sue Crook Nanette Hesketh

Team meetings took place on 20th January, 17th June (via Zoom) and 20th October. We have set up a small WhatsApp group to coordinate **supply of meals at home** when required.

The pilot Bereavement Tea took place in the church hall on 23rd June. Invitation had been sent out to 64 families whose loved one's funerals had been taken by either Tim or George. About ten people attended and were greeted by Tim, George and members of the team, with a hot drink and cakes. Useful conversations were had. It has been decided to repeat the event on 4th June 2023.

Resumption of Care Home Services – this began with George taking a service on 4th June at Nelson Lodge to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. David Ferris has taken the lead in organising regular services at both Nelson Lodge and The Hillings, particularly in Advent. These have been well supported by the team (and other members of the church) and by residents & staff of the care homes.

In the early part of the year, Pam continued organising **delivery of printed church news sheets** to those unable to get out, partly due to the pandemic. This reached a natural conclusion and was discontinued.

On behalf of the team, Roger put together an **information sheet about local transport** for those who struggle to use ordinary transport to attend medical appointments etc.

Roger is most grateful to Tim for his leadership and the team for their willingness to respond to need.

Our next team meeting is in person at 2:15pm 9th March 2023.

Roger Peppiatt



World Mission Report

In 2022 we said goodbye to Chris and Elaine Hurst from the Wycliffe Bible Translators in Mexico as they decided to retire. Chris is still active with the bible translation team in Mexico but felt they didn't need St Mary's financial support any longer. We were all lucky enough to see Chris during his stay late last year and continue to pray for him and Elaine as they start a new chapter in their lives.

Our current partners are:

Allen and Litsa McClymont at OMF International
Teresha and Israel Karahukayo at Triumph Heart, (formally known as Spring of Hope) in Uganda
ACTIOS
Dr Mano Emmanuel at Colombo Theological Seminary in Sri Lanka

Due to the church suffering financially during the pandemic, we had to make cuts to our giving during 2022 but as the church re-builds, hopefully the budget will increase enabling us to give more.

News letters continued to be received and can be found on the Mission Board at the back of church. Please take time to read these and keep up to date with what our partners are doing.

We held two Missionary Sunday Services during 2022. Our first Mission Sunday Service of the year took place on 6th March. We welcomed Anita White to speak from Global Care. We were also able to show a short video from Chris Hurst outlining the work they had been doing with the Wycliffe Bible Translators in which he also thanked us for our support over the years. On 10th July we had a visit from Teresha Karahukayo, one of our partners, from Triumph Heart, Uganda. Teresha and her husband Israel, are starting a new venture creating a nutritional porridge to help the disabled and poorest children in their region. They have also changed the name of their charity to Triumph Heart. It was lovely to see and spend time with Teresha and three of her children and to hear their news.

Food.Gives was the charity we supported as a church for our Harvest Festival. We filled boxes with non perishable goods to send to persecuted Christians around the world.

We also took part again in Operation Christmas Child and generously filled many shoeboxes. The boxes from St Mary's were destined for Ukraine.

I hope you have all noticed that we have a smart new Notice Board on which we can display the latest missionary news and events coming up. Please take time to have a look.

Christmas cards to our partners were sent again at Christmas, signed by church members with words of encouragement and best wishes.

Things to look forward to in 2023 are more Missionary Sunday Services and a visit from Mano in Sri Lanka who is hoping to return to the UK.

Thank you all for your continuing support and prayers.

Julia Chapman



Buildings and Fabric Team Report

The Church and Hall buildings continue to require attention and with limited financial resources can be a challenge in deciding priorities.

Some urgent tasks this year were the relocation of the external light on the North side and repairs to the Tower roof and West End window. Also, the lights in church were beginning to fail, so the decision was taken to replace them with LED lighting, using as much of the original installation as possible. There is some work outstanding which is scheduled to be completed early in 2023.

The Vicar's vestry is due for a make-over this year to make it more welcoming for use by the Sunday School.

The M-Team (Maintenance) have once again had a busy year undertaking regular maintenance tasks around the church and hall buildings, keeping the church safe, secure and in reasonable condition. We also have responsibility for coordinating the annual inspections and servicing of equipment such as fire extinguishers, boiler servicing and electrical safety checks.

A big thank you to all who have volunteered and helped each month, and with a willing attitude has made the morning a more enjoyable experience. We are always keen to welcome anyone who would like to join in and help using their practical skills. Don't worry, we have tasks to suit all abilities!

Although these activities are important and serious, the morning can be a time of good fellowship and getting to know one another. And of course, there is always time for tea or coffee and a scone, thanks to the Cafe on The Green team.

Gavin Chapman



Audio Visual Report

The AudioVisual team has consisted of three members who provide the visual displays for the church services. We use a dedicated laptop with a program called Easy Worship which is configured for each service.

The 10:30 morning service is usually live streamed online with the loyal help of two cameramen who ensure the right picture is broadcast.

Sometimes technical issues don't quite go as planned and require some prompt action at the last minute! Anyway, often matters are resolved just in time. A big thank you to all the team for your loyal service.

We are very keen to welcome newcomers, so if you would like to get involved with serving on the AV team do get in touch with one of us. We'll happily explain everything and support you until you are comfortable to run a service on your own.

Wednesday Welcome Report

'Wednesday Welcome seems to continue to grow in popularity with membership in the mid-thirties, largely due, I think, to the fact it is a very nice mix of people who genuinely make everyone feel welcome.

Besides meeting at 3pm on a Wednesday with tea and cake, we have a mix of activities and speakers - Dogs Trust was very popular, our Corrie sharing her African adventure, our Karen's poetry, the police, the U3A Ukulele band for a sing along, discussions and games amongst other things.

Besides the meetings in the church hall we also had a number of off-site events such as a cream tea at Roxton Garden centre, lunches at the Barley Mow pub, lunch and afternoon tea at the Stables Christian centre and an afternoon cruise on the John Bunyan Boat including home-made cakes!

We need to thank ESCA and a local company for making these possible with donations.

A number of new experiences are planned for 2023 and we look forward to Welcoming new friends at 3pm on a Wednesday in the church hall.'



Mike Gilham



Wednesday Welcome

You are invited to join us
on Wednesdays 3 - 4pm

at St Mary's Church Hall, Eaton Socon.

An hour of friendship, tea, cake, quizzes,
guest speakers, celebrating birthdays and
special occasions.

For details, contact Mike Gilham
Mob: 07899 856 636

All Welcome!

Foodbank Report

During 2022, St Neots Foodbank has continued to be very busy, trying to meet the needs of those in our community in need. For the first 8 months, all food parcels were delivered, as they had been during the pandemic. However, during the summer, the trustees decided to reopen some of the distribution centres. The centre based at the URC opened in August on Tuesday and Friday mornings and Berkeley Street Methodist Church on Thursday afternoons. In October, the Friday session transferred back to St Mary's and is here permanently. The fourth session which used to be at Open Door Church is still to open.

At St Mary's we have 18 volunteers on the weekly rota, 4 on each week. Exactly half of them worship at St Mary's. We store food in the Music Vestry as we did pre-pandemic, but in new more robust crates (mouse-proof!). On average we are distributing about 4 crates of food each Friday. Usually, we are joined by a debt counsellor from Love's Farm Community Money Action, who is able to help our visitors with financial issues. Visitors are offered Waitrose vouchers for fresh fruit, vegetables & eggs and a Household Support Grant (if they have not had one before). Visitors who volunteer the fact that they have run out of gas/electricity or are close to doing so are offered additional help.

The foodbank has a contract with Citizens Advice for them to provide help for our visitors particularly with Benefits. This is proving very useful.

We stopped the fresh fruit, vegetables and eggs boxes scheme (which Frances and I did from our garage) in the summer to coincide with the opening of the distribution centres.

I stood down from my role as the St Mary's Church trustee on the foodbank board when my 6-year term of office had run its course in the summer. I have been replaced by David Gill.

Our thanks are due to the volunteers who keep the Friday sessions going and all of you who donate food and money.

Roger Peppiatt



Men's Ministry Report

Unfortunately the Men's group struggled to get going again after the lock down period and after the last breakfast in May 2022 it was decided to put on hold for the time being.

We are hoping to resurrect a men's group in some form, possibly recommencing in the Autumn of 2023.

Bellringing Report

This year has been a more optimistic one for the bellringers. Most of our previous ringers have returned to ring the bells but we have lost a couple due to ill health or because they have new priorities in their lives since the pandemic. We have also had a ready-made ringer join us from the congregation and are currently teaching his son to ring and have had a few enquiries from people who are interested in learning to ring in the future.

We are ringing the bells most Sundays for the 10.30am service but the number of bells we are able to ring remains inconsistent.

The practice night on a Wednesday has taken place most weeks since the turn of the year and once again we have visitors from outside the area joining us.

This year there have been an increased number of Ringers Tours wanting to ring our bells as they are considered to be the best in the area. A few Peal Bands have also visited (the bellringing equivalent of a marathon.) Couples began to request bells to be rung on their Wedding Day last summer too as restrictions were lifted. We have been able to fulfil all these requests, thanks to our friends from Bedford who have helped out when needed.

In May there is a campaign to ring every bell in the country for the King's Coronation. We are hoping to ring all 8 bells at Eaton Socon so we can play our part in achieving this.

Last year we were not able to teach new recruits but this has now changed. If you are a lapsed ringer, we would be delighted to see you, particularly on a Sunday morning. If you would be interested in seeing how we ring the bells, with a view to joining us, please contact us as we will be really pleased to welcome you to the tower.

Michael Matthews (Tower Captain)



Book Club Report

The Tea and Biscuits Book Club still meets, on Mondays 1.00pm to 2.00pm, every six weeks in the Church hall. Over the years we've had a good selection of books, supplied by the library. Most we've enjoyed but some we haven't and it's sometimes split between those who've enjoyed the book and those who haven't. The good thing is that it encourages you to read books you normally wouldn't choose. We have a good time discussing the book we've just read, drinking tea or coffee and biscuits (sometimes cake).

Our numbers are down at the moment to five, soon to be four, so we'd be happy to hear from anyone who'd like to join us. You'll be very welcome. Please speak to

Margaret Lygoe or Carole Robson.



Churches Together in St Neots (CTSN)

2022 was the year when churches lifted most Covid restrictions. The effects of Covid remain and churches have recovered in varied ways. Some continue with streamed services and resources as well as in person services. Technology remains a means of connecting with church members and the wider community.

Rev Ray Porter, from our church, continues as Chair until our AGM in September 2023 when a replacement will be needed. Five other church members, from various other churches, formed the Working Group reporting to the AGM with me acting as Secretary.

Ministers meet on a regular basis but there has been little connection with CTSN in the last year.

Churches Christmas Service dates and times were printed in Think Local as were Easter services. It is hoped that the Christian Performing Arts (CPA) group will be producing something for Easter on the Market Square in 2023.

The World Day of Prayer was celebrated at Berkley Street Methodist Church and was also well attended by members of other churches.

No Lent groups were shared across churches in 2022. No plans for this are in place as yet for 2023.

The warm clothing collection at our church was well supported and remains open to other churches to do the same.

The St Neots churches 'Warm Spaces' was set up by Ministers and publicised in the press. More recently 'Youth for Christ' has been involved with a number of churches in providing after school spaces for secondary age youngsters to meet, snack and do homework in a Christian setting.

The faith community is listed in the online www.stneotsdirectory.com

Thursday Food, the Bereavement Friendship group, Men's Forum and the Care Centre & Tree of Hope shop at the URC all come under the CTSN organisation. Other Christian activity in the town such as ACTIOS and Foodbank operate independently. Men's Forum meets at Berkley Street and has also linked with the Men's Breakfast group at SMES.

Pastoral Care is an important element of church activity and alongside this a couple of our churches are setting up Community Workers.

A WAVE event took place at the URC recently - the second of these, the first being at Berkley Street. WAVE (We're All Valued Equally) for Change encourages & enables places where people with and without learning disabilities can enjoy mixing together and growing in friendship.

The short history of CTSN has been produced and is available in churches.

The CTSN website is updated monthly and this is the main information point for lay members. www.churchestogetherinstneots.org.uk

CTSN remains a means of engagement between churches when required and when community benefits can be achieved.

Pam Branch SMES (CTSN representative & CTSN Secretary) January 2023

Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Synod has met three times during 2022 in March, July and October. There is always a business element to the meetings, such as Finance, but what follows here are other elements of the meetings.

The March meeting was held at Cople Church when Rev'd Lynne Sandle, Vicar, presided at a Eucharist Service.

We had a report from General Synod given by Sheila Bissell who was our newly appointed link to General Synod.

It was reported that Rev'd Matt Phillips would be leaving the Dunton Benefice on 27th March.

The Rural Dean informed Synod members that the suspension of the Riversmeet Benefice was being lifted and that he would be installed soon as Rector.

A reminder was given about the visit of David White, Diocesan Secretary, to the Deanery and members encouraged to come to Sandy to meet him.

In July, we met at Old Warden Village Hall when our speaker was Keith Williams from an organisation called Good News for Everyone. He explained the history of this new organisation and that it had been created as part of a separation from the Gideon Bible Society. It is entirely UK based and endeavours to be very diverse in its membership. He spoke at length about their remit which included schools, prisons, other organisations and working at street level offering pupils and adults free copies of their publications, a range of which he brought with him for members to peruse in the refreshment break. He touched on some really moving stories of the depths of anguish some people had reached but then, with encouragement, picked up a bible and for many their lives were transformed. They are entirely self-funded and rely on donations and it is possible to join support groups.

Members were reminded about the need to submit nominations for the 2023 Deanery Project.

Our October meeting was held at St Andrew's Church in Biggleswade when we welcomed Ruth Janes, treasurer of the Malawi Orphan Fund through whom our Deanery Project (Home of Hope in Malawi) money was being channelled. She, with her husband and some other supporters, had made a recent visit to Malawi and was pleased to give us an update on the home which was doing well despite economic pressures.

The Rural Dean presented her with a cheque for £2,000.00 which had been raised over an extended period of time due to the pandemic.

We had a report from General Synod given by Sheila Bissell.

There was only one nomination for Deanery Project 2023 which was for Chums Charity and specifically The Bereavement and Non- bereavement Trauma Services dealing with children and young people. This had been proposed by Sandy and Julia Bickerdike gave a presentation on behalf of the parish. She used a real Case Study of a young girl suffering anxiety and other mental health issues to highlight the invaluable work Chums were doing. It was both interesting and quite moving.

Synod members were asked to approve a transfer of Rev'd Liz Lavelle (Dunton Benefice) to represent Biggleswade Deanery on Diocesan Synod.

Graham Daniels

Synod Secretary

8th February 2023

Diocesan Synod Report



There were three meetings of the Diocesan Synod in 2022 in March, June and October.

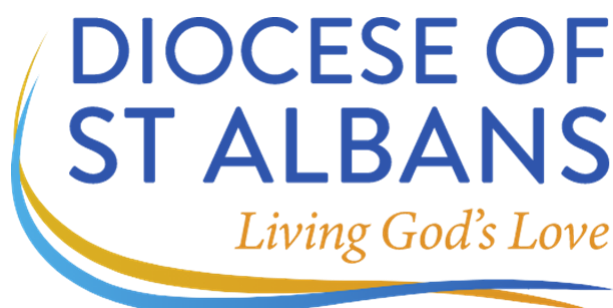
In the March Synod, Bishop Alan spoke about the challenges facing the church as things began to return to normal after the pandemic both spiritual and financial and the need to encourage all people wherever they are on this journey. Bishop Michael spoke about the emerging crisis in the Ukraine and the rapid response being put in place to support the taking in of Ukrainian refugees. Bishop Richard spoke of the Racial Justice

Action Group and the action plan they have been working on to counter racial and religious hate acts. An update was given on Living in Love and Faith and a presentation was made by the Diocesan Environment Officer about the policy and action plans they are working on towards the Diocese achieving the Bronze Award. Finally, the Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance gave a report on the effects of the pandemic on the Diocesan finances and the work they were doing to mitigate this and the long-term effects of the reduction of funds.

In the June Synod, Bishop Alan spoke of the upcoming Lambeth Conference and reflected on the fact that there will be people attending from very different cultures and experiences. This should be an opportunity to listen and learn rather than be daunted by these differences. Bishop Michael gave a further update on the work of the Environment Group, the Policy and action plan. A report was given on the work being carried out on Clergy Wellbeing which included the feedback from a survey of clergy that had been carried out. Bishop Richard spoke about the challenges and opportunities that were being presented by the considerable amount of new housing development that was taking place in various parts of the diocese, The Annual Reports from various boards were presented and accepted and a further update on the financial position of the diocese was presented.

In the October Synod, Bishop Alan spoke about the energy crisis and the response from many churches and the support that the diocese could give to the provision of warm spaces. A further presentation was made by the Environment Group on the progress it had made with the action plan and how they were beginning to make this more detailed. A statement was made of the financial position of the diocese and how this was affecting the budget planning for next year. A presentation was made on the Reaching New People Impact Report indicating where there had been successes. The effect of the pandemic on this project was noted and how a New Pioneer Strategy was formed. Work continues on developing online support and resources for new initiatives.

Jane Gogarty



CHARITIES COMMISSION FINANCIAL REPORTS



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

PCC of ST MARY'S EATON SOCON			Charity No (if any)	1130537
Annual accounts for the period				
Period start date	Jan-22	To	Period end date	Dec-22

Section A Statement of financial activities

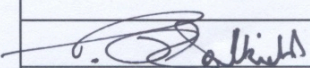
Recommended categories by activity	Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year funds
		£	£	£	£	£
		F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
Incoming resources (Note 3)						
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	S01	137,676	8,328	-	146,004	171,870
Charitable activities	S02	12,772	363	-	13,135	5,456
Other trading activities	S03	6,505	-	-	6,505	8,187
Investments		605	-	-	605	24
Separate material item of income	S05	-	-	-	-	-
Other	S06	-	-	-	-	1,565
Total	S07	157,558	8,691	-	166,249	187,102
Resources expended (Note 6)						
Expenditure on:						
Mission & Charitable Giving		5,525	-	-	5,525	9,843
Parish Share		76,748	-	-	76,748	74,849
Ministry	S08	10,020	750	-	10,770	14,155
Youth Work		3,017	3,260	-	6,277	803
Building Costs	S09	32,153	7,129	-	39,282	50,359
Fundraising		4,260	481	-	4,741	1,863
Administration	S11	12,495	1,388	-	13,883	3,544
Staff Costs		26,073	301	-	26,374	24,600
Print, Post & Stationery		3,697	-	-	3,697	4,349
Depreciation		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities		-	-	-	-	-
Separate material item of expense	S10	-	-	-	-	-
Other		-	-	-	-	-
Total	S12	173,988	13,309	-	187,297	184,365
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)	S13	- 17,035	- 4,618	-	- 21,653	2,713
Net gains/(losses) on investments	S14	605	-	-	605	24
Net income/(expenditure)	S15	- 16,430	- 4,618	-	- 21,048	2,737
Extraordinary items	S16	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers between funds	S17	-	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	S18	-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	S19	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	S20	- 16,430	- 4,618	-	- 21,048	2,737
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	S21	38,160	29,544	-	67,704	64,967
Total funds carried forward	S22	21,730	24,926	-	46,656	67,704

Section B

Balance sheet

	Guidance Notes					
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total this year	Total last year
		£ F01	£ F02	£ F03	£ F04	£ F05
Fixed assets						
Intangible assets (Note 15)	B01	-	-	-	-	-
Tangible assets (Note 14)	B02	-	-	-	-	-
Heritage assets (Note 16)	B03	-	-	-	-	-
Investments (Note 17)	B04	-	-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets	B05	-	-	-	-	-
Current assets						
Stocks (Note 18)	B06	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors (Note 19)	B07	2,186	-	-	2,186	5,788
Investments (Note 17.4)	B08	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand (Note 24)	B09	57,581	-	-	57,581	66,365
Total current assets	B10	59,767	-	-	59,767	72,153
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 20)	B11	13,111	-	-	13,111	4,449
Net current assets/(liabilities)	B12	46,656	-	-	46,656	67,704
Total assets less current liabilities	B13	46,656	-	-	46,656	67,704
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year (Note 20)	B14	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities	B15	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets or liabilities	B16	46,656	-	-	46,656	67,704
Funds of the Charity						
Endowment funds (Note 27)	B17	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted income funds (Note 27)	B18		24,926		24,926	29,544
Unrestricted funds	B19	21,730		-	21,730	38,160
Revaluation reserve	B20				-	
Total funds	B21	21,730	24,926	-	46,656	67,704

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval dd/mm/yyyy
	T. SALKIELD	23/2/2023
	DEN RIMMER	23/02/2023

Note 3 Analysis of income

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year
	Analysis				£	£
Donations and legacies:	Donations and gifts	108,787	5,523	-	114,310	129,246
	Gift Aid	24,425	1,050	-	25,475	26,995
	Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
	General grants provided by government/other charities	1,980	600	-	2,580	15,008
	Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance donations	-	-	-	-	-
	Donated goods, facilities and services	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	2,484	1,155	-	3,639	621
	Total	137,676	8,328	-	146,004	171,870
Charitable activities:	Fundraising Events	6,736	363	-	7,099	1,462
	Church Hall Lettings	6,036	-	-	6,036	3,994
		-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	12,772	363	-	13,135	5,456
Other trading activities:	Wedding and Funeral Fees	6,505	-	-	6,505	8,187
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	6,505	-	-	6,505	8,187
Income from investments:	Interest income	605	-	-	605	24
	Dividend income	-	-	-	-	-
	Rental and leasing income	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	605	-	-	605	24
Separate material item of income:		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
Other:	Conversion of endowment funds into income	-	-	-	-	-
	Gain on disposal of a tangible fixed asset held for charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
	Gain on disposal of a programme related investment	-	-	-	-	-
	Royalties from the exploitation of intellectual property rights	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	1,565
	Total	-	-	-	-	1,565
TOTAL INCOME		157,558	8,691	-	166,249	187,102

Other information:

All income in the prior year was unrestricted except for: (please provide description and amounts)

Donations and Gifts £26479; Gift Aid £5046; events £865; grants £5400 and £1565 refund VAT DCMS

Where any endowment fund is converted into income in the reporting period, please give the reason for the conversion.

Within the income items above the following items are material: (please disclose the nature, amount and any prior year amounts)

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 6 Analysis of expenditure

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year
	Analysis				£	£
Expenditure on Ministry:	Staff Expenses	3,977	-	-	3,977	1,384
	Telephone	1,119	-	-	1,119	928
	Fellowship	367	-	-	367	76
	Pastoral	12	337	-	349	468
	Worship	1,254	76	-	1,330	8,819
	Services	1,916	-	-	1,916	1,774
	Refreshments	-	-	-	-	87
	Hall Hire	1,244	-	-	1,244	428
	Outreach	131	337	-	468	343
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total expenditure on Ministry	10,020	750	-	10,770	14,155
Expenditure on building/utilities	Building Maintenance	17,438	7,129	-	24,567	39,964
	Insurance	4,461	-	-	4,461	4,236
	Heat, Light, Water	9,867	-	-	9,867	5,782
	Cleaning	387	-	-	387	377
	Total expenditure on buildings/utilities	32,153	7,129	-	39,282	50,359
Expenditure on admin costs	IT	10,594	1,352	-	11,946	2,581
	Other Admin/courses	1,901	36	-	1,937	963
	architect fees/mgmt svcs	-	-	-	-	-
	Equipment purchases	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total expenditure on Admin costs	12,495	1,388	-	13,883	3,544
Other	Mission & Charitable Giving	5,525	-	-	5,525	9,843
	Parish Share	76,748	-	-	76,748	74,849
	Youth Work	3,017	3,260	-	6,277	803
	Fundraising	4,260	481	-	4,741	1,863
	Staff Costs	26,073	301	-	26,374	24,600
	Print, Post & Stationery	3,697	-	-	3,697	4,349
	Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
	Total other expenditure	119,320	4,042	-	123,362	116,307
Separate material item of expense		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		173,988	13,309	-	187,297	184,365

Other information:

Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Activity or programme	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support Costs	Total this year	Total prior year
	£	£	£	£	£
Activity 1					
Activity 2					
Other					
Total					

Prior year expenditure on charitable activities can be analysed as follows:

Within the expenditure items above the following items are material: (please disclose the nature, amount and any prior year amounts)

Note 11 **Paid employees**

Please complete this note if the charity has any employees.

11.1 Staff Costs

	This year £	Last year £
Salaries and wages	26,180	24,499
Social security costs	-	-
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	194	101
Other employee benefits	-	-
Total staff costs	26,374	24,600

Please provide details of expenditure on staff working for the charity whose contracts are with and are paid by a related party

none

Please give details of the number of employees whose total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) fell within each band of £10,000 from £60,000 upwards. If there are no such transactions, please enter 'true' in the box provided.

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000

none

Band	Number of employees
£60,000 to £69,999	
£70,000 to £79,999	
£80,000 to £89,999	
£90,000 to £99,999	
£100,000 to £109,999	

Please provide the total amount paid to key management personnel (includes trustees and senior management) for their services to the charity

11.2 Average head count in the year

The parts of the charity in which the employees work

	This year Number	Last year Number
Fundraising	-	-
Charitable Activities	-	-
Governance	-	-
Other	5	5
Total	5	5

11.3 Ex-gratia payments to employees and others (excluding trustees)

Please complete if an ex-gratia payment is made.

Please explain the nature of the payment

--

Please state the legal authority or reason for making the payment

--

Please state the amount of the payment (or value of any waiver of a right to an asset)

--

11.4 Redundancy payments

Please complete if any redundancy or termination payment is made in the period.

Total amount of payment

--

The nature of the payment (cash, asset etc.)

--

The extent of redundancy funding at the balance sheet date

--

Please state the accounting policy for any redundancy or termination payments

--

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 19 Debtors and prepayments

Please complete this note if the charity has any debtors or prepayments.

19.1 Analysis of debtors

Trade debtors
Prepayments and accrued income
Other debtors

Total

This year	Last year
£	£
0	325
2186	5463
0	0
2186	5788

Please complete 19.2 where a material debtor is recoverable more than a year after the reporting date.

19.2 Analysis of debtors recoverable in more than 1 year (included in debtors above)

Trade debtors
Prepayments and accrued income
Other debtors

This year	Last year
£	£
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
Total	-

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
------------------	------------------------------	---------------

Note 20 **Creditors and accruals**

Please complete this note if the charity has any creditors or accruals.

20.1 Analysis of creditors

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Accruals for grants payable	-	-	-	-
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-	-	-
Trade creditors	4,908	939	-	-
Payments received on account for contracts or performance-related grants	1,603	900	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	6,600	2,610	-	-
Taxation and social security	-	-	-	-
Other creditors	-	-	-	-
Total	13,111	4,449	-	-

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 24 **Cash at bank and in hand**

	This year £	Last year £
Short term cash investments (less than 3 months maturity date)	-	-
Short term deposits	46,620	46,015
Cash at bank and on hand	10,961	20,350
Other	-	-
Total	57,581	66,365

Section C Notes to the accounts (cont)

Note 27 Charity funds

27.1 Details of material funds held and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

Please give details of the movements of material individual funds in the reporting period together with a balancing figure for 'Other funds'. The 'Total funds' figure below should reconcile to 'Total funds' in the balance sheet.

** Key: PE - permanent endowment funds; EE - expendible endowment funds; R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and U - unrestricted funds*

Fund names	Type PE, EE R or UR *	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £
FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS	R		24,019	4,837	-	8,132	-	20,724
OUTREACH	R		1,589	560	-	337	-	1,812
YOUTH EVENTS	R		674	334	-	929	-	79
WORSHIP SUPPORT	R		421	465	-	76	-	810
CHURCH GROUPS	R		1,158	1,773	-	2,015	-	916
OTHER	R		1,683	722	-	1,820	-	585
	R						-	-
	R						-	-
	R						-	-
	R						-	-
	R						-	-
Other funds	N/a	N/a	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funds			29,544	8,691	-	13,309	-	24,926

Note 27 **Charity funds (cont)**

27.3 Transfers between funds

	Reason for transfer and where endowment is converted to income, legal power for its conversion	Amount
Between unrestricted and restricted funds		
Between endowment and restricted funds		
Between endowment and unrestricted funds		

27.4 Designated funds

Planned use	Purpose of the designation	Amount
future projects	fund set aside for a variety of future projects under feasibility study	4230

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

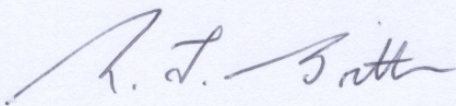
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

14 The Paddock
Eaton Ford
St Neots
Cambs
PE19 7SA

To Eaton Socon PCC

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention 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 2011 Act and section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met or to which in my opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Roger Brittain FCA

15-Feb-23

Accounts



St Mary's Eaton Socon in 2021



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1. Vicar's Report

Welcome to St Mary's Eaton Socon 2021 Annual Report.

In my welcome to last year's Annual Report, I wrote *No one would have believed last Christmas (2019), what the world would face in 2020*. Little did anyone know that the continuing impact of Covid19 would still be felt around the globe in 2022! It's been a much longer time than first hoped for! Yet during these challenging circumstances, the church has continued to minister and reach out to people, because the church is all about sharing and living out God's amazing love! Thank-you to everyone who has shared in this work.

As a church, 2021 held a mixture of joys and challenges for us. Last March, I laid out a roadmap for St Mary's – whilst some dates were adjusted in response to the changing restrictions, this helped to give a sense of direction to the life of the church through those days. In July, we spent time as a church remembering and reflecting on our experiences to ensure we recover well – thank-you to those who helped put this together.

Since September, we have celebrated a return to a more recognisable pattern of regular corporate worship, with each service adapting and changing in different ways in response to the changed world around us. Whilst many have returned 'in person' to services as they have felt able to, we continue to stream the Sunday 10.30am service for the benefit of those unable to attend.

2021 also saw the launch of the Kitchen Project to resource St Mary's with the long-awaited Kitchen. Not only did we achieve this (thanks to everyone who contributed to this project) but we were also able to refurbish the existing Kitchenette and began work on refurbishing parts of the Church Hall.

Looking ahead, 2022 will be a key year in rebuilding the life of the Church. To give us time to seek the Father's heart for St Mary's, do look out for the days we will be setting aside for prayer throughout the year – do join us! Do you believe 'the best is yet to come?'

With every blessing

Timothy Robb

2. Audio and Visual

The Audio Visual team consists of three members who provide the visual displays for the church services. We use a dedicated laptop with a program called Easy Worship which is configured for each service.

With services online, the role now includes managing the streaming and selecting the output; whether from the laptop display are one of the cameras.

We are very keen to welcome newcomers, so if you are a "bit of a techie" and would like to get involved with serving on the AV team do get in touch with one of us. We'll happily explain everything and support you until you are comfortable to run a service on your own.

Gavin Chapman

3. Bell Ringers

Once again, the past year has been extremely difficult for the bellringers due to the various restrictions imposed upon us. Sadly, our ropes are not 2metres apart which has meant, at times, we have had to ring a strange combination of bells. In addition, it is difficult to ring in a face mask. Obviously, some of our more vulnerable ringers do not feel the ringing chamber is a safe environment for them to be in currently.

On the positive side we do have a very small group of loyal ringers who have continued to support us on Sunday mornings whenever they have been allowed to. During November our practices returned to being very popular again and we had people attend from as far away as Saffron Walden.

We did toll a bell whenever asked last year, such occasions included the funerals of His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and Captain Tom Moore, thanking the NHS and Remembrance Sunday

There have been a couple of weddings during the year which have required bells and we have been able to fulfil these requests, thanks to our friends from Bedford who have helped out when needed. There has been one visiting band in 2021 which has had a financial impact on our funds for maintaining the bells as they do deteriorate if they are not rung regularly.

Because Omicron raised its head in December, ringing over Christmas became very limited and all practices were cancelled. This seems likely to continue into the New Year. Currently we are not able to teach new recruits but if you are a lapsed ringer or know someone who used to ring in the past, we would be delighted to see you, particularly on a Sunday morning.

Michael & Sue Matthews

4. Building and Fabric

Although some people may have thought that during the lock down period the church and hall were locked up with not much attention, this is far from the truth as they still had to be maintained in good condition including regular and annual maintenance inspections.

A project that was started during the quiet period was the building or conversion of a new kitchen for the hall. The walk-in cupboard was emptied, contents found a new home and the partitioning wall knocked down to make one room. A new electrical supply was installed, a new boiler for the kitchen & hall and very smart new kitchen units and appliances fitted. The existing kitchen also received attention to make it a very smart kitchenette for serving hot and cold drinks.

At the same time as the electrical work was being carried out for the kitchens, the lighting in the porch area and the toilets were upgraded to LED lighting.

We look forward to this new facility being of real benefit and blessing to the church. Thank you to all who have contributed.

Looking forward to 2022:

- Lighting in the church is in need of an upgrade to LED lighting and work will need to start on defining and costing this project;
- Hall to be smartened up now kitchen work is complete.

Gavin Chapman

5. Creation Care



Creation Care Group

The Creation Care Group was set up two years ago to help St Mary's understand and address the developing environmental crises around us. As Christians we are not just following a trendy fashion of environmental concern, but want to show that we love creation because we love its Creator.

Our efforts so far were rewarded by an Eco Church bronze award last May. This recognised the progress we'd made in five areas:

Worship and Teaching – our worship and prayers often reflect our love and concern for creation, including a couple of Sundays in 2021 when we focussed on climate and the environment

Buildings – we're tracking the Church's 'carbon footprint', buying our electricity on a renewable tariff and progressively installing LED lights. But there's a long way to go – the Church of England is aiming that all its buildings are 'net zero carbon' by 2030.

Land – we've started managing the Churchyard to be of more benefit to wildlife

Community and Global Engagement – we've informed Church members about global concerns, particularly leading up to COP26 in Glasgow last November, and written to our MP about it

Lifestyle – we've tried to make sure that everyone has a copy of our home-grown leaflet of practical ways in which we can each enjoy more the world around us and do less damage to it, and there are regular tips in our Newsletters



But bronze is just the start – 25% score in each area. We're now working to improve that to silver, needing a 50% score in all five categories.



The most visible changes have been in the Churchyard where, with the Town Council, we've allowed areas to grow as meadows so that wild plants and creatures can thrive there. The Council also helped us to renovate a bed with fruit-bearing bushes, and create a new hedge and bed alongside the Circle of Remembrance with wildlife-friendly planting. We've created a bug hotel and compost heaps and installed a water butt. A 'Quiet Area' has been built with five benches to provide space for individuals or small groups to relax. All this has been recognised with another bronze award, sponsored by the local Wildlife Trusts.

The Council team has been very stretched over the past year, but we're very grateful for the extra work they've put in – it's actually taken them more cost and effort than the previous practice of regularly mowing and leaving the cuttings behind. We're also grateful to all the people who've adopted beds in the Churchyard, or helped at the Groundforce mornings or the new monthly Monday working parties.

There's more information about us on the Church website at:
www.eatonsocon.org/creation-care/.

We are looking for one or two more people to join our small Creation Care Group which leads these efforts to make the Church more creation-friendly. If you are interested, please contact one of us.

James Faulkner, Anthony Harris, Edward Jarvis, Roger Peppiatt

6. Churchwarden Report

2021/2022 was my 7th term as Churchwarden, and it's been another unusual year to say the least, Covid is still with us. We have seen the return of our traditional services in a Covid safe way over the period and we have continued with streamed services on a Sunday morning.

Streamed services continue to engage with large numbers of people and a huge amount of work has been put in to make this possible and I would like to thank everybody involved in making this possible and Tim in particular for leading this.

Since David Hesketh joined me as Churchwarden in 2019, he has made a big contribution to the running of the church which is very much appreciated. However, as David and I have a combined age of over 140 years we will not be standing for re-election as Churchwardens, it is time to hand on the baton.

I would like to thank our team of Assistant Churchwardens: Jane Gogarty, Brian Elliott, Richard de Fraine, Gavin Chapman, David Ferris, Joanna Wells, Yvonne Bradbury-White, and Corrie Verduijn for their support. I would also like to extend thanks and appreciation to: Martin Pooley, Darren Smith and Len Thomas, who have stepped down for all their help and support over the years.

I would like to thank the Sidespeople and Welcomers for the contribution they have made to the smooth running of the church. Also, of course to our wonderful Cleaner Teresa and Caretaker Roy, who is now carrying out Verger duties in addition to his Caretaker role.

Future Developments

During the period the kitchen upgrade has been completed as scheduled, I would like to thank Den for the huge amount of work he has put in to make this possible. For the longer term we have plans to upgrade both the church and the church hall to allow St Mary's to better serve our members and the community.

I would like to thank David Hesketh for his very capable running of the M Team who do so much behind the scenes to keep the church running. David has recently stepped down from this role and Gavin Chapman is taking it up, so many thanks Gavin for 'stepping up'.

Edward Jarvis

7. Churches Together in St Neots (CTSN)

2021 was a busy year for CTSN in spite of Covid. No 'In Person' services or events could be held. Many churches continued to offer streamed services and continue to do so beyond restrictions being lifted. Technology has proved a bonus.

Rev Ray Porter, from our church, was Chair again and continued to provide leadership for the group. Five other church members, from various other churches, formed the Working Group reporting to the AGM. The 'Christmas Prayer for St Neots' was again available on the website featuring leaders from many of our churches and was well received.

CTSN has grown and developed over the last year becoming a useful forum within which the various elements of Christian activity within the town can network and support each other. Christian activity, within and between churches and their wider community exists in many different directions and the existence of CTSN combines energies and can enable community ideas to flourish. Acting individually is important, but being able to appreciate the way in which, as a town, we care for each other is vital. Time and energies used creatively through CTSN to support the needs of others is our strength and backbone. From a meeting led organisation we are becoming a wider influencer and enabler, bringing parts together into a whole. Although driven through church life the benefits of our combined activity serve needs within our town. Linking with the St Neots Initiative gives us access to other organisations and ideas.

The new St Neots (Community) Directory: <https://stneots.directory> brings together many facets of life in our town. Faith is one element of this. Although the activities driven by faith are just one part of life here they nevertheless help to meet specific needs and therefore play an important part.

The Care Centre and Tree of Hope Fair Trade Shop at the URC, Thursday Food for the needy at Berkley Street Methodist Church, Men's Forum, Warm Clothing Collection and the Bereavement Friendship Group all operate through the formal structure of CTSN and are supported by volunteers across our churches. Other activity such as Foodbank, Prison Ministry, ACTIOS, Shoebox appeal and Christian Aid have their roots in CTSN but operate independently. Christian Performing Arts is also linked to CTSN.

No 'in person' town activity in the shape of combined services took place last year and none are foreseen at present. Christian presence in our project activity is therefore even more important.

I recognise and am grateful for the continued support and encouragement that Tim and SMES gives to the work I continue to do and especially to Ray, my guide and mentor!

Pam Branch SMES (CTSN representative & CTSN Secretary) January 2022

8. Community Families and Children's Worker

8.1. Sunday School

Prior to Covid, Sunday School was known as Light Factory and run by Heather Arnold and a team of volunteers. Heather has now stepped down to focus on the youth work and I want to start by thanking Heather for all her years of leading Light Factory and the time and effort she put into it.

Due to Covid we have seen a significant drop in the number of families attending regularly, but we hope and pray that more of our church families will re-engage with us in 2022.

In September 2021 we were able to re-open Sunday School. Special thanks must go to Jennifer and Matt Reed for helping to get Sunday School back on its feet during September and October.

In November 2021, I (Liz) came on board after returning from parental leave and we have seen a small number of church families consistently bringing their children every week. It has been lovely to get to know these children and see them get to know each other.

In December we had a Christmas party where we did some craft and shared food together.

We are always on the look out for new Sunday School volunteers so if you'd like to help, please speak to me!

Liz Faulkner (Community, Church Children & Families Worker)

8.2. Little Stars

Little Stars is a toddler group held on a Wednesday morning from 10am till 12 for parents/carers/nannies/childminders (and anyone else) and any children aged 0 – 4yrs old. It is mainly a free play session with refreshments, craft, and a song time at the end.

After having been closed for 19 months due to Covid, Little Stars re-opened in November 2020 with appropriate Covid restrictions in place (masks, individual refreshments etc) and has been a popular group with between 20 – 25 parents plus their children at each session. We are beginning to see regular parents attending every week, which gives us the chance for relationship building and for us to be able to provide help and support as needed.

In December we had our Christmas party and nativity retelling where the children get involved in bringing characters up to the stable and it is always a good time with plenty of fun!

In addition, in December we held an ex-Little Stars party for children who had moved on (due to school or parents going back to work) during the time we were closed. This was attended by a few families (a few pulled out due to illness) who really enjoyed the chance to say goodbye and it was lovely for us to be able to see them again and tell them about other ministries at St Mary's.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all our little stars volunteers, those who stepped down during Covid, those who have continued and those who have stepped up to help since we've been back. Little Stars wouldn't run without your time and energy! We are always on the lookout for new Little Stars volunteers so if you'd like to help, please speak to me!

Liz Faulkner (Community, Church Children & Families Worker)

9. Craft Group

The Craft Group meet every Tuesday at 10am in the Church Hall and it was with great relief to all members when we were able to get together again in June albeit social distanced. "At this difficult time the Craft Group is a blessing" was a quote by one member.

Our usual outlets of the Christmas fayre, the Easter sale and the May Day celebrations were once again cancelled but this did not stop us from beavering away with our needles in whichever way we are gifted. We have been able to provide hats, gloves and scarves for the Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes, Christmas cards for Littlehey and help Tim pack hampers for the families in St Neots.

Providing support for one another has also been crucial. You don't need any craft skills to be part of the group, just drop in for a coffee, tea, and a chat (there is plenty of that). We love to show what we are doing and are happy to share our skills and learn from each other.

Sue Hazzard

10. Synod Updates

10.1. Deanery

There have been three meetings of the Deanery Synod during 2021 in March, July and October.

In March, the meeting was held online and the new Rural Dean, Rev'd Graham Buckle, was commissioned by the Archdeacon of Bedford, Dave Middlebrook. The Rev'd Matt Phillips was welcomed as the new vicar of the Benefice of Dunton, Wrestlingworth and Eyeworth. St Andrew's Church, Biggleswade is currently in interregnum and the Rev'd Alex Wheatley was to be inducted as vicar in St Mary's Church, Potton later in the month.

There would be no Lent Evensong this year as it was difficult to arrange in the current circumstances.

In July, a presentation was given by Rachel Johnston, the Diocesan Environment Officer, encouraging every parish and benefice to work towards the Eco Bronze Award by December 2022. Eaton Socon got a special mention as one parish that had already achieved this. Four nominations were received for the new triennium of Diocesan Synod and these were elected unanimously. Ken Ebbage will continue to be the Deanery representative on the Diocesan Board of Finance.

In October, a talk was given by Christian Cole, the Diocesan Youth Missioner. He gave a report on the Diocesan Youth Research Project. Despite the low numbers of children and young people attending church, he urged parishes not to lose heart but to foster those that do attend. He spoke of the support that is being provided with courses for lay leaders of youth, a weekly newsletter and working towards providing opportunities for youth from different parishes to come together. A decision was taken to continue with the current Deanery Project, Home of Hope, Malawi, as there had been little opportunity to fundraise for it over the last year. A new project would be chosen in October 2022.

Jane Gogarty

10.2. Diocesan

There were three meetings of the Diocesan Synod in 2021 in March, June and October.

The March meeting was held online. In his address Bishop Alan thanked parishes for the myriad of ways that they had managed to keep going over the past year and stated that as we began to get back to a more normal way of doing things, that did not mean going back to the old ways. There had been a lot of good initiatives that had been developed during the last year and these should be retained or incorporated into new ways of doing things. Two motions were passed to continue with the development and implementation within the diocese of the Covenant for Clergy care and Wellbeing and also to set up a Diocesan Wellbeing Group to enable this. The current quinquennium of the General Synod comes to an end in July and elections will take place in September/October. A presentation was given on the Development of the Diocesan Youth Strategy by Lucy Shuker.

The July meeting was held online. Bishop Alan's address focused on 'emerging hopefully' and was based around Psalm 46. We were reminded that this is the last meeting of this triennium and nominations for the new triennium need to be made to Deanery Lay Chairs. The Rev'd Will Gibbs gave a presentation on 'Living in Love and Faith – The Process' This is a national Anglican exploration through a five-session course giving the opportunity to think more deeply about what it is to be human. It will explore relationships, marriage, identity, sexuality and gender.

In the October meeting, the results of the elections for clerical and lay Vice -Presidents was given. The elections had previously taken place online. A Scheme was presented for the Diocesan Board of Finance to be designated as the Diocesan Board of Education. A discussion was held about what three key things the Synod should be looking at over the next three years to take forward mission and ministry. The sum to be raised by the Parish Share was presented as part of the presentation from the Diocesan Board of Finance. Jane Gogarty

11. Flower Management

We continued with faux flower arrangements in church for the first half of 2021 due to the coronavirus restrictions which were in place. Regrettably, for the same reason, it was also not possible to arrange fresh flowers in church to celebrate Easter this year.

However, moving on through the year we did restart fresh flowers in church from July onwards.

We were very pleased to be able to celebrate Harvest on Sunday 10 October with special arrangements demonstrating God's faithfulness to us in the provision of crops, fresh produce and flowers.

Below is one of the displays:



The pedestal display (above right) reflects the Remembrance Service held on Sunday 14 November.

The theme for Christmas this year reflected the Light that Jesus brought to the world through his birth and with it the eternal hope, joy and peace that He offers to us all.



Finally, I would like to express my thanks for the gifts received this year including the donation from TLCobbold for the Harvest displays.

My sincere thanks goes to Annie Preece, Joy Martin, Jennie Smith, Brenda Ashford, Pam Branch, Marilyn Cobb, Sylvia Stonham, Amanda Kipling and Heather Owens all of whom have made the church decoration and displays possible during another very challenging year.

Julia Findley

12. Foodbank

2021 saw the foodbank help ever more people in our community, with emergency food and much more.

Due to Covid-19, we have continued with our “delivery” model which means all food parcels are delivered to clients by a small team of dedicated volunteers. As well as the usual long-life food items such as tins, cereal packets, UHT milk etc, every client receives a box of fresh fruit and vegetables. Frances and I and now a small team of volunteers, several from St Mary’s, pack these fresh produce boxes in our garage. Just before Christmas we packed our 2000th box!

St Neots Foodbank fed 2538 people during the year with over 4500 meals. This is an increase of 47% over the previous year. In all the foodbank has 35 active volunteers.

As well as provision of emergency food parcels, we provide additional services which are much appreciated:

- Sign-posting clients to other agencies to check they are receiving the benefits they are entitled to and any savings they can make as well as dealing with wider issues affecting them and their families. In this aspect of our service, we have been helped enormously by having our own Citizens Advice worker.
- Provision of Huntingdon District Council vouchers for supermarket and energy vouchers
- Provision of Sim cards from Vodaphone for those who need them
- Via the national crowd-sourcing on-line charity, “Acts 435”, we have assisted around 100 people who were in urgent need of items such as a cooker or school uniforms. Over £11,000 has been raised. For more information, go to acts435.org.uk.

In December we distributed around 200 hampers to those known to us who would benefit.

The foodbank has been truly blessed with generous donations of money and food without which we could not meet the needs of people in our community. Thank you to all at St Mary’s who have and continue to contribute.

Roger Peppiatt
Trustee
St Neots Foodbank

13. Ground Force Team

On Saturday 9th of October a group of 8 worked on the church yard. We were donated over 100 hyacinth bulbs from St Neots Town Council. We planted a mix of bulbs in the two new beds near the circle of remembrance. Our volunteers also tidied around some of the graves also finished the bug hotel. Thank you for all the hard work from our volunteers.

James Faulkner

14. Living in Faith Encounters (LIFE) Groups

Let's get Covid-19 out of the way first of all. Over the last year the groups have continued in one form or another through some difficult days. Those who have led and attended have been faithful keeping the groups going. We would like to thank you for your faithfulness and support for this important ministry in the life of the church.

Nanette and I have only recently taken over the leadership of the groups and we look forward to meeting with all the groups, and to that end we will drop in to your group from time to time.

We plan to meet with the leaders at least once per term the first will have taken place in January.

Over the coming months we hope to be able to share with you some of our thoughts ideas and prayers.

If you are not in a Life Group and want to join or find out what, where or anything about the groups contact Nanette or me and we will do our best to help.

David and Nanette

15. Men's Breakfast

In the earlier part of the year, we were not able to meet because of Covid but in May we had a meeting on Zoom at which Dr. Dan Strange spoke about our Christian engagement with modern culture.

It was great to have our first live meeting in July when we met in the Jubilee Hall and although we were few in numbers we were able to spread out and make use of the spacious room. The Rev'd Dr Henry Lu, Director of the Chinese Overseas Christian Mission was the speaker and spoke on the need to welcome Chinese folk to the UK, especially those from Hong Kong. In September Dr Stuart Judge spoke, asking the question "Are we Just a Brain"?

Numbers for these two meetings were much less than before lockdown, but the November meeting saw us reaching up to twenty to hear Dr Christopher Catherwood giving a most stimulating talk on whether we can still regard Churchill as a hero.

We have a full programme of talks arranged for 2022 and look forward to welcoming more people. These meetings give the opportunity for men of the church to get to know each other better; give us the opportunity to discuss and think together about issues related to our faith which are not easily addressed in sermons or Life Groups. Many of the topics are of general interest and it has been good to see men inviting others to join us who are not part of our congregation.

Our thanks go to Jim Fitzgerald for cooking our lovely full English breakfasts!

Ray Porter and Gavin Chapman

16. M-Team

After a lengthy lock down period and isolation the monthly meeting of the Maintenance team was resumed in October. The purpose of the M-Team is to address regular maintenance issues around the church and hall buildings, to keep the church safe, secure and in good condition. These tasks have included clearing the dust and cobwebs on the walls and windows up to the ceiling of the church, repairing various handles and locks, repairing the odd piece of furniture and keeping the outside drains and gutters free from debris.

Apart from the routine jobs associated with an old building, we have a list of tasks for 2022 so there isn't much chance of the work drying up!

I would like to thank all who have volunteered and helped each month and with a willing attitude makes the morning an enjoyable experience. I must add that we are always keen to welcome anyone who would like to join in and help using their practical skills.

Although these activities are important and serious, the morning can be a time of good banter and fellowship and getting to know each other. Oh yes, there is always a tea / coffee break with something to nibble too!

Gavin Chapman

17. Music Group

The past year has seen a reduced music group at 10.30 services due to COVID restrictions, with only one or two instruments and one or two singers at most services. We're grateful to Ally Brattle for taking on coordination of the singers' rota and to both her and Edd Salkield for developing the sound desk rota and operator training respectively. The purchase of the grand piano in June was a highlight of the year, it has already seen much use in services and other events, and we look forward to how it will be used in the future when things become a little more "normal".

Phil Barrett

September and October each saw evenings of sung contemporary worship as part of the safe space initiative. They were well attended with folk having the freedom to meet with God. Once life returns to normal, the intention is to do more of these.

The Christmas Carol service was more of a stripped-back affair with fewer singers and instrumentalists due to the covid situation. There was a mix of traditional and contemporary carols. Given the covid climate, it was well attended. Those taking apart were fortunate enough to enjoy food prepared in the new kitchen by the Peppiatts between final rehearsal and the service.

David Brattle

18. Pastoral Care Team

It has been another busy year for St Mary's pastoral care team. 2021 can be divided into two periods.

During January to July, we were operating our successful, "St Mary's Connected" scheme of regular contacts with people associated with the church. From its start in March 2020 to when it was wound up in early August 2021, we made 2200 contacts, mainly phone calls, supporting people and maintaining a link with the church. During this period, the 13-strong team supported each other via regular meetings conducted via Zoom. However, once restrictions were lifted and regular church services in person were reinstated, we decided the scheme had run its course.

From August to the end of the year, we resumed our usual roles, summarised in the table below. The figures are very different from a "normal" year. The pandemic changed how we could operate. Care Home visits have not happened since the onset of Covid-19.

Our next face-to-face team meeting is in January to discuss our work going forward in 2022. Our last such meeting was on 14th November 2019.

We are grateful to all our team for their commitment to the work and to Tim for his leadership.

Visits for various reasons	125
Respite visit	3
To give Holy Communion	3
Meal provision at home	3
Provision of transport	1
Phone calls	324
Texts etc	80
TOTAL	539

Roger & Frances Peppiatt

19. PCC Report

2021 was again a challenging year for the PCC. Even with some Covid restrictions being lifted, for safety reasons the PCC still met online for the first half of the year, meeting at the church again from September onwards. Online meetings took the same format as ones held before lockdown, with each meeting starting with a reflection and prayer, led by a PCC member. However, instead of following this with a time of sharing together, while online they were separated into zoom breakout rooms, so that they could share how they were with each other. Meeting again as a group in Church was celebrated by enjoying wine and nibbles supplied by PCC members! Refreshments are not normally served, apart from occasional Jelly Babies!!

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Treasurer, Roy Notley, presents a full review of the accounts at each meeting for general, designated and restricted funds. Constant reviews of likely finance outcome for the year were discussed, especially towards the later months as it became clear that there would not be a return to normal as had been anticipated. Tim Robb shared that there were some grants available from Councils for Churches that had lost money due to not being able to hire out their buildings. As a result of our application, we received a £6000 grant.

During the year the PCC sanctioned the purchase of a grand piano and the launch of the much-needed kitchen project.

The 2022 budget was discussed and revised many times again due to the uncertainties of what 2022 would bring. At the time of writing these notes, a budget for 2022 was on hold, pending the results of the recent appeal for financial pledges requested by January 2022. It was apparent that 2022 would be an extremely difficult year to keep finances balanced.

MINISTRY

Due to Covid the congregations at the Christmas services were a lot lower again than in 'normal' years. Some of the Christmas services, together with the 10.30am Sunday service, have continued to be streamed, with good numbers watching and many voicing their thanks for this facility.

The PCC discussed at great length how the Church could move forward post pandemic. It was agreed that we ALL needed to **Remember, Reflect and Recuperate**. A number of safe spaces were set up in Church and both Church members and members of the wider community were encouraged to visit the spaces. One of the new things to come out of this was an occasional Sung Worship Sunday evening meeting.

All aspects of Church life were reviewed extensively under Activities, Ministries and Events Evaluation to see how things could be done better.

The monthly 8am Sunday service has been discontinued but combined with the 9am Sunday service on the first Sunday of each month. The Wednesday service is now held in the side aisle.

YOUTH

All areas of youth work were discussed. The work among the younger age group (0-11) has been especially challenging throughout the pandemic. However, the older group (11-18) were cared for well and this age group also adapt to screens/zoom etc more easily than children.

The children's worker will not be joining in school assemblies for the foreseeable future. Her contract was changed so that she can support and develop the work among the younger children in the church. PCC were made aware of the impact this will unfortunately have on our presence in the community.

FABRIC

Every 5 years the Church must undertake a Quinquennial inspection. This was done in November and the report back is awaited.

The kitchen project got underway, and the new kitchen was officially opened in November.

Approval was given by the Diocese for the creation of a quiet area within the Church grounds. The circular paved area has been laid, the grass will be seeded in the Spring and the benches installed soon.

ADMIN

Various Officers were elected, and a review of Church Policies took place.

Staff continued to be furloughed, albeit on a part hours basis, until the end of April. The Children's & Families Worker was absent most of the year on parental leave, resulting in little children's ministry, until her return in November.

The Vicar's PA left towards the end of September to pursue full-time studies. This position was filled in January 2022, but on reduced hours, due to 2022 budget constraints.

It was agreed that a lone working device be purchased for the Church Administrator or by anyone working alone in the office.

PCC minutes are written up and, once ratified, displayed with the Treasurer's Report in the South Porch.

My thanks go to the Trustees of the Eaton Socon PCC for all their work during this difficult year, to Edward Jarvis and David Hesketh, the Churchwardens, to the Assistant Churchwardens, to Jennifer Reed for taking the minutes at each meeting, to all the staff and especially to Rev'd Timothy Robb.

Brenda Notley
PCC Secretary

20. Planned Giving

Around 90% of St Mary's income needs to come from giving/donations to resource its ever rising costs of ministry/upkeep of buildings. In 2021 regular giving was down by £3600 from 2020. Giving of all kinds was £904 down on 2020.

All giving amounted to 90.4% of expenditure.

<u>Giving was via the following streams:</u>	2020	2021		<u>Monthly giving spread.</u>		
Direct Debits (Parish Giving Scheme)	27929	29195	23.55%		<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Bank Standing Orders	62974	59993	48.40%	Up to £25 per month	22	17
On-line Debit/Credit Cards (Stripe)	0	690	0.56%	Between £26 and £50	28	32
Dedicated Numbered Envelopes	5146	3277	2.64%	Between £51 and £100	20	21
Gift Aid Reclaim from HMRC		20563	16.59%	Between £101 and £150	7	7
PLANNED GIVING	96049	113718	91.74%	Between £151 and £200	2	3
Gift Aid envelopes	751	293	0.24%	Between £201 and £300	9	10
Cash Offertories	1719	2816	2.27%	Over £300	5	2
Casual donations	3989	5805	4.68%		93	92
Gift Aid Reclaim from HMRC	22349	1324	1.07%			
Gift Day	10864	0	0.00%			
ADHOC GIVING	39672	10238	8.26%			
TOTAL GIVING	135721	123956				

At start of year there were 93 regular givers; 22 increased their regular amount and 5 decreased; 7 started regular giving but 8 stopped leaving 92 regular givers at end of 2021.

On behalf of PCC of St Mary's Eaton Socon we convey our sincere thanks for your sustained regular giving. Only 6 now remain on dedicated numbered envelopes.

The budget for 2022 is quite bleak as far as it is possible to predict at this time. We will need your extra support, to protect the services provided.

Remember, apart from regular giving by direct debit (See 'Give to your local parish online' leaflet and use parish code 320632297) or bank standing order there are many other streams of income available for the occasional giver.

- 1. VIA ON-LINE BANKING:** direct bank transfer to 'Eaton Socon Parochial Church Council' 20.74.81 60347043
- 2. CREDIT/DEBIT CARD:** by sum-up card reader using ipad.
- 3. CHURCH WEBSITE** by various donate buttons on www.eatonsocon.org
- 4. TEXT GIVING:** by text message **SMES** to 70085 Default is £10.
- 5. EASYFUNDRAISING or SMILE AMAZON:** using St Mary's as nominated charity
- 6. GIFT AID ENVELOPES:** by gift aid envelopes on finance table

GIVE TO YOUR LOCAL PARISH

QUICKLY AND EASILY ONLINE

PARISH GIVING SCHEME

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is an established service for managing Direct Debit donations, providing a simple and secure way for churches to receive regular donations to fund their mission and ministry.

Just like with telephone and paper donations, by choosing to give online, you can:

- Give monthly, quarterly or annually by Direct Debit
- Increase your gift annually in line with inflation
- Enhance your gift with an optional 25% Gift Aid
- Give anonymously
- Donate securely

Use your smartphone or tablet to scan this QR code or visit the unique URL on any device to access your church's dedicated landing page on the PGS website. From here, it's simple to set up and manage your regular giving online.

PARISH CODE 320632297

Visit: www.parishgiving.org.uk and PASTE YOUR URL HERE

Scan your code

Website: www.parishgiving.org.uk

Email: info@parishgiving.org.uk | Tel: 0333 002 1260

7. MONEY: by cash or cheque in offertory baskets in church when open.
Please note: giving by means of options 2, 3 or 4 above will incur a commission charge deducted at source from your contribution.

We encourage you to continue to review the support you can afford which is so vital to St Mary's and we thank you for it. Thank you.

Roy B Notley
Treasurer

21. Prayer Ministry

I would like to thank everyone who has been prepared to pray for the requests we receive online. We have had many requests which are sent out to over 35 people who then bring these to the Lord.

It is great when we get updates and have seen answers to prayer. If anyone is interested in joining this vital ministry, please contact me on prayer@eatonsocon.org.

We now have a prayer space in the chancel for anyone to use at any time, so please feel free to use this space.

Barbara Jarvis

22. Safeguarding

St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon is committed to being a safe place for all and we are working with the Diocesan guidelines to ensure this is maintained. The St Mary's '*Safeguarding for All Policy*' was updated in 2019 to reflect ongoing changes within the church. It is based upon the Diocesan Safeguarding policies '*Protecting All God's Children*' and '*Promoting A Safe Church*' (which covers vulnerable adults). St Mary's Church has adopted the principles and practices of safer recruitment.

As the church activities involving children began to re-emerge, new volunteers came forward and the necessary safer recruitment and checks were carried out so that this could be done safely. The Church of England has now recommended that DBS checks are renewed every three years and this is now being implemented.

All Safeguarding Training is now being delivered online. C0 is now referred to as the Basic course and C1 as the Foundation Course. Only Clergy and Parish Safeguarding Officers now need to do the face-to-face training. Records are kept of those who have undergone Safeguarding training so that, in line with Diocesan recommendations, renewal every three years can be prompted.

There is a regular Safeguarding item on PCC agendas allowing for the PCC to be kept informed on Safeguarding matters and to discuss initiatives as they arise. St Mary's Church is now on the Parish Dashboard, a system for ensuring that all necessary Safeguarding requirements have been completed.

Names and contact details of the vicar, the Safeguarding Officer and the Children's Advocate are displayed within the church along with advice helpline numbers. This information is also clearly signposted on the parish website. If there are any Safeguarding matters that need to be brought to our attention please contact any of these people in confidence.

Jane Gogarty

23. Tea and Biscuit Book Club

The Book Club has carried on reading and meeting every four or five weeks throughout the long Covid period, only cancelling two meetings. One was in March 2020 at the start of the first lockdown, and the second was just before Christmas 2021 when Omicron threatened family gatherings. Amazingly, the St Neots library has managed to find us sets of books almost every month, producing the usual mix of fiction to entertain, interest and sometimes annoy us. Books varied from the unsettling "Beside the Sea" at the start of lockdown to "Christmas Wishes" – a seasonal and very easy read. Banjo's walks included regular deliveries of books, and it was great to see him at the door with Jo and her family. Suitably distanced of course!

For over a year meetings were held over Zoom (organized efficiently by Amy) and inevitably discussions focused on an exchange of "news", but we did discuss the books and exchange ideas for other reading. By early summer 2021, some members were able to meet in the Riverside Park, and then we started meeting in the Church Hall. Drinking tea from our own mugs, we enjoyed home-made cake (thank you Carole) and discussing our books away from screens.

In addition to reading the Book Club has made regular donations to charities, Church related, local or occasionally linked with our reading. Our latest donation was to the St Neots Coffee Pot Memory Café, and in October 2020 we supported a very successful Macmillan Coffee Morning held outside Jo's house.

Joanne Rickwood

24. Treasurer's Report

CHURCH GENERAL ACCOUNT

This was another difficult year due to restrictions brought about by the pandemic. Staff returned from furlough in April and services gradually returned to as near normal as could be expected from September, with the Sunday 10.30 service continuing to be streamed, as well as attended by those who were able.

Planned giving income fell by £3,600, but cash collection income and sundry donations recovered a bit and were £3,149 up on last year. With hall lettings back to pre-pandemic level and increased occasional services, income was up by £4,971. Overall, total income for the year was up by £4,328.

Furlough grants finished for St Mary's at the end of March, receipts were £3,008 compared to £9,923 last year.

Conversely, expenditure was down by £4,870. Building related costs were up by £3,381 from last year and staff costs were down by £4,592. There was no gift day for enhancing general funds in 2021.

DESIGNATED FUND

Income of £8,068 included a grant of £6,000 from HDC. There were no fundraising events. A new designated fund has been established for catering events. Little Stars restarted in November and received a £200 grant from ESCA, as did Café on the Green.

Cumulative designated funds now stand at £20,790, of which £13,812 is for future developments.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

A donation of £2,000 was received ready for when work can commence on the boiler chimney and flues.

There was no movement on vestry or nave lights funds in the year.

The kitchen project was very well supported with donations and grants. £2,000 of the costs of work paid for by this project has been absorbed by the church general fund as it was not directly attributable to that project. The remaining funds of £1,174 are for restocking the kitchen equipment.

A new fund for the “quiet area” was started, current fund value is £986. The piano fund was closed following acquisition of the “posh” piano.

Cumulative restricted funds now stand at £29,544.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022

This has again been a very difficult budget to prepare. The assumption is that we will slowly revert to much more “normal” times as we recover from the unique situation of the last 2 years. We think income will be around the same as 2021, including the pledges and changes/new planned giving from 17 persons at the time of writing.

Expenditure is expected to be £8,500 more than 2021 and that includes reduction of World Mission to 5% of planned giving, instead of 10% and reduction of Vicar’s PA hours from 16 to 8 per week.

The final budget agreed by the PCC in January shows a predicted deficit of £8,271. We are confident that further pledges will go a long way to cutting that deficit substantially.

My thanks to all who have assisted in the preparation of these Accounts, particularly a thanks to Gavin and Tim for their solid support and assistance.

Roy B Notley

25. Wednesday Welcome

After an unprecedented 18 months our group is stronger than ever. Rules permitting, we met as friends during the summer under the trees on the green sharing ice creams, sweets and most importantly, friendship.

Since returning to the church hall our numbers have increased to over 40 with a varied age range from 50 to over 90 years of age, such a nice mix. More men would be very welcome!

Tea, cakes and a chat are the basis for meetings, however we organise some trips and entertainment.



Highlights in 2021 included a poetry reading by Karen (church administrator), a concert by the U3A Ukulele band (a firm favourite) which was held in the church, lunch at the Barley Mow and an afternoon tea at Roxton garden centre. At the latter two it is true to say they spoil us!

2022 will include our firm favourites plus a 2hour cruise on the river Ouse in May, a talk by Dogs Trust and an afternoon at The Stables Christian Centre (lunch and afternoon tea provided by our lady members with time spent in the lovely grounds).

As the name suggests anyone is welcome to **join us on a Wednesday afternoon at 3pm in the church hall** and I can assure them they would be welcomed with open arms and made to feel at home.

Please feel free to ring me if you would like more information.

Mike Gilham (07899 856636)

26. World Mission

World mission has always been an integral part of the work at St Mary's and I am pleased to say that despite the present pandemic we as a church were still able to support our mission partners throughout 2021 both financially and through prayer.

We partnered with:

Allen and Litsa McClymont at OMF International (£1,600)

Teresha and Israel Karahukayo at Spring of Hope in Uganda (£2,600)

ACTIOS (£1,900)

Chris and Elaine Hurst, Wycliffe Bible Translators in Mexico (£1,500)

Dr Mano Emmanuel at Colombo Theological Seminary in Sri Lanka (£2,000)

Newsletters continued to be received and can be found on the church website. We hope to have short videos from our partners this year to show in church to help keep us all more up to date with their work.

Our Mission Sunday Service was able to take place on 26th September, a little later than usual. We welcomed Helen Walton to speak from The Leprosy Mission and as a church donated £1,455 towards their work. We still collect stamps for The Leprosy Mission and we were able to give her a large bag to take back to Head Quarters! Thank you to all those who collect their stamps and please continue to bring them in to church.

We also took part again in Operation Christmas Child and generously filled many shoeboxes. This year the Eastern Regional Centre was in St Neot's and some church member's went to the old CostCutters in the centre of town to help check boxes before they were shipped. The boxes from St Mary's were destined for Liberia.

After not being able to send Christmas cards to our partners in 2020 due to the pandemic we managed to send them this year, signed by church members with words of encouragement and best wishes.

We'd like to say a big thank you to Julia Findlay who stepped down from leading the Mission Team which she did with great commitment during 2020 and most of 2021. We now have space for another team member and would be very pleased to hear from anyone who might be interested in joining us.

Julia Chapman

27. Youth

27.1. Fusion

2021 continued to be another great year for the Youth even though we entered it in another lockdown! However we were now all pros at zoom and swiftly moved online, re-installed the challenges and award charts to win prizes of food. Always a winner!!!



Once we were allowed to meet up, the Youth enjoyed spending time together playing games, catching up on their week, and participating in games inspired by our BFF Taskmaster. We finished our summer term with a party and we still laugh now remembering all the Youth running frantically away from each other as they played manhunt in the church grounds. In August, we took part in the Shack Challenge (please see Reactors update for more details) and continued our fundraising with a cake sale in September at the 10.30 service.

In the Autumn term, we continued to learn and support other charities such as “The Leprosy Mission” and “Operation Christmas Child”.

In November Helen Walton from The Leprosy Mission came to Fusion to give us a talk on leprosy and how the Mission is working to cure it. She told us of the myths surrounding leprosy and the terrible stigma that still surrounds it. There is now a drug which can cure the disease before it causes damage, however this costs money, something the people don't have. Helen made the talk fun with a video, a quiz, and a pair of oven gloves and a chocolate orange! The game was to unwrap the chocolate with the gloves on to simulate how someone with Leprosy felt when trying to use their motor skills. Helen was very engaging and kept our interest throughout. We decided that the proceeds from our next cake sale would go to The Leprosy Mission.

In November, the Youth again collected items to go in two Christmas shoeboxes and Julia took them with her when she helped out in our local collection point.

Autumn continued to be a busy time for the Youth. Making the most of being able to socialise without Covid measures but making sure we were as safe as possible by weekly Lateral Flow testing. A trip to Thorpe Park was arranged and a great time was had by all.

Half of the Youth decided the faster the ride the better and the other half decided to take the more relaxed route and participate in the gentler rides.



However, we were all fooled when we boarded a ride we couldn't see. What we thought was a nice gentle ghost ride, ended up being a rollercoaster in the dark. We can still hear the screams now! Keeping up with tradition, we were the last to leave and after a quick stop at McDonalds to refuel, the Youth succumbed to sleep for the journey home.



In December to celebrate another year together, we all headed out to Eat'n'Bowl for a couple of games of ten pin bowling and you guessed it...another trip to the golden arches!!!

All I can say, there were many of us who loved the guide bars down the side of the lanes, without which, we probably would have never known what it was like to hit a pin.

Throughout the year we celebrated GCSE results, end of year tests/modules and birthdays.

Big birthdays also continued to be the order of the day as we enjoyed 18th and 50th with cake, personalised card and even a candle to blow out!

We also invested in our very own Youth Hoodies which the Youth wear with pride.

Being a part of the church family continued throughout the year as we supported events such as the new kitchen's opening and Thanksgiving tea, Christingle, Instant Nativity Play and helped out with the refreshments on Sunday mornings.

As we enter 2022, we have many things to look forward to.....Cake sale to help raise money for the Leprosy Mission, Shack Challenge and Newday festival (1-6th August) to name but a few.

We have much to thank God for in particularly our Youth and all those that have supported us throughout the year...parents, church and leaders. Thank-you Lord for everything!

Peter and Heather Arnold



27.2. Reactors



2021 saw Reactors back on line and having their Sunday sessions on Zoom. We started 'The Bible Course' by Andrew Ollerton which proved very popular and really gave our youth a better understanding of the chronology of events in the bible and how everything led towards the arrival of Christ and the fulfilling of God's plan. This course took us to the end of May so before the summer break we worked through a few sessions from *Ministry for Youth*.

Having been unable to meet for such a long time a highlight of the year was doing *The Shack Challenge* at the end of August. Me, Heather and 12 of our young people lived together for 12 hours



on the church premises, eating together, on a budget of £3.10 each for the day, helping the *Global Care Team* in the church yard, playing out door games and watching films. Everyone was still in good humour at the end of the day and we raised £1475.00 for *Global Care* who used the money to buy

food for the Dalit community in Patripul, India.

Having introduced our young people to the need for mission and missionary's we continued the theme when we resumed, in person, in September. We enjoyed a visiting speaker, Sophie Parsons, a student from Churchill College, Cambridge, who was part of a team working on a project in Tanzania to clean up contaminated water and learnt more about the work done by OMF and more specifically the McClymont family who we partner with and support here at St Mary's.

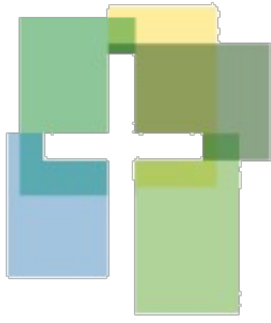


Making cakes continues to be a popular activity and our youth made cakes for the opening and thanksgiving tea for the new church kitchen at the end of November. In our Sunday sessions we finished the year preparing for Christmas using material from the 'engage' series published by *thegoodbook company*.



We don't know what 2022 holds in store for us but we do know that everything is in God's hands so we can look forward with great anticipation in the knowledge that He will be there to guide and help us as Heather and I lead Reactors in the coming year.

Julia Chapman



St Mary's Eaton Socon

THE CHURCH ON THE GREEN

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

and

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

with ACCOUNTS

Date Sunday 13 March 2022

12 noon

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APCM AGENDA – Sunday 13th March 2022

In accordance with the Notices fixed to the Notice Boards and on the Church Website, the Meeting of Parishioners for the purpose of appointing Churchwardens, and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held for St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon on Sunday 13th March 2022 at 12 noon.

Meeting of Parishioners AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last Annual Meeting of Parishioners
3. Appointment of Churchwardens
4. Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens
5. Any other business concerning the Meeting of Parishioners

ASSISTANT CHURCHWARDENS

Representing 9am Sunday Service

David Ferris Richard de Fraine

Jane Gogarty

Representing 10.30am Sunday Service

Yvonne Bradbury-White Teresa Bryant David Hesketh

Edward Jarvis Jeannie Minchinton Corrie Verduijn

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS HELD ON SUNDAY 7th March 2021

The meeting was opened at 11:28 by Rev'd Timothy Robb. Mrs Jennifer Reed took the minutes.

1. Apologies for absence.

Ted and Di Brannan Brenda Notley Janice Porter Yvonne Bradbury-White

2. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting of Parishioners

The minutes of the last meeting held on 4th October 2020 had been circulated prior to the event. There were no amendments.

The meeting agreed the minutes to be correct; **proposal to accept the minutes by Revd Ray Porter , seconded by Mr David Hesketh. The motion was carried unanimously, with 1 abstention.**

3. Appointment of Churchwardens

There were two nominations put forward:

Mr Edward Jarvis & Mr David Hesketh.

**Proposed by Mrs Sue Matthews, seconded by Mr Brian Elliott.
Carried unanimously with no abstentions.**

Tim thanked the Churchwardens for their support throughout this challenging time. Tim shared that Ed now enters his 7th and final year of being Churchwarden and so succession planning is being worked on.

4. Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens

As part of succession planning we need to make sure people are prepared to take this role forward. The following names were put forward:

9am Service: Mr Brian Elliott; Mrs Jane Gogarty
**Proposed by Dr Roger Peppiatt and seconded by Mrs Nanette Hesketh.
Carried unanimously with no abstentions.**

10:30 Service:
Mr Gavin Chapman; Mr Darren Smith; Mr Martin Pooley; Mr Len Thomas
Mrs Yvonne Bradbury-White; Miss Corrie Verduyn

**Proposed by Dr Roger Peppiatt and seconded by Mrs Nanette Hesketh.
Carried unanimously with no abstentions.**

5. Any other business

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 11:33.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last Annual Parochial Church Meeting
3. Matters arising from Minutes (not covered in agenda)
4. Notification of any other business
5. To receive a copy of the revised Electoral Roll
6. To consider a report of the Parochial Church Council (see Annual Report)
7. To accept the following 'Safeguarding of all' Statement:

St Mary's Church Eaton Socon affirms their commitment to safeguarding all God's people. We also confirm that the Trustees have complied with the duty to have 'due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The PCC are committed to being responsible for the wellbeing of everyone who comes through our doors.

8. To consider a report of the Treasurer and the independently examined accounts of the Parochial Church Council for 2021
9. Election of an Independent Examiner for the current financial year
10. Election of up to **Five (5)** lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council
11. To consider Reports of the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church, the Deanery Synod, various Committees and Activities of the Church
12. Results of elections to the Parochial Church Council
13. Consideration of any other business of Parochial or general church interest

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 7th March 2021

The meeting was opened at 11:33 by Rev'd Tim Robb.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were accepted as those recorded for the Annual Meeting of Parishioners. **Proposed by** Mr Matthew Reed and **seconded by** Mrs Carole Robson
Carried unanimously with no abstentions.

4. Minutes of last Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 4th October 2020 had been circulated prior to the event. There were no corrections.

It was proposed to accept minutes by Dr Julie Robb and **seconded by** Mrs Elizabeth Faulkner. **Carried unanimously with 1 abstention.**

3. Matters arising from Minutes

There were none.

4. Notification of other business

None

5. To receive a copy of the revised Electoral Roll

Mr Roy Notley read out the statement below on behalf of the Electoral Roll Officer, Mrs Brenda Notley.

ELECTORAL ROLL 2020/2021

The statistics of the roll are as follows:

The year 2020/2021 started with 156 names on the Electoral Roll. During the year, the roll was revised and just two people added, with 158 names now listed who worship regularly here at St Mary's, Eaton Socon, consisting of 102 female and 56 male. No names were removed from the Roll due to death or due to moving away since it was revised in September 2020, just before the APCM in October.

Proposed by Mr Steven Bailey **seconded by** Mrs Jane Gogarty. **Carried unanimously.**

6. To consider a report of the Parochial Church Council

Proposal to accept that the report is a correct summary of the last year at the PCC. Proposed by Mr Edward Jarvis, seconded by Mr Richard DeFraine. Carried unanimously with no abstentions.

TR reminded people that they can come and observe the PCC meetings to learn more about the workings of the PCC.

7. To accept the ‘Safeguarding of all Statement’

“St Mary’s Church Eaton Socon affirms their commitment to safeguarding all God’s people. We also confirm that the trustees have complied with the duty to have “due regard to House of Bishops” guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The PCC are committed to being responsible for the wellbeing of everyone who comes through our doors.”

Acceptance of this statement was proposed by Mrs Jane Gogarty, seconded Mr David Hesketh and carried unanimously, with no abstentions.

At this point TR explained that as church services will continue to be live-streamed for some time, it will always be clearly marked in the church where people will be seen on the live-stream.

8. To consider a report of the Treasurer and the independently examined accounts of the Parochial Church Council for 2020

CHURCH GENERAL ACCOUNT

2020 was certainly a difficult year to manage the church’s finances because of the various lockdowns and closure of the church due to the covid19 pandemic. Once again, though, all of you who regularly give and even those new to the church who have given on-line have kept our financial position quite secure and kept us on a sound footing looking forward. Income of 143k was 6k down on last year. Planned giving was up 3k, collections and sundry giving was down 9k, gift day was up 1k and hall lettings/occasional fees were down 1k. Expenditure of 138k was 9k down on last year. Ministry costs were down by 4k, staff pay was up by 3k but with govt furlough grants of 10k the net effect was down 7k. Mission was up 1k as was parish share.

As a result of all this the church general fund was in surplus by a net sum of £5252.

DESIGNATED FUND

This fund is unrestricted but is maintained separately and is set aside for future development projects and costs, and any miscellaneous one-off costs at the discretion of the PCC. There was no opportunity to fund raise this year so income, mainly from donations, was only £2517. Expenditure on bases for shed and benches around circle of remembrance and for professional fees re future development plans reduced funds carried forward to £13961.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

The general fund and designated fund and written down value of recorded assets make up the total unrestricted fund. The PCC took the decision to clear all remaining book value of assets this year. At start of year unrestricted reserves were £51078 but £16008 of that was asset value. Unrestricted reserves carried forward to 2021 are £31268 representing general fund up from £12055 to £17307 and designated fund down from £23015 to £13961. The onset of the pandemic in 2020 and the effect it would have had on our cash resource if it had not been for your continued contributions is a reminder to us all of why we need to build and maintain a strong reserve to serve us when the incidence of unexpected catastrophes falls upon us.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

There are currently 21 restricted funds. Income from proceeds of disposal of organ was £2000 though some costs were incurred for the banner and dismantling of electricity supply. Repairs of tower clock mechanism cost £2290. Donations to utility fund were £800 and £315 of help was paid out. The SEND project has received £1378 in donations but is on hold due to the pandemic and its champion being currently away on adoption leave. The new bibles cost £1499 against which £661 has been donated. Donations received this year have covered the remaining sum of £838. Total income across all restricted funds exceeded expenditure by £112 so the net funds carried forward are £33699.

LOOKING FORWARD 2021

Trying to predict income and expenditure for 2021 was difficult. Many different versions of a 'budget' were drawn up and debated, but it was not until mid-January a final budget for 2021 was agreed. The view taken was that only a gradual return to a limited normal should be assumed to September with continued furloughing of staff at 50% hours till the scheme ends in April. Staff pay is budgeted at full pay. The Mission budget will be constantly reviewed as this is currently set at £1000 less than would be expected. We think this budget is a best estimate and indicates a small deficit of £1084 for 2021. This again will be constantly reviewed throughout the year. The projected deficit is currently forecast to be £2429 at end of year. Our biggest risk to forecasting income is anticipating any changes from those who already give a regularly, so in that respect we can never be certain of that income stream.

My thanks to all who have assisted in the preparation of these accounts. Particular thanks to Gavin and Tim for their solid support and assistance, especially with Sum up credit card facility and on-line donate buttons.

Finally, my thanks also to Roger Brittain for his time so generously given in examining the annual accounts. It takes up a fair bit of his free time especially as I choose to keep intricate and detailed accounting records.

- Frances Peppiatt asked whether there was still a restricted account for the purchase of a Grand Piano. Roy Notley answered that there was.
- Roger Brittain commented that Roy keeps very well-maintained accounts /records, which makes the accounts easier to examine.

The report was proposed by Dr Phil Barrett seconded by Dr Kate Salkield and carried unanimously.

Tim conveyed his thanks to Roy on behalf of the PCC, particularly as the budget was revised a number of times during the year due to the changing circumstances,

9. Election of an Independent Examiner for the current financial year

Mr Roger Brittain acted as Independent Examiner for our accounts. Thanks were given by Mr Brittain for the excellently prepared accounts.

Proposed by Mr Richard DeFraine **seconded by** Revd Ray Porter, and **carried unanimously with no abstentions.**

Tim thanked Roger Brittain for his work.

10. Election of up to 3 lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council

One nomination was received:

Mr Gavin Chapman

This nomination was **proposed by** Dr Anthony Harris and **seconded by** Prof. John Wood and **carried unanimously with no abstentions.**

11. To consider reports of the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church Deanery Synod, various committees and activities of the Church

There were fewer reports than usual as most things have not been meeting during the pandemic. TR apologised as there should have been reports from the Book Club and the Bellringers.

Acceptance of this report was **proposed by** Mrs Sue DeFraine **seconded by** Mr Michael Matthews and **carried unanimously with no abstentions.**

12. Results of elections to the Parochial Church Council

Elections were not required

14. Consideration of any other business of Parochial or general Church Interest

- Jane Gogarty shared that the next Diocese Synod Triune was coming to an end and that she was happy to stand again for election.
- Anthony Harris asked whether there was a way of letting the members of the church know when things, such as a Diocese Synod Meeting, were happening, so that we could pray for them. Jenny Barrett suggested adding a prayer request section on the weekly email. Tim agreed that this was a good idea and could add a prayer request section to his regular emails when prayer needs are known.

- Matthew Reed asked when Tim thought work would start on the kitchen. Tim answered that it would start as soon as we have the funds in. Roy Notley shared that £1250 had been donated so far and that there was £2k in restricted funds, meaning that there was about £3k so far in the Kitchen Fund.
- Sue Biles asked when the church will consider having a Women's Breakfast again. Tim replied that this will be considered over the next few weeks.
- Frances Peppiatt asked when Light Factory would resume. Tim said that it was likely to be in September, but that there may be some family events over the Summer.
- Carole Robson asked whether there was a list of things that needed to be done in the kitchen, so that people could volunteer to help. Tim agreed and asked people who would like to be part of a Kitchen Working Party to email him.
- Sue DeFraine suggested that the Kitchen Project be put onto the weekly newsletter as it wasn't clear that there would be a Gift Day on Easter Sunday.

Tim expressed his thanks to everyone who had contributed to the life of church over the last year and to those who have continued to resource church. He thanked the staff who continue to be furloughed and will hopefully be back to normal hours at the beginning of May. Tim thanked Jennifer for taking the minutes and he thanked Julie and Sarah for their support and work over the last year. Tim thanked Jenny for hosting the APCM on Zoom and for organising 'zoffee and zea' after church each week, it is much appreciated, Finally he thanked God for the way He continues to lead us.

Tom Salkield thanked Tim for his faithful leadership over the last 12 months, it is much appreciated by the church. Tim thanked the congregation for their continued support.

The meeting closed at 12:14 with the saying of the Grace.

MEMBERS OF THE PCC – 2021/22

Members of the PCC are either ex officio, or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules, or may be co-opted.

Incumbent	The Rev'd Timothy Robb	Chairman
Churchwardens	Mr Edward Jarvis Mr David Hesketh	
Treasurer	Mr Roy Notley	
PCC Secretary	Mrs Brenda Notley	
PCC Minute Taker	Mrs Jennifer Reed	(until Nov 2021)
Diocesan Synod	Mrs Jane Gogarty	
Deanery Synod	Mrs Jane Gogarty Mr Edward Jarvis Mr David Hesketh	(until 2023) (until 2023) (until 2023)
Elected Members	Mr Gavin Chapman Mr David Crowe Mrs Eileen Crowe Mrs Margaret Lygoe Mr Tom Salkield Mrs Iris Slade	(until 2021) resigned April 2021 (moved away) resigned April 2021 (moved away) (until 2023) (until 2022) resigned Nov 2021 (moved away)
Co-opted	Mrs Allison Brattle	

ELECTORAL ROLL 2022

The statistics of the roll as follows:-

The year 2021/2022 started with 158 names on the electoral roll. During the year, the roll was revised with 24 names removed and 13 added since the last APCM.

147 names are now listed who worship here at St Mary's Eaton Socon.

One item I would like to ask of every person, and that is should their name, address, telephone number or e-mail change in any way, please let the Church Office know so that the records can be kept up to date.

Alternatively, if you are using the Smartphone 'ChurchSuite', you can amend your own details any time! For more information about this, please contact the Church Office.

CONTACT Brenda Notley (01234) 589308
Electoral Roll Officer

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS 2020

St Mary's Eaton Socon Parochial Church Council Statement of Financial Activities as at:-

Dec-21

	CHURCH	DESIGNATED	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL 21	2020
RECEIPTS						
<i>Planned Giving</i>						
Bank	89878		89878		89878	90903
Envelopes	3277		3277		3277	5146
Tax Recovered	21887	62	21949	6611	28560	23686
Gift Day						10864
Collections	3109		3109		3109	2470
Donations and Sundry Income	6255	6848	13103	31879	44982	10299
Legacies						
Youth Work		33	33	588	621	855
Church Hall Lettings	3994		3994		3994	1717
Weddings and Funeral Fees	8187		8187		8187	5493
Fundraising Events	60	1125	1185	277	1462	591
Interest Received	24		24		24	179
TOTAL RECEIPTS	136671	8068	144739	39355	184094	152203
PAYMENTS						
GRANTS						
Missionary and Charitable Giving	9743		9743		9743	11180
Local Mission						2100
Other	100		100		100	389
MINISTRY						
Parish Share	74849		74849		74849	75828
Staff Expenses	1384		1384		1384	1500
Telephone	928		928		928	876
Q-18						
Youth Work	58	270	328	475	803	733
LIVING						
Fellowship	-76		-76		-76	591
Pastoral	72		72	396	468	533
WORSHIP & PRAYER						
Worship	870		870	7949	8819	1003
Services	1738		1738	36	1774	2898
Refreshments	87		87		87	185
Hall Hire	428		428		428	275
OUTREACH						
Outreach	200		200	143	343	481
Events	298	1027	1325	538	1863	436
BUILDINGS						
Building Maintenance	6049	-58	5991	33973	39964	12552
Prof Fees						8792
Insurance	4236		4236		4236	4187
Gas	4135		4135		4135	3252
Electric	1555		1555		1555	1541
Water	92		92		92	160
Cleaning	377		377		377	887
MGMNT/ADMIN						
Staff Costs	24600		24600		24600	17169
Govt Grants	-3008		-3008		-3008	
Printing/copying	2663		2663		2663	2796
Post/Staty	642		642		642	809
Books/Posters	1044		1044		1044	649
IT	2581		2581		2581	3442
Courses/Conf	425		425		425	248
OTHER ADMIN	381		381		381	318
OTHER CHARGES	157		157		157	83
TOTAL PAYMENTS	136608	1239	137847	43510	181357	155893
Excess/(Deficit)	63	6829	6892	-4155	2737	-3690

BT FWD
Net Movement in funds
TFR

CHURCH	DESIGNATED	GENERAL	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
17307	13961	31268	33699	64967
63	6829	6892	-4155	2737
		0		0
17370	20790	38160	29544	67704

St Mary's Eaton Socon Parochial Church Council
Income and Expenditure Statement
Church General Fund as at:-

Dec-21

		2020	2021	VARIANCE
RECEIPTS				
P Giving	STO/PGS	90903	89878	-1025
	Envelopes	5146	3277	-1869
Income Tax Recovered planned		21269	20563	-706
INCOME PLANNED GIVING		117318	113718	-3600
Income Tax Recovered oneoff & gfsd		1080	1324	244
Collections		2470	3109	639
Donations and Sundry Income		3989	6255	2266
Legacies				0
Youth		97	0	-97
Church Hall Lettings		1717	3994	2277
Weddings and Funeral Fees		5493	8187	2694
Fundraising Events			60	60
Interest Received		179	24	-155
INCOME OTHER		15025	22953	7928
TOTAL RECEIPTS		132343	136671	4328
<u>PAYMENTS</u>				
<u>GRANTS</u>				
	Mission/Charitable Giving	11180	9743	-1437
	Local Mission	2100	0	-2100
	Other	389	100	-289
<u>MINISTRY</u>				
	Parish Share	75828	74849	-979
	Staff Expenses	1500	1384	-116
	Telephone	876	928	52
<u>0-18</u>				
	Youth Work	193	58	-135
<u>LIVING</u>				
	Fellowship	591	-76	-667
	Pastoral	143	72	-71
<u>WORSHIP</u>				
	Worship	888	870	-18
	Services	1399	1738	339
	Refreshments	185	87	-98
	Hall Hire	275	428	153
<u>OUTREACH</u>				
	Outreach	451	200	-251
	Events	0	298	298
<u>BUILDINGS</u>				
	Building Maintenance	3036	6049	3013
	Insurance	4187	4236	49
	Gas	3252	4135	883
	Electric	1541	1555	14
	Water	160	92	-68
	Cleaning	887	377	-510
<u>MGMNT/ADMIN</u>				
	Staff Costs	27092	24600	-2492
	Furlough grants	-9923	-3008	6915
	Printing/copying	2796	2663	-133
	Post/Staty	809	642	-167
	Books/Posters	649	1044	395
	IT	3442	2581	-861
	Courses/Conf	248	425	177
	Other Admin	318	381	63
	Other Charges	71	157	86
TOTAL PAYMENTS		134563	136608	2045
Excess/(Deficit)		-2220	63	2283
Depreciation of Assets		-16008		16008
Gift Day		10864		-10864
Transfers		-3392		3392
Net Excess/(Deficit)		-10756	63	10819

St Mary's Eaton Socon Parochial Church Council
Income and Expenditure Statement
Designated and Restricted Funds as at:-

Dec 21

DESIGNATED

	bt fwd	income	expends	tfrs	TOTAL
LEGACY					0
CATG EVENTS		1059	967		92
L.STARS/F CLUB	397	466	195		668
CAFÉ ON GRN	120	233	135		218
GENERAL	13444	6310	-58		19812
	13961	8068	1239		20790

RESTRICTED

	bt fwd	income	expends	tfrs	TOTAL
BOILER/FLUES	10984	2000			12984
VESTRY	7000				7000
NAVE	1875				1875
KITCHEN	2177	30645	31648		1174
TOWER/QUIET	95	3672	2781		986

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

24019

UTILITY	903	506	396		1013
LUNCH CLUB	576				576

OUTREACH

1589

NEW DAY	492	57			549
LF CAMP	125				125

YOUTH EVENTS

674

HYMNAL	447	-26			421
PIANO	6979	550	7529		0

MUSIC

421

CRAFT	200		43		157
WED WELC	494	-11	100		383
WLTD0	156	11	167		0
MENS	94	488	371		211
WOMEN	268				268
FUSION	82	532	475		139

CHURCH GROUPS

1158

PASTORAL/CREATION CARE	211	94			305
SEND	1378				1378
BIBLES	-837	837			0

OTHER

1683

Totals	33699	39355	43510		29544
--------	-------	-------	-------	--	-------

St Mary's Eaton Socon Parochial Church Council

BALANCE SHEET at 31st December 2021

	2021	2020
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible fixed assets-GNL		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	5788	766
Short Term Deposits	46015	45991
Cash at bank and in hand	20350	22428
	72153	69185
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors due within one year	4449	4218
NET CURRENT ASSETS	67704	64967
LONG TERM LIABILITIES		
NET ASSETS	67704	64967
RESERVE FUNDS - GENERAL		
General at 01-01-21	17307	12055
Movement to date	6892	-20191
Tfr to refurbishment	0	16008
Tfr to designated	-6829	9435
At 31-12-21	17370	17307
Refurb. Rsv at 01-01-21	0	16008
Mvement to date	0	-16008
At 31-12-21	0	0
Desig Rsv at 01-01-21	13961	23015
Tfr from General funds	6829	-9435
Tfr from Restricted funds		381
	20790	13961
	38160	31268
RESERVE FUNDS - RESTRICTED		
BOILER/FLUES	12984	10984
VESTRY	7000	7000
NAVE	1875	1875
KITCHEN	1174	2177
TOWER	986	95
UTILITY	1013	903
LUNCH CLUB	576	576
NEW DAY	549	492
LF CAMP	125	125
WORSHIP	0	0
HYMNAL	421	447
PIANO	0	6979
CRAFT	157	200
WED WELC	383	494
WLTDO	0	156
MENS	211	94
WOMEN	268	268
FUSION	139	82
CREATION CARE	305	211
SEND	1378	1378
BIBLES	0	-837
GRANTS	0	0
At 31-12-21	29544	33699
	67704	64967

CHARITIES COMMISSION FINANCIAL REPORTS



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

PCC of ST MARY'S EATON SOCON			Charity No (if any)	1130537
Annual accounts for the period				
Period start date	Jan-21	To	Period end date	Dec-21

Section A Statement of financial activities

Recommended categories by activity	Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds £ F01	Restricted income funds £ F02	Endowment funds £ F03	Total funds £ F04	Prior year funds £ F05
Incoming resources (Note 3)						
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	S01	134,357	37,513	-	171,870	153,154
Charitable activities	S02	5,179	277	-	5,456	2,308
Other trading activities	S03	8,187		-	8,187	5,493
Investments		24		-	24	179
Separate material item of income	S05	-	-	-	-	-
Other	S06	-	1,565	-	1,565	992
Total	S07	147,747	39,355	-	187,102	162,126
Resources expended (Note 6)						
Expenditure on:						
Mission & Charitable Giving		9,843			9,843	11,569
Parish Share		74,849			74,849	75,828
Ministry	S08	5,631	8,524		14,155	8,342
Youth Work		328	475		803	733
Building Costs	S09	16,386	33,973		50,359	22,579
Fundraising		1,325	538		1,863	976
Administration	S11	3,544	-		3,544	12,343
Staff Costs		24,600			24,600	29,192
Print, Post & Stationery		4,349			4,349	4,254
Depreciation		-			-	16,008
Charitable activities		-	-	-	-	-
Separate material item of expense	S10	-	-		-	
Other		-	-	-	-	-
Total	S12	140,855	43,510	-	184,365	181,824
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)						
Net gains/(losses) on investments	S13	6,868	-	4,155	-	2,713
Net income/(expenditure)	S14	24	-	-	-	179
Extraordinary items	S15	6,892	-	4,155	-	2,737
Transfers between funds	S16	-	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):	S17	-	-	-	-	-
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	S18	-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	S19	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	S20	6,892	-	4,155	-	2,737
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	S21	31,268	33,699	-	64,967	84,665
Total funds carried forward	S22	38,160	29,544	-	67,704	64,967

Section B Balance sheet

		Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds £ F01	Restricted income funds £ F02	Endowment funds £ F03	Total this year £ F04	Total last year £ F05
Fixed assets							
Intangible assets	(Note 15)	B01	-	-	-	-	-
Tangible assets	(Note 14)	B02	-	-	-	-	-
Heritage assets	(Note 16)	B03	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	(Note 17)	B04	-	-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets		B05	-	-	-	-	-
Current assets							
Stocks	(Note 18)	B06	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	(Note 19)	B07	3,498	2,290	-	5,788	766
Investments	(Note 17.4)	B08	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	(Note 24)	B09	39,111	27,254	-	66,365	68,419
Total current assets		B10	42,609	29,544	-	72,153	69,185
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(Note 20)	B11	4,449	-	-	4,449	4,218
Net current assets/(liabilities)		B12	38,160	29,544	-	67,704	64,967
Total assets less current liabilities		B13	38,160	29,544	-	67,704	64,967
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	(Note 20)	B14	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities		B15	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets or liabilities		B16	38,160	29,544	-	67,704	64,967
Funds of the Charity							
Endowment funds	(Note 27)	B17	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted income funds	(Note 27)	B18	-	29,544	-	29,544	33,699
Unrestricted funds		B19	38,160	-	-	38,160	31,268
Revaluation reserve		B20	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds		B21	38,160	29,544	-	67,704	64,967

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval dd/mm/yyyy
R Notley	R B NOTLEY	24/02/2022
T Robb	T S Robb	24/02/2022

Note 3

Analysis of income

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
	Analysis					
Donations and legacies:	Donations and gifts	102,767	26,479	-	129,246	117,093
	Gift Aid	21,949	5,046	-	26,995	24,783
	Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
	General grants provided by government/other charities	9,608	5,400	-	15,008	10,423
	Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance donations	-	-	-	-	-
	Donated goods, facilities and services	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	33	588	-	621	855
	Total	134,357	37,513	-	171,870	153,154
Charitable activities:	Fundraising Events	1,185	277	-	1,462	591
	Church Hall Lettings	3,994	-	-	3,994	1,717
		-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	5,179	277	-	5,456	2,308
Other trading activities:	Wedding and Funeral Fees	8,187	-	-	8,187	5,493
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	8,187	-	-	8,187	5,493
Income from investments:	Interest income	24	-	-	24	179
	Dividend income	-	-	-	-	-
	Rental and leasing income	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	24	-	-	24	179
Separate material item of income:		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
Other:	Conversion of endowment funds into income	-	-	-	-	-
	Gain on disposal of a tangible fixed asset held for charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
	Gain on disposal of a programme related investment	-	-	-	-	-
	Royalties from the exploitation of intellectual property rights	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	1,565	-	1,565	992
	Total	-	1,565	-	1,565	992
TOTAL INCOME		147,747	39,355	-	187,102	162,126

Other information:

All income in the prior year was unrestricted except for: (please provide description and amounts)

Donations and Gifts £4818; Gift Aid £322; events £591; grants £300

Where any endowment fund is converted into income in the reporting period, please give the reason for the conversion.

Within the income items above the following items are material: (please disclose the nature, amount and any prior year amounts)

£1565 for refund of VAT DCMS scheme

Note 4 Analysis of receipts of government grants

	Description	This year £	Last year £
Government grant 1	JOB RETENTION SCHEME	3,008	9,923
Government grant 2		-	-
Government grant 3		-	-
Other		-	-
	Total	3,008	9,923

Please provide details of any unfulfilled conditions and other contingencies attaching to grants that have been recognised in income.

Please give details of other forms of government assistance from which the charity has directly benefited.

Section C

Notes to the accounts

(cont)

Note 6

Analysis of expenditure

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year
Analysis				£	£
Expenditure on Ministry:					
Staff Expenses	1,384	-	-	1,384	1,500
Telephone	928	-	-	928	876
Fellowship	- 76	-	-	- 76	591
Pastoral	72	396	-	468	533
Worship	870	7,949	-	8,819	1,003
Services	1,738	36	-	1,774	2,898
Refreshments	87	-	-	87	185
Hall Hire	428	-	-	428	275
Outreach	200	143	-	343	481
	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure on Ministry	5,631	8,524	-	14,155	8,342
Expenditure on building/utilities					
Building Maintenance	5,991	33,973	-	39,964	12,552
Insurance	4,236	-	-	4,236	4,187
Heat, Light, Water	5,782	-	-	5,782	4,953
Cleaning	377	-	-	377	887
Total expenditure on buildings/utilities	16,386	33,973	-	50,359	22,579
Expenditure on admin costs					
IT	2,581	-	-	2,581	4,441
Other Admin/courses	963	-	-	963	649
architect fees/mgmnt svcs	-	-	-	-	5,400
Equipment purchases	-	-	-	-	1,853
	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure on Admin costs	3,544	-	-	3,544	12,343
Other					
Mission & Charitable Giving	9,843	-	-	9,843	11,569
Parish Share	74,849	-	-	74,849	75,828
Youth Work	328	475	-	803	733
Fundraising	1,325	538	-	1,863	976
Staff Costs	24,600	-	-	24,600	29,192
Print, Post & Stationery	4,349	-	-	4,349	4,254
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	16,008
Total other expenditure	115,294	1,013	-	116,307	138,560
Separate material item of expense					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	140,855	43,510	-	184,365	181,824

Other information:

Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Activity or programme	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support Costs	Total this year	Total prior year
	£	£	£	£	£
Activity 1					
Activity 2					
Other					
Total					

Prior year expenditure on charitable activities can be analysed as follows:

Within the expenditure items above the following items are material: (please disclose the nature, amount and any prior year amounts)

Note 11 Paid employees
Please complete this note if the charity has any employees.

11.1 Staff Costs

	This year £	Last year £
Salaries and wages	24,499	29,015
Social security costs	-	-
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	101	177
Other employee benefits	-	-
Total staff costs	24,600	29,192

Please provide details of expenditure on staff working for the charity whose contracts are with and are paid by a related party

Please give details of the number of employees whose total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) fell within each band of £10,000 from £60,000 upwards. If there are no such transactions, please enter 'true' in the box provided.

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000

Band	Number of employees
£60,000 to £69,999	
£70,000 to £79,999	
£80,000 to £89,999	
£90,000 to £99,999	
£100,000 to £109,999	

Please provide the total amount paid to key management personnel (includes trustees and senior management) for their services to the charity

11.2 Average head count in the year

The parts of the charity in which the employees work

	This year Number	Last year Number
Fundraising	-	-
Charitable Activities	-	-
Governance	-	-
Other	5	5
Total	5	5

11.3 Ex-gratia payments to employees and others (excluding trustees)

Please complete if an ex-gratia payment is made.

Please explain the nature of the payment

Please state the legal authority or reason for making the payment

Please state the amount of the payment (or value of any waiver of a right to an asset)

11.4 Redundancy payments

Please complete if any redundancy or termination payment is made in the period.

Total amount of payment

The nature of the payment (cash, asset etc.)

The extent of redundancy funding at the balance sheet date

Please state the accounting policy for any redundancy or termination payments

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
-----------	-----------------------	--------

Note 19 Debtors and prepayments

Please complete this note if the charity has any debtors or prepayments.

19.1 Analysis of debtors

Trade debtors
Prepayments and accrued income
Other debtors

This year £	Last year £
325	
5463	491
0	275
5788	766

Total

Please complete 19.2 where a material debtor is recoverable more than a year after the reporting date.

19.2 Analysis of debtors recoverable in more than 1 year (included in debtors above)

Trade debtors
Prepayments and accrued income
Other debtors

This year £	Last year £
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
Total -	-

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
-----------	-----------------------	--------

Note 20 Creditors and accruals

Please complete this note if the charity has any creditors or accruals.

20.1 Analysis of creditors

Accruals for grants payable
Bank loans and overdrafts
Trade creditors
Payments received on account for contracts or performance-related grants
Accruals and deferred income
Taxation and social security
Other creditors

Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
939	-	-	-
900	1,150	-	-
2,610	1,497	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	1,571	-	-
Total 4,449	4,218	-	-

20.2 Deferred income

Please complete this note if the charity has deferred income.

Please explain the reasons why income is deferred.

Movement in deferred income account

Balance at the start of the reporting period
Amounts added in current period
Amounts released to income from previous periods
Balance at the end of the reporting period

This year £	Last year £
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

Note 24

Cash at bank and in hand

Short term cash investments (less than 3 months maturity date)

Short term deposits

Cash at bank and on hand

Other

Total

This year £	Last year £
-	-
46,015	46,011
20,350	22,408
-	-
66,365	68,419

Section C		Notes to the accounts (cont)							
Note 27		Charity funds							
27.1 Details of material funds held and movements during the CURRENT reporting period									
Please give details of the movements of material individual funds in the reporting period together with a balancing figure for 'Other funds'. The 'Total funds' figure below should reconcile to 'Total funds' in the balance sheet.									
* Key: PE - permanent endowment funds; EE - expendable endowment funds; R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and U - unrestricted funds									
Fund names	Type PE, EE R or UR *	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £	
FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS	R		22,132	36,106	-	34,219	-	24,019	
OUTREACH	R		1,479	506	-	396	-	1,589	
YOUTH EVENTS	R		617	57			-	674	
WORSHIP SUPPORT	R		7,425	525	-	7,529	-	421	
CHURCH GROUPS	R		1,294	1,230	-	1,366	-	1,158	
OTHER	R		752	931	-		-	1,683	
	R						-	-	
	R						-	-	
	R						-	-	
	R						-	-	
	R						-	-	
Other funds	N/a	N/a	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Funds			33,699	39,355	-	43,510	-	29,544	

Note 27 **Charity funds (cont)**

27.3 Transfers between funds

	Reason for transfer and where endowment is converted to income, legal power for its conversion	Amount
Between unrestricted and restricted funds		
Between endowment and restricted funds		
Between endowment and unrestricted funds		

27.4 Designated funds

Planned use	Purpose of the designation	Amount
future projects	fund set aside for a variety of future projects under feasibility study	20790

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

14 The Paddock
Eaton Ford
St Neots
Cambs
PE19 7SA

To Eaton Socon PCC
Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention 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 2011 Act and section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met or to which in my opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Roger Brittain FCA
15/ 02/2022

Accounts

Annual Report

2020

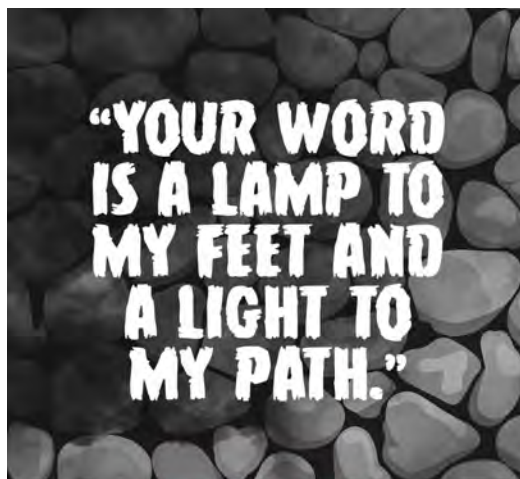


St Mary's Eaton Socon

THE CHURCH ON THE GREEN

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PSALM 119:105

Vicar's Welcome



Welcome to St Mary's Eaton Socon's 2020 Annual Report.

In some of the 2020 Christmas videos and services, I said '*No one would have believed last Christmas (2019), what the world would face in 2020*'. 2020 and indeed much of 2021 will be remembered in history as a time when lives all around the globe were impacted by Covid-19. Whilst this has been an invisible enemy, we can visibly see the effects this pandemic has had on so many people - stress, pain, suffering, and in many cases, the loss of loved ones.

The impact Covid19 has had in our communities is huge, especially when it has resulted in the temporary closure of all but essential services at times, including schools and church buildings. Because the church is the people and is all about people living in relationship with both God and each other, this has been a particularly difficult time - we have been 'starved' of our normal interactions with each other, hence why this Annual Report contains fewer reports due to the fact that groups have not been able to meet! You see, God created us to be relational beings - beings that mirror the way the Father, Son and Holy Spirit relate to each other.

Living in the current age, we give thanks for modern technologies ranging from the Phone to the Internet, including Video conferencing - all these have meant it has been possible for many people to continue engaging with each other, but it's not the same as sitting down with people over a coffee or a great meal and sharing life together!

Yet one of the positive things to come out of this situation is that it has served as a wake up call to the Church (in general) in that most of its past ministries have focused on those able to attend them. Yes, St Mary's is blessed with an amazing Pastoral Care Team who visit so many people unable to get to church and who have faithfully kept in contact with people throughout this challenging time (do read their report), yet going forward, the church needs to review and explore other ways of connecting with people on a regular basis. The use of live-streaming Sunday services, for example, has enabled us to reach a much wider audience than ever before and needs to continue!

This means there is no returning to what was - rather we are called to move forward into what is uncharted territory. This will involve the leadership reviewing all the church's ministries, how we do things and what needs to change to help the church to grow. This is an exciting time for us all - the question is, what part will *you* play in all of this?

As we journey together, may Psalm 119:105 be our guide:

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

With every blessing
Timothy Robb



Churchwarden's Report

2020/2021 was my 6th term as Churchwarden, and it's been an unusual year to say the least. We have seen 2 lockdowns to date which has meant that our traditional services have sadly been very much reduced over the period and we have seen the advent of streamed services on a Sunday morning.

Whilst streamed services and coffee Zoom meetings are not a complete substitute for traditional services and fellowship they can and do engage with large numbers of people. A huge amount of work has been put in to make this possible and I would like to thank everybody involved in making this possible and Tim in particular for leading this.

A lot of work has gone on behind the scenes to make the church Covid safe and I would like to thank all those people involved in additional cleaning, ushering and track and tracing who all do so much to help keep us safe.

Since David Hesketh joined me as Churchwarden in 2019, he has made a big contribution to the running of the church which is very much appreciated.

I would like to thank our team of Assistant Churchwardens: Margaret Lygoe, Jane Gogarty, Brian Elliott and Richard de Fraine, Martin Pooley, Gavin Chapman, Darren Smith, Len Thomas, Yvonne Bragbury-White, and more recently Corrie Verduijn for their support. Margaret Lygoe has recently stepped down and I would like to extend thanks and appreciation to her for all her help and support.

I would like to thank the Sidespeople for the contribution they have made to the smooth running of the church. Also, of course to our wonderful Cleaner Teresa and Caretaker Roy, who is now carrying out Verger duties in addition to his Caretaker role.

Future Developments

During the period of lock down we have installed a large shed behind the church hall which is used to store items previously housed in the church hall. This will allow the store rooms on the north side of the hall to be converted into the upgraded kitchen we so badly need. The kitchen upgrade is scheduled to be completed this year, subject to donations. Watch this space for more news coming soon.

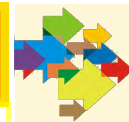
The church organ has been removed which frees up a very useful space next to the vestry which will provide an additional room as part of the planned upgrade of the church. Many thanks to Richard de Fraine whose hard work made this possible.

For the longer term we have plans to upgrade both the church and the church hall to allow St Mary's to better serve our members and the community.

Finally, I would like to thank David Hesketh for his very capable running of the M Team who do so much behind the scenes to keep the church running.

Edward Jarvis
Churchwarden

Safeguarding Report



St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon is committed to being a safe place for all and we are working with the Diocesan guidelines to ensure this is maintained. The St Mary's 'Safeguarding for All Policy' was updated in 2019 to reflect ongoing changes within the church. It is based upon the Diocesan Safeguarding policies 'Protecting All God's Children' and 'Promoting A Safe Church' (which covers vulnerable adults). St Mary's Church has adopted the principles and practices of safer recruitment.

During the lockdown restrictions of 2020, many of the activities of church groups have been suspended, though some have continued in online forms. The Pastoral Team assumed an important role and in conjunction with the co-ordinator relevant safeguarding points were addressed. In line with Diocesan recommendations, DBS checks have continued to be carried out for all those working with children or vulnerable adults online, over the phone or socially distanced face-to-face. and records are maintained to reflect this and to indicate when rechecks after 5 years are required.

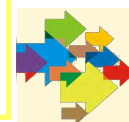
All Safeguarding Training is now being delivered online. C0 which is a one hour basic course; C1 which is a two hour extension course and C2 is the face-to-face course which is now delivered via Zoom. Records are kept of those who have undergone Safeguarding training so that, in line with Diocesan recommendations, renewal every three years can be prompted.

There is a regular Safeguarding item on PCC agendas allowing for the PCC to be kept informed on Safeguarding matters and to discuss initiatives as they arise. St Mary's Church is now on the Parish Dashboard, a system for ensuring that all necessary Safeguarding requirements have been completed.

Names and contact details of the vicar, the Safeguarding Officer and the Children's Advocate are displayed within the church along with advice helpline numbers. This information is also clearly signposted on the parish website. If there are any Safeguarding matters that need to be brought to our attention please contact any of these people in confidence.

Jane Gogarty

Safeguarding Officer



PCC Report

It is safe to say that 2020 was a very different year for the PCC, with the majority of meetings having to be conducted on zoom due to the Covid pandemic. Despite a different way of meeting, the format stayed the same, with a time at the start of each meeting for a short reflection and prayer, led by one of the PCC. This is followed by a brief time when members can speak about events happening in their lives. Time is always set aside during the meetings for prayer for the items discussed. During the first lockdown there was a break during the meeting to give members opportunity to join in with 'clap for NHS' if that was their wish.

As a lot of church activities have had to be postponed during the year, the greater part of the PCC meetings related to the challenges St Mary's faced during lockdown, including finance, service streaming and related expense.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Treasurer, Roy Notley, presents a full review of the accounts at each meeting for general, designated and restricted funds. Constant topics are: the predicted general fund deficit, reviews of expenditure against budget and ways to save where possible. The 2021 budget was discussed and revised many times due to the uncertainty of any return to 'normal'. The 10th version, based on the assumption that there would be a gradual return towards normality during the second half of 2021, was finally agreed as late as January 2021.

It was agreed at the April meeting that staff should be furloughed. This enabled us to retain all employees on full pay yet, at the same time, reclaim part of their remuneration from the Government.

Facilities for online giving were set up on the website.

MINISTRY

The PCC supported the theme of 'Hope' for the services at Christmas. It was recognised that the number of Christmas services would be fewer and with greatly reduced congregations, due to safeguarding restrictions. Online attendance however exceeded our expectations!

At the beginning of the year the formation of a new Creation Care Group was approved to encourage people to be more involved in looking after our environment. The Group are in the initial stages of considering various projects including the feasibility of installing solar panels to the Church roof.

In April a weekly news update, together with printed versions for those without online facilities, was initiated. This has been much appreciated.

The purchase of new Church Bibles was approved, with discussion on whether to purchase larger print blue Bibles, or smaller red ones, which were the cheaper options. Only one person voted for the cheaper ones! Yes, you've guessed it, the Treasurer!!

Due to the pandemic the topic of children taking communion was not discussed further. It remains as an agenda item for discussion in 2021/2022.

PCC Report (continued)



FABRIC

The PCC resolved to remove and dispose of the pipe organ by sale at the earliest opportunity. This was completed in October 2020.

The PCC were advised that the lightening conductor repair had taken place and the tower clock and chime had also been repaired.

Feedback from the DAC on the Church Reordering and Hall Redevelopment Plans was positive. A business case justifying the expansion of the hall is to be prepared.

ADMIN

Various Officers were elected and a review of Church Policies took place.

A staffing proposal to increase the hours of the Vicar's PA by one hour per week from the beginning of February was passed unanimously.

PCC minutes are written up and, once ratified, displayed on the website and also with the Treasurer's Report in the South Porch.

My thanks go to the Trustees of the Eaton Socon PCC for all their work during this difficult year, to Edward Jarvis and David Hesketh, the Churchwardens, to the Assistant Churchwardens, to Jennifer Reed for taking the minutes at each meeting, to all the staff and to Rev'd Timothy Robb.

Brenda Notley
PCC Secretary

May the God of
HOPE fill you WITH all
JOY & PEACE

ROMANS 15 : 13



Treasurer's Report

CHURCH GENERAL ACCOUNT

Planned giving income held up well during the year despite the closure of the church due to the Covid19 pandemic. Cash collection income and giving by gift aid envelopes stopped during closure and were extremely low when the church was open with very limited numbers. There were no youth or fundraising activities.

Overall, income was around £14000 down on the previous year. Conversely, expenditure in certain areas was down by around £10000 from last year due to pandemic restrictions.

Staff were furloughed in full during the first lockdown and then at 50% hours after that. Furlough grants from government amounted to £9923 for whole year enabling us to pay full pay throughout. Income from the Gift Day raised almost £11000, much higher than we expected, but did not only ensure we covered shortfall of income against expenditure but also allowed us to compensate the designated fund by over £3000 lost due to zero fundraising.

The general fund thus ended the year with a gross surplus of £5252. The PCC made a decision to clear all remaining book value of assets this year. This has no effect on cashflow or available reserves.

DESIGNATED FUND

Income of £2517 was much lower this year as there were no fundraising events. Expenditure of £6377 on bases for shed and benches and £5400 for professional fees on future development plans reduced funds carried forward to £13961. £397 of this are net funds of youth groups. There is no balance left against Legacy.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Income of £2000 was for proceeds of disposal of Organ, though costs were incurred for Banner and dismantling of electric supply. Tower clock cost £2290. Utility fund received £800 and provided £315 of help out. SEND project income was £1378 with zero expenditure. Bible donations were £661 against cost of £1499. More donations have been received in 2021. Church groups income was £1040 and expenditure £642. Restricted fund income exceeded expenditure by £112 so funds carried forward are £33699. There are currently 21 separate restricted accounts.

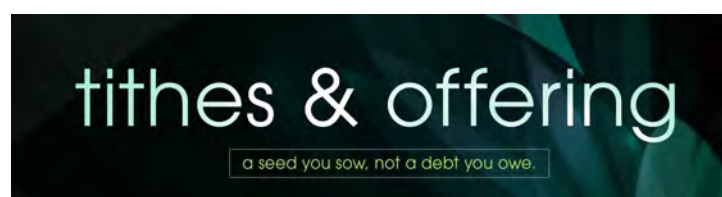
LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021

Trying to predict income and expenditure for 2021 was difficult.

Many different versions of a 'budget' were drawn up and debated, but it was not until mid January a final budget for 2021 was agreed. The view taken was that only a gradual return to a limited normal should be assumed from September onwards with continued furloughing of staff at 50% hours till the scheme ends in April. Staff pay is budgeted at full pay. The Mission budget will be constantly reviewed as this is currently set at £1000 less than would be expected. We think this budget is a best estimate and predicts a small deficit of £1084 for 2021. This again will be constantly reviewed throughout the year.

My thanks to all who have assisted in the preparation of these accounts. Particular thanks to Gavin and Tim for their solid support and assistance, especially with Sum up credit card facility and online donate buttons!

Roy B Notley
Treasurer



Planned Giving Report



Around 90% of St Mary's income needs to come from giving/donations to resource its ever rising costs of ministry/upkeep of buildings.

In 2020 regular giving was down by £3294 from 2019. Giving of all kinds was £4419 down on 2019. All giving amounted to 88.2% of expenditure.

<u>Giving was received via the following streams</u>		
Direct Debits (Parish Giving Scheme)	27929	20.58%
Bank Standing Orders	62974	46.40%
Dedicated Numbered Envelopes	5146	3.79%
Gift Aid envelopes	751	0.55%
Cash Offertories	1719	1.27%
Casual donations	3989	2.94%
Gift Aid Reclaim from HMRC	22349	16.47%
Gift Day	10864	8.00%
	135721	

<u>Monthly giving was by following groups</u>		
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Up to £25 per month	22	22
Between £26 and £50	29	28
Between £51 and £100	21	20
Between £101 and £150	8	7
Between £151 and £200	2	2
Between £201 and £300	9	9
Over £300	5	5
	96	93

At start of year there were 96 regular givers; 23 increased their regular amount and 3 decreased; 3 started regular giving but 6 stopped leaving 93 regular givers at end of 2020.

On behalf of PCC of St Mary's Eaton Socon we convey our sincere thanks for your sustained regular giving. Only 11 now remain on dedicated numbered envelopes. The budget for 2021 is encouraging as far as it is possible to predict at this time. Without your support, it would be impossible to maintain the services provided.

Remember, apart from regular giving by direct debit or bank standing order there are many other streams of income available for the occasional giver.

1. VIA ON-LINE BANKING: direct bank tfr to 'Eaton Socon PCC' 20.74.81 60347043
2. CREDIT/DEBIT CARD: by sum-up card reader using ipad
3. CHURCH WEBSITE by various donate buttons on www.eatonsocon.org
4. TEXT GIVING: by text message SMES to 70085 Default is £10
5. EASYFUNDRAISING or SMILE AMAZON: using St Mary's as nominated charity
6. GIFT AID ENVELOPES: by gift aid envelopes on finance table
7. MONEY: by cash or cheque in offertory baskets in church when open

We encourage you to continue to review the support you can afford which is so vital to St Mary's and we thank you for it. Thank you.

Roy B Notley
Treasurer



Youth - Reactors

The big news last year for everyone was having to go into lockdown at the end of March 2020 due to Covid19. From having a lively face to face Reactors session at church on Sunday mornings, Heather and I had to come up with ideas as to how we were going to continue on line. With the emergence of Zoom, previously unheard of before 2020, we started to put together some sessions for Reactors on line. Having no idea how it would work, or how successful it would be, we launched our first session on 5th April 2020, Palm Sunday. We have managed to offer a Reactors session every week since then, barring a few weeks in the summer holidays and over Christmas.

The Zoom sessions have been well attended and we have managed to cover a range of topics, some specifically created for online learning. For example, Mission Today put together a 3 week course aimed at the youth about Resilience and Wellbeing, Prejudice and Discrimination and Love. All teaching was bible based and delivered by young people. Reactors also enjoyed doing the Creation Care Course as well as going through Julie Robb's course, The Upside-Down Kingdom, during Advent.



To kick off 2021 we have started The Bible Course written and presented by Andrew Ollerton which is taking us through the events of the bible from Genesis to Revelation.



As part of each session we set weekly challenges, related to the bible, and listen to worship songs which the youth choose. As well as meeting on Sundays, Reactors helped clear the church yard last October of felled trees, which they made into log piles for the wildlife and also managed to make bacon butties for the Ground Force team to share afterwards.

They took part in tree planting during November as well as enjoying putting together shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child Operation and as the third lockdown had not affected Eaton Socon before Christmas they were still able to meet up for their Christmas get together at Costa Coffee.

Whilst this year has not been ideal by any means, Heather and I are pleased to report that we have had an enjoyable time throughout with a regular gathering of our youth and we feel blessed that we have been able to continue to teach them about the good news of Jesus. We ask for your prayers that this may continue.

Julia Chapman & Heather Arnold
Reactor Leaders



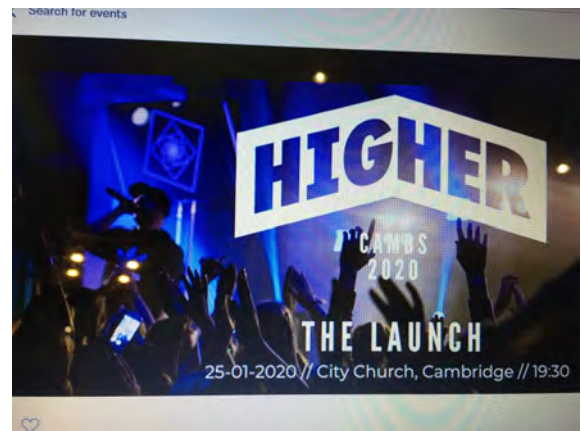
Youth - Fusion



2021 kicked off to a great start with the Youth been fully refreshed from their Christmas break. Fusion continued to be a time where lots of energy was expended with team games, just dance, table tennis, pool, snooker, and 100 ways min on how to loll over/under/next to a beanbag!

As a group we continued to attend Crossfire and went to the launch of the Higher Tour in Cambridge. Here the youth got to see what was instore when the tour came to St Neots, spend time worshipping our amazing God and even having a selfie with the band itself.

Then bang!! Covid arrived and along with it came lockdown! Now the question we posed to ourselves was how could we support our Youth in an ever changing world, however rising to the challenge and becoming best mates with our new BFF called Zoom, we moved online.



For the next five months we had the most hilarious time playing games, catching up on our week, and checking out each other's Brucie Bonus. Brucie Bonus or BB's, what's that you may say? These were little challenges set by either myself, Julia or the church linked to what we were learning in Reactors on Sunday or the church service. However knowing what Youth are like, we demanded evidence and every participant had to post a picture on our WhatsApp group chat.

BB's set ranged from photos of hope, love, resilience, what makes us happy and even evidence of Youth performing jobs around the home....I have to say that was definitely mine and Peter's favourite!!! For their hard work, the Youth were rewarded with a treat which generally tended to be hand delivered on a Tuesday. It's quite amazing what Youth will do for food!

The summer came and went and unfortunately Newday 2020 was cancelled. A great sadness was felt by all especially as we went on to later learn Newday won't be back for 2021 because of the uncertainty of how this year would play out. However not be phased, we celebrated exam results both GCSE and A levels, end of year tests/modules and even a 25th wedding anniversary. Birthdays also continued to be celebrated with delivery of cake, personalised card and even a candle to blow out!



Leading up to September, we received the great news Youth groups could once again meet up. With the weather keeping warm for the first few weeks and armed with tuck, hot chocolate, blankets and camping chairs, we met up in a local park near Julia. It was a complete joy to see the Youth once again back together, just the way our God planned.



Youth - Fusion (continued)

Once the nights drew in, we moved back in to the church hall along with added restrictions to keep us safe. Obviously this brought a new challenge....social distancing games....ok we thought, we can do this! Now Taskmaster is our new BFF!

The months continued and the Youth were able to take part in Tree planting for the council, help clear the churchyard, attend the Higher Tour night at SNEC, give generously to enable us to fill two Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes and to finish with a social distance Christmas party. One of our lasting memories of the party is the resurrection of the dinosaur and the Youth throwing sweets, chocolate and cream at a fellow Youth to make the best sweet face ever from a distance of 2 metres!



We hope and pray 2021 will be better, however we think we can honestly say, we have had a great year, though different to what was planned. We have learnt so many new things about each other, supported each other through difficult times and had so many laughs, not even Covid can keep us down.

Roll on 2021.....

Peter and Heather Arnold
Fusion Leaders

Community Children's Work

Since Liz Faulkner joined the staff in 2017, our Children's work in the Community has increased dramatically! This is completely separate from ACTIOS's work, yet complements the ever increasing Christian presence from local churches in our schools and community.

Due to Covid-19, 2020 was very different to what we anticipated. In order to help the church's budget, Liz was sadly furloughed in April, returning to part time work in August, before going on Adoption leave in December! I eagerly await Liz's return in the late Autumn of 2021, not least to get the SEND Project up and running!

Since March, the church's website continues to be populated with great Family resources - do check them out. In Advent, we launched 'Christingle @ Home' which involved assembling and delivering over 60 Christingles to people throughout the community - thanks to both Liz and Jennifer for sorting this!

I have participated in a number of Zoom based School Assemblies and produced a few video based talks too! All in all, it's been good to keep in contact with so many young people through this challenging time. Do continue to pray for them.

Timothy Robb

Prayer 'Mail'



Due to the Pandemic, Praying by email has been a vital life line for St Mary's.

Throughout this time, Prayer mail has been very active and I would like to thank each and everyone who prays.

As we know God hears every cry and it is a great privilege to offer up our prayers for people, their families, friends and anyone who is known to us that need God's help.

For anyone who does not know about prayer mail, this is how it works:

- Prayer requests are emailed to prayer@eatonsocon.org
- These are then circulated via email to around 35 people who pray for requests
- If anyone would like to be added to the prayer mail circulation, please let me know.

In addition, a new initiative launched in December was the Virtual Prayer Wall on the Church's website. This enables people to add prayers of thanksgiving and requests on the website which can be prayed by everyone! Do visit www.eatonsocon.org to make use of this.

May God bless you all

Barbara Jarvis
Prayer Co-Ordinator

Life Groups

Life Groups are small groups of six to twelve people that meet on weekdays usually during the school term to share Life together!

This year, due to Covid19, some groups have been unable to meet whilst others have met via Zoom. The continuing contact has been an important part of people supporting each other.

During the past year, Bible Study series have included:

- A Focus on Creation Care and our responsibilities
- Loving Justice
- The Book of Ruth
- The Book of Ezekiel

Looking ahead to 2021, two series we are looking forward to studying are:

- The Prayer Course II: Unanswered Prayer (during Lent)
- The Wellbeing Course (after Easter)

If you're not in a Life Group and would like to join a group for one or both of these series, please do contact us.

Julie & Timothy Robb
Life Group Co-Ordinators



Pastoral Care Team

Early in the year, two additional members, Brenda and Ian Ashford, joined our team, which is now 13 people, including two clergy. We work closely with the church safeguarding officer, who ensures our policies and team members' training and DBS checks are up-to-date.

Most of our day-to-day communication between team members is via WhatsApp. Activity is recorded on google sheets. We now have a team mobile phone number which is on the church website for anyone in need to use.

This year can be divided in two parts:

- 1st January to 19th March which was "normal"
- 20th March till 30th December which was during the restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic

Around 20th March we:

- launched "St Mary's Connected", a programme to regularly contact, usually by phone, those in the congregation who were likely to be isolated and less supported. These included people not in Life Groups. A list of names was drawn up and each team member agreed to be responsible for contacting, initially weekly, their list of people
- suspended face-to-face meetings, pastoral visits and care home worship visits
- arranged weekly team meetings via Zoom for support and to aid communication. Latterly in 2020 we reduced the meetings to monthly, as there was less need.

As the attached spreadsheet shows, the team was particularly busy in the months April to July, during the first "lockdown". The system worked well and feedback was positive.

We look forward to 2021 and a time when restrictions are no longer needed. This will provide an opportunity to evaluate what we have achieved during the pandemic and our aims for the future. I welcome thoughts and suggestions from the team and members of the congregation.

My sincere thanks are due to every team member. Much has been achieved by their hard and cheerful work in challenging times. I have also been grateful for the wise counsel of our team leader, Rev'd Tim Robb, who is always available when we need him.

Roger Peppiatt
Pastoral Care Administrator



Pastoral Care Team 'Stats'



SUMMARY OF PASTORAL CARE ACTIVITY 2020 (as recorded on the team's google sheet)															
	Visit for other reasons*	Visit Respite	Visits to give HC	Funeral Preparation	Meal provision at home	Hospital Visit	Provision of Transport	Phone calls	Other (eg text, letter)	Care Home Worship	Unplanned Meetings**	TOTALS			
January	4	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	10			
February	4	0	0	0	0	1	13	5	0	3	0	26			
March	4	0	1	0	2	0	0	81	54	3	0	145			
April	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	231	28	0	0	260			
May	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	230	32	0	4	268			
June	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	172	32	0	8	214			
July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	139	33	0	8	180			
August	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	112	13	0	5	134			
September	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	67	4	0	4	75			
October	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	51	7	0	22	84			
November	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	13	0	10	113			
December	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	73	23	0	5	112			
TOTALS	20	0	1	0	18	1	16	1251	239	9	66	1621			

* e.g. visit to deliver papers or medications

** e.g. after church or in the park whilst walking



Flower Management

We started 2020 with two fresh flower displays in church each week, as usual. However it soon turned out to be a very different year indeed to what we were all expecting and the first lockdown in March meant that services went online. In view of this faux flower arrangements were put in place – two in the nave and one at the altar.



We arranged flowers for two 'In Memoriam' displays in January and February and arranged three pedestals of flowers for a wedding in February.

Regrettably it was not possible to arrange special flowers in church to celebrate Easter this year given coronavirus. However moving on through the year we did restart fresh flowers in church from September.



We were very pleased to be able to mark Harvest on Sunday 11 October with special arrangements rejoicing in the provision of crops, fresh produce and flowers that God richly supplies. The photos above and left show two of the displays in church for that occasion. The team of ladies who helped all wore masks and we worked socially distanced. There was no 'tea and cake' and we will certainly have to make up for that next year!

The theme for Christmas this year was based on Romans Chapter 15 verse 13: *'May the God of Hope fill you with all Joy and Peace'.*

God's gifts of Hope, Joy and Peace were reflected in the windowsill and pedestal displays through the addition of small and larger gifts each labelled Hope, Joy or Peace. Here you can see examples of the windowsill and pedestal displays.



I would like to express my thanks for the gifts received this year and particularly to TLCobbold for their contribution to the Harvest and Christmas displays.

Special thanks goes to Annie Preece, Joy Martin, Jennie Smith, Brenda Ashford, Margaret Walker, Pam Branch, Marilyn Cobb, Julia Frape, Nanette Hesketh, Sylvia Stonham, Amanda Kipling and Eileen Crowe all of whom have made the church decoration and displays possible during an exceptionally challenging year.

Julia Findley - Flower Management Co-Ordinator

Foodbank



From the beginning of the year till Mid-March the four Foodbank Distribution Centres, including ours at St Mary's continued functioning as normal. However, all changed when the pandemic struck. In mid-March all centres closed and our 13 St Mary's volunteers were "furloughed". A smaller number, however, continued to help but with delivering.

The foodbank, like hundreds of others up and down the country was faced with an increasing demand for emergency food but without the usual army of volunteers to meet the needy and give them what they require. Each foodbank coped in different ways. St Neots, like many, switched over completely to a "delivery" service. The warehouse continues to be manned by a small number of volunteers, working in a socially distanced way. Several pairs of volunteers, nearly all husbands & wives, now deliver. They collect food parcels from the warehouse and deliver to clients' doorsteps. Inside the parcels is "signposting" information about where to get further help if required.

We decided to replace the Waitrose fruit and vegetable voucher scheme with a separate home delivery service. Frances and I run this from our garage. Every Tuesday we receive a delivery of oranges, apples, bananas, potatoes, onions, carrots and recently broccoli from a wholesaler. We then fill cardboard boxes, which are collected on Wednesday mornings to be distributed. The feedback has been very positive.

The office volunteers are working from home, which presents its challenges. Referrals from our partners in the community are now made either digitally or by phone. Numbers of people fed are up by over a third compared to the previous year. We have been greatly blest by generous donations of food and money, which has enabled us to comfortably maintain our service to those in need in our community.

We also continue to provide limited relief to those experiencing fuel (gas & electricity) poverty, in conjunction with funds made available from our vicar.

Our relatively new Acts 435 service has raised and disbursed over £7500 in the past year to clients in need of various household items such as repair to a washing machine, school uniforms, purchase of a microwave and many more (google Acts 435 to find out more).

We have been awarded a grant to have speedy access to Citizens Advice advisors, which has helped several of our clients. In spite of the logistical challenges, we managed to send out 259 Christmas hampers to those in particular need.

Much has been learned from working in a pandemic. We are now beginning to think what our service will look like when restrictions are eased.

There are many ways to help us:

- pray for our volunteers as they faithfully maintain this vital work
- give on line via Acts435
- give food via our boxes which are situated in most supermarkets

Thank you.

Roger Peppiatt
St Mary's Foodbank Representative



NEW FOR 2020!



The world at large is increasingly concerned at the developing environmental crises around us. We see this in climate warming, pollution of air, water and ground, and extinctions of species. St Mary's, along with much of the church, has been slow to engage with these issues, so at the beginning of 2020 the PCC set up the **Creation Care Group**.

The Group's task is to help us all understand how, if we love God the Creator, we must all love his creation too. Love, care and respect for God's creation are essential parts of our Christian obedience. We all need to put that into practice in our own households, but St Mary's also needs to do it in its own building and organisation. We've registered with Eco Church, an organisation that provides advice and support, and also a do-it-yourself survey to see what progress we're making on our green journey. We're aiming for their bronze award in mid-2021.

The Archbishops got us off to a flying start, as their Lent course was on the theme of creation. About 100 people took copies of one of the Lent booklets from church. Later, in September between lockdowns, a series of sermons focused on the theme of creation and our responsibilities for it, backed up by challenging video soundbites from Christians involved in care and conservation.



Covid has stopped us doing much in the church or grounds, but in ones and twos we've made all the toilets dual flush and put up pictures of their twinned latrines in Uganda. There was a great turnout for the Groundforce morning in October, when jobs included making bug and animal-friendly piles of logs and brushwood. We've put up some bird boxes around the grounds, and are working with the Council to make some areas more welcoming to wild-life.

Looking ahead to COP26, the major UN Conference on climate warming in Glasgow in November, we want to join with other churches in urging bolder action by the government.

As a part of the Church of England, we have a goal of 'net zero carbon' by 2030. The PCC agrees that solar panels need to be added to our development plans, along with other projects to improve the church lighting and insulation.

We look forward to being able to do group activities again, whether it be litter picking in our local area, or enjoying together some of the wonderful open spaces around us.

There's more information about us on the Church website at www.eatonsocon.org/creation-care/

Creation Care Group Members:

James Faulkner, Anthony Harris, David Hesketh, Edward Jarvis, Roger Peppiatt

Churches Together in St Neots (CTSN)



2020 started off well enough. We held a Christian Unity service at St Joseph's Catholic Church in January and the World Day of Prayer at our church at the beginning of March. An actual Working Group meeting was held on 11th March to plan the year ahead! From then on, since Covid restrictions hit, everything has been online. Plans for the Passion Play and Easter celebrations had to subsequently be cancelled and VE day events could not go ahead.

Individual churches struggled to adjust to the first lockdown, putting alternative arrangements in place in the best way they could. It has been a difficult time, but CTSN has worked to support everyone by providing a mechanism for communicating and supporting each other. The website was updated and provides access to all church websites together with information and means of contact. The Working Group has continued to meet by Zoom.

Rev Rick Mearkle's year as Chairperson concluded at the AGM (by Zoom) in September. He had done an amazing job in developing CTSN and establishing the new meeting format, enabling encouragement and prayer to be disseminated to those on the database. He set up the Black Cat Radio 9.30 Sunday service led by clergy from St Neots churches and he continues to organise the rota for this.

The 'Prayer for St Neots' was an idea from Rob McFarlane of River Church – the final version of video clips from our churches was put in place in time for Easter and can be accessed on **churchestogetherinstneots.org.uk**

Rev Ray Porter, from our church, took over as Chair from September and has brought fresh ideas and leadership to the group. The other five members of the Working Group remain in place. Ray initiated the 'Christmas Prayer for St Neots' and this was made through Rob – again available on the website.

Jim Fitzgerald from Open Door Church once more organised Christmas dinners for those spending Christmas alone. He has recently made available his '**999 Prayer Focus**' urging prayer for 9 elements related to the the present pandemic – this too can be found on the website.

Christian Aid donations were collected online. A £100 donation was made by CTSN in response to a £1 to make £67 appeal equating to £6700 for the World Food Programme. The balance would come from Christian Aid centrally.

A Lenten 'Thought for the Day' is being set up through Black Cat radio and will certainly give us something to look forward to pre-Easter.

We look forward to being able to adapt and support our churches collectively in the months ahead and are always ready to respond to ideas and suggestions along the way. Being able to meet in person once again seems a distant dream but is coming closer with the vaccine now available.

Pam Branch
SMES CTSN Representative & CTSN Secretary



Deanery Synod

There have been two meetings of the Deanery Synod during 2020 in March, and October.

In March, we heard from Rev'd Canon Tim Bull, Diocesan Director of Ministry whose subject was 'Thinking About Good News' He cited some examples from his own life, from the Decade of Evangelism, Fresh Expressions of Church and Living God's Love and gave the delegates an opportunity to consider some ways of spreading the Good News.

The July meeting was cancelled due to the ongoing pandemic restrictions.

The October meeting was held online. We were informed that Rev'd Guy Scott, who had been the Rural Dean since March 2018, had moved to the diocese of Bath and Wells. The process of finding a new Rural Dean was underway.

A talk was given by Rev'd Kelvin Woolmer, a former policeman, on The Clewer Initiative on modern slavery. It was decided to carry over the 2020 Deanery Project 'Home of Hope' in Malawi to 2021 as the current restrictions had prevented many of the fund raising events from taking place.

Planning was underway for the Deanery Lent talks, but was aware that these may not be able to take place.

Jane Gogarty
Deanery & Diocesan Synod Representative

Diocesan Synod

There were two meetings of Diocesan Synod in 2020 in March and October, the June meeting being cancelled because of the pandemic restrictions.

In March, in his address Bishop Alan encouraged us to **listen** but also to **hear** in a number of areas: the decision taken by General Synod to reach carbon net zero by 2030; the upcoming Lambeth Conference (which was cancelled due to the pandemic); the Living in Love and Faith project on the LGBTQ community; the growing Coronavirus pandemic; and the Big Conversation meetings underway in the diocese. Rev'd Mark Betson gave a talk on the challenges and positives of Rural Ministry.

The October meeting was held online. Bishop Alan in his address, spoke of the message the Church needed to provide during the current restrictions and spoke of the Hope we have in Christ. He also spoke of the findings from the Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and the resultant effects this will have on all parishes. Mr Colin Bird, Chairman of the DBF presented a renewed budget in the light of the current pandemic circumstances. A motion was passed that the Diocese of St Alban's would become an Eco Diocese with the aim of reaching the A Rocha Bronze Award by the end of 2022.

Jane Gogarty
Deanery & Diocesan Synod Representative

World Mission

Matthew Chapter 28 verses 19 and 20 reads:

'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age'.

This was Jesus commissioning the disciples but this command still remains as relevant to us today. St Mary's in supporting our World Mission Partners has continued to be involved in this great endeavour in 2020.

Our World Mission Partners have had many challenges to face this year which have been compounded by Covid19. Do please continue to pray for them in this ongoing situation in 2021. They are:

Dr Mano Emmanuel, Colombo Theological Seminary, Sri Lanka (£2000)

Teresha & Israel Karahukayo, Spring of Hope, Uganda (£2600)

Allen & Litsa McClymont, OMF International (£1600)

Chris & Elaine Hurst, Wycliffe Bible Translators (£1600)

Elaine Thomas, Actios in St Neots (£2500)

Due to the lockdowns that have been in place this year we started putting updates from the Mission Partners on the church website (under World Mission) as it was not possible to provide this information in paper copy.

We were very fortunate that this year's World Mission event was able to take place on Sunday 11 October 2020 although with Covid19 guidelines in place. We were very pleased that Nick Cole Director of Operation Christmas Child UK for Samaritan's Purse was able to come and speak to us about this year's appeal and of the impact that these shoebox gifts have had on many young lives over the years.

St Mary's has supported the shoebox appeal for a number of years and despite Covid19, 2020 was no exception. We thank all of you who participated and gave so generously and for the volunteers who took the boxes to the collection point. Over 70 shoeboxes were donated and brought hope and joy to many disadvantaged children in other countries.

The collection of used stamps for The Leprosy Mission has also continued this year but in a slightly different way as we asked for stamps to be stockpiled at home and to be brought in when the lockdowns come to an end.

Whilst it was not possible for everyone to sign Christmas Cards for the World Mission Partners this year they were sent with the church's blessing and love.

On behalf of the World Mission Team I would like to express sincere thanks to Ray and Janice Porter who over the years have been committed to leading and supporting the work of World Mission at St Mary's. They have stepped down during this year but we remain very grateful to them both for their service to World Mission.

Julia Findley



St Mary's Eaton Socon

THE CHURCH ON THE GREEN

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

and

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

with ACCOUNTS

Date 7 March 2021

11:15am

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APCM AGENDA – 7th March 2021

In accordance with the Notices fixed to the Notice Boards and on the Church Website, the Meeting of Parishioners for the purpose of appointing Churchwardens, and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held for St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon via Zoom on Sunday 7th March 2021 at 11.15am.

To be preceded by a combined service at 10am at which the Vicar's report will be presented.

Meeting of Parishioners AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last Annual Meeting of Parishioners
3. Appointment of Churchwardens
4. Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens
5. Any other business concerning the Meeting of Parishioners

ASSISTANT CHURCHWARDENS

Representing 9am Sunday Service

Brian Elliott

Jane Gogarty

Representing 10.30am Sunday Service

Yvonne Bradbury-White

Len Thomas

Gavin Chapman

Darren Smith

Martin Pooley

Corrie Verduijn

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS HELD ON SUNDAY 4th October 2020

The meeting was opened at 11:20am by Rev'd Timothy Robb. Mrs Jennifer Reed took the minutes.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies from: Roger & Pauline Brittain; Brian & Gyllian Harrison

2. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting of Parishioners

The minutes of the last meeting held on 24th March 2019 had been circulated prior to the event.

There were no amendments.

The meeting agreed the minutes to be correct; **proposal to accept the minutes by Mrs Carole Green , seconded by Mr Richard de Fraine. The motion was carried unanimously, with 5 abstentions.**

3. Appointment of Churchwardens

There were two nominations put forward:

Mr Edward Jarvis **proposed by** Mr Brian Elliott, **seconded by** Mrs Maggie Bailey.

Mr David Hesketh, **proposed by** Mrs Frances Peppiatt, **seconded by** Mrs Elizabeth Faulkner

Carried unanimously with no abstentions.

Tim thanked the Churchwardens for their support throughout this challenging time.

4. Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens

As part of succession planning we need to make sure people are prepared to take this role forward. The following names were put forward:

9am Service: Mr Brian Elliott; Mrs Jane Gogarty

Proposed by Mrs Barbara Jarvis **and seconded by** Mrs Margaret Lygoe.

Carried unanimously with no abstentions.

10:30 Service:

Mr Gavin Chapman; Mr Darren Smith; Mr Martin Pooley; Mr Len Thomas
Mrs Yvonne Bradbury-White; Miss Corrie Verduijn

Proposed by Dr Julie Robb **and seconded by** Mr David Crowe.

Carried unanimously with no abstentions.

5. Any other business

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 11.27pm.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last Annual Parochial Church Meeting
3. Matters arising from Minutes (not covered in agenda)
4. Notification of any other business
5. To receive a copy of the revised Electoral Roll
6. To consider a report of the Parochial Church Council (see Annual Report)
7. To accept the following 'Safeguarding of all' Statement:

St Mary's Church Eaton Socon affirms their commitment to safeguarding all God's people. We also confirm that the Trustees have complied with the duty to have 'due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The PCC are committed to being responsible for the wellbeing of everyone who comes through our doors.

8. To consider a report of the Treasurer and the independently examined accounts of the Parochial Church Council for 2020
9. Election of an Independent Examiner for the current financial year
10. Election of up to **Three (3)** lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council
11. To consider Reports of the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church, the Deanery Synod, various Committees and Activities of the Church
12. Results of elections to the Parochial Church Council
13. Consideration of any other business of Parochial or general church interest

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 4th October 2020

The meeting was opened at 11:27am by Rev'd Tim Robb.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were accepted as those recorded for the Annual Meeting of Parishioners. **Proposed by** Dr Julie Robb and **seconded by** Mrs Barbara Jarvis
Carried unanimously with no abstentions.

2. Minutes of last Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 24th March 2019 had been circulated prior to the event. There were no corrections.

It was proposed to accept minutes by Mr Roy Notley and **seconded by** Mrs Iris Slade.
Carried unanimously with 5 abstentions.

3. Matters arising from Minutes

There were none.

4. Notification of other business

None

5. To receive a copy of the revised Electoral Roll

Mrs Brenda Notley summarised additions and amendments to the Electoral Roll for 2019/20. The report had been circulated with this pack and the correct data had been issued. There were no questions relating to the report.

Proposed by Rev'd Ray Porter **seconded by** Mr Edward Jarvis. **Carried unanimously.**

6. To consider a report of the Parochial Church Council

Proposal to accept that the report is a correct summary of last year at the PCC.

Proposed by Dr Roger Peppiatt, **seconded by** Mrs Sue de Fraine.

Carried unanimously with no abstentions.

7. To accept the 'Safeguarding of all Statement'

"St Mary's Church Eaton Socon affirms their commitment to safeguarding all God's people. We also confirm that the trustees have complied with the duty to have "due regard to House of Bishops" guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

The PCC are committed to being responsible for the wellbeing of everyone who comes through our doors."

Acceptance of this statement was proposed by Mr David Hesketh, seconded by Mr Brian Elliott and carried unanimously, with no abstentions.

Barbara Jarvis thanked Jane Gogarty on behalf of the church members for the work that she does in relation to safeguarding. Tim also offered his thanks.

8. To consider a report of the Treasurer and the independently examined accounts of the Parochial Church Council for 2019

The main focus, as always, is on our General account where the everyday transactions appertaining to maintenance of building, church ministry and administration are allocated.

The account is detailed on page 16 of this APCM pack.

Income of 146255 was up by 8359 from previous year. Regular giving, income upon which we heavily depend, was up by 9025. Tax efficient giving, that's gift aid to you and me, enabled us to reclaim tax of 23350 from the government. If you currently give and are a tax payer but do not gift aid your donations, you could enhance what you give by 25p in the £ if you did gift aid it. In October last year we did need to run a Gift Day appeal as the prediction at that time indicated we were heading for a shortfall of income to expenditure and, thanks to your generosity, that appeal raised 9753. As a result, we were able to show a net surplus at end of year of 2043.

All giving represented 90% of our income, the other 10% was from hall lets, wedding and funeral fees and other activities where a fee was involved.

Expenditure of 151408 was up by 4607 from the previous year. Mission and charitable giving represented 10.6% of regular giving. The Parish Share contribution to the Diocese was 74917, up 2111 from the previous year, and accounted for 49.5% of our expenditure. The only other material increase in expenditure was on general events held during the year but were fully funded from fees charged.

With a surplus of £4600 before asset depreciation we were able to increase our general reserves to 12055. Better than ever before during my time as treasurer, but still represents only 8.2% of annual expenditure. Not a lot in reserve to keep us going in times of hardship, but better than no reserve at all!

Funds in the general account are unrestricted as are those in the next fund which sits alongside this called the designated fund. (page 18 in the pack, second column). These funds are for income raised and/or donated for future projects or improvements to faculty in and around this building. It is also the fund where any legacy or one-off donations are received, and no specific project is specified. The designation of these funds is at the discretion of the PCC.

We received 22138 income into this fund last year, 13932 by way of a legacy and 8206 from donations and the two major fundraising events of Mayday and Christmas Fayre.

Expenditure totalled 3624 leaving 18514 to be added to the designated reserve. The roof alarm CCTV system was funded from the legacy as was the printing and resourcing of the new welcome pack for people new to this parish. Those costs amounted to 7739 leaving

6193 legacy balance to carry forward in designated reserves and 16822 for future developments. That's a total of 23015 in the designated reserve.

Finally, the restricted fund covers everything where funds received are for a specific purpose. Page 17 gives a complete list of each restricted account. There are 20 in all! A total of £14069 was received of which 6235 were grants and 4148 was a vat refund on new church boiler costs from 2018. Only 2192 was spent on restricted projects. They are all ongoing.

So, in summary, carried forward to 2020 we had a total cash resource of 68657, 28318 better than at the start of 2019 split between 12055 general, 23015 designated and 33587 restricted. A much sounder beginning for which our gratitude is extended to you all.

At this point I would normally say a bit about what we foresee for the coming year, but as we are already into October what we foresaw and what has since happened since due to covid19 you will be aware is quite different. You should have already received a letter about supporting God's work with our Finances at St Mary's, and I encourage you to prayerfully consider its content and let God inspire you on what if anything you can do.

Thank you to all for your support of this ministry and its associated costs. May God bless you all.

There were no questions relating to the accounts.

The report was proposed by Mr Richard de Fraine, seconded by Dr Phil Barrett and carried unanimously.

Tim conveyed his thanks to Roy on behalf of the PCC

9. Election of an Independent Examiner for the current financial year

Mr Roger Brittain acted as Independent Examiner for our accounts. Thanks were given by Mr Brittain for the excellently prepared accounts.

Proposed by Mr Edward Jarvis seconded by Rev'd Ray Porter, and carried unanimously with no abstentions.

Tim thanked Roger Brittain for his work.

10. Election of up to 5 lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council

Two nominations were received:

Mr James Faulkner
Mrs Margaret Lygoe

These two nominations were **proposed by Mr Stephen Bailey and seconded by Mr Richard de Fraine and carried unanimously with no abstentions.**

11. Election of Three (3) Lay Representatives to the Deanery Synod.

We have three candidates for the Deanery Synod:

Mrs Jane Gogarty
Mr David Hesketh
Mr Edward Jarvis

These three nominations were **proposed by** Mrs Iris Slade and **seconded by** Mr Gavin Chapman **and carried unanimously with no abstentions.**

12. To consider reports of the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church Deanery Synod, various committees and activities of the Church

Acceptance of this report was **proposed by** Mrs Carole Robson **seconded by** Mrs Eileen Crowe **and carried unanimously with no abstentions.**

13. Results of elections to the Parochial Church Council

Elections were not required

14. Consideration of any other business of Parochial or general Church Interest

Barbara Jarvis thanked Tim and Julie for everything they had done for the church this past year and also for all they bring to the church.

On behalf of the churchwardens and the PCC David Hesketh thanked Tim for his hard work, dedication and for the way he works with others. David assured Tim that we appreciate all he does and he also thanked Julie and Sarah for their support.

Tim thanked the churchwardens for all they do. He also thanked Julie and Sarah for their support, particularly during lockdown. Tim thanked the staff and acknowledged that it has been a particularly tough year due to the pandemic and being furloughed. Tim also thanked Ray and George and his Life Group for their support this year. Finally Tim thanked God for His support, reminding us that God is our hope and our strength.

The meeting closed at 11:55 with the saying of the Grace.

MEMBERS OF THE PCC – 2020/21

Members of the PCC are either ex officio, or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules, or may be co-opted.

Incumbent	The Rev'd Timothy Robb	Chairman
Churchwardens	Mr Edward Jarvis Mr David Hesketh	
Treasurer	Mr Roy Notley	
PCC Secretary	Mrs Brenda Notley	
PCC Minute Taker	Mrs Jennifer Reed	
Diocesan Synod	Mrs Jane Gogarty	
Deanery Synod	Mrs Jane Gogarty Mr Edward Jarvis Mr David Hesketh	(until 2023) (until 2023) (until 2023)
Elected Members	Mr Gavin Chapman Mr David Crowe Mrs Eileen Crowe Mr James Faulkner Mrs Margaret Lygoe Mr Tom Salkield Mrs Iris Slade	(until 2021) (until 2022) (until 2022) (until 2023) (until 2023) (until 2022) (until 2022)

ELECTORAL ROLL 2021

The statistics of the roll as follows:-

The year 2021 started with 156 names on the electoral roll. During the year, the roll was revised and two names were added to the Electoral Roll since the last APCM (Oct 2020).

158 names are now listed who worship here at St Mary's Eaton Socon.

One item I would like to ask of every person, and that is should their name, address, telephone number or e-mail change in any way, please let the Church Office know so that the records can be kept up to date.

Alternatively, if you are using the Smartphone 'ChurchSuite', you can amend your own details any time! For more information about this, please contact the Church Office.

CONTACT Brenda Notley (01234) 589308
Electoral Roll Officer

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS 2020

St Mary's Eaton Socon Parochial Church Council Statement of Financial Activities as at:-

Dec-20

	CHURCH	DESIGNATED	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	LAST YEAR
RECEIPTS						
<i>Planned Giving</i>						
Bank	90903		90903		90903	84611
Envelopes	5146		5146		5146	8665
Tax Recovered	22349	1015	23364	322	23686	28488
Gift Day	10864		10864		10864	9753
Collections	2470		2470		2470	9781
Donations and Sundry Income	3989	1192	5181	5118	10299	16400
Legacies	0	0	0		0	13932
Youth Work	97	310	407	448	855	3310
Church Hall Lettings	1717		1717		1717	2655
Weddings and Funeral Fees	5493		5493		5493	5381
Fundraising Events	0	0	0	591	591	9033
Interest Received	179		179		179	206
TOTAL RECEIPTS	143207	2517	145724	6479	152203	192215
PAYMENTS						
GRANTS						
Missionary and Charitable Giving	11180		11180		11180	12401
Local Mission	2100		2100		2100	0
Other	389		389		389	220
MINISTRY						
Parish Share	75828		75828		75828	74917
Curate rent						
Staff Expenses	1500		1500		1500	3487
Telephone	876		876		876	1079
0-18						
Youth Work	193	175	368	365	733	4506
LIVING						
Fellowship	591		591		591	382
Pastoral	143		143	390	533	382
WORSHIP & PRAYER						
Worship	888		888	115	1003	868
Services	1399		1399	1499	2898	3240
Refreshments	185		185		185	264
Hall Hire	275		275		275	1339
OUTREACH						
Outreach	451		451	30	481	1035
Events	0	0	0	436	436	4873
BUILDINGS						
Building Maintenance	3036	6377	9413	3139	12552	4274
Prof Fees	3392	5400	8792		8792	0
Insurance	4187		4187		4187	4642
Gas	3252		3252		3252	3608
Electric	1541		1541		1541	2136
Water	160		160		160	396
Cleaning	887		887		887	407
MGMNT/ADMIN						
Staff Costs	17169		17169		17169	23785
Printing/copying	2796		2796		2796	3334
Post/Staty	809		809		809	678
Books/Posters	649	0	649		649	1838
IT	3442	0	3442	0	3442	2502
Courses/Conf	248		248		248	50
OTHER ADMIN	318		318		318	412
OTHER CHARGES	71		71	12	83	169
TOTAL PAYMENTS	137955	11952	149907	5986	155893	157224
Excess/(Deficit)	5252	-9435	-4183	493	-3690	34991

	REFURBISH	CHURCH	DESIGNATED	GENERAL	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
BT FWD	16008	12055	23015	51078	33587	84665
Net Movement in funds		5252	-9435	-4183	493	-3690
DEPN 2020	-16008			-16008		-16008
ASSET +	0	0		0		0
TFR			381	381	-381	0
	0	17307	13961	31268	33699	64967
FORECAST TO GO				0		0
	0	17307	13961	31268	33699	64967

St Mary's Eaton Socon Parochial Church Council
Income and Expenditure Statement
Church General Fund as at:-

Dec 20

	YEAR TO DATE		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE
RECEIPTS			
P Giving	90642	90903	261
STO/PGS Envelopes	8027	5146	-2881
Income Tax Recovered planned	21943	21269	-674
INCOME PLANNED GIVING	120612	117318	-3294
Income Tax Recovered oneoff & gfsd	2438	1080	-1358
Collections	9750	2470	-7280
Donations and Sundry Income	3940	3989	49
Legacies			
Youth		97	97
Church Hall Lettings	2600	1717	-883
Weddings and Funeral Fees	6260	5493	-767
Fundraising Events		0	
Interest Received	300	179	-121
INCOME OTHER	25288	15025	-10263
TOTAL RECEIPTS	145900	132343	-13557
PAYMENTS			
GRANTS			
Mission/Charitable Giving	11180	11180	
Local Mission	2100	2100	
Other	320	389	69
MINISTRY			
Parish Share	75828	75828	
Staff Expenses	2520	1500	-1020
Telephone	1084	876	-208
0-18			
Youth Work	800	193	-607
LIVING			
Fellowship	420	591	171
Pastoral	120	143	23
WORSHIP			
Worship	800	888	88
Services	2420	1399	-1021
Refreshments	240	185	-55
Hall Hire	1377	275	-1102
OUTREACH			
Outreach	1200	451	-749
Events			
BUILDINGS			
Building Maintenance	3900	3036	-864
Insurance	4268	4187	-81
Gas	3800	3252	-548
Electric	2050	1541	-509
Water	216	160	-56
Cleaning	360	887	527
MGMNT/ADMIN			
Staff Costs	26845	27092	247
Furlough grants		-9923	-9923
Printing/copying	3300	2796	-504
Post/Staty	600	809	209
Books/Posters	1000	649	-351
IT	2160	3442	1282
Courses/Conf	600	248	-352
Other Admin	360	318	-42
Other Charges	180	71	-109
TOTAL PAYMENTS	150048	134563	-15485
Excess/(Deficit)	-4148	-2220	1928
Depreciation of Assets	-4292	-16008	-11716
Gift Day		10864	10864
Transfers		-3392	-3392
Net Excess/(Deficit)	-8440	-10756	-2316

LAST YEAR		
2019	2020	VARIANCE
84611	90903	6292
8665	5146	-3519
23350	21269	-2081
116626	117318	692
	1080	1080
9781	2470	-7311
3980	3989	9
3310	97	-3213
2655	1717	-938
5381	5493	112
4316		-4316
206	179	-27
29629	15025	-14604
146255	132343	-13912
12401	11180	-1221
0	2100	2100
220	389	169
74917	75828	911
3487	1500	-1987
1079	876	-203
3327	193	-3134
382	591	209
62	143	81
830	888	58
3240	1399	-1841
264	185	-79
1339	275	-1064
420	451	31
3765	0	-3765
2784	3036	252
4642	4187	-455
3608	3252	-356
2136	1541	-595
396	160	-236
407	887	480
23785	27092	3307
	-9923	-9923
3334	2796	-538
678	809	131
1139	649	-490
2135	3442	1307
50	248	198
412	318	-94
169	71	-98
151408	134563	-16845
-5153	-2220	2933
-2557	-16008	-13451
9753	10864	1111
	-3392	-3392
2043	-10756	-12799

St Mary's Eaton Socon Parochial Church Council

Income and Expenditure Statement

Designated and Restricted Funds as at:- **Dec 20**

<u>DESIGNATED</u>	bt fwd	income	expends	tfrs	TOTAL
LEGACY BALANCE	6193	1100	7321	28	0
TFR TO GENERAL			-3392	-3392	0
LITTLE STARS/FRIDAY CLUB		310	175	262	397
GENERAL DESIGNATED	16822	1107	7848	3483	13564
	23015	2517	11952	381	13961

<u>RESTRICTED</u>	bt fwd	income	expends	tfrs	TOTAL
BOILER/ORGAN	9833	2000	850		10983
VESTRY	7000				7000
NAVE	1875				1875
KITCHEN	2033	144			2177
TOWER	2386		2291		95

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

UTILITY	418	800	315		903
LUNCH CLUB	576				576

OUTREACH

NEW DAY	372	120			492
LF CAMP	125				125

YOUTH EVENTS

WORSHIP	114		114		0
HYMNAL	397	50			447
PIANO	6979				6979

MUSIC

CRAFT	200				200
WED WELC	398	126	30		494
WLTD0	100	56			156
MENS		210	116		94
WOMEN	200	200	132		268
FUSION		448	364		84

CHURCH GROUPS

PASTORAL		286	75		211
SEND		1378			1378
BIBLES		661	1499		-838
GRANTS	581	0	200	-381	0

OTHER

Totals	33587	6479	5986	-381	33699
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22132

1479

617

7425

1295

752

CHARITIES COMMISSION FINANCIAL REPORTS



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

PCC of ST MARY'S EATON SOCON			Charity No (if any)	1130537
Annual accounts for the period				
Period start date	Jan-20	To	Period end date	Dec-20

Section A Statement of financial activities

Recommended categories by activity	Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year funds
		£	£	£	£	£
		F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
Incoming resources (Note 3)						
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	S01	147,266	5,888	-	153,154	170,791
Charitable activities	S02	1,717	591	-	2,308	11,688
Other trading activities	S03	5,493	-	-	5,493	5,381
Investments	S04	179	-	-	179	206
Separate material item of income	S05	-	-	-	-	-
Other	S06	992	-	-	992	4,149
Total	S07	155,647	6,479	-	162,126	192,215
Resources expended (Note 6)						
Expenditure on:						
Mission & Charitable Giving		11,569	-	-	11,569	12,621
Parish Share		75,828	-	-	75,828	74,917
Ministry	S08	6,308	2,034	-	8,342	12,076
Youth Work		368	365	-	733	4,506
Building Costs	S09	19,440	3,139	-	22,579	15,423
Fundraising		540	436	-	976	4,873
Administration	S11	12,331	12	-	12,343	3,173
Staff Costs		29,192	-	-	29,192	23,785
Print, Post & Stationery		4,254	-	-	4,254	5,850
Depreciation		16,008	-	-	16,008	2,557
Charitable activities		-	-	-	-	-
Separate material item of expense	S10	-	-	-	-	-
Other		-	-	-	-	-
Total	S12	175,838	5,986	-	181,824	159,781
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)	S13	- 20,370	493	-	- 19,877	32,228
Net gains/(losses) on investments	S14	179	-	-	179	206
Net income/(expenditure)	S15	- 20,191	493	-	- 19,698	32,434
Extraordinary items	S16	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers between funds	S17	381	- 381	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	S18	-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	S19	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	S20	- 19,810	112	-	- 19,698	32,434
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	S21	51,078	33,587	-	84,665	52,231
Total funds carried forward	S22	31,268	33,699	-	64,967	84,665

Section B Balance sheet

		Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total this year	Total last year
			£	£	£	£	£
			F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
Fixed assets							
Intangible assets	(Note 15)	B01	-	-	-	-	-
Tangible assets	(Note 14)	B02	-	-	-	-	16,008
Heritage assets	(Note 16)	B03	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	(Note 17)	B04	-	-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets		B05	-	-	-	-	16,008
Current assets							
Stocks	(Note 18)	B06	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	(Note 19)	B07	766	-	-	766	4,582
Investments	(Note 17.4)	B08	-	-	-	-	-
24)		B09	68,419	-	-	68,419	70,161
Total current assets		B10	69,185	-	-	69,185	74,743
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(Note 20)	B11	4,218	-	-	4,218	6,086
Net current assets/(liabilities)		B12	64,967	-	-	64,967	68,657
liabilities		B13	64,967	-	-	64,967	84,665
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	(Note 20)	B14	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities		B15	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets or liabilities		B16	64,967	-	-	64,967	84,665
Funds of the Charity							
Endowment funds (Note 27)		B17	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted income funds (Note 27)		B18		33,699		33,699	33,587
Unrestricted funds		B19	31,268		-	31,268	51,078
Revaluation reserve		B20				-	
Total funds		B21	31,268	33,699	-	64,967	84,665
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees			Signature		Print Name		Date of approval dd/mm/yyyy
			Roy Notley		R B NOTLEY		27/01/2021
			Timothy Robb		T S ROBB		27/01/2021

Note 3

Analysis of income

	Analysis	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
Donations and legacies:	Donations and gifts	112,275	4,818	-	117,093	127,560
	Gift Aid	24,461	322	-	24,783	25,989
	Legacies	-	-	-	-	13,932
	General grants provided by government/other charities	10,123	300	-	10,423	-
	Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance donations	-	-	-	-	-
	Donated goods, facilities and services	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	407	448	-	855	3,310
	Total	147,266	5,888	-	153,154	170,791
Charitable activities:	Fundraising Events	-	591	-	591	9,033
	Church Hall Lettings	1,717	-	-	1,717	2,655
		-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	1,717	591	-	2,308	11,688
Other trading activities:	Wedding and Funeral Fees	5,493	-	-	5,493	5,381
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	5,493	-	-	5,493	5,381
Income from investments:	Interest income	179	-	-	179	206
	Dividend income	-	-	-	-	-
	Rental and leasing income	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	179	-	-	179	206
Separate material item of income:		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
Other:	Conversion of endowment funds into income	-	-	-	-	-
	Gain on disposal of a tangible fixed asset held for charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
	Gain on disposal of a programme related investment	-	-	-	-	-
	Royalties from the exploitation of intellectual property rights	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	992	-	-	992	4,149
	Total	992	-	-	992	4,149
TOTAL INCOME		155,647	6,479	-	162,126	192,215

Other information:

All income in the prior year was unrestricted except for: (please provide description and amounts)

Donations and Gifts £8770; Gift Aid £989; events £161; other £4149

Where any endowment fund is converted into income in the reporting period, please give the reason for the conversion.

Within the income items above the following items are material: (please disclose the nature, amount and any prior year amounts)

£992 for refund of VAT DCMS scheme

Note 4

Analysis of receipts of government grants

	Description	This year £	Last year £
Government grant 1	JOB RETENTION SCHEME	9,923	-
Government grant 2		-	-
Government grant 3		-	-
Other		-	-
	Total	9,923	-

Please provide details of any unfulfilled conditions and other contingencies attaching to grants that have been recognised in income.

Please give details of other forms of government assistance from which the charity has directly benefited.

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 6 **Analysis of expenditure**

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year
	Analysis				£	£
Expenditure on Ministry:	Staff Expenses	1,500	-	-	1,500	3,487
	Telephone	876	-	-	876	1,079
	Fellowship	591	-	-	591	382
	Pastoral	143	390	-	533	382
	Worship	888	115	-	1,003	868
	Services	1,399	1,499	-	2,898	3,240
	Refreshments	185	-	-	185	264
	Hall Hire	275	-	-	275	1,339
	Outreach	451	30	-	481	1,035
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total expenditure on Ministry	6,308	2,034	-	8,342	12,076
Expenditure on building/utilities	Building Maintenance	9,413	3,139	-	12,552	4,234
	Insurance	4,187	-	-	4,187	4,642
	Heat, Light, Water	4,953	-	-	4,953	6,140
	Cleaning	887	-	-	887	407
	Total expenditure on buildings/utilities	19,440	3,139	-	22,579	15,423
Expenditure on admin costs	IT	4,441	-	-	4,441	2,502
	Other Admin/courses	637	12	-	649	671
	architect fees/mgmt svcs	5,400	-	-	5,400	-
	Equipment purchases	1,853	-	-	1,853	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total expenditure on Admin costs	12,331	12	-	12,343	3,173
Other	Mission & Charitable Giving	11,569	-	-	11,569	12,621
	Parish Share	75,828	-	-	75,828	74,917
	Youth Work	368	365	-	733	4,506
	Fundraising	540	436	-	976	4,873
	Staff Costs	29,192	-	-	29,192	23,785
	Print, Post & Stationery	4,254	-	-	4,254	5,850
	Depreciation	16,008	-	-	16,008	2,557
	Total other expenditure	137,759	801	-	138,560	129,109
Separate material item of expense		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		175,838	5,986	-	181,824	159,781

Other information:

Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Activity or programme	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support Costs	Total this year	Total prior year
	£	£	£	£	£
Activity 1					
Activity 2					
Other					
Total					

Prior year expenditure on charitable activities can be analysed as follows:

Within the expenditure items above the following items are material: (please disclose the nature, amount and any prior year amounts)

Note 11 Paid employees
Please complete this note if the charity has any employees.

11.1 Staff Costs

	This year £	Last year £
Salaries and wages	29,015	23,728
Social security costs	-	-
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	177	57
Other employee benefits	-	-
Total staff costs	29,192	23,785

Please provide details of expenditure on staff working for the charity whose contracts are with and are paid by a related party

Please give details of the number of employees whose total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) fell within each band of £10,000 from £60,000 upwards. If there are no such transactions, please enter 'true' in the box provided.

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000

Band	Number of employees
£60,000 to £69,999	
£70,000 to £79,999	
£80,000 to £89,999	
£90,000 to £99,999	
£100,000 to £109,999	

Please provide the total amount paid to key management personnel (includes trustees and senior management) for their services to the charity

11.2 Average head count in the year

The parts of the charity in which the employees work

	This year Number	Last year Number
Fundraising	-	-
Charitable Activities	-	-
Governance	-	-
Other	5	5
Total	5	5

11.3 Ex-gratia payments to employees and others (excluding trustees)
Please complete if an ex-gratia payment is made.

Please explain the nature of the payment

Please state the legal authority or reason for making the payment

Please state the amount of the payment (or value of any waiver of a right to an asset)

11.4 Redundancy payments

Please complete if any redundancy or termination payment is made in the period.

Total amount of payment

The nature of the payment (cash, asset etc.)

The extent of redundancy funding at the balance sheet date

Please state the accounting policy for any redundancy or termination payments

Note 14 **Tangible fixed assets**

Please complete this note if the charity has any tangible fixed assets

14.1 Cost or valuation

	Freehold land & buildings	Other land & buildings	Plant, machinery and motor vehicles	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
At the beginning of the year	-	-	-	23,830	23,830
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers *	-	-	-	-	-
At end of the year	-	-	-	23,830	23,830

14.2 Depreciation and impairments

	**Basis	SL or RB	SL or RB	SL or RB	SL	SL or RB	Straight Line ("SL") or Reducing Balance ("RB")
	** Rate				10%/25%		
At beginning of the year		-	-	-	7,822	7,822	
Disposals		-	-	-	-	-	
Depreciation		-	-	-	16,008	16,008	
Impairment		-	-	-	-	-	
Transfers*		-	-	-	-	-	
At end of the year		-	-	-	23,830	23,830	

14.3 Net book value

Net book value at the beginning of the year	-	-	-	16,008	16,008
Net book value at the end of the year	-	-	-	-	-

14.4 Impairment

Please provide a description of the events and circumstances that led to the recognition or reversal of an impairment loss.

--

14.5 Revaluation

If an accounting policy of revaluation is adopted, please provide:

<i>the effective date of the revaluation</i>	
<i>the name of independent valuer, if applicable</i>	
<i>the methods applied and significant assumptions</i>	
<i>the carrying amount that would have been recognised had the assets been carried under the cost model.</i>	

14.6 Other disclosures

- (i) *Please state the amount of borrowing costs, if any, capitalised in the construction of tangible fixed assets and the capitalisation rate used.*
- (ii) *Please provide the amount of contractual commitments for the acquisition of tangible fixed assets.*
- (iii) *Details of the existence and carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment to which the charity has restricted title or that are pledged as security for liabilities.*

* The "transfers" row is for movements between fixed asset categories.

** Please indicate the method of depreciation by deleting the method not applicable (SL = straight line; RB =

Note 19 Debtors and prepayments

Please complete this note if the charity has any debtors or prepayments.

19.1 Analysis of debtors

Trade debtors
Prepayments and accrued income
Other debtors

Total

This year £	Last year £
491	2155
275	2427
766	4582

Please complete 19.2 where a material debtor is recoverable more than a year after the reporting date.

19.2 Analysis of debtors recoverable in more than 1 year (included in debtors above)

Trade debtors
Prepayments and accrued income
Other debtors

This year £	Last year £
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
Total -	-

Section C**Notes to the accounts****(cont)****Note 20 Creditors and accruals***Please complete this note if the charity has any creditors or accruals.***20.1 Analysis of creditors**

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Accruals for grants payable	-	-	-	-
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-	-	-
Trade creditors	-	-	-	-
Payments received on account for contracts or performance-related grants	1,150	2,099	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	1,497	320	-	-
Taxation and social security	-	-	-	-
Other creditors	1,571	3,667	-	-
Total	4,218	6,086	-	-

20.2 Deferred income*Please complete this note if the charity has deferred income.**Please explain the reasons why income is deferred.***Movement in deferred income account**

Balance at the start of the reporting period

Amounts added in current period

Amounts released to income from previous periods

Balance at the end of the reporting period

This year £	Last year £
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

Section C**Notes to the accounts****(cont)****Note 24 Cash at bank and in hand**

	This year £	Last year £
Short term cash investments (less than 3 months maturity date)	-	-
Short term deposits	46,011	30,812
Cash at bank and on hand	22,408	39,349
Other	-	-
Total	68,419	70,161

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 27 **Charity funds**

27.1 Details of material funds held and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

Please give details of the movements of material individual funds in the reporting period together with a balancing figure for 'Other funds'. The 'Total funds' figure below should reconcile to 'Total funds' in the balance sheet.

** Key: PE - permanent endowment funds; EE - expendable endowment funds; R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and U - unrestricted funds*

Fund names	Type PE, EE R or UR *	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £
FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS	R		23,127	2,144	- 3,139	-	-	22,132
OUTREACH	R		994	800	- 315	-	-	1,479
YOUTH EVENTS	R		497	120		-	-	617
WORSHIP SUPPORT	R		7,490	50	- 115	-	-	7,425
CHURCH GROUPS	R		898	1,039	- 643	-	-	1,294
OTHER	R		581	2,326	- 1,774	- 381	-	752
	R					-	-	-
	R					-	-	-
	R					-	-	-
	R					-	-	-
	R					-	-	-
Other funds	N/a	N/a	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funds			33,587	6,479	- 5,986	- 381	-	33,699

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
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Note 27 **Charity funds (cont)**

27.3 Transfers between funds

	Reason for transfer and where endowment is converted to income, legal power for its conversion	Amount
Between unrestricted and restricted funds		381
Between endowment and restricted funds		
Between endowment and unrestricted funds		

27.4 Designated funds

Planned use	Purpose of the designation	Amount
future projects	fund set aside for a variety of future projects under feasibility study	13961

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

14 The Paddock
Eaton Ford
St Neots
Cambs
PE19 7SA

To Eaton Socon PCC

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention 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 2011 Act and section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met or to which in my opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Roger Brittain FCA

09-Feb-21