

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF LANGHAM ST MARY WITH BOXTED ST PETER

England & Wales · Charity number 1131211

Details

Other names LANGHAM WITH BOXTED PCC

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-08-19

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Pond House
Church Road
Boxted
Colchester
CO4 5TQ

Phone 01206272202

Email emmafowler81@gmail.com

Website www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6458

Activities

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

Activities: 1. Regular public worship2. Provision of sacred space for personal prayer and reflection3. Pastoral work, including visiting sick and bereaved people4. Provision of activities (incl. The Edge youth club) for young people5. The promotion of Christianity by meetings and literature6. "Good Neighbours" scheme offering assistance to the elderly and less mobile7. Support for other charities

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£75,523	£65,039	-	-
2024-12-31	£74,177	£70,116	-	-
2023-12-31	£62,161	£51,025	-	-
2022-12-31	£71,732	£61,019	-	-
2021-12-31	£58,035	£61,647	-	-
2020-12-31	£88,595	£84,051	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
DENISE HEATHER HOBDAV		
Emma Fowler		2025-05-11
JACKIE BUDENBERG		2025-05-11
JOCELYN RITA CARTER		
Linda Sheil		2025-05-11
PATIENCE ANN MAGGS MA		2014-04-27
Rev Heather Wilcox		2021-11-11
STEPHEN KENNEDY WHYBROW		
STEPHEN PAUL GARNER		

Accounts



**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
THE PARISH OF LANGHAM WITH BOXTED**

**ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENT
for the year ended
31ST DECEMBER 2025**

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LANGHAM WITH BOXTED PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Trustees Annual Report for year ended 31st December 2025

Aim and purposes

The Langham with Boxted Parochial Church Council (the PCC) is a body corporate with its functions and powers contained in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended by the Synodical Government Measure 1969.

The PCC is charged with co-operating with the parish priest in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It has responsibility for the maintenance of the fabric of the two parish Churches, St Mary's and St Peter's, and the maintenance of their respective churchyards.

In accordance with guidance issued by the Archbishops' Council, the activities of the PCC are declared as:

1. Regular public worship open to everyone.
2. The provision of sacred space for prayer and reflection.
3. Pastoral work, especially visiting the sick and bereaved.
4. Teaching the Christian doctrine by sermon, short courses and study groups.
5. Conducting religious assemblies in local schools.
6. The provision of activities with a Christian ethos for young people.
7. The promotion of Christianity by meetings and the distributing of literature.
8. Furthering the mission of the church through a network offering practical assistance and friendship to the elderly and less mobile people of the parish.
9. Supporting other charities in the United Kingdom and overseas within the rules of the Charity Commission.
10. The consideration and discussions of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest.

Objectives and activities of the PCC and the parish

The objective of the Council is the promotion of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, sharing the good news of Christ with all people of all ages, especially the young who are the future of the Christian church. We aspire to develop in the following five priority areas: to grow in our personal faith; to increase our Sunday attendance; to engage with our young people; to help our community in practical ways and to keep our finances on a secure footing.

Clergy and Staff

The Reverend Heather has continued to be a visible presence in the parish. As well as preaching and leading services, she is a regular attendee at fundraising and other events. She contributes to the Parish Magazine each month, updates our website and frequently holds open house events at the vicarage in West Bergholt.

The Reverend Anne Mason retired at the beginning of the year. A special service was held on 27th April at St John's Church in Great Horkesley to thank her and to celebrate her contribution to our group of parishes. We wish Anne and her husband Tim well in their retirement.

Having completed the first year of her curacy, the Reverend Emma Barr was priested in September 2024. Since then she has been available to lead services of Holy Communion. This has been a great help to Heather especially since the Reverend Ian Hilton retired in May. Emma and Heather continue to be proactive in pastoral care taking time to support the bereaved through home visits and the annual All Souls service as well as taking communion to the housebound in their own homes.

We are most grateful to our Office Administrators, Jo Russell and Donna Luxton, to our Churchwardens Jos Carter, Stephen Garner and Denise Hobday as well as to all those clergy who lead Holy Communion services on the occasions when Heather and Emma are unavailable.

King's Ridge Parishes

It was agreed by the PCC that Langham with Boxted parish should become part of the King's Ridge group of parishes which unites all six parishes under Reverend Heather's oversight. This ensures that in future the same Priest-in-Charge will be appointed to all 6 parishes but it does not alter the current legal and charitable status of individual parishes each with its own separate PCC and paying its own parish share.

Worship, prayer and Bible study

During the year the pattern of 9:30 services was established. On the first Sunday of each month morning worship is held at St Peter's. On all other Sundays a Holy Communion service takes place, at St Peter's on third Sundays and at St Mary's on second and fourth Sundays. As previously, on fifth Sundays joint Holy Communion services are held at different churches within the six parishes. We remain most grateful to the clergy and to everyone who has supported and contributed to all the different variety of services.

Toddler Play and Praise meets in St Peter's Church on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. This is an opportunity for small children and their parents to come together for some crafts and refreshments. Each session concludes with a short act of worship, a Bible story and some toddler-friendly songs. The success of this venture has led into the establishment of Messy Church which takes place, also in St Peter's, once per quarter. We are grateful to Don and Carola Markham and Linda Sheil for their involvement in both events.

Forest Church continues to meet in St Peter's churchyard at 3pm on the 4th Saturday of each month offering a combination of outdoor activities and worship. This has so far proved to be attractive to families, in particular those with young people in our two youth groups.

The monthly Beer and Bible at the Shepherd and Dog continued throughout the year with four regular attendees. There are other Bible study groups in West Bergholt and Great Horkesley which parishioners from Langham and Boxted are welcome to attend. Also a prayer meeting for the King's Ridge parishes takes place every Wednesday morning on Zoom.

At Easter there was Holy Communion at St Peter's church. In the lead up to Christmas, a Carol Service was held at St Peter's. In December St Peter's School also used the church for their Reception Class Nativity Play. Langham School held a well attended end of term Carol Service at St. Mary's. A more informal gathering for carol singing was held at the pub in Langham, led by Dominic Sheil and Denise Hobday with musical accompaniment by the Boxted Methodist Silver Band. There was a large congregation at the Christingle Service at St Mary's on Christmas Eve. The midnight and Christmas Day services took place as usual.

We are grateful to Laura Benns for organising very efficiently a rota of all those who read, lead intercessions, act as sidesmen or provide refreshments each Sunday morning. It is wonderful to have so many involved in each service and the aim is to include more in these various roles.

Music and Bells

Organist Mark Fogg-Elliott played the organ at either church for all but three of the Sunday services over the year plus the occasional weekday services that include hymns. The "scratch choir" assembled by the Heather for the previous year's carol service is now the "King's Ridge Choir" ably led by

Richard and Elaine Marshall. The choir has sung at different churches in the group, including at Wormingford for the visit of The Right Reverend Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford. The choir also performed at the carol service at St Peter's when we hosted the Boxted Methodist Silver Band.

St Mary's bells have been rung for four weddings during the year with the aid of ringers from Mistley, Ardleigh and Wivenhoe, there being only two local ringers still active. There were three quarter-peal attempts in the year by ringers from the District, however only one was successful.

Engagement with schools

Heather has regularly visited Boxted School to lead Collective Worship as well as making occasional visits to Langham School. Patsy Ann Maggs has continued to make weekly visits to Boxted School, leading the children's Faith Discussion Group and carrying out monitoring visits in her role as a School Governor responsible for Religious Education and Collective Worship. Jo Rankin continues in her role as PCC governor in the school.

The Open the Book team visited Boxted School five times during the year - twice in the autumn term and spring terms and once in the summer term - and were very well received. The team is quite small and would be pleased to hear from anyone else who might be interested in joining. In February Christian Youth Outreach Colchester visited Boxted School to set up Prayer Stations for Classes 4 to 6. This was a very positive experience which the school would like to repeat in future years. In addition, the Year 6 Retreat took place at the end of the summer term, with thanks to all who made this possible.

The PCC was pleased to congratulate the headteacher and staff on a very successful Anglican and Methodist Statutory Inspection which highlighted the school's many strengths and, in particular, showed how its vision and values permeate all aspects of school life.

Community activities

Youth Groups

The Edge (6 -11 year olds) and The Zone (11 -18 year olds) have continued to run throughout the year. At the start there were 6-7 regular attendees in the Zone and 9-11 in the Edge. However, in September 4 children moved up from the Edge to the Zone leaving only 2 members in the younger group. Both groups met every other Friday evening during term time at St. Peter's. Most of the young people were from Boxted, a few from North Colchester but unfortunately none from Langham. The evening includes activities and games, some of which relate to the evening's Bible passage. This is read during tuck time and the evening ends with a topical prayer. Some of the young people have attended Forest Church bringing their families with them. There has been a focus on protecting God's creation as the young people have expressed a particular concern over environmental issues.

Parish News

The PCC is the publisher of St Mary's and St Peter's free newsletter distributed monthly throughout the parish and which has editorial independence. The Council is grateful to Steve Pollington, editor, and Paul Armstrong, advertising manager, for their hard work in producing such a useful resource.

Events and fundraising

Several community events took place during the year many of which contributed towards church funds: a Quiz night in aid of Youth Group funds in March, a King's Ridge Rogationtide walk in May, a Community Festival sponsored by the Mission Opportunities Fund in September and a Big Breakfast held in West Bergholt in October at which the Reverend Canon Janet Nichols spoke. The Council is grateful to all those involved in making these events such a success.

Good Neighbours scheme

The Good Neighbours Scheme provides assistance to residents in Langham and Boxted who may be housebound or without transport. Over the year it operated efficiently with an average of no more than 10 calls per quarter and with sufficient Telephone Operators and Responders to meet current needs. Although it has been regularly advertised in the Parish Newsletter and in full page adverts, this has not resulted in any further interest or enquiries from either 'clients' or prospective volunteers.

Most jobs have been to medical or dental appointments with one semi regular run to drop someone at Colchester bus station. Trips to pick up prescriptions have dried up probably due to online ordering and pharmacy delivery. The scheme has received a small number of donations. The PCC is grateful to Annette Whybrow who took over responsibility for running Good Neighbours in January.

Volunteers and Helpers

Thanks are due to all the diligent, enthusiastic volunteers who contribute in many ways to our parish. It was a pleasure to meet so many of them at our first Parish Volunteers tea party held in January and attended by around 60 guests. It was subsequently decided that this should become an annual event.

The PCC continues to be most grateful for the efforts of all those who work to keep our church buildings clean and tidy and to provide flower arrangements. The flower teams are led by Annette Whybrow in Boxted and Suzanne Dawson in Langham and the work of their skilled teams is much appreciated. St Peter's has a group led by Emma Fowler who provide weekly cleaning. Patsy Ann Maggs leads the much smaller team which cleans fortnightly at St Mary's. We are particularly grateful to Daphne Peachey and Kate Gifford who generously give their time to clean St Mary's church each month despite not being members of the regular congregation.

Safeguarding

In her role as Parish Safeguarding Officer, Patsy Ann Maggs continues to ensure that our DBS checks and Safeguarding training for all PCC members, Open the Book and Good Neighbours volunteers are kept up to date and that we are meeting all the Church of England's requirements for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

In September our Policy Documents, Risk Assessments and Activity Plans were reviewed, updated where necessary and approved. The Policy Documents have been posted on our Church Near You website. In addition, a procedures file containing our policy documents, risk assessments, activity plans and safety check forms as well as guidance for sidesmen, vergers and intercessors is available in each of our church buildings. It is thought this could be particularly useful if anyone is asked to step into a role at short notice.

We are grateful to Dominic Sheil and David Morrell for undertaking the necessary quarterly safety checks in our two church buildings.

Deanery of Colchester

Lay representatives plus clergy from all the Anglican churches in the Colchester Deanery usually meet three times per annum. During 2025, however, the Synod meeting in October was replaced for the first time by a Deanery Day. Below is a short report on the two Deanery Synod Meetings held during 2025.

12th March 2024 at St Michael's Church, Myland, Colchester

The speaker was Wendy Lidgate, Programme Manager for Colchester Episcopal Area. Wendy explained the background behind the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMIBB) and her role which is to help each and every parish to understand how to tap into this fund.

18th June 2024 at St Peter's Church, Boxted

The speaker was Sam Fowler, CEO of Christian Youth Outreach (CYO). Sam explained the work of CYO and, in particular its vision for every school in the Colchester area to be regularly prayed for by at least one Colchester Church, and also that every Colchester Church will be regularly praying for at least one local Colchester school. He reported that currently 45% of schools across Colchester are prayed for by local churches.

Fabric and churchyards

St Mary's Church

Maintenance and new work The architect's Quinquennial Inspection was carried out at the end of July, a year overdue. As always there are a number of items to be attended to over the next five years including an upgraded roof over the oil tank and further treatment of moss on the roofs and some recommendations for further consideration.

The work on the four stop pedal department for the organ is nearly ready for a trial assembly in the workshop. It is expected to be installed in the church, completed and tuned, by mid 2026. The lead roof of the South aisle was re-treated with Smartwater in August. During that work the roof alarm was found to be faulty and consequently it has been replaced with a new upgraded system.

New wall cupboards for the Hurlock room to improve storage have been purchased, the cost being met by Langham Church Support Trust. At the year end they await installation.

Churchyard The grass of both old and new churchyards continues to be cut under contract, the 'new' as necessary for the season, the 'old' once a year usually late October or November. In 2025 the cut was delayed until December. In April new yew hedging was planted for the East and West boundaries of Area for Cremated Remains. The Churchwardens are grateful for the hard work of Mark Fogg-Elliot and Alexander Benns. The yew saplings were supported during the prolonged drought by four waterings per week of about six gallons each time. Desirable clearance of vegetation from walls and rubbish by the (failing) shed was not done and remains a requirement for the coming year.

Terrier and inventory The Churchwardens maintained the Inventory (Church Property Register).

St Peter's Church

Maintenance We have been fortunate that we have not experienced any major unanticipated maintenance issues. Inside the building we have noticed damp behind the shelving on the ground floor of the tower. Following an inspection by a surveyor we have been advised that some remedial work will be necessary but this is not likely to be hugely costly. A lot of work has been done by some PCC members to declutter items stored in the tower on the ground floor and the first floor vestry.

Churchyard A new shed has been erected to replace its dilapidated predecessor. It is slightly larger and built on a concrete base to a much higher specification. The plan is to transfer all that we wish to retain from the other shed adjacent to the wheelchair access on the north west corner of the building and then remove this shed. The cost was funded from part of our Covid grant and by a grant from the Friends of St Peter's Church Boxted Trust.

The churchyard grass has been cut by Trevor Bellis on a volunteer basis to whom we are most grateful. The aim remains to find a balance between making the churchyard wildlife friendly but not untidy. The next step will be to introduce a limited number of wildflower areas and to manage these accordingly. A donated copper beech sapling has been planted in the south east corner in anticipation that our magnificent copper beech nearby will not live forever. Some repair work has been done to the west gate including a new latch and to the main gates into the graveyard. As mentioned below major works began in the graveyard to create around 50 new burial plots and this will be completed in early 2026.

Terrier and inventory The Churchwardens maintained the Inventory (Church Property Register).

Financial review and reserves policy: Treasurers' report

We achieved a small surplus of unrestricted income over expenditure of £354 and a surplus of restricted income over expenditure of £10,129. Unrestricted income can be used for any purposes determined by the PCC whereas restricted income can only be used in accordance with the limited purposes for which the funds were donated. For example funds are donated or otherwise raised for Youth work and can only be used for this purpose.

Our modest surplus of unrestricted income over expenditure would have been much higher if we had recovered all of our outstanding gift aid due by the year end. Our income has held up well during the year. Around 75% of our income is generated from standing orders and other regular giving including the related gift aid and most of the rest from collections and other donations. Accordingly our annual funding is heavily dependent upon our regular givers. We wish to express our thanks to all those who help fund us including not just those who regularly participate in our services and other activities but also those others in our two villages whose involvement is limited to helping to keep us solvent.

Our most significant expense remains the payment of our Diocesan Parish Share. However our finances are such that we have paid the full amount which an increasing number of Parishes across the country are not able to do. The Diocese implemented a more transparent, fairer approach to the assessment of Parish Shares a few years ago; our present Parish Share is only a little over half of the amount previously allocated. If the system had remained unchanged we would have been facing a probable deficit for the year in excess of £20,000.

We are also grateful to both the Church Trusts, which are wholly independent of the PCC, for a number of grants during the year which has enabled us to fund both necessary maintenance as well as improvement projects such as the pending refurbishment of the Hurlock Room at St Mary's and the new shed in the churchyard at St Peter's.

During the year we ran an appeal for funds to undertake works in the St Peter's graveyard with the objective of creating at least 50 additional burial spaces, undertaking necessary tree surgery and facilitating future maintenance. We were delighted when our target of £10,000 was achieved with the inclusion of related gift aid. We are truly grateful for the generosity of the numerous donors who came forward to enable us to do this and to Emma Fowler who has led the project on behalf of the PCC.

We are conscious of our obligation to manage our funds prudently and we monitor expenditure carefully and continually. With two ancient, listed buildings to maintain we are always at risk of having unanticipated maintenance bills to fund. However this year we have not had to cope with any. In recent years we have built up our unrestricted reserves so we have a cushion to help in this respect. We have to accept the inevitability of such unanticipated expenditure in the future.

Our restricted reserves are made up of a number of often longstanding balances which tend to be added to as the years go by. Often they are derived from legacies. Two more have been added this year namely the transfer of funds from the Hurlock Trust which the trustees determined to close down and a pecuniary legacy from the Tailbury legacy where the capital must be retained for 80 years and the interest only may be used for the maintenance of certain aspects of St Mary's churchyard. We are indebted to all the work done in the last two years by our joint Treasurer Mark Fogg Elliot in clarifying these balances and the related restrictions. One consequence of this is that we have identified some reserves which hitherto we have treated as unrestricted but which we are now treating as restricted. This is the reason why our unrestricted reserves are down on last year despite our small unrestricted surplus.

In summary the outcome for the year is satisfactory. However with our level of income not assured and our expenditure subject to unanticipated maintenance costs there is no scope for complacency and staying in surplus remains a major challenge for us going forward.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members was conducted in accordance with Rule 14 of the Church Representation Rules 2017 (Rule M15 of the Church Representation Rules 2020). Langham with Boxted PCC is a registered charity. PCC members are the charity trustees and accept responsibility as such, being accountable to the Charity Commission. Thus PCC members must comply with both charity law and with church (ecclesiastical) law, being clear about the PCC's purposes, procedures and governance. Members of the congregation are encouraged to join the council.

Following preparation of the new electoral roll in 2025, the roll has 60 members, 53 residents and seven non resident. During the revision 11 new entries were received, however 20 of the previous roll did not apply for re-enrolment, with a further four passing away since the last revision.

Anyone is welcome to join providing they are baptised, aged 16 or over and satisfy the declarations on the application forms available in either church or by contacting the Electoral Roll Officer, Tim Clarke.

The full PCC met five times during the year. The Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting were held at St Peter's Church on 11th May. Members of the PCC and its Officers and committees for 2025 - 2026 are listed below.

Members of the PCC during 2025:

Ex officio:

The Revd Heather Wilcox	Rector, Priest in Charge and Chairman
The Revd Emma Barr	Curate
Dominic Sheil	Ordinand
Denise Hobday	Lay Minister, Churchwarden St Mary's, Deanery Synod Representative
Stephen Garner	Churchwarden, St Mary's
Mrs Jocelyn Carter	Churchwarden, St Peter's

Elected from the Laity:

Jacqueline Budenberg	(elected 2025 retiring 2028)
Emma Fowler	(elected 2025 retiring 2028)
Linda Sheil	(elected 2025 retiring 2028)
Stephen Whybrow	(elected 2024 retiring 2027)
Patsy Ann Maggs	(elected 2023 retiring 2026)

The PCC appointed the following Officers:

Vice-chair:	Patsy Ann Maggs
Secretary:	Emma Fowler
Joint Treasurers:	Stephen Whybrow, Mark Fogg Elliot
Electoral Roll Officer:	Tim Clarke
Fabric Officer, St Mary's:	Brian Flack
Fabric Officer, St Peter's:	Stephen Whybrow
Good Neighbours Organiser:	Annette Whybrow
Zone and Edge Leader:	Linda Sheil
Safeguarding Officer:	Patsy Ann Maggs
Safety Officer St. Mary's:	David Morrell
Safety Office St. Peter's:	Dominic Sheil
Tree Officer, St Mary's:	Stephen Garner
Tree Officer, St Peter's:	Stephen Whybrow
Tree Warden	Dominic Sheil
Newsletter Editor:	Stephen Pollington
Advertising Manager:	Paul Armstrong
Langham Community Council:	Denise Hobday
Boxted Village Hall Committee:	Jocelyn Carter

APPENDIX I: Church service attendance (all ages) *excluding* school services, weddings and funerals:

	2025		2024	2023	2022	2021
	St Mary's	St Peter's	Parish	Parish	Parish	Parish
January	38	87	119	85	137	nil ⁽¹⁾
February	48	77	150	103	93	
March ⁽²⁾	64	80	235	110	127	
April	47	195	131	191	167	94
May	43	87	115	67	117	86
June ⁽²⁾	61	126	252	98	92	67
July	47	72	86	83	150	67
August	59	126	119	88	116	145
September	50	76	123	92	161	96
October	51	68	108	209	113	74
November ⁽³⁾	26	113	162	130	138	157
December ⁽⁴⁾	151	232	523	418	345	204
Totals by church	685	1339⁽⁵⁾				
Totals	2024		2123	1674	1756	991 ⁽¹⁾

*Notes: **(1)** Church buildings closed (pandemic); **(2)** A fifth Sunday service for all 6 parishes took place at St Mary's in March and at St Peter's in June; **(3)** Remembrance service Langham at village war memorial, not at St Mary's. **(4)** Includes Christingle at St Mary's & carol service at St Peter's with the Silver Band. **(5)** Includes at St Peter's Toddler Play and Praise, Messy Church and Forest Church.
- There were 2 baptisms, 8 weddings, 1 blessing of a civil marriage, 7 funerals and 1 memorial service.
- Youth Work meetings at St Peter's recorded since March: 116 adults, children and young people.

Langham with Boxted PCC						
Receipts and Payments Account						
(Charity registration number: 1131211)						
For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025						
	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds	
<u>Receipts</u>						
Covenants & GA donations	32,610.00			32,610.00		33,000.23
Collections and donations	8,208.33			8,208.33		5,750.23
Gift Aid recovered				0.00		7,704.13
Weddings and funerals	12,842.33			12,842.33		13,957.74
Grant	5,225.47		1,000.00	6,225.47		4,500.00
Interest	767.48			767.48		1,070.11
St Peters Graveyard Funding			9,180.00	9,180.00		0.00
CCLA Income			729.34	729.34		3,622.37
Magazine advertising	4,960.34			4,960.34		4,572.01
Total receipts	64,613.95	0.00	10,909.34	75,523.29		74,176.82
<u>Payments</u>						
Parish share	25,230.12			25,230.12		30,999.99
Organist	3,232.80			3,232.80		3,695.80
Verger	700.00			700.00		800.00
Diocesan Share Weddings and Funerals	3,717.33			3,717.33		0.00
Bell ringers	440.00			440.00		240.00
Curate Expenses Clergy Fees	895.99			895.99		743.85
Electricity	2,995.00			2,995.00		1,103.97
Insurance	4,288.89			4,288.89		4,776.91
Oil	333.22			333.22		2,494.20
Salary	4,098.89			4,098.89		4,512.51
Office costs	1,522.20			1,522.20		2,055.43
Magazine printing	5,429.70			5,429.70		4,720.00
Bank charges	294.01			294.01		59.50
Churchyard maintenance	5,513.39			5,513.39		6,084.45
Graveyard maintenance			780.00	780.00		0.00
Repairs and renewals	5,409.91			5,409.91		7,829.35
Donations	158.03			158.03		0.00
Total payments	64,259.48	0.00	780.00	65,039.48		70,115.96
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	354.47	0.00	10,129.34	10,483.81		4,060.86
Transfers						
Reserves at 31st Dec 2024	32,389.39	478.45	32,073.64	64,941.48		61,286.18
Youth Worker surplus/(deficit) to reserves	(2,197.85)			(2,197.85)		(503.40)
Good Neighbours	(932.35)			(932.35)		97.84
Transfer of current year surplus/(deficit)	354.47	0.00	38,550.89	38,905.36		4,060.86
Prior Year Adjustments to Reserves	(4,292.35)		4,292.35	0.00		0.00
Reserves at 31st Dec 2025	25,321.31	478.45	74,916.88	100,716.64		64,941.48

APPENDIX II – financial statements

Langham with Boxted PCC					
Balance Sheet detailed					
			as at:		as at:
			31/12/2025		31/12/2024
Current Assets					
	NatWest Current account - General		55,601.51		72,957.34
	NatWest payments account - General		8,804.18		1,670.87
	NatWest account - Youth Worker		5,696.44		5,632.77
	NatWest account - Good Neighbours		2,055.63		1,987.98
	Chelmsford Board Finance re Tailbury		10,262.64		0.00
	CCLA LwB PCC Hurlock Trust		18,421.55		0.00
	CCLA Deposit		14,857.77		14,214.49
	CCLA Investment Ex Tithe Chancel Fund		13,866.44		14,043.02
				129,566.16	110,506.47
	Sundry Debtors			0.00	
Total Current Assets				129,566.16	110,506.47
Liabilities					
	West Bergholt Current Account		126.36		156.61
	Loan re Insurance		0.00		250.00
	Churchwardens' Fund re Tailbury Legacy		28,723.16		45,158.38
Total Current Liabilities				28,849.52	45,564.99
Net Assets				100,716.64	64,941.48
Represented by Reserves:					
Unrestricted Funds					
	Brought forward		32,389.39		32,810.88
	Prior year adjustment		(4,292.35)		(454.42)
	Surplus/(Deficit)		354.47		438.49
	Youth Worker Surplus/(Deficit)		(2,197.85)		(503.40)
	Good Neighbours Surplus/(Deficit)		(932.35)		97.84
	Carried Forward			25,321.31	32,389.39
Restricted Funds					
	Brought forward		32,073.64		27,996.85
	Prior year adjustment		4,292.35		454.42
	Surplus/(Deficit)		38,550.89		3,622.37
	Carried Forward			74,916.88	32,073.64
Designated Funds					
	Brought forward		478.45		478.45
	Surplus/(Deficit)		0.00		0.00
	Carried Forward			478.45	478.45
Total Reserves:				100,716.64	64,941.48

APPENDIX III



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Langham with Boxted Parochial Church Council *(charity registration number 1131211)*

I report to the trustees of Langham with Boxted Parochial Church Council ("the Trust") on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31/12/ 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC'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 Act.

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 which gives me cause to believe that in any material aspect:

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

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

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen Fowler".

STEPHEN FOWLER

Pond House, Church Road, Boxted, Colchester CO4 5TQ

Date: 09/03/26

Further information and contact details

The Parish of Langham with Boxted is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England.

Parish office: Church Office, Church Close, West Bergholt CO6 3JF
telephone: 01206 243683 email: 6parishescolchester@gmail.com

St Mary's Church:
Langham Hall, Langham CO4 5PS

St Peter's Church:
Church Street, Boxted CO4 5SU

Parish websites:
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6458/ *and* www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6459/

Charity registration number: 1131211

Accounts



**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
THE PARISH OF LANGHAM WITH BOXTED**

**ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENT
for the year ended
31ST DECEMBER 2024**

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LANGHAM WITH BOXTED PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Trustees Annual Report for year ended 31st December 2023

Aim and purposes

The Langham with Boxted Parochial Church Council (the PCC) is a body corporate with its functions and powers contained in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended by the Synodical Government Measure 1969.

The PCC is charged with co-operating with the parish priest in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It has responsibility for the maintenance of the fabric of the two parish Churches, St Mary's and St Peter's, and the maintenance of their respective churchyards. In accordance with guidance issued by the Archbishops' Council, the activities of the PCC are declared as:

1. Regular public worship open to everyone.
2. The provision of sacred space for prayer and reflection.
3. Pastoral work, especially visiting the sick and bereaved.
4. Teaching the Christian doctrine by sermon, short courses and study groups.
5. Conducting religious assemblies in local schools.
6. The provision of activities with a Christian ethos for young people.
7. The promotion of Christianity by meetings and the distributing of literature.
8. Furthering the mission of the church through a network offering practical assistance and friendship to the elderly and less mobile people of the parish.
9. Supporting other charities in the United Kingdom and overseas within the rules of the Charity Commission.
10. The consideration and discussions of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest.

Objectives and activities of the PCC and the parish

The objective of the Council is the promotion of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, sharing the good news of Christ with all people of all ages, especially the young who are the future of the Christian church. We aspire to develop in the following five priority areas: to grow in our personal faith: to increase our Sunday attendance, to engage with our young people, to help our community in practical ways and to keep our finances on a secure footing.

Clergy and staff

The Reverend Heather Wilcox has continued to be a visible presence in the parish. As well as preaching and leading services, she is a regular attendee at fundraising and other events. She contributes to the Parish Magazine, updates our website and frequently holds open house events at the vicarage in West Bergholt.

The Reverend Anne Mason's main commitment has been to the church in Great Horkesley but she has also visited regularly to lead services of Holy Communion as has The Reverend Emma Barr who was priested in September. Emma continues to volunteer in Langham Community Shop and is a welcome visitor at community events.

Heather and other clergy continue to be proactive in pastoral care, taking time to support the bereaved through home visits and the annual All Souls service as well as taking communion to the housebound in their own homes.

We are most grateful to our Office Administrators, Jo Russell and Donna Luxton, and to our Churchwardens Jos Carter, Stephen Garner and Denise Hobday for all that they do on our behalf.

Worship, prayer and Bible study

The newly revised pattern of services has been maintained on a trial basis throughout the year. On the 1st and 3rd Sundays there has been a said Holy Communion Service at 9:30 followed by a Family Service at 10:30 with a break for refreshments between the two. On the 2nd and 4th Sundays there has been a sung Communion Service also at 9:30. These services have been held at St Peter's on the first and second Sundays and at St Mary's on the 3rd and 4th Sundays.

As before, on 5th Sundays joint Holy Communion services have been held at different churches within the six parishes. We remain most grateful to the clergy and to everyone who has supported and contributed to all the different variety of services.

Forest Church has continued to meet at 3pm on the 4th Saturday of the month (changed from Sept 2024) at St Peter's churchyard, Boxted. Services are based on themes of God's creation, nature and an awareness on the world we all inhabit. Congregation members are drawn from a wide area. Most are from families who attend our youth groups and there are attendees who come from Colchester and other villages. It is hoped to take Forest Church on the road to other churches and locations during 2025.

At Easter there was a sunrise service at St Peter's followed by the usual Holy Communion at St Mary's.

In November the first Play and Praise meeting for toddlers and their parents took place on a Tuesday morning in St Peter's. It is hoped that this may lead to a regular service of Messy Church.

In the lead up to Christmas a Carol Service was held in St Peter's church and St Peter's School also used the church for their Reception Class Nativity Play. Langham School held a well-attended end of term Carol Service at St Mary's. A more informal gathering for carol singing was held at the pub in Langham, led by Dominic Sheil and Denise Hobday with musical accompaniment by the Boxted Methodist Silver Band. There was a large congregation at the Christingle Service in St Mary's on Christmas Eve. The midnight and Christmas Day services took place as usual.

The fortnightly Bible study and prayer meeting with 4 attendees was revived in February. The group has been following the Bible Society's course on St Paul's letter to the Romans. The monthly Beer and Bible at the Shepherd and Dog has continued also with 4 regular attendees.

Music and Bells

Our organist Mark Fogg-Elliot played for all but a few services throughout the year, a substitute organist being engaged for Mark's rare absences. Work to build the enhanced pedal department for the organ at St Mary's commenced at the organ-builder and pipe-makers' premises in the spring and is expected to take around twelve months for completion in the church (see fabric report)

Heather's 'scratch' choir performed at the carol service in December when we also enjoyed the assistance of the Boxted Methodist Silver Band.

The bells of St Peter's were chimed electrically for every Sunday service. There has been no ringing of St Mary's bells for Sunday services with the local band being only three, and now two, ringers. Ringers from around the district were assembled for two weddings in the summer. There were two (unsuccessful) attempts at quarter-peals in October and a visit by ringers on a tour earlier in the year.

Engagement with schools

Heather has regularly visited Boxted School to lead Collective Worship as well as making occasional visits to Langham School. Patsy Ann Maggs has continued to make weekly visits to Boxted School, leading the children's Faith Discussion Group and carrying out monitoring visits in her role as a School Governor responsible for Religious Education and Collective Worship. Jo Rankin has also visited in her role as Parochial Church Council governor.

The Open the Book team visited Boxted School five times during the year - once in the autumn term and twice in the spring and summer terms - and were very well received. The team are grateful to Stephen Whybrow for joining in the autumn and would be pleased to hear from anyone else who might be interested in taking part.

The Year 6 Retreat took place in Boxted School at the end of the summer term. Many thanks to the clergy and other volunteers who made this possible.

Community activities

Youth Groups

The Edge (6 -11 year olds) and The Zone (11 -18 year olds) were well attended with 22 young people on the register. They met every other Friday evening during term time at St. Peter's with an average attendance of eight per group. Most of the young people come from Boxted, a few from North Colchester but unfortunately none from Langham. It is hoped to address this by sending invitations to both schools. The evening includes activities and games, some of which relate to the evening's Bible passage. This is read during "tuck" time and the evening ends with a topical prayer. Six of the young people have attended Forest Church bringing their families with them. We are grateful to Linda Sheil for taking over the running of these groups which aim to introduce young people in our village communities to the Christian faith.

Open Door Café

It was decided to close the Open Door Café at the end of the summer term due to declining numbers. The Council is grateful to Don and Carola Markham for having run this event so faithfully on Friday mornings during term time since December 2015 and for their dedication and support in many aspects of church activities.

Parish News

The PCC is the publisher of St Mary's and St Peter's free newsletter distributed monthly throughout the parish and which has editorial independence. The Council is grateful to Steve Pollington, editor, and Paul Armstrong, advertising manager, for their hard work in producing such a useful resource as well as all those who distribute the magazine around the neighbourhood each month.

Events and fundraising

Several community events took place during the year many of which contributed towards church funds: a Quiz night and an Easter Egg Hunt in March; a Spring Bargains Sale in April; a Teddy Bears' Parachute Jump followed by Pimms and Hymns at St Mary's in June; Beer and Hymns in September and a Ceilidh in November. No charge was made for the Love your Graveyard event at St Peter's in June and the Back to School Fun Morning in August. The Council remains grateful to Don and Carola Markham, Jos Carter and Dominic Sheil for their considerable efforts in making these events such a success.

Also, in November, Tim Clarke and his family organised a well-attended shoe box packing party for Samaritans purse.

Good Neighbours scheme

Good Neighbours continues to provide assistance to residents in Langham and Boxted who may be housebound or without transport. Most frequently this is for medical appointments or collection of prescriptions, as well as for a friendly visit. The scheme has operated with decreased levels of activity this year, completing 22 jobs for nine clients. The number of telephone operators and responders has also decreased though there are enough volunteers to match the current level of demand. We very much appreciate all the volunteers and notably the hard work that Annette Whybrow has put into running the scheme so efficiently since she took over from Arabella Brentnall.

Volunteers and Helpers

Thanks are due to all the diligent, enthusiastic volunteers who contribute in many ways to our parish. Volunteers number over 50, whether working to provide church services or community events, in fundraising, in maintaining our buildings and churchyards, or for community schemes such as Good Neighbours or the production and delivery of the Parish Newsletter. We particularly remember Roger Hobday who helped in many ways, including as Safety Officer, and will be greatly missed.

The PCC is most grateful to those who work to keep our church buildings clean and to provide flower arrangements. The flower teams are led by Annette Whybrow in Boxted and Helen McBride in Langham. The beauty of both churches is enhanced with fresh flowers and special displays at Easter, Harvest Festival and Christmas time. The work of these skilled individuals, who provide all the flowers themselves, is greatly appreciated. Equally the cleaning teams are greatly valued, both the group at St Peter's running a weekly cleaning rota and the smaller team which cleans fortnightly at St Mary's. We continue to be particularly grateful to Daphne Peachey and Kate Gifford who generously give their time to clean St Mary's church each month in spite of not being members of the regular congregation.

Safeguarding

In her role as Parish Safeguarding Officer, Patsy Ann Maggs continues to ensure that our DBS checks and Safeguarding training for all PCC members, Open the Book and Good Neighbours volunteers are kept up to date. All necessary personal information is stored securely. Our Data Protection Officers are Jo Russell and Donna Luxton, who are also our joint Office Administrators.

In September, our Policy Documents, Risk Assessments and Activity Plans were reviewed, updated where necessary and approved. The Policy Documents have been posted on our Church Near You website. In addition a procedures file containing our policy documents, risk assessments, activity plans and safety check forms as well as guidance for sidesmen, vergers and intercessors is available in each of our church buildings. It is thought this could be particularly useful if anyone is asked to step into a role at short notice.

Deanery Synod

The Synod met three times throughout the year with the Rector and parish deanery synod members represented at all the meetings. At the October meeting the synod was joined by Bishop Roger, the Bishop of Colchester, as updates on the Vision Away days were shared. Heather spoke about the vision away day held on the 27th July at Elmstead Market and the follow-up thereafter (see below). This year the Deanery was again awarded some Mission Opportunity Funding (MOF), which was identified for use towards children/youth and families work. Each parish was encouraged to apply for funding and the Kings Ridge Parishes has been granted £3,000 to fund the purchase of new resources to better equip existing work in schools through Year 6 Retreats, Prayer spaces, Collective Worship, Open the Book and also to fund for a big community family day, which is booked for the 6th September at Old Hall Farm, Little Horkesley. Get the date in your diary!

Vision Away Day

At the vision away day, three key areas were identified to be a focus for our parishes:

- care of people
- worship and discipleship
- care of buildings.

A follow-up away day in November led to us distilling down the vision for all three areas and subsequently, each of the three headings has been summarised in a one page overview, see below.

The King's Ridge Parishes

Many Voices, One Mission

Recognising, valuing and celebrating everyone's gifts

Loving people by coming alongside as companions on our life journeys, noticing and nurturing one another's needs, with open eyes and hearts.



In our worship enabling and equipping everyone to encounter the awe and wonder of God's love, responding to the challenge to grow in discipleship.



Creatively working with our buildings, seeing them as Holy Spaces within our communities and lovingly caring for them as beacons of hope.

This is still very much a draft document, however feedback at the recent King's Ridge Parishes big breakfast was encouraging. Each parish is now being asked to work on some short, mid and long term goals for each of the three headings.

The King's Ridge Parishes

In November there was a joint meeting for the PCC's of the 6 parishes to determine next steps, having decided on a name for the new grouping of parishes. Nathan Whitehead, head of service delivery in the diocese, explained the difference between forming a Plurality of Benefices and a Union of Benefices. Whilst a Plurality of Benefices is a quicker process, the Union of Benefices option provides greater stability in the long term. Subsequent to the joint meeting, the 6 PCC's have each had the opportunity to discuss the two options. By a majority decision it has been decided to proceed with a Union of Benefices and in the coming weeks we should enter a more formal consultation phase. Of note is that on a day-to-day basis nothing changes. Under a Union of Benefices each parish remains its own distinct unit with its own PCC and charity number, managing its own affairs and finances as previously. The advantage in creating a Union is that the parishes will come out of suspension, thus reducing the risk of any further parishes being added to our Rector's remit.

Fabric and churchyards

St Mary's church

Maintenance and new work The planned repainting of external ironwork on all doors has been completed in the better weather intervals of the summer. All annual inspections were carried out, also the quadrennial inspection of the lightning conductor to BS standard, but the quinquennial inspection by the church's architect due in 2024 remained to be done as the architect is still completing those church inspections missed in the period of covid related restrictions. The architect will in due course be consulted regarding interior decoration or redecoration of the church with particular reference to the chancel ceiling.

A Faculty to "add four stop pedal organ to the existing organ" was granted at the end of February. All new work out-sourced to specialists has been delivered to our organ-builder's workshop where construction continues until installation in St Mary's. The Duchy of Lancaster as Patron of St Mary's has through its Benevolent Fund paid for one rank of pipes and further grants and donations are sought.

Churchyard The grass of the new and old churchyards continued to be maintained under contract. The hedging to east and west of the Area for Cremated Remains succumbed to box-moth infestation and will be replaced in the spring of 2025 with yew. The churchyard shed has yet to be replaced. More work is needed to clear unwanted vegetation and an accumulation of discarded material near the shed.

St Peter's church

Maintenance At the beginning of the year we completed repairs to the roof of the south facing 'dormer' window and the lower roof on the north side including broken gutters. We also remade one of the soakaways on the north side. We are grateful to The Friends of St Peter's Church Boxted Trust for their donation of £4,000 which covered more than half the cost.

New oak gateposts have been installed on the east gateway to the Churchyard and into the graveyard and some additional minor repairs to these gateways are in hand. Plans are well advanced to replace the dilapidated shed in the churchyard with a larger, better quality shed. This will also be funded from funds deposited with the Trust and thus at no cost to the PCC.

Churchyard Further working parties took place during the winter months at the beginning and end of the year. Most of the major planned clearance has now been done but there is still an amount of tidying up to be completed. Thanks are due to all those who participated in the working parties. The planting of the new hedge on the north side was completed and the wet weather has helped it to get a good start. About 10 native tree species have been planted on the south boundary. The wet weather meant that it was not possible to cut the churchyard grass as regularly as usual. However we are planning for more regular cutting this year and also for the designated wildflower areas to be more clearly defined. All in all significant progress has been made towards our objective of making the churchyard more wildlife friendly but not untidy.

Financial review and reserves policy: Treasurers' report

We are pleased to report a modest surplus for the year of £4,060. This was achieved despite a payment of £6,000 being a final instalment of our 2023 Parish Share. We have now achieved a run of annual surpluses having previously experienced average deficits over a 10 year period. There have been a number of contributors to this result including a much reduced Parish Share (resulting from a combination of significant cost cutting by the Diocese and the adoption of a more rational approach to the allocation of parish shares between parishes), careful control of our other expenditures, the success of our initiative to increase standing order giving and the absence of significant unplanned fabric expenditures. Our financial position in the medium to long term remains vulnerable primarily because such a large portion of our income derives from individuals who are over 75 and it is proving challenging to increase the amount of funding from younger generations.

As at the 31st December 2024 our total Reserves have increased to £64,941 of which £32,389 are Unrestricted and £32,073 are Restricted. We are therefore achieving our declared intention of increasing our Unrestricted Reserves year on year to give us a better financial cushion going forward. We are also holding some legacy trust funds (known as the Tailbury Legacies) on behalf of 'The Vicar and Churchwardens of St Mary's' which are not PCC funds and are thus not reflected in the Balance Sheet. Thanks are due in particular to Mark Fogg Elliot for all his efforts, not only in handling the day-to-day accounting issues but also for making significant improvements to our accounting systems.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members was conducted in accordance with Rule 14 of the Church Representation Rules 2017 (Rule M15 of the Church Representation Rules 2020). Langham with Boxted PCC is a registered charity. PCC members are the charity trustees and accept responsibility as such, being accountable to the Charity Commission. PCC members must comply with both charity law and with church (ecclesiastical) law, being clear about the PCC's purposes, procedures and governance.

Members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC. During 2024 there were no additions to the Electoral Roll and 2 removals. This left the numbers on roll at the year end at 72 of which 58 are parish residents and 14 are non-resident.

The full PCC met 6 times during the year. The Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting were held at St Peter's Church in May with 18 people attending.

Members of the PCC during 2024:

Ex officio:

The Revd Heather Wilcox	Rector, Priest in Charge and Chairman
The Revd Anne Mason	Associate Priest
The Revd Emma Barr	Curate
Denise Hobday	Lay Minister, Churchwarden - St Mary's, Deanery Synod Representative
Stephen Garner	Churchwarden, St Mary's
Jocelyn Carter	Churchwarden, St Peter's
Dominic Sheil	Ordinand

Elected from the Laity:

Jacqueline Budenberg	(elected 2022 retiring 2025)
Emma Fowler	(elected 2022 retiring 2025)
Patsy Ann Maggs	(elected 2023 retiring 2026)
Stephen Whybrow	(elected 2024 retiring 2027)

The PCC appointed the following Officers for 2024:

Vice-chair:	Patsy Ann Maggs
Secretary:	Emma Fowler
Joint Treasurers:	Stephen Whybrow, Mark Fogg Elliot
Electoral Roll Officer:	Tim Clarke
Gift Aid Secretary:	Michelle Percival
Fabric Officer, St Mary's:	Brian Flack
Fabric Officer, St Peter's:	Graham Pullen and Mr Stephen Whybrow
Good Neighbours Organiser:	Annette Whybrow
Youth Groups Leader:	Linda Sheil
Safeguarding Officer:	Patsy Ann Maggs
Safety Officer:	Roger Hobday
Tree Officer, St Mary's:	Stephen Garner
Tree Officer, St Peter's:	Graham Pullen, Stephen Whybrow
Tree Warden:	Roger Hobday
Newsletter Editor:	Stephen Pollington
Advertising Manager:	Paul Armstrong
Langham Community Council Representative:	Denise Hobday
Boxted Village Hall Committee Representative:	Jocelyn Carter

APPENDIX I: attendance at services

Attendance (all ages) at church services *excluding* school services, weddings and funerals:

	2024		2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
	St Mary's Church	St Peter's Church	Parish	Parish	Parish	Parish	Parish
January	47	72	85	137	nil ⁽¹⁾	175	150
February	71	79	103	93		173	151
March	104	131	110	127		92	194
April	59	72	191	167	94	nil ⁽¹⁾	266
May	28	87	67	117	86		162
June ⁽²⁾	64	188	98	92	67		157
July	35	51	83	150	67		164
August	54	65	88	116	145	32	119
September	49	74	92	161	96	26	257
October	45	63	209	113	74	39	189
November ⁽³⁾	53	109	130	138	157	99	298
December ⁽⁴⁾	210	313	418	345	204	168	480
Totals by church	819	1304					
Totals	2123		1674	1756	991 ⁽⁵⁾	804 ⁽⁵⁾	2587

NOTES: (1) Church buildings closed, virtual services held for 3 parishes.

(2) A six parish Confirmation service was held on the 5th Sunday of June in St. Peter's.

(3) The Remembrance service for Langham was at the village war memorial and not at St Mary's.

(4) Includes the Christingle at St Mary's and a well attended carol service at St Peter's with Silver Band.

(5) The Parish Totals for 2021 and 2020 are not comparable with previous years: (a) pandemic and (b) during 2021 the parish was without a Priest-in-Charge until late November.

There were 8 funeral services, 2 memorial services, one baptism and 4 weddings. We are grateful to the Warburton family of Langham Hall for use of their field on some occasions as an overspill car park.

APPENDIX II: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Langham with Boxted PCC Receipts and Payments Account

For the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<u>Receipts</u>						
Covenants & GA donations	33,000.23				33,000.23	32,259.70
Collections and donations	5,750.23				5,750.23	8,432.57
Gift Aid recovered	7,704.13				7,704.13	5,472.33
Weddings and funerals	13,957.74				13,957.74	9,494.00
Grant	4,500.00				4,500.00	2,862.36
Interest	1,070.11				1,070.11	1,076.27
CCLA Income			3,622.37		3,622.37	0.00
Magazine advertising	4,572.01				4,572.01	4,771.67
Total receipts	70,554.45	0.00	3,622.37	0.00	74,176.82	64,368.90
<u>Payments</u>						
Parish share	30,999.99				30,999.99	21,584.04
Organist	3,695.80				3,695.80	2,827.25
Verger	800.00				800.00	450.00
Bell ringers	240.00				240.00	0.00
Clergy expenses and fees	743.85				743.85	1,133.57
Electricity	1,103.97				1,103.97	1,129.83
Insurance	4,776.91				4,776.91	4,728.47
Oil	2,494.20				2,494.20	2,335.47
Salary	4,512.51				4,512.51	4,445.84
Office costs	2,055.43				2,055.43	2,538.86
Magazine printing	4,720.00				4,720.00	3,905.37
Bank charges	59.50				59.50	109.30
Churchyard maintenance	6,084.45				6,084.45	6,358.64
Repairs and renewals	7,829.35				7,829.35	2,845.44
Grants to Friends of St Peters	0.00				0.00	538.60
Total payments	70,115.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	70,115.96	54,930.68
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	438.49	0.00	3,622.37	0.00	4,060.86	9,438.22
<u>Transfers</u>						
Reserves at 31st Dec 2023	32,810.88	478.45	27,996.85	0.00	61,286.18	50,150.44
Youth Worker surplus/(deficit) to reserves	-503.40				-503.40	1,437.52
Good Neighbours	97.84				97.84	260.00
Transfer of current year surplus/(deficit)	438.49		3,622.37		4,060.86	9,438.22
Prior Year Adjustments to Reserves	-454.42		454.42		0.00	0.00
Reserves at 31st Dec 2024	32,389.39	478.45	32,073.64	0.00	64,941.48	61,286.18

APPENDIX II: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Langham with Boxted PCC Balance Sheet detailed

	as at: 31/12/2024	as at: 31/12/2023
<u>Current Assets</u>		
NatWest Current account - General	72,957.34	82,540.95
NatWest payments account - General	1,670.87	4,291.16
NatWest account - Youth Worker	5,632.77	5,552.34
NatWest account - Good Neighbours	1,987.98	1,890.14
CCLA deposit	14,214.49	13,498.04
CCLA Investment ex Tithe Chancel Fund	14,043.02	11,137.10
	110,506.47	118,909.73
Sundry Debtors		
Total Current Assets	110,506.47	118,909.73
<u>Liabilities</u>		
West Bergholt Current Account	156.61	161.17
Loan re Insurance	250.00	250.00
Churchwardens' Fund re Tailbury Legacy	45,158.38	57,212.38
Total Current Liabilities	45,564.99	57,623.55
Net Assets	64,941.48	61,286.18
 Represented by Reserves:		
Unrestricted Funds		
Brought forward	32,810.88	20,771.77
Prior year adjustment	-454.42	903.37
Surplus/(Deficit)	438.49	11,135.74
Youth Worker Surplus/(Deficit)	-503.40	
Good Neighbours Surplus/(Deficit)	97.84	
Carried Forward	32,389.39	32,810.88
Restricted Funds		
Brought forward	27,996.85	28,900.22
Prior year adjustment	454.42	-903.37
Surplus/(Deficit)	3,622.37	
Carried Forward	32,073.64	27,996.85
Designated Funds		
Brought forward	478.45	478.45
Surplus/(Deficit)	0.00	0.00
Carried Forward	478.45	478.45
Total Reserves:	64,941.48	61,286.18



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Langham with Boxted Parochial Church Council *(charity registration number 1131211)*

I report to the trustees of Langham with Boxted Parochial Church Council ("the Trust") on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31/12/ 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC'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 Act.

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 which gives me cause to believe that in any material aspect:

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

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

Signed:

STEPHEN FOWLER

Pond House, Church Road, Boxted, Colchester CO4 5TQ

Date: 22/03/25

Further information and contact details

The Parish of Langham with Boxted is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England.

Parish office: Church Office, Church Close, West Bergholt CO6 3JF
telephone: 01206 243683 email: lwb.wb.gh.parishes@gmail.com

St Mary's Church:
Langham Hall, Langham CO4 5PS

St Peter's Church:
Church Street, Boxted CO4 5SU

Parish websites:
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6458/ *and* www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6459/

Charity registration number: 1131211

Accounts



**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
THE PARISH OF LANGHAM WITH BOXTED**

**ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENT
for the year ended
31ST DECEMBER 2023**

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LANGHAM WITH BOXTED PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Trustees Annual Report for year ended 31st December 2023

Aim and purposes

The Langham with Boxted Parochial Church Council (the PCC) is a body corporate with its functions and powers contained in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended by the Synodical Government Measure 1969.

The PCC is charged with co-operating with the parish priest in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It has responsibility for the maintenance of the fabric of the two parish Churches, St Mary's and St Peter's, and the maintenance of their respective churchyards.

In accordance with guidance issued by the Archbishops' Council, the activities of the PCC are declared as:

1. Regular public worship open to everyone.
2. The provision of sacred space for prayer and reflection.
3. Pastoral work, especially visiting the sick and bereaved.
4. Teaching the Christian doctrine by sermon, short courses and study groups.
5. Conducting religious assemblies in local schools.
6. The provision of activities with a Christian ethos for young people.
7. The promotion of Christianity by meetings and the distributing of literature.
8. Furthering the mission of the church through a network offering practical assistance and friendship to the elderly and less mobile people of the parish.
9. Supporting other charities in the United Kingdom and overseas within the rules of the Charity Commission.
10. The consideration and discussions of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest.

Objectives and activities of the PCC and the parish

The objective of the council is the promotion of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, sharing the good news of Christ with all people of all ages, especially the young who are the future of the Christian church. We aspire to develop in the following five priority areas: to grow in our personal faith; to increase our Sunday attendance; to engage with our young people; to help our community in practical ways and to keep our finances on a secure footing.

Clergy and staff

Revd Heather has continued to be a visible presence in the parish. As well as preaching and leading services, she is a regular attendee at fundraising and other events. Heather contributes to the Parish Magazine each month, updates our new website and frequently holds open house events at the vicarage in West Bergholt. In June she preached at evensong in St Paul's Cathedral at the invitation of the Dean and was accompanied there by a number of people from the '6 parishes'.

Having been licensed as Associate Priest to the six parishes in January, Revd Anne Mason's main commitment is to the church in Great Horkesley. However she regularly visits to lead services of Holy Communion and also continues to arrange training events for all those invited to preach within the six parishes. Having completed her training Revd Emma Barr was ordained Deacon in September. She has become a welcome visitor to the parish, attending community events, volunteering at Langham Community Shop, as well as preaching and leading church services.

Heather and other clergy continue to be proactive in pastoral care, taking time to support the bereaved through home visits and the annual All Souls service as well as taking communion to the housebound in their own homes.

After a period of adoption leave Jo Russell returned part time to the role of parish administrator, a position which she now shares with Donna Luxton who had been covering for her.

Having been accepted for ordination training, Dominic Sheil resigned as churchwarden at St Peter's following the APCM. Jos Carter kindly volunteered to replace him. We are most grateful to them and to our churchwardens at St Mary's, Stephen Garner and Denise Hobday, for their contribution to the smooth running of services and other events held at our churches. We particularly wish to thank our many sidesmen for their important work in welcoming everyone to services and for supporting the clergy and churchwardens. Finally special thanks to Graham Pullen who resigned from the PCC after many years of service.

Worship, prayer and Bible study

It became evident that the pattern of services, as rearranged in the previous year, would benefit from further revision. While the 9.30am services of Holy Communion held on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays have been more popular, there was limited attendance at the 6.30pm Holy Communion at St Mary's and the 4pm Tea Time Family Worship at St Peter's on the 1st and 3rd Sundays respectively. Families and young people were not attracted to the 9.30am Morning Worship in St Peter's on the 1st Sunday of each month despite a revision of the liturgy to include opportunities for more child friendly activities.

Forest Church started in the summer and meets in St Peter's churchyard on the 2nd Saturday afternoon of each month, offering a combination of outdoor activities and worship. This has proved to be more attractive to families, in particular those with young people in our two youth groups. As before, on 5th Sundays joint Holy Communion services have been held at different churches within the 6 parishes. We remain most grateful to the clergy and to all who support and contribute to the various services.

In December it was decided that there should no longer be any afternoon services on Sundays and that on the 1st and 3rd Sundays a 9.30am said Holy Communion Service would be followed at 10.30am by a Morning Worship Service. The interval between the two services should provide a better opportunity for clergy to meet informally with the congregation over refreshments.

The fortnightly morning prayer meeting alternating with a study of the book 'How Village Churches Thrive' continued until the Lent Course, after which it was overtaken by other events. It is hoped that it can be revived in 2024. The monthly Beer and Bible at the Shepherd and Dog continued throughout the year with four regular attendees.

At Easter there was a sunrise service at St Mary's followed by the usual Holy Communion at St Peter's.

In the lead up to Christmas, a Carol Service was held in St Peter's church and Boxted St Peter's School used the church for their reception class Nativity Play. Langham School held a well attended end of term Carol Service at St Mary's. A more informal gathering for carol singing was held at the pub in Langham, led by Dominic Sheil and Denise Hobday with musical accompaniment by the Boxted Methodist Silver Band. There was a large congregation at the Christingle Service in St Mary's on Christmas Eve. The Midnight Mass and Christmas Day services took place as usual.

Music and Bells

The council is grateful to our organist, Mark Fogg-Elliot, for his continued commitment to the parish. For the few occasions when he has been unable to attend a substitute organist has been found. A faculty petition is in process to complete the rebuilding of the organ at St Mary's begun in 1997 (see

fabric report). Boxted Methodist Silver Band was welcomed at the Easter Day service, at Harvest Festival and at the Carol Service in December. At the latter we heard a performance from a “scratch choir” trained by the Reverend Heather. There has been no requirement for bells for weddings during the year and, with only two local bellringers active, St Mary’s bells have been largely silent. A technical problem with the chiming for St Peter’s bells led to interruption for a while to the usual pattern of two bells chimed for services and the daily striking of the hours.

Engagement with schools

Revd Heather has regularly visited Boxted School to lead Collective Worship as well as making occasional visits to Langham School. Patsy Ann Maggs has continued to make weekly visits to Boxted School, leading the children’s Faith Discussion Group and carrying out monitoring visits in her role as a School Governor responsible for Religious Education and Collective Worship. Jo Rankin has kindly agreed to take on the role of Foundation Governor at the school.

The Open the Book team visited Boxted School each term and was very well received. Sadly Jenny Tadman was obliged to retire from the team in December. Her short but enthusiastic participation has been much appreciated. Thankfully we expect her to be replaced by a parent who is also a member of Freedom Church meeting in Great Horkesley. As before the group in West Bergholt borrows our costumes and props from time to time.

It was not possible to hold the Year 6 school leavers’ Retreat at the end of the summer term but a date has been booked for 2024.

Community activities

Youth Groups

The Edge (6-11 year olds) and The Zone (11-18 year olds) were well attended with 22 young people on the register. They met every other Friday evening during term time at St Peter’s with an average attendance of eight per group. Most of the young people were from Boxted, a few from North Colchester but none from Langham. It is hoped to address this by sending invitations to both Langham and Boxted schools. The evening includes activities and games, some of which relate to the evening’s Bible passage. This is read during tuck time and the evening ends with a topical prayer. Six of the young people have attended Forest Church bringing their families with them. We are grateful to Linda Sheil for taking over the running of these groups which aim to introduce young people in our village communities to the Christian faith.

Open Door Café

At Boxted Village Hall on Friday mornings Open Door Café is timed to suit parents dropping off their children at school but is open to everyone. There are usually around 6 ladies with 3 to 4 pre-school children. The Council is grateful to Don and Carola Markham for continuing to run the café so faithfully and for their dedication and support in many aspects of church activities.

Parish News

The PCC is the publisher of St Mary’s and St Peter’s free newsletter distributed monthly throughout the parish and which has editorial independence. The Council is grateful to Steve Pollington, editor, and Paul Armstrong, advertising manager, for their ongoing hard work in producing such a useful resource.

Events and fundraising

Several community events took place during the year many of which contributed towards church funds: a Quiz night in March; Family Food and Fun in the Easter holiday; a Big Breakfast in the Shepherd and Dog in April; Beer and Hymns at St Peter’s in September; a Ceilidh and a Jazz Night in November. The Council remains grateful to Don and Carola Markham, Jos Carter and Dominic Sheil for their considerable efforts in making these events such a success.

Coronation celebration

The Coronation village event in Boxted, organised by Jos and Dominic together with others from the local community including the Methodist Silver Band, saw the church play a key role in hosting a very successful event for the whole community.

Good Neighbours scheme

Good Neighbours provides assistance with lifts to medical appointments or collection of prescription and friendly visits to residents in Langham and Boxted who may be housebound or without transport. The scheme has operated with decreased levels of activity this year, completing 32 jobs. 12 clients were helped, and one needed help on 15 occasions over a six week period. The number of telephone operators and responders has also decreased but there are enough volunteers to match the current level of demand. Arabella Brentnall resigned at year end as organiser. We much appreciate all the hard work she has put into running the scheme so efficiently. The appointment of a new organiser is underway.

Volunteers and Helpers

Thanks are due to all the diligent, enthusiastic volunteers who contribute in many ways to our parish.

The PCC continues to be most grateful for the efforts of all those who work to keep our church buildings clean and tidy and to provide flower arrangements. The flower teams are led by Annette Whybrow in Boxted and Suzanne Dawson in Langham and the work of their skilled teams is much appreciated. St Peter's has a group of 8 led by Jenny Tadman who provide weekly cleaning. Patsy Ann Maggs leads the smaller team which cleans fortnightly at St Mary's. This year we have been particularly grateful to Daphne Peachey and Kate Gifford who generously give their time to clean St Mary's church each month in spite of not being members of the regular congregation.

Safeguarding

In her role as Parish Safeguarding Officer, Patsy Ann Maggs continues to ensure that DBS checks and safeguarding training for all PCC members, Open the Book and Good Neighbours volunteers are kept up to date. All necessary personal information is stored securely and this year our office administrators, Jo Russell and Donna Luxton, have jointly undertaken the role of data protection officer.

In September, our policy documents, risk assessments and activity plans were reviewed, updated where necessary and approved. Policy documents are available on our Church Near You website. In addition, a procedures file containing our policy documents, risk assessments, activity plans and safety check forms as well as guidance for sidesmen, vergers and intercessors is available in each of our church buildings. It is thought this will be useful if anyone is asked to step into a role at short notice.

We have also updated our procedures for the safety checks in both buildings and are grateful to Roger Hobday for agreeing to undertake these each quarter.

Deanery of Colchester

The deanery synod met three times throughout the year with the Rector and newly elected parish deanery synod members at all the meetings. There was an additional meeting for treasurers and clergy, to discuss the 2025 parish share calculations. During the year, Heather was elected at deanery synod to be on the house of clergy at diocesan synod. She has also become a member of the deanery chapter standing committee.

Having successfully applied for Mission Opportunities Funding, the deanery had £18,000 of funding awarded for parishes to access support towards running a parish 'Vision Day'. For the '6 Parishes' this was applied for collectively, rather than having to arrange 6 vision days within an already busy schedule for the coming year. Having secured just under £1,000 in funding to cover venue, food and a facilitator for the day, the vision day is booked for 27th July 2024 at Elmstead Market Church Rooms. This event is open to all members of the church.

Fabric and churchyards

St Mary's Church

Maintenance and repairs. All annual inspections were completed by the end of the year. Re-painting of door ironwork remains to be done in 2024 as soon as weather permits. The architect's Quinquennial Report is due in 2024.

Interior works. Following a resolution of the PCC the faculty petition procedure has commenced to add a pedal-organ of four stops to the existing organ as was planned in the initial grant of faculty in 1994. The greater part of the funding for the project will come from a legacy including the expressed wish to enhance the music in church. The PCC will seek grant funding and the Langham Church Support Trust welcomes donations to help complete the project within a year. The same legacy also includes the expressed wish to improve the interior decoration of St Mary's church and the architect's advice has been sought.

Churchyard. The section of the West wall of the churchyard damaged by a vehicle was repaired in January, the cost being met by the Church's insurers. The grass of old and new churchyards has been maintained as previously under contract with Tree and Lawn Company. The churchyard shed, while weathertight, is structurally in a poor state and needs replacing. The eventual cost will be met in part from a grant.

Terrier and inventory. The Churchwardens maintained the Inventory (Church Property Register).

St Peter's Church

Maintenance and repairs. The recent Quinquennial included a recommendation for urgent action on two weather proofing issues one being the replacement of damaged tiles particularly on the 'Dormer Window' on the south elevation and the other the repair of damaged and blocked rainwater gutters and drains. This work was completed at the end of last year at a cost of £7,467.60 (inc. VAT). Inevitably the work proved more extensive than we hoped because of the need to excavate a blocked soakaway, incorporating a silt basket to avoid future blockages and entirely re-felting and re-tiling the dormer window. We are grateful to the Friends of St Peter's Boxted Trust for contributing £4,000 to this cost.

Goods ornaments. The additional plaque to the World War Two memorial which was put up a few years ago has been replaced by a new one after recent research has identified some more village residents who lost their lives in the conflict. The cost was covered by a donation.

Churchyard and Graveyard. Work on clearing the churchyard with volunteer working parties has continued for a second year. The new wildlife friendly hedge on the north boundary was completed and is thriving. The focus then shifted to clearing the south boundary and thereby uncovering a number of previously concealed tombstones. Whilst the intention is to make the area wildlife friendly it is not to rewild it in total. Our plan is to strike a balance so that the churchyard will feel well tended and loved with wildlife-friendly hedges and clearly defined wildflower areas which will be managed as such. St Peter's achieved the 'Bronze Eco Church Award' on 9th October after work on our submission by Dominic Sheil and Laura Benns. Suffolk Wildlife Trust and the Dedham Vale Society have advised on a 3 year 'Wildlife Habitat Plan' and will support a grant application in this respect in 2024.

The churchyard and the graveyard are subject to regulations which are aimed at achieving a degree of conformity in their use. The PCC has been concerned for some time that these regulations are not being followed to the detriment of all. This is a sensitive issue and the Rector and Churchwarden plan to speak on a one-to-one basis with those who may inadvertently be breaching the regulations to explain our concerns and seek their compliance. A notice detailing the regulations has also been posted on the porch notice board.

The shed near the north boundary of the churchyard is collapsing and needs to be replaced. In addition the shed near the east door should have been removed pursuant to the faculty for the not so recent north side extension. Plans are advancing for the replacement of both sheds by a slightly larger more robust shed. The cost will be financed in part by a grant and in part by other donations.

There has been concern for some time as to the ‘unfriendly’ nature of the boards surrounding the area for cremated remains. We sought advice from the Diocese who visited to inspect the site and discuss our concerns. It has been decided to lower the boards which we are convinced will improve the position.

Terrier and inventory. The Churchwardens maintained the Inventory (Church Property Register).

Financial review and reserves policy: Treasurers' report

Despite the ravages of inflation and the other challenges which we and all parishes face, our accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023 show a reasonably satisfactory position. Some highlights and comments are:

- the apparent surplus as shown in the accounts of £11,136 needs to be reduced by £6,000 to reflect a final payment for our 2023 Parish Share which was not made until January giving us the more meaningful surplus of £5,136. This is much smaller than last year's figure. This is the second year that we have achieved a surplus after a number of years when we have been in deficit.
- the surplus increases our unrestricted reserves to £26,811 (again after adjusting for the £6,000 payment) which helps us further towards our declared objective of increasing our unrestricted reserves to £30,000 from the perilously low figure of £11,314 two years ago.
- the principal contributor to our improved financial position has been the fairer and more professional approach of the Diocese to the assessment of our parish share coupled with some material reductions in Diocesan expenses. This has resulted in a reduction of our parish share from over £44,000 a few years ago to £28,000 for 2023 and £25,000 for 2024. Without this reduced parish share we would be in very serious financial difficulties with our unrestricted reserves eliminated and unable to pay our full parish share.
- our total income for 2023 was £62,161 and our total expenses £57,025 (again adjusting for the £6,000). Both these figures are slightly inflated by wedding and funeral fees due to the Diocese and Clergy which are treated as income and then paid out as expenses. Of our total income by far the most important contributor is our regular standing order donations coupled to the related gift aid. These together contributed more than £32,000. Without these regular donations we would not be able to pay our full parish share and remain financially viable. The amount contributed by standing orders has remained about the same as last year solely due to our initiative to secure new standing orders to replace those that have come to an end. It is of vital importance that this initiative is actively continued year on year. A huge thank you is owed to all of these donors and everyone else who similarly contributes in various ways to the parish coffers.
- our balance sheet gives an unduly optimistic impression as to the strength of our finances because it includes within our Restricted Reserves £57,212 deriving from a single legacy which can only be used for a limited range of uses for St Mary's Church.
- inflation has impacted a number of our costs as it has everyone else. However the overall impact has been ameliorated due to the significant reduction of our parish share (this representing nearly half our expenditure) and the receipt of a Diocesan and another grant to help with energy costs.
- in the past the income from the Parish Magazine has well exceeded the costs and has made an important contribution to our annual income. However the increase in printing costs has largely eliminated this surplus.
- whilst the overall position is satisfactory the financial challenges we face will not go away. We are committed to scrutinising every item of potential expenditure and actively looking for ways to increase our income from standing orders and other forms of donations

Finally many thanks are due to Mark Fogg Elliot who has not only managed the intricacies of our day to day book keeping and accounts but also continued to digitise and otherwise update our accounting systems.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members was conducted in accordance with Rule 14 of the Church Representation Rules 2017 (Rule M15 of the Church Representation Rules 2020). Langham with Boxted PCC is a registered charity. PCC members are the charity trustees and accept responsibility as such, being accountable to the Charity Commission. Thus PCC members must comply with both charity law and with church (ecclesiastical) law, being clear about the PCC's purposes, procedures and governance.

Members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC. During 2023 there were no additions to the Electoral Roll, five removals and 3 address changes. This brings the current listing to 74 of which 60 are parish residents and 14 are non-resident.

The full PCC met seven times during the year. The Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting were held at St Peter's Church in May. Members of the PCC and its Officers and committees for 2022-23 are listed below.

Members of the PCC during 2023:

Ex officio:

The Revd Heather Wilcox	Rector, Priest in Charge and Chairman
The Revd Anne Mason	Associate Priest
Denise Hobday	Lay Minister, Churchwarden, St Mary's, Deanery Synod Representative
Stephen Garner	Churchwarden, St Mary's
Dominic Sheil	Churchwarden, St Peter's (January - May 2023)
Jocelyn Carter	Churchwarden, St Peter's (June - December 2023)

Elected from the Laity:

Jacqueline Budenberg	(elected 2022 retiring 2025)
Emma Fowler	(elected 2022 retiring 2025)
Patsy Ann Maggs	(elected 2023 retiring 2026)
Stephen Whybrow	(elected 2021 retiring 2024)
Graham Pullen	(elected 2020 retired May 2023)

The PCC appointed the following Officers:

Vice-chair:	Patsy Ann Maggs
Secretary:	Emma Fowler
Joint Treasurers:	Stephen Whybrow, Mark Fogg Elliot
Electoral Roll Officer:	Tim Clarke
Gift Aid Secretary:	Michelle Percival
Fabric Officer, St Mary's:	Brian Flack
Fabric Officer, St Peter's:	Graham Pullen and Stephen Whybrow
Good Neighbours organiser:	Arabella Brentnall
Zone and Edge groups leader:	Linda Sheil
Safeguarding Officer:	Patsy Ann Maggs
Safety Officer:	Roger Hobday
Tree Officer, St Mary's:	Stephen Garner
Tree Officer, St Peter's:	Graham Pullen
Tree Warden:	Roger Hobday
Newsletter Editor:	Stephen Pollington
Advertising Manager:	Paul Armstrong
Langham Community Council Representative:	Denise Hobday
Boxted Village Hall Committee:	Jocelyn Carter

APPENDIX I: attendance at services

Attendance (all ages) at church services *excluding* school services, weddings and funerals:

Year:	2023		2022	2021	2020
	St Mary's	St Peter's	Parish	Parish	Parish
January	35	50	137	nil ⁽¹⁾	175
February	34	69	93		173
March	56	54	127		92
April	62	129	167	94	nil ⁽¹⁾
May	29	38	117	86	
June	28	70	92	67	
July	31	52	150	67	
August	28	60	116	145	32
September	38	54	161	96	26
October ⁽²⁾	61	148	113	74	39
November ⁽³⁾	36	94	138	157	99
December ⁽⁴⁾	184	234	345	204	168
Totals by church	622	1052			
Parish totals	1674		1756	991 ⁽⁵⁾	804 ⁽⁵⁾

NOTES:

(1) Church buildings closed, virtual services held for 3 parishes.

(2) The Silver Band played at Harvest and Carol Services in October and December.

(3) The Remembrance service for Langham was at the village war memorial and not at St Mary's.

(4) This includes the Christingle at St Mary's and a particularly well attended carol service at St Peter's including the Silver Band.

(5) The Parish Totals for 2021 and 2020 are not comparable with previous years due to the pandemic. It is noted also that during 2021 the parish was without a Priest-in-Charge until late November.

There were 16 funeral services, one blessing of a civil marriage and eight baptisms. The baptisms took place either as an extra service or as part of a usual service with an increased congregation as a result.

APPENDIX II: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Langham with Boxted PCC Receipts and Payments Account

For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<u>Receipts</u>						
Covenants & GA donations	32,259.70				32,259.70	35,885.28
Collections and donations	8,432.57				8,432.57	8,572.02
Gift Aid recovered	5,472.33				5,472.33	6,823.76
Weddings and funerals	9,494.00				9,494.00	7,635.00
Legacies	0.00				0.00	7,000.00
Grant	2,862.36				2,862.36	3,601.00
Interest	1,076.27				1,076.27	323.27
Magazine contribution	866.30				866.30	1,591.82
Youth Worker	1,437.52				1,437.52	0.21
Good Neighbours	260.00				260.00	300.00
Planned Giving						
Total receipts	62,161.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	62,161.05	71,732.36
<u>Payments</u>						
Parish share	21,584.04				21,584.04	34,999.98
Organist	2,827.25				2,827.25	3,007.20
Verge	450.00				450.00	650.00
Bell ringers	0.00				0.00	0.00
Clergy expenses and fees	1,133.57				1,133.57	789.31
Electricity	1,129.83				1,129.83	696.00
Insurance	4,728.47				4,728.47	4,512.14
Oil	2,335.47				2,335.47	2,668.63
Salary	4,445.84				4,445.84	4,461.92
Office costs	2,538.86				2,538.86	978.11
Bank charges	109.30				109.30	5.25
Churchyard maintenance	6,358.64				6,358.64	2,530.58
Repairs and renewals	2,845.44				2,845.44	3,927.13
Donations	0				0.00	292.25
Grants to Friends of St Peters	538.6				538.60	1,500.00
Total payments	51,025.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	51,025.31	61,018.50
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	11,135.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,135.74	10,713.86
Transfers						
Reserves at 31st Dec 2022	20,771.77	478.45	28,900.22	0.00	50,150.44	35,692.93
Youth Worker surplus/(deficit) to reserves	903.37		-903.37		0.00	-903.37
Transfer of current year surplus/(deficit)	11,135.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,135.74	10,713.86
Prior Year Adjustments to Reserves	0.00				0.00	4,647.02
Reserves at 31st Dec 2023	32,810.88	478.45	27,996.85	0.00	61,286.18	50,150.44

APPENDIX II: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Langham with Boxted PCC Balance Sheet detailed

	as at: 31/12/2023	as at: 31/12/2022
<u>Current Assets</u>		
NatWest Current account - General	82,540.95	76,746.10
NatWest payments account - General	4,291.16	2,133.26
NatWest account - Youth Worker	5,552.34	1,991.44
NatWest account - Good Neighbours	1,890.14	1,766.19
CCLA deposit	13,498.04	13,078.87
Tithe Chancel Fund	11,137.10	11,137.10
	118,909.73	106,852.96
Sundry Debtors	0.00	
Total Current Assets	118,909.73	106,852.96
<u>Liabilities</u>		
West Bergholt Current Account	161.17	-509.86
Sundry Creditors	250.00	0.00
PCC held funds	57,212.38	57,212.38
Total Current Liabilities	57,623.55	56,702.52
Net Assets	61,286.18	50,150.44
Represented by Reserves:		
<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		
Brought forward	20,771.77	11,314.26
Prior Year Adjustment (LwB West Bergholt)	0.00	4,515.33
Prior year adjustment	903.37	131.69
Surplus/(Deficit)	11,135.74	5,713.86
Youth Worker Surplus/(Deficit)		-903.37
Carried Forward	32,810.88	20,771.77
<u>Restricted Funds</u>		
Brought forward	28,900.22	23,900.22
Prior year adjustment	-903.37	
Surplus/(Deficit)		5,000.00
Carried Forward	27,996.85	28,900.22
<u>Designated Funds</u>		
Brought forward	478.45	478.45
Surplus/(Deficit)	0.00	0.00
Carried Forward	478.45	478.45
Total Reserves:	61,286.18	50,150.44



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Langham with Boxted Parochial Church Council
(charity registration number 1131211)

I report to the trustees of Langham with Boxted Parochial Church Council ("the Trust") on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31/12/2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC'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 Act.

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 which gives me cause to believe that in any material aspect:

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

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

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen Fowler".

STEPHEN FOWLER

Pond House, Church Road, Boxted, Colchester CO4 5TQ

Date: 10/03/24

Further information and contact details

The Parish of Langham with Boxted is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England.

Parish office: Church Office, Church Close, West Bergholt CO6 3JF
telephone: 01206 243683 email: lwb.wb.gh.parishes@gmail.com

St Mary's Church:
Langham Hall, Langham CO4 5PS

St Peter's Church:
Church Street, Boxted CO4 5SU

Parish websites:
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6458/ *and* www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6459/

Charity registration number: 1131211

Accounts



**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
THE PARISH OF LANGHAM WITH BOXTED**

**ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENT
for the year ended
31ST DECEMBER 2022**

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LANGHAM WITH BOXTED PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Trustees Annual Report for year ended 31st December 2022

Aim and purposes

The Langham with Boxted Parochial Church Council (the PCC) is a body corporate with its functions and powers contained in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended by the Synodical Government Measure 1969.

The PCC is charged with co-operating with the parish priest in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It has responsibility for the maintenance of the fabric of the two parish Churches, St Mary's and St Peter's, and the maintenance of their respective churchyards.

In accordance with guidance issued by the Archbishops' Council, the activities of the PCC are declared as:

1. Regular public worship open to everyone.
2. The provision of sacred space for prayer and reflection.
3. Pastoral work, especially visiting the sick and bereaved.
4. Teaching the Christian doctrine by sermon, short courses and study groups.
5. Conducting religious assemblies in local schools.
6. The provision of activities with a Christian ethos for young people.
7. The promotion of Christianity by meetings and the distributing of literature.
8. Furthering the mission of the church through a network offering practical assistance and friendship to the elderly and less mobile people of the parish.
9. Supporting other charities in the United Kingdom and overseas within the rules of the Charity Commission.
10. The consideration and discussions of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest.

Objectives and activities of the PCC and the parish

The objective of the Council is the promotion of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, sharing the good news of Christ with all people of all ages, especially the young who are the future of the Christian church. The focus during the year continued to be on five priority areas for the parish: to grow in our personal faith, to increase our Sunday attendance, to engage with our young people, to help our community in practical ways and to keep our finances on a secure footing. Much has been achieved in 2022 with renewed energy and focus under the leadership of Reverend Heather Wilcox who has provided a strong sense of hope for the future.

Priest in Charge

Having joined us in the previous November, Revd Heather began to develop her role as Priest in Charge of six parishes: Great Horkesley, Langham with Boxted, Little Horkesley, Mount Bures, West Bergholt and Wormingford. In January she organised a Leading Your Church into Growth Course. The first session of was hosted by St Mary's, West Bergholt and attended by four members of the Langham with Boxted congregation together with others from the West Bergholt and Great Horkesley congregations. As a result of this and subsequent meetings, prayer for church growth has become a regular item in Sunday intercessions and there has been a move to hold one 'event' per month which it is hoped will be attractive to a wider audience. There have also been conversations around making our church buildings more welcoming to visitors, improving the layout and content of our website and in being more proactive in following up people contacted through the occasional offices. In the meantime, Heather has made considerable efforts to be a visible presence at parish and community events.

Revd Anne Mason successfully completed her three years as Curate and was formally signed off by the Bishop in anticipation of being licensed as Associate Priest in the New Year. In November she initiated what is to become a regular training event open to all those invited to preach within the six parishes.

Jo Russell, our Parish Administrator, left at the beginning of August for a period of adoption leave. In the interim her post has been very ably covered by Donna Luxton.

Worship and prayer

Revd Heather rearranged the pattern of services with a couple of revisions during the year in order to establish some consistency each month. Following the second revision Holy Communion services, usually led by Revd Heather or Revd Anne, have taken place in St Peter's at 9.30 on the 2nd Sunday in the month and in St Mary's at 9.30 on the 3rd and 4th Sundays as well as a 6.30pm service at St Mary's on the 1st Sunday. At St Peter's there is also an All Age Worship at 9.30 on the 1st Sunday and a Family Tea-Time service at 4pm on the 3rd Sunday of the month. On 5th Sundays joint Holy Communion services have been held at different churches in the 6 parishes.

Revd Heather and Revd Anne remain grateful to all who support and contribute to these services and a particular mention goes to Revd Ian Hilton who has also led services during the year as well as to our Churchwardens and Sidesmen.

The All Age service has been led by Dominic Sheil, Denise Hobday and Revd Heather although this has not as yet proved attractive to the younger generation. In the summer Revd Heather revised its liturgy and created some opportunities to include more child friendly activities and it is hoped this plan will attract more families as we move into 2023.

Following the departure of our Families' Worker, Jo Jeffery, Claire Arculus took over leadership of a team planning the Tea Time Family Service held in St Peter's. Having found herself unable to continue due to other work commitments, she withdrew from the role after Christmas. We are most grateful for her contribution throughout the year.

In April Revd Heather initiated a weekly prayer meeting to be held in St Peter's over the summer months with the intention of moving to the Hurlock Room in colder weather. However, in the autumn she and the three regular attendees changed to a fortnightly meeting in a private home alternating between prayer and study of the book 'How Village Churches Thrive.'

At Easter there was a sunrise service at St Peter's followed by the usual Holy Communion at St Mary's.

In September services of commemoration for her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth were held at both churches. The service at St Peter's was shared with the British Legion and the Boxted Methodist Silver Band played, creating a very special atmosphere. Books of Condolence had been signed by parishioners and visitors at both churches during the mourning period.

In the lead up to Christmas, a well attended Carol Service was held in St Peter's church and St Peter's School also used the church for their Reception/Year 1 Nativity service. A more informal gathering for carol singing was held at the pub in Langham, led by Dominic Sheil and Denise Hobday with musical accompaniment by Mark Fogg Elliot. There was a large congregation at the Christingle Service in St Mary's on Christmas Eve but the Crib Service in St Peter's was not well attended. The midnight and Christmas Day services took place as usual.

Music and Bells

The Council remains grateful to Mark Fogg Elliot as principal organist for his commitment to the parish during the year as well as to Boxted Methodist Silver Band. With the band of bellringers severely depleted as detailed in the last report there is at present no regular ringing at St Mary's. Ringers were gathered from the locality to ring for weddings in the summer. St Peter's two bells have been chimed electrically for services. Bells were tolled for an hour on the day following the death of her late Majesty the Queen Elizabeth.

Bible studies

The Beer and Bible Group led by Dominic Sheil resumed in the Shepherd and Dog pub in Langham and is held on the evening of the 2nd Monday of each month. This became a weekly Lent group in the period leading up to Easter. There have been no other Bible study groups in the parish but everyone is welcome to attend any groups meeting in the other five parishes if they so wish.

Engagement with schools

Revd Heather has regularly visited Boxted School to lead Collective Worship as well as making occasional visits to Langham School. It was wonderful to see St Mary's church full for the Langham School Christmas Carol Concert. Patsy Ann Maggs has continued to make weekly visits to Boxted School, leading the children's Faith Discussion Group and carrying out monitoring visits in her role as a School Governor. Church members also visited to help support children learning to read.

The Open the Book team were unable to visit Boxted School in January due to Covid restrictions. Instead they created a film based on the parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14: 15-23) with help from a few parents and congregation members. It was very well received by the school children who enjoyed watching it in their separate classrooms. From March onwards the team were able to visit twice per term as previously. Jos Carter and Graham and Gill Pullen decided to retire at the end of the Spring Term. Their enthusiastic participation over many years is very much appreciated and we are also most grateful to Sue Matthews and Jenny Tadman who have volunteered to replace them. During the year Revd Heather started a new group in West Bergholt whom we welcome to borrow costumes and props.

Having taken over from Jo Jeffery, Emma Fowler led the Year 6 school leavers' Retreat at the end of the summer term with a group of inspiring volunteers who ran practical sessions on various themes dealing with 'handling emotions'. Overall Revd Heather has been heartened by the strong Christian ethos at St Peter's School and all were thrilled to hear that the school received such a good and well deserved OFSTED inspection report at the end of the year.

Community activities

Youth Groups

The Zone (6-11 year olds) and The Edge (11-18 year olds) met fortnightly in St Peter's Church with increasing numbers in both groups. They undertook various activities and have exciting plans for 2023.

Open Door Cafe

At Boxted Village Hall on Friday mornings, Open Door Cafe is timed to suit parents dropping off their children at school but is open to everyone. Following the pandemic some of the original customers have returned but many of the mothers are now in work and therefore unable to attend. There have been a few newcomers but numbers are much lower than previously, usually averaging 6 visitors. The Council is grateful to Don and Carola Markham for continuing to run the cafe so faithfully and for their dedication and support in many aspects of church activities. The Harvest Supper which they organised in October was much enjoyed by all who attended.

Parish News

The PCC is the publisher of St Mary's and St Peter's free newsletter distributed monthly throughout the parish and which has editorial independence. The Council is grateful to Steve Pollington, editor, and

Paul Armstrong, advertising manager, for their hard work in producing such a useful resource. Since her arrival Revd Heather has been a regular contributor.

Events and fundraising

Several community events took place during the year. Many of these contributed towards church funds such as the Silbury Concert led by Scott Dolling in April, a Strawberry Fair and Teddy Bears' Picnic in June, Boxted Beer and Hymns in September and a Christmas Bazaar in December. St Peter's Markets had another good year selling plants in aid of the churches. The Council remains grateful to Jos Carter, Dominic Sheil and Stephen Whybrow for their considerable efforts in making these such a success.

Jubilee weekend celebrations

Both villages held various events over the Jubilee celebration weekend. At Boxted on the village playing field, Revd Heather led an act of worship which was well attended with Boxted Methodist Silver Band playing. This was much appreciated despite the bad weather and there was a great festive atmosphere.

Good Neighbours scheme

Good Neighbours continues to provide assistance to residents in Langham and Boxted who may be housebound or without transport. Most frequently this is for medical appointments or collection of prescriptions, as well as for a friendly visit. The scheme has operated with slightly increased levels of activity than in 2021, with 44 jobs being completed during the year.

It was however a difficult year in some respects, with the very sad deaths of two wonderful volunteers, Laurence O'Hagan and Alison Phillips, who are much missed. There have also been several retirements due to illness, old age or lack of time. Fortunately six new volunteers came forward and the scheme is running well with nine telephone operators and 20 responders. Our thanks go to all the caring and enthusiastic volunteers and to the organiser, Arabella Brentnall, for her hard work in running the scheme so efficiently.

Volunteers and Helpers

Thanks are due to all the diligent, enthusiastic volunteers who contribute in many ways to our parish.

In particular the PCC continues to be most grateful for the efforts of all those who work to keep our church buildings clean and tidy and to provide flower arrangements. The flower teams are led by Annette Whybrow in Boxted and Suzanne Dawson in Langham and the work of their skilled teams is much appreciated. Regarding the cleaning teams, while St. Peter's has a small group led by Jenny Tadman who provide weekly cleaning, it is a matter of some concern that there are only four on the rota at St Mary's. It has therefore not been possible for St Mary's to be cleaned every week. We are most grateful to Jos Carter for helping out until she was obliged to withdraw in July for health reasons. We would be delighted if others were able to volunteer.

Safeguarding

Following the resignation of Laura Benns, Patsy Ann Maggs was appointed as Parish Safeguarding Officer in September. Laura's efforts on our behalf over the previous four years are much appreciated as is her willingness to remain as an Assistant Recruiter for DBS applications.

Following her appointment, Patsy Ann has been working to bring all our DBS applications and safeguarding training up to date. As a registered charity this is a requirement and applies to PCC members, Youth Leaders, Good Neighbours volunteers as well as the Open the Book team and is particularly urgent as the Church of England now requires this to be revisited every three years instead of every five as previously.

Risk management and policies

The PCC undertook a review of its policy documents in the autumn. All of these, including the parish Safeguarding and Health and Safety Policies, were approved and are now available for everyone to see on our 'A Church Near You' website.

In addition and in order to ensure that certain policies are being effectively implemented, we have revised our Safer Recruitment procedures for Good Neighbours and Open the Book volunteers; ensured that Risk Assessments are in place for all church activities whether regular or occasional and displayed informative posters for victims of abuse in our church buildings.

Deanery of Colchester

The Rector and Synod Representatives ensured parish representation at every meeting during the year. The main focus of discussions was on developing new formulas for calculating the Parish Share and how to revise allocations.

Fabric and churchyards

St Mary's Church

Maintenance and repairs. Priority items listed in the 2019 Quinquennial Report having had attention in 2020, remaining items are less burdensome, such as maintenance of ironwork.

Goods and ornaments. A pair of chairs in oak, Jacobean style, have been acquired for seating the couple at weddings instead of using steel and plastic stacking chairs. Following the failure of the wireless microphone of the sound system a new radio microphone system with two lavalier (lapel) microphones (rather than one plus hand-held) was purchased and installed to work through the existing amplifier and speakers, the cost being met by a parishioner. It was first in use Christmas morning.

Churchyard. The grass was maintained under contract. The remaining Covid restrictions and consideration of extant Covid risks again prevented a churchyard working party. As at the year end no tradesman had yet been found to estimate for repair of damage to the churchyard wall, presumed to be accidental impact by a vehicle. Either they will not accept insurance work or have too much work in hand to schedule more. In response to a resolution of the PCC the Archdeacon's approval was given for a new 'garden seat' inscribed in memory of Walter and Dorothea Tailbury to be funded from a legacy from the late Dorothea Tailbury to the "Vicar and Churchwardens of the Parish Church of Langham".

Terrier and inventory. The Churchwardens maintained the Inventory (Church Property Register).

St Peter's Church

Maintenance and repairs. Routine annual maintenance such as servicing the boiler and fire extinguishers was carried out in 2022. In addition the cleaning out of the gutters was undertaken by Lodge and Sons, builders. However storm damaged some of the guttering and a general overhaul of the roof tiles is now overdue. Estimates are now being sought. The quinquennial review of the condition of the Church has taken place by the Diocesan architect, but his report was not received until January 2023, for our consideration.

Goods ornaments. Following successful removal of the north aisle pews, nothing further to report.

Churchyard and Graveyard. The churchyard working party made great progress with clearing overgrown areas and planting a new perimeter hedge along the footpath. The plan remains for areas in the graveyard around the church to become long grass with wild flowers.

Terrier and inventory. The Churchwarden maintained the Inventory (Church Property Register).

Financial review and reserves policy: Treasurers' report

Our accounts for 2022 show a modest surplus of £5713.86. In the context of all the problems we have faced over the last year or so this is a heartening result. The single biggest factor in this improvement was the PCC's decision to reduce our Parish Share payment to £35,000. Only three years ago it was over £44,000. The view of the PCC over recent years that we were being asked to pay an unfair amount by way of Parish Share has been vindicated by the decision of the Diocese to totally revise its approach to the assessment of Parish Share allocation. As a consequence of this changed approach our Parish

Share for 2023 has been reduced further to £28,000. This has also been made possible in part by the success of the Diocese in reducing its expenditure.

As at the 31st December 2021 our unrestricted reserves had been reduced to a seriously low level and could have been wiped out if the pattern of modest deficits in recent years had continued. The 2022 surplus will enable us to begin reversing this trend. The aim of the PCC is gradually to increase our unrestricted reserves over the next few years with our target being £30,000. If we are to continue as an active parish the ability to pay our way is of critical importance since we cannot assume that in the future the Diocese will have sufficient funds to keep us afloat.

Where possible we have applied for available grant funding including the government Covid grant funding and the Diocesan energy grant funding. We have also invested in a Card Reader system on a trial basis to address the issue of cashless congregations.

Mark Fogg Elliot assumed the role as one of two Joint Treasurers at the beginning of 2022. He has made a huge impact by changing to an online banking system and by both computerising our accounting records and improving how we capture both income and expenditure. These changes have enabled the PCC to better monitor the sources of our income and categories of expenditure and for the first time to produce a budget for 2023.

Our current priority in relation to finances is to attempt to widen the base of our standing order supporters. More than half of our income derives from standing orders and the related gift aid. However more than half of our standing order income comes from individuals who are over 70. During 2023 the PCC will be seeking to address this issue by actively looking for more and younger standing order supporters.

The PCC wish to assure everyone that we will continue carefully to scrutinise all expenditure and avoid unnecessary expenditure whilst fulfilling our mission objectives within our means. The PCC would also like to express its thanks to everyone who contributes to our funding in so many ways. We could not continue without you.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members was conducted in accordance with Rule 14 of the Church Representation Rules 2017 (Rule M15 of the Church Representation Rules 2020). Langham with Boxted PCC is a registered charity. PCC members are the charity trustees and accept responsibility as such, being accountable to the Charity Commission. Thus PCC members must comply with both charity law and with church (ecclesiastical) law, being clear about the PCC's purposes, procedures and governance.

Members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC. During 2022 there were two additions to the Electoral Roll and one removal. This brings the current listing to 79 of which 65 are parish residents and 14 are non-resident.

The full PCC met six times during the year. The Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting were held at St Mary's Church in May with 18 people attending. Members of the PCC and its Officers and committees for 2022-23 are listed on the following page.

Members of the PCC during 2022:

Ex officio:

The Revd Heather Wilcox	Rector, Priest in Charge and Chairman
The Revd Anne Mason	Assistant Curate
Mrs Denise Hobday	Lay Minister, Churchwarden, St Mary's and Deanery Synod Representative
Mr Stephen Garner	Churchwarden, St Mary's
Mr Dominic Sheil	Evangelism Enabler, Churchwarden, St Peter's and Deanery Synod Representative

Elected from the Laity:

Mrs Patsy Ann Maggs	(elected 2020 retiring 2023)
Mr Graham Pullen	(elected 2020 retiring 2023)
Mr Stephen Whybrow	(elected 2021 retiring 2024)
Mrs Jocelyn Carter	(elected 2022 retiring 2025)
Mrs Jacqueline Budenberg	(elected 2022 retiring 2025)
Mrs Emma Fowler	(elected 2022 retiring 2025)

The PCC appointed the following Officers:

Vice-chair:	Mrs Patsy Ann Maggs
Secretary:	Mrs Emma Fowler
Joint Treasurers:	Mr Stephen Whybrow and Mr Mark Fogg Elliot
Electoral Roll Officer:	Mr Tim Clarke
Gift Aid Secretary:	Mrs Michelle Percival
Fabric Officer, St Mary's:	Mr Brian Flack
Fabric Officer, St Peter's:	Mr Graham Pullen
Good Neighbours organiser:	Mrs Arabella Brentnall
Zone and Edge groups leader:	Mr Dominic Sheil
Safeguarding Officer:	Mrs Laura Benns (retired May 22)
Safeguarding Officer:	Mrs Patsy Ann Maggs (from Sept 22)
Tree Officer, St Mary's:	Mr Stephen Garner
Tree Officer, St Peter's:	Mr Graham Pullen
Tree Warden:	Mr Roger Hobday
Newsletter Editor:	Mr Stephen Pollington
Advertising Manager:	Mr Paul Armstrong

Denise Hobday was appointed the PCC's representative on the Langham Community Council (the management body for the Langham Community Centre).

Committees of the Council

The following were appointed to the Standing Committee: Reverend Heather Wilcox, Stephen Garner, Patsy Ann Maggs, Dominic Sheil and Stephen Whybrow, with Emma Fowler to act as secretary to take the minutes when required.

The Council appointed no other committees.

APPENDIX I: attendance at services

Year:	2022		2021	2020	2019
	St Mary's Church	St Peter's Church	Parish	Parish	Parish
January ⁽²⁾	88	49	nil ⁽¹⁾	175	150
February	53	40		173	151
March	47	80		92	194
April	79	88	94	nil ⁽¹⁾	266
May	52	65	86		162
June	53	39	67		157
July ⁽²⁾	45	105	67		164
August	32	84	145	32	119
September ⁽³⁾	62	99	96	26	257
October	58	55	74	39	189
November ⁽⁴⁾	42	96	157	99	298
December ⁽⁵⁾	144	201	204	168	480
Totals by church	755	1001			
Parish Totals⁽⁶⁾	1756		991	804	2587

Attendance (all ages) at church services *excluding* school services, weddings and funerals:

NOTES:

(1) Church buildings closed, virtual services held for 3 parishes and streamed from St Mary's in West Bergholt, the only church with adequate mobile signal. Those 'attending' (viewing) were from West Bergholt, Great Horkesley as well as Boxted with Langham.

(2) January at St Mary's and July at St Peter's include united services for The Six Parishes.

(3) Services of commemoration held for her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

(4) The Remembrance service for Langham was at the village war memorial and not at St Mary's.

(5) This includes the Christingle at St Mary's and a particularly well attended carols service at St Peter's including the Silver Band.

(6) The Parish Totals for 2021 and 2020 are not comparable with previous years: (a) concerns over Covid-19 and physical distancing measures (b) the closure of church buildings during lockdowns. It is noted also that during 2021 the parish was without a Priest-in-Charge until late November.

There were eight funeral services, four marriage services and four baptisms. The baptisms have been either an extra service or part of a usual service with an increased congregation as a result.

APPENDIX II: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Langham with Boxted PCC Receipts and Payments Account

For the period from 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<u>Receipts</u>						
Covenants & GA donations	35,885.28				35,885.28	
Collections and donations	8,572.02				8,572.02	
Gift Aid recovered	6,823.76				6,823.76	
Weddings and funerals	7,635.00				7,635.00	
Legacies	2,000.00		5,000.00		7,000.00	
Grant	3,601.00				3,601.00	
Interest	323.27				323.27	
Magazine contribution	1,591.82				1,591.82	
Youth Worker	0.21				0.21	
Good Neighbours	300.00				300.00	
Planned Giving						29,896.12
Collections and other giving						8,828.12
Other voluntary receipts						1,126.28
Gift Aid recovered						6,432.23
Other receipts						628.33
Activities for generating funds						7,189.50
Investment Income						32.15
Receipts from church activities						3,901.90
Total receipts	66,732.36	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	71,732.36	58,034.63
<u>Payments</u>						
Parish share	34,999.98				34,999.98	
Organist	3,007.20				3,007.20	
Verger	650.00				650.00	
Bell ringers	0.00				0.00	
Curates expenses	789.31				789.31	
Electricity	696.00				696.00	
Insurance	4,512.14				4,512.14	
Oil	2,668.63				2,668.63	
Salary	4,461.92				4,461.92	
Office costs	978.11				978.11	
Bank charges	5.25				5.25	
Churchyard maintenance	2,530.58				2,530.58	
Repairs and renewals	3,927.13				3,927.13	
Donations	292.25				292.25	
Grants to Friends of St Peters	1,500.00				1,500.00	
Cost of generating funds						0.00
Missionary and Charitable Giving						182.90
Parish Share						39,471.96
Clergy and Staffing costs						5,772.77
Church Running Expenses						14,657.01
Church Repairs & Maintenance						1,562.63
New Building work						0.00
Governance Costs						0.00
Total payments	61,018.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	61,018.50	61,647.27
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	5,713.86	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	10,713.86	-3,612.64
Transfers						
Reserves at 31st Dec 2021	11,314.26	478.45	23,900.22	0.00	35,692.93	39,437.26
Youth Worker surplus/(deficit) to reserves	-903.37				-903.37	
Transfer of current year surplus/(deficit)	5,713.86	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	10,713.86	-3,612.64
Prior Year Adjustments to Reserves	4,647.02				4,647.02	
Reserves at 31st Dec 2022	20,771.77	478.45	28,900.22	0.00	50,150.44	35,824.62

APPENDIX II: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Langham with Boxted PCC Balance Sheet detailed

	as at: 31/12/2022	as at: 31/12/2021
<u>Current Assets</u>		
NatWest Current account - General	76,746.10	69,840.15
NatWest payments account - General	2,133.26	0.00
NatWest account - Youth Worker	1,991.44	2,894.81
NatWest account - Good Neighbours	1,766.19	1,766.19
CCLA deposit	13,078.87	12,909.08
Tithe Chancel Fund	11,137.10	11,137.10
	106,852.96	98,547.33
Sundry Debtors	0.00	
Total Current Assets	106,852.96	98,547.33
<u>Liabilities</u>		
West Bergholt Current Account	-509.86	0.00
Sundry Creditors	0.00	0.00
PCC held funds	57,212.38	62,722.71
Total Current Liabilities	56,702.52	62,722.71
Net Assets	50,150.44	35,824.62
Represented by Reserves:		
<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		
Brought forward	11,314.26	11,445.95
Prior Year Adjustment (reAgency Collections)	4,515.33	
Prior year adjustment	131.69	
Surplus/(Deficit)	5,713.86	-131.69
Youth Worker Surplus/(Deficit)	-903.37	
Carried Forward	20,771.77	11,314.26
<u>Restricted Funds</u>		
Brought forward	23,900.22	27,381.17
Surplus/(Deficit)	5,000.00	-3,480.95
Carried Forward	28,900.22	23,900.22
<u>Designated Funds</u>		
Brought forward	478.45	478.45
Surplus/(Deficit)	0.00	0.00
Carried Forward	478.45	478.45
Total Reserves:	50,150.44	35,692.93



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

**Independent examiner's report on the
accounts**

Langham with Boxted Parochial Church Council
(charity registration number 1131211)

I report to the trustees of Langham with Boxted Parochial Church Council ("the Trust") on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31/12/ 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC'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 Act.

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 which gives me cause to believe that in any material aspect:

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

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

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Fowler".

STEPHEN FOWLER

Pond House, Church Road, Boxted, Colchester C04 5TQ

Date: 23rd April 2023

Further information and contact details

The Parish of Langham with Boxted is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England.

Parish office: Church Office, Church Close, West Bergholt CO6 3JF
telephone: 01206 243683 email: lwb.wb.gh.parishes@gmail.com

St Mary's Church:
Langham Hall, Langham CO4 5PS

St Peter's Church:
Church Street, Boxted CO4 5SU

Parish websites:
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6458/ *and* www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6459/

Charity registration number: 1131211

Accounts



**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
THE PARISH OF LANGHAM WITH BOXTED**

**ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENT
for the year ended
31ST DECEMBER 2021**

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LANGHAM WITH BOXTED PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Trustees Annual Report for year ended 31st December 2021

Aim and purposes

The Langham with Boxted Parochial Church Council (the PCC) is a body corporate with its functions and powers contained in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended by the Synodical Government Measure 1969.

The PCC is charged with co-operating with the parish priest in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It has responsibility for the maintenance of the fabric of the two parish Churches, St Mary's and St Peter's, and the maintenance of their respective churchyards.

In accordance with guidance issued by the Archbishops' Council, the activities of the PCC are declared as:

1. Regular public worship open to everyone.
2. The provision of sacred space for prayer and reflection.
3. Pastoral work, especially visiting the sick and bereaved.
4. Teaching the Christian doctrine by sermon, short courses and study groups.
5. Conducting religious assemblies in local schools.
6. The provision of activities with a Christian ethos for young people.
7. The promotion of Christianity by meetings and the distributing of literature.
8. Furthering the mission of the church through a network offering practical assistance and friendship to the elderly and less mobile people of the parish.
9. Supporting other charities in the United Kingdom and overseas within the rules of the Charity Commission.
10. The consideration and discussions of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest.

Objectives and activities of the PCC and the parish

The objective of the Council is the promotion of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, sharing the good news of Christ with all people of all ages, especially the young who are the future of the Christian church. The focus during the year continued to be on five priority areas for the parish: to grow in our personal faith, to increase our Sunday attendance, to engage with our young people, to help our community in practical ways and to keep our finances on a secure footing. With the pandemic continuing into a second year, it became even more important to focus on workable solutions to these priorities. The following shows what was achieved during 2021 and we plan to renew and expand our activities in 2022.

New Priest in Charge

Having handed in her notice at the end of 2020 for personal reasons, Revd Mandy Elmes left us at the end of February. An online farewell service was held at the time followed by an outdoor tea party at the beginning of September.

Following a successful recruitment process in which we were most sympathetically helped by Bishop Roger and Archdeacon Ruth, Revd Heather Wilcox was appointed in November as Priest in Charge of six parishes: Great Horkesley, Langham with Boxted, Little Horkesley, Mount Bures, West Bergholt, and Wormingford.. We are most grateful to Revd Anne Mason, our Curate, and Jo Russell, our Parish Administrator, for their care for us during the period of interregnum and their ongoing commitment to these parishes.

Worship and prayer

From January until mid July, Sunday morning services of Holy Communion were held in St Mary's West Bergholt and shared across the 3 parishes via Zoom. These were led by Revd Mandy until her departure and thereafter by Revd Anne as well as other visiting clergy. All such services were recorded and available afterwards via the church website for others to download. For Easter Day a Sunrise Service at St Peter's and an Easter Eucharist at St Mary's were held outdoors. In May services returned to church buildings with appropriate social distancing measures in place and no music indoors, a closing hymn being sung outside. The last Sunday in July saw the resumption of the customary full sung service.

The once monthly DEEP (Discover, Explore, Exchange, Pray) service, led by our families worker Jo Jeffery, resumed in September following the lifting of restrictions. It was decided that in future this would be more appropriately named Teatime Family Worship in order to give a better impression of its purpose. Claire Arculus will be leading this service from January 2022 onwards.

Don and Carola Markham arranged two outdoor events at Boxted Village Hall - a Thanksgiving Service in September and a Nativity Play in December - both of which were well attended as was a Carol Concert held outside the Shepherd and Dog in Langham. The easing of Covid restrictions made it possible to hold the usual Crib and Christingle Services on Christmas Eve.

Music

Our organist Mark Fogg-Elliott has played keyboard or organ for the Easter outside service and the services from May with a hymn sung outside. From the resumption of the usual sung service since July there has been only one Sunday when he was unable to attend and he played for all the Christmas services, three of them on Christmas Eve. The Council owes its thanks to Mark for his commitment to the parish in a difficult year.

The Boxted Methodist Silver Band played at the September Thanksgiving Service and at Boxted's Remembrance Service in November. Their contribution is very much appreciated.

Bells

The cessation of all ringing from March 2020 to the middle of 2021 meant we have lost two recruits who were learning and a senior ringer who has decided to retire permanently. With the band depleted by this and the previous loss of two ringers who moved away, there is at present no regular ringing at St Mary's. Ringers were gathered from the locality to ring for two weddings in the summer. St Peter's two bells have been chimed electrically for services and rung by rope for the first wedding allowed to take place.

Bible studies

Revd Anne hosted and led an online Bible Study course using Lyfe resources produced by the Bible Society from January until August. She also ran an Alpha course via Zoom during the end part of 2020 until the end of February. Together with her husband Tim she ran the five session Marriage Preparation course via Zoom in April and May for couples across the three parishes.

Also, in the spring she and Patsy Ann Maggs led an online series of confirmation classes for a young man who was confirmed in mid May and has since gone on to university. Other Bible study groups previously held in people's homes have not yet resumed.

Deanery of Colchester

The Rector and Synod Representatives ensured parish representation at every meeting during the year. The main focus of discussions has been on the Deanery vision plan, the Church of England's vision to be carbon neutral by 2030 and online Safeguarding training.

Pastoral care and families

2021 was the fourth and final year of Joanne Jeffery's employment as Families Worker for this parish and the parishes of West Bergholt and Great Horkesley. In it she made it her focus to work towards handing over the many activities and projects that she has initiated to be led by others. It is hoped that in the future we may be able to recruit another families worker to consolidate much of the work that she has begun.

The Soul Food WhatsApp group which she had created as a means of supporting families spiritually throughout Covid continued as did the Larder which provided food for those in need. Over the Easter weekend she and Dominic Sheil ran a Muddy Church Easter Trail.

Young people of the parish

Nurture Group

This prayer and Bible study group led by Patsy Ann Maggs and intended for confirmed 12-16 year olds, met fortnightly via Zoom during the Spring Term during which they continued their study of the Acts of the Apostles followed by a variety of online games. Thereafter, as numbers fell due to a surfeit of online learning and the mounting pressure of exams, it was decided that the group had outgrown its usefulness and should be discontinued.

However, in August, several of the members enjoyed an overnight camp out in Dedham vicarage garden together with other young people from that church. This was arranged and led by Claire Arculus.

The Zone and Edge

Having been closed due to restrictions, these groups for 6-11 year olds and 11-18 year olds, led by Dominic and Linda Sheil, reopened outdoors in St. Peter's churchyard on Good Friday. Since then both groups have met fortnightly on Friday evenings in term time at St. Peter's Church, the Methodist Hall being no longer available. There has been an average attendance of 9 children at The Zone. The Edge has 8 members and averages 5 young people in attendance. Both groups have been playing non contact games outside in warmer weather to avoid the need to wear masks constantly. The young people are becoming familiar with the church building and its surroundings and have shown considerable interest in understanding its history and significance.

In mid December four young people from the Edge attended a successful Mission and Ministry Unit youth event for 10-14 year olds which was held at Assington Hall by kind permission of the owner. The afternoon included fun and games, worship and prayer and a meal of pizza and brownies. This was led by Revd Hannah Cooper and Joanne Jeffery and it is hoped that it will be the first of many.

Engagement with schools

Joanne Jeffery remained in close contact with our two schools, running Year 6 retreats, recording acts of worship and assisting with the development of plans for Religious Education. The Open the Book team had hoped to return to Boxted School in the Autumn Term but this proved to be impossible due to Covid restrictions. However Patsy Ann Maggs was able to visit weekly during October and November to meet with the children's Faith Discussion Group. Together they created a film on the subject of the Advent Wreath which was shown to the whole school via Zoom in December. She continued to attend governors' meetings virtually throughout the year and was able to visit in the autumn to monitor the school's provision for Religious Education. She and Emma Fowler also visited to help with children's reading and writing.

Community activities

Open Door Cafe

At Boxted Village Hall on Friday mornings, Open Door Cafe is timed to suit parents dropping off their children at school but is open to everyone. Having been closed for most of the year, the cafe reopened in September with smaller numbers than previously. It is hoped that things will pick up as life returns to

“normal.” The Council is grateful to Don and Carola Markham for running Open Door Cafe so enthusiastically and for their dedication and support in many aspects of church activities.

Good Neighbours

The PCC is the initiator and sponsor of the Good Neighbours scheme offering assistance to the housebound or those without their own transport. Most frequently this is for medical appointments or collection of prescriptions. During 2021 the volunteers carried out 40 jobs, a considerable drop from 69 the year before. Nevertheless, in recognition of its contribution to the community, the scheme received a grant of £500 from Colchester Borough Council Community Enabling Service. In September Arabella Brentnall, the organiser, hosted a drinks party to meet with all concerned, to thank them for their efforts and to welcome any suggestions for improvements. Our thanks go to her, Laurence O’Hagan, treasurer and joint organiser, as well as to the 24 volunteers and 10 telephone operators.

Parish News

The PCC is the publisher of St Mary’s and St Peter’s free newsletter distributed monthly throughout the parish and which has editorial independence. The Council is grateful to Steve Pollington, editor, and Paul Armstrong, advertising manager, for their hard work in producing such a useful resource. During the vacancy, the PCC and Revd Anne Mason have endeavoured to ensure that the church community continues to write a relevant contribution for inclusion in each month’s edition.

Volunteers and helpers

Thanks are due to all the diligent, enthusiastic volunteers who contribute in many ways to our parish.

Church Cleaning

The PCC continues to be most grateful to those who week by week keep the two churches clean and tidy. Their efforts are a great benefit to all. We owe particular thanks to Anne Hollands who recently retired from the cleaning St. Mary’s, a job which she has faithfully undertaken for many years. At the end of the year a rota of six people was set up to take on this responsibility.

Flower teams

St Peter’s Church is fortunate in having a loyal group of 18 ladies who enhance the beauty of St Peter’s with floral arrangements. Despite another lockdown in 2021, the church remained open every day and the presence of the flowers helped to keep things as near normal as possible. The flowers are arranged every week except during Lent and Advent, regardless of whether there is a service on Sunday. During the Festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas a special effort is made to mark these events with arrangements which compliment the relevant season. Particular thanks are extended to Jane Corin and Elaine Mott who always come forward to help on these occasions. At St Mary’s Church, the flower team of six, now led by Helen McBride, made sure there were always fresh flowers arranged in the church throughout the year (except in Lent and Advent), the whole team assembling for the extra decoration appropriate at Easter and Christmas. Although the teams have had the benefit of some younger recruits in recent years, they are always looking for more volunteers regardless of experience. Men are welcome too! The Council is grateful to all for their dedication.

Safeguarding

Following the annual review, the PCC adopted the latest safeguarding policy and is thankful to Laura Benns for continuing as Safeguarding Officer. There have been no safeguarding disclosures during the year. All procedures have been followed, including in terms of recruitment of staff and volunteers. The focus for early in 2022 is to complete the updated safeguarding training for all PCC members.

Risk management

The PCC has a formal policy for safe procedure and risk management for work and equipment in church buildings with provision for periodic checks.

Fabric and churchyards

St Mary's Church

Maintenance and repairs. Priority items listed in the 2019 Quinquennial Report having had attention in 2020, remaining items are less burdensome, such as maintenance of ironwork.

Goods and ornaments. A pair of chairs in oak, Jacobean style, have been acquired for seating the couple at weddings instead of using steel and plastic stacking chairs. Following the failure of the wireless microphone of the sound system a new radio microphone system with two lavalier (lapel) microphones (rather than one plus hand-held) was purchased and installed to work through the existing amplifier and speakers, the cost being met by a parishioner. It was first in use Christmas morning.

Churchyard. The grass was maintained under contract. The remaining Covid restrictions and consideration of extant Covid risks again prevented a churchyard working party. As at the year end no tradesman had yet been found to estimate for repair of damage to the churchyard wall, presumed to be accidental impact by a vehicle. Either they will not accept insurance work or have too much work in hand to schedule more. In response to a resolution of the PCC the Archdeacon's approval was given for a new 'garden seat' inscribed in memory of Walter and Dorothea Tailbury to be funded from a legacy from the late Dorothea Tailbury to the "Vicar and Churchwardens of the Parish Church of Langham".

Terrier and inventory. The Churchwardens maintained the Inventory (Church Property Register).

St. Peter's Church

Maintenance and repairs. The church, despite its age, has not required any significance maintenance this year, although a minor overhaul of the roof tiles has yet to be completed.

Goods and ornaments. A formal application was made to the Chancellor for the permanent removal of the C19th pews from the north aisle. This involved the notifying of the relevant statutory consultees. No adverse response was received apart from the Victorian Society. They expressed concern at the permanent removal of the pews as they had originally been included in the major reordering by the eminent architect A. N. Bloomfield in 1870. However, after some discussion, they were persuaded that the use by the Junior church and the gaining of space allowing for post service activities, outweighed the retention of permanent seating. The Faculty was duly granted in April 2021, and the additional space has proved extremely useful both to the Junior church and to the Congregation.

Churchyard and Graveyard. Only essential maintenance was possible due to Covid, but plans are being made for all aspects of the external areas in the church's ownership, which have become seriously overgrown in places. Concern over the life of the mature beech tree close to the entrance gate, remains; however, testing by an Arborist revealed that the damage to the tree by fungal attack was not as extensive as first feared. Regular inspection and possibly more testing should be undertaken in the interests of safety.

Financial review and reserves policy: Treasurers' report

2021 has proved to be a challenging year for our finances. Covid has inevitably impacted adversely on our income in various ways. Covid restrictions limited both the number of gathered services and the attendances at gathered services reducing not only income from collections but also income from our envelope scheme. In addition we have not been able to run our usual programme of fundraising events. Despite all of this we have only experienced a small unrestricted income deficit of £131.69 (the combined unrestricted and restricted income reduced by £3612). This is a highly creditable performance in all the circumstances which has been achieved by a combination of avoiding all unnecessary expenditure, reducing our Parish Share to a figure representing fifty per cent of the published tariff for a Priest in Charge and not experiencing any unplanned/emergency expenses in maintaining the fabric of our two listed church buildings. We have been both sensible and lucky!

As to our income this was £57,342, of which Planned Giving was £29,800 (down about £3,500), Collections and Other Giving £8,800 (up by about £1,100) and related Gift Aid £6,400 (down by about £800). There is some distortion in the figures for Current Assets and Liabilities in the Balance Sheet resulting from the receipt of a significant legacy (the use of which is subject to trust restrictions and cannot be treated as part of the PCC's general funds) the amount of which is shown in accordance with accounting convention as both an asset and a liability.

The further deficit has reduced our combined unrestricted and restricted reserves to £30,624.84. Some 10 years or so ago these stood at over £60,000, but in the 1990's were lower than they are now. Much more significant is the reduction in our unrestricted reserves/general funds to £11,314. These reserves could be wiped out within twelve months if we either relax our ultra prudent approach as to expenditure, if we have a significant drop in funding or we are unlucky in experiencing unexpected expenditure. It is salutary to keep in mind that, if we had not reduced our portion of the Parish Share two years ago to fifty per cent of the published tariff for a Priest in Charge, our unrestricted reserves would now be less than £3000. We are heading for dangerous financial territory.

Considerable thought has been given to our medium and longer term financing. More than half our income derives from the generosity of standing orders from individuals in our two villages not all of whom are church members. A significant proportion of this income is from individuals who are in their seventies or older. In order to guard against a future significant funding gap we need urgently to broaden this support group with more and hopefully younger individuals who will support the institution of an active church in our villages going forward.

Now that we are part of our new Rector's six parishes we need to come up with a formula for sharing our joint Parish Share on a basis that is fair to all. Under the chairmanship of the Rector the Treasurers of each of the six parishes are meeting to address this issue and we are confident that a solution will be agreed which is not just fair to us but to all the parishes. The formula could be based upon a number of weighted factors possibly including membership, service attendances, unrestricted income and parish populations.

For the last few years Anthony Corin and Stephen Whybrow have shared the role of Treasurer. At Anthony's request he will be standing down as and when the 2021 Accounts are approved and we are delighted that Mark Fogg Elliot has agreed to take his place. Anthony (and Jane) have been stalwart supporters of our church for more than 40 years and have always involved themselves in all aspects of church life, including accounting, fundraising, flag rotas and church flowers to name but a few. Anthony played a leading role in our 2000 year fundraising for St Peter's Boxted and in implementing the subsequent re ordering. There will be an opportunity to mark Anthony's contribution later in the year.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members was conducted in accordance with Rule 14 of the Church Representation Rules 2017 (Rule M15 of the Church Representation Rules 2020). Langham with Boxted PCC is a registered charity. PCC members are the charity trustees and accept responsibility as such, being accountable to the Charity Commission. Thus PCC members must comply with both charity law and with church (ecclesiastical) law, being clear about the PCC's purposes, procedures and governance.

Members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC. During 2021 there were two additions to the Electoral Roll and one removal. This brings the current listing to 74 of which 62 are parish residents and 12 are non-resident.

The full PCC met seven times during the year. The Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting were held at St Peter's Church in May with 25 people attending.

Members of the PCC and its Officers and committees for 2021-22 are listed on the next page.

Members of the PCC during 2021:

Ex officio:

The Revd Dr Amanda Elmes	Rector, Priest in Charge and Chairman (Jan-Feb 2021)
The Revd Heather Wilcox	Rector, Priest in Charge and Chairman (from Nov 2021)
The Revd Anne Mason	Assistant Curate
Mrs Denise Hobday	Lay Minister, Churchwarden, St Mary's and Deanery Synod Representative
Mr Stephen Garner	Churchwarden, St Mary's
Mr Dominic Sheil	Evangelism Enabler, Churchwarden, St Peter's and Deanery Synod Representative

Elected from the Laity:

Mrs Patsy Ann Maggs	(elected 2020 retiring 2023)
Mr Graham Pullen	(elected 2020 retiring 2023)
Mrs Jocelyn Carter	(elected 2019 retiring 2022)
Mrs Jacqueline Budenberg	(elected 2019 retiring 2022)
Mr James Collitt	(elected 2021 retiring 2022)
Mr Stephen Whybrow	(elected 2021 retiring 2024)

The PCC appointed the following Officers:

Vice-chair:	Mrs Patsy Ann Maggs
Secretary:	Mrs Emma Fowler
Joint Treasurers:	Mr Stephen Whybrow and Mr Anthony Corin
Electoral Roll Officer:	Mr Tim Clarke
Gift Aid Secretary:	Mrs Michelle Percival
Fabric Officer, St Mary's:	Mr Brian Flack
Fabric Officer, St Peter's:	Mr Graham Pullen
Good Neighbours organiser:	Mrs Arabella Brentnall
Zone and Edge groups leader:	Mr Dominic Sheil
Safeguarding Officer:	Mrs Laura Benns
Tree Officer, St Mary's:	Mr Stephen Garner
Tree Officer, St Peter's:	Mr Graham Pullen
Tree Warden:	Mr Roger Hobday
Newsletter Editor:	Mr Stephen Pollington
Advertising Manager:	Mr Paul Armstrong

Mrs Denise Hobday was appointed the PCC's representative on the Langham Community Council (the management body for the Langham Community Centre).

Committees of the Council

The following were appointed to the Standing Committee: the Rector, Mr Stephen Garner, Mrs Patsy Ann Maggs Mr Dominic Sheil, and Mr Stephen Whybrow, with Mrs Emma Fowler to act as secretary to take the minutes when required.

The Council appointed no other committees.

APPENDIX I: attendance at services

Attendance (all ages) at church services *excluding* school services, weddings and funerals:

Year:	2021		2020	2019	2018
	St Mary's Church	St Peter's Church	Parish	Parish	Parish
January	nil ⁽¹⁾		175	150	207
February			173	151	158
March			92	194	188
April	60	34	nil ⁽¹⁾	266	341
May ⁽²⁾	37	49		162	112
June ⁽²⁾	34	33		157	183
July	28	39		164	173
August ⁽³⁾	35	110	32	119	269
September	24	72	26	257	252
October	33	41	39	189	147
November	48	109	99	298	127
December	111	93	168	480	545
Totals by church	410	581			
Parish Totals (4)	991		804	2587	2702

NOTES:

(1) Church buildings closed, virtual services held for 3 parishes and streamed from St Mary's in West Bergholt, the only church with adequate mobile signal. Those 'attending' (viewing) were from West Bergholt, Great Horkesley as well as Boxted with Langham.

(2) Approximate figures for St Peter's: two services were not entered for May and one service not entered for June; a nominal figure of 12 was added per service not entered.

(3) St Peter's: includes a "3 parishes service" with baptism in August.

(4) The Parish Totals for 2021 and 2020 are not comparable with previous years: (a) concerns over Covid-19 and physical distancing measures (b) the closure of church buildings during lockdowns. It is noted also that during 2021 the parish was without a Priest-in-Charge until late November.

There were six funeral services, four at St Mary's and two at St Peter's. There were four marriage services and four baptisms.

APPENDIX II: financial accounts

Langham with Boxted PCC Receipts and Payments Account (Charity registration number: 1131211)

For the period from 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<u>Receipts</u>						
Planned Giving	29,896.12	-	-	-	29,896.12	33,256.80
Collections and other giving	8,828.12	-	-	-	8,828.12	7,177.72
Other voluntary receipts	1,026.28	-	100.00	-	1,126.28	29,476.76
Gift Aid recovered	6,432.23	-	-	-	6,432.23	7,252.29
Other receipts	628.33	-	-	-	628.33	2,119.25
Activities for generating funds	6,704.50	-	485.00	-	7,189.50	6,801.41
Investment Income	30.89	-	1.26	-	32.15	662.14
Receipts from church activities	3,796.00	-	105.90	-	3,901.90	1,849.00
Total receipts	57,342.47	-	692.16	-	58,034.63	88,595.37
<u>Payments</u>						
Cost of generating funds	-	-	-	-	0.00	300.00
Missionary and Charitable Giving	-	-	182.90	-	182.90	(29.57)
Parish Share	39,471.96	-	-	-	39,471.96	39,471.98
Clergy and Staffing costs	5,772.77	-	-	-	5,772.77	7,433.95
Church Running Expenses	10,666.80	-	3,990.21	-	14,657.01	14,068.82
Church Repairs & Maintenance	1,562.63	-	-	-	1,562.63	17,714.94
New Building work	-	-	-	-	0.00	5,090.88
Governance Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	57,474.16	-	4,173.11	-	61,647.27	84,051.00
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	(131.69)	-	(3,480.95)	-	(3,612.64)	4,544.37
<u>Transfers</u>						
Excess of receipts over payments before other...	(131.69)	-	(3,480.95)	-	(3,612.64)	4,544.37
Net movement in funds	(131.69)	-	(3,480.95)	-	(3,612.64)	5,806.98
<u>Reconciliation of funds</u>						
Bank accounts at 01 January 2021	30,756.53	478.45	8,202.28	-	39,437.26	33,630.28
Bank accounts at 31 December 2021	30,624.84	478.45	4,721.33	-	35,824.62	39,437.26

APPENDIX II: financial accounts

Langham with Boxted PCC Balance Sheet detailed

	As at 31/12/2021	As at 31/12/2020
<u>Current Assets</u>		
6501: Bank current account - General	69,840.15	13,130.45
6502: Bank current account - YW	2,894.81	2,225.61
6503: Bank current account - GN	1,766.19	1,584.40
6505: Bank deposit account	-	-
6510: CCLA (CBF) deposit account	12,909.08	12,902.35
6520: Tithe Chancel Fund	11,137.10	11,137.10
6580: Cash account - GN	-	-
Total Current Assets	98,547.33	40,979.91
<u>Liabilities</u>		
6699: Agency collections	62,722.71	1,542.65
Z04: Accounts Payable	-	-
Total Liabilities	62,722.71	1,542.65
Net Asset surplus (deficit)	35,824.62	39,437.26
<u>Reserves</u>		
Excess/(deficit) to date	(3,612.64)	4,544.37
Z01: Starting balances	39,437.26	33,630.28
Z02: Gains and losses on investments	-	424.46
Z03: Gains and losses own use	-	838.15
Total Reserves	35,824.62	39,437.26

The total reserves shown above are partly represented by unrestricted funds of £11,314.26 (2020: £15,596.10); the balance is made up of restricted funds of £23,900.22 (2020: £23,362.71), plus designated funds (unchanged from last year) of £478.45.

APPENDIX III: Examiner's report

Langham with Boxted PCC

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Langham with Boxted PCC

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Langham with Boxted PCC (the PCC) for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC'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 Act.

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 respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed:



CAROLYNN PRYSE PISSARRO

F.C.A.

Holly Lodge Farm, Holly Lane, Great Horkesley, Colchester, CO6 4AW

Date 30.4.2022

Further information and contact details

The Parish of Langham with Boxted is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England.

Parish office: Church Office, Church Close, West Bergholt CO6 3JF
telephone: 01206 243683 email: lwb.wb.gh.parishes@gmail.com

St Mary's Church:
Langham Hall, Langham CO4 5PS

St Peter's Church:
Church Street, Boxted CO4 5SU

Parish website: www.lb-churches.co.uk

Charity registration number: 1131211

Accounts



**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
THE PARISH OF LANGHAM WITH BOXTED**

**ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENT
for the year ended
31ST DECEMBER 2020**

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LANGHAM WITH BOXTED PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Trustees Annual Report for year ended 31st December 2020

Aim and purposes

The Langham with Boxted Parochial Church Council (the PCC) is a body corporate with its functions and powers contained in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended by the Synodical Government Measure 1969.

The PCC is charged with co-operating with the Parish Priest, Revd Dr Amanda Elmes, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It has responsibility for the maintenance of the fabric of the two Parish Churches, St Mary's and St Peter's, and the maintenance of their respective churchyards.

In accordance with guidance issued by the Archbishops' Council, the activities of the PCC are declared as:

1. Regular public worship open to everyone.
2. The provision of sacred space for prayer and reflection.
3. Pastoral work, especially visiting the sick and bereaved.
4. Teaching the Christian doctrine by sermon, short courses and study groups.
5. Conducting religious assemblies in local schools.
6. The provision of activities with a Christian ethos for young people.
7. The promotion of Christianity by meetings and the distributing of literature.
8. Furthering the mission of the church through a network offering practical assistance and friendship to the elderly and less mobile people of the parish.
9. Supporting other charities in the United Kingdom and overseas within the rules of the Charity Commission.
10. The consideration and discussions of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest.

Objectives and activities of the PCC and the parish

The objective of the Council is the promotion of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, sharing the good news of Christ with all people of all ages, especially the young who are the future of the Christian church. The focus at the start of the year was on five priority areas for the parish: to grow in our personal faith, to increase our Sunday attendance, to engage with our young people, to help our community in practical ways and to keep our finances on a secure footing. With the arrival of the pandemic, some of these priorities inevitably grew in importance whilst others became more challenging. The following provides an outline of various activities, with a sense that much was achieved during 2020 whilst also revealing where to focus renewed efforts in 2021.

Worship and prayer

The pattern of church services remained unchanged until 15th March, the principal service being 9:30am every Sunday, alternating between the two parish churches on a two month plan; a Common Worship Eucharist except on the third Sunday in the month which was a non-Eucharistic "family" service. Other regular services were the Eucharist according to the Book of Common Prayer, 8am at St. Mary's on the third Sunday and the less formal 'Discover, Explore, Exchange, Pray' (DEEP) service at 4pm on the second Sunday which attracted, as intended, a mix of the younger members of our church family and similar age groups in the parish who may be less familiar with Anglican liturgical worship. It was led by our Families Worker, Mrs Joanne Jeffery, and included activities, discussion, worship and prayer and was held at St. Peter's church where refreshments were more conveniently arranged. There was also an all-age Eucharist service on 16th February.

From the middle of March onwards joint Eucharist services were held virtually at 10am on Sunday mornings in conjunction with the parishes of West Bergholt and Great Horkesley. These were led by the Rector as well as Revd Anne Mason, our Curate, and other clergy, particularly following Paul Elmes' unfortunate accident at the end of the summer. All such services were recorded and available afterwards via the church website for others to download. Live viewing figures were encouraging (see appendix I, note 1). In addition there were two online DEEP services in May and in November.

Eucharist services at 8am were held twice monthly in church buildings from August to October and during December. There were also gathered Eucharist services in St. Mary's on Christmas Eve and in St. Peter's on Christmas Day. Remembrance and Carol services took place out of doors and were well attended with feedback on how good it felt to gather again in larger numbers. See appendix I (page 10) for figures on attendance at services.

Music and bells

Music and singing have been greatly missed for much of the year. However, the Council is grateful to Mr Mark Fogg-Elliott, organist, who has played at gathered services, as well as outdoors for the Carol Service at St Peter's where youth members' musical talents were also much appreciated. The Methodist Silver Band played outside on 14th December at St Peter's, with a good turn-out on a damp evening. All appreciated the beautiful carols and the atmosphere created around the entrance to the church.

Bell-ringing was suspended in March. Parishioners look forward to a celebratory peal of bells when the pandemic recedes and restrictions are lifted.

Bible studies

A ladies' prayer and Bible study group led by Mrs Angela McLauchlan met twice during January and February. Subsequently a prayer group open to all met online throughout the first lockdown from the end of March until the end of June.

The Beer and Bible group met in the Shepherd Pub in Langham until it had to close in March.

The Rector and her Curate, Revd Anne Mason, emailed weekly Bible studies during lockdown for use at home. Revd Mason also started a Bible study group in November, which meets virtually each week and is attended by an average of ten people from our parish and neighbouring parishes.

Deanery of Colchester

The Rector and Synod Representatives endeavour to ensure parish representation at all meetings of Synod. These involve discussions of the Deanery Plan and other questions that are raised based on the topic of the guest speaker. The regular communication to Deanery Synod members is full of useful information. All meetings this year have been held virtually.

Pastoral care and families

2020 was the third year of Mrs Jeffery's employment as Families Worker for this parish and the parishes of West Bergholt and Great Horkesley. The role provides for pastoral and practical support of families, young people and the local schools. Mrs Jeffery's activities include parenting courses and listening to God courses. From March she kept in regular contact with church families as well as our two schools. By setting up the Soul Food 'app' for the first lockdown, she provided Bible verse, commentary, an activity and prayer and this was well received by families at a difficult time. There were also online acts of worship for Boxted School and she arranged outdoor prayer spaces for both schools. Mrs Jeffery initiated The Larder, a church and community project to provide food for families adversely affected by the pandemic. Three generous donations have provided sufficient funds to cover her salary in 2021.

Young people of the parish

Nurture Group

This group of confirmed 11 to 15 years olds met on Friday evenings in the home of Mrs Patsy Ann Maggs from January until the middle of March and from then onwards via Zoom. Its purpose is to help the young people grow in faith through Bible study and prayer as well as to enjoy one another's company.

During the spring term they followed the Prayer Course delivered online by Pete Grieg author of 'How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People.' In the summer term the group looked at some of the strange words we use in church such as righteousness, redemption and sanctification exploring their meaning and relevance. In the autumn term they began a study of the Acts of the Apostles.

A planned visit to the SOLID festival on 4th July was cancelled but replaced by an online version organised by Claire Arculus in collaboration with Dedham parish.

The Zone

This group is for children aged 6-11 years, with 14 members. Meetings are weekly during term time at St Peter's Church, Boxted, on Friday evenings 5.30–7pm. Activities include Games, Bible Stories, Prayers and Snacks, "Food for Thought". The group met in January and February 2020 but due to restrictions and concerns for viral transmission, there have been no meetings during the rest of the year.

The Edge

This group is for 11-18 years, with 6 members and fortnightly meetings during term time at St Peter's Church, Boxted, on Friday evenings 7.30- 9pm. Activities include Bible based discussions, linked to current affairs or members' school life, as well as games and film nights with snacks available. Meetings have taken place through the year whenever possible, with many sessions outside and socially distanced. There was even a meeting during the school holidays at the request of members who found the need to talk and get away from home.

Members of both the Zone and Edge groups were actively involved in the Carol Service through music and readings. They take part in the DEEP services and read in Church.

Engagement with schools

St. Peter's School, Boxted

Until mid-March the Rector and Mrs Patsy Ann Maggs attended Governors' meetings and regularly visited the school in their role as Governors. Mrs Maggs monitored Religious Education (RE) and Collective Worship. During the Spring Term, the Rector took at least one Act of Worship in each half term. They were based on the school's Christian Values. The Open the Book team presented the story of the widow's mite in February.

After lockdown on 23rd March and for the rest of the year, 'in person' visits to school stopped. Governors' meetings transferred to Zoom, and RE and Collective Worship were monitored online. Acts of Worship had to be recorded in advance. The weekly faith discussion group could not continue and Open the Book presentations were cancelled.

Mrs Jeffery has given at least one act of worship every half term and has continued to do this virtually during lockdown. This included Advent. She attended the year 6 Leavers' assembly and was invited to give a short talk and a prayer. She held an Explore Church day for the lower school. Pupils came to St Peter's church to explore various aspects including bell-ringing, stained glass window story-telling, baptism and exploring the Bible. Mrs Jeffery also led an RE lesson about science and faith with years 4-6. She has remained in close contact with the school by sending encouraging cards and emails as means of support.

Langham County Primary School

During the Spring Term of 2020 the Rector was able to take Assemblies in Langham School. They were based on Langham School's key values. Mrs Jeffery has kept in close contact with the school through encouraging emails and cards. She held a prayer space for Year 4 about Change to support pupils through Covid along with Mrs Claire Arculus and Mrs Laura Benns. This is the first prayer space that has happened in Langham School and it was well received. Mrs Jeffery sent an Easter and an Advent recorded assembly to school and offered chaplaincy support for staff. As in Boxted, she has helped to provide meals for families through the Larder.

Community activities

Open Door Cafe

At Boxted Village Hall on Friday mornings, Open Door Cafe is timed to suit parents dropping off their children at school but is open to everyone. Once a month Mrs Jeffery comes to the cafe to read a Bible story and lead singing and craft work. The final meeting of the year was 13th March and there was no summer party. However, thanks to Mrs Jo Rankin, it was possible to give a small Christmas gift to a number of families.

Good Neighbours

The PCC is the initiator and sponsor of the Good Neighbours scheme offering assistance to the housebound or those without their own transport. Most frequently this is for medical appointments or collection of medical prescriptions. The Council owes its gratitude to Mr David Hope, who retired during the year. He was organiser of the scheme for 11 years from its outset in 2009 and was dedicated to its ongoing operation. Mrs Arabella Brentnall has kindly taken over this role and continues to ensure all works smoothly and in accordance with safeguarding policy.

2020 was another active year, with 67 jobs and trips completed. This figure is down on 2019 but this may have been due to the pandemic, with the need for physical distancing and fewer requests for trips. Over 65% of the jobs were for collection and delivery of prescriptions. New volunteers were recruited to increase the number of telephone operators and responders. The PCC is grateful to all the volunteers who make the scheme such a success and it is hoped that 2021 will bring new opportunities, for instance in bringing together those who have been isolated through shielding during 2020.

Parish News

The PCC is the publisher of St Mary's and St Peter's free newsletter distributed monthly throughout the parish and which has editorial independence. The Council is grateful to Mr Tim Clarke, editor, and Mrs Claire Arculus, advertising manager, for their hard work in producing such a useful resource and also to Mr Steve Pollington and Mr Paul Armstrong, who have taken over during the year as editor and advertising manager respectively. A revised colour format has been well received. It was decided to give advertisers six months' free space as the printed newsletter was suspended from April to September and since the emailed digital version had a much reduced reach.

Volunteers and helpers

Thanks are due to all the diligent, enthusiastic volunteers who contribute in many ways to our parish.

Church Cleaning

The PCC continues to be most grateful to those who week by week keep the two parish churches clean and tidy. Their efforts are a great benefit to all. It is hoped that new members will come forward to swell the small teams and allow long-serving members to stand down.

Flower teams

Likewise immense gratitude is due to the two teams who create beautiful flower arrangements, enhancing the settings of services and, during 2020, continuing to do so for periods when the church may only have been open for private prayer.

Safeguarding

Following the annual review, the PCC adopted the latest Safeguarding Policy and is thankful to Mrs Laura Benns for continuing as Safeguarding Officer. There have been no safeguarding disclosures during the year. All procedures have been followed, including in terms of recruitment of staff and volunteers.

Risk management

The PCC has a formal policy for safe procedure and risk management for work and equipment in church buildings with provision for periodic checks.

Fabric and churchyards

St Mary's church

Fabric. The work to extend the footpace was completed in January and the retention was invoiced and settled in November, when the final application under Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme was also submitted. Works to replace missing and broken roof tiles, to fit copper strip to the ridges against moss accumulation, to rebuild the top four courses of brick of the boiler chimney and re-point externally a crack above a South aisle window were carried out in October and the entire cost met by the Langham Church Support Trust. All four items are listed in the 2019 Quinquennial Report.

Goods and ornaments. There were no acquisitions or disposals.

Churchyard. The grass was maintained under contract the same as in 2019. Covid restrictions prevented the otherwise desirable churchyard working party. The gateposts for the new gate between 'old' and 'new' churchyards were installed early in the year and measurements checked for the gate. The manufacture and delivery of the gate itself was forestalled by the March lockdown. The gate is now stored in the parish awaiting refurbishment of the old hinges and better weather.

Terrier and inventory. The Churchwardens maintained the Inventory (Church Property Register).

St Peter's church

Maintenance and repairs. The final retention period for the major works to the tower has expired and the project has been completed. Replacement of defective tiles within the roof of the front dormer window has been delayed but will be completed when the weather allows. Otherwise no major maintenance is anticipated for the near future.

Goods and ornaments. Pews have been removed from the north aisle under a temporary Licence from the Archdeacon. The extra space was required for youth activities following the closure of the Methodist Hall which had been used by our Youth Groups on a weekly basis. The additional space has proved extremely useful during the short period when the church has been allowed to be open. The PCC has therefore resolved to apply for a Faculty to make this a permanent arrangement. A legal notice to this effect was displayed on the church notice board for the required 28 days in December 2020. A plan of the church showing the removed pews area together with related photographs was on view in the church.

Churchyard and Graveyard. Grass cutting to the old churchyard continues to be carried out voluntarily by Trevor Bellis, for which the PCC is most grateful. The graveyard is maintained by a contractor. Trees which are protected under the Boxted Church Road Conservation Order have been a problem with storm damage to the cedars. Of a more serious nature, the magnificent copper beech tree close to the front gate is suffering from an extensive fungal attack. Advice has been sought from a qualified Arborist who has recommended that the trunk is tested so that the extent of the damage can be gauged. This test is due to be carried out by a specialist firm early in 2021. It is hoped this tree can be saved.

Terrier and inventory. The Churchwarden maintained the Inventory (Church Property Register).

Boxted Village Hall land

Thanks to the continued efforts of Jasper Hunt, the Boxted Village Hall land lease was finally agreed and signed by the Rector together with other representatives of the PCC and only awaited the signature of the Boxted Parish Council at the end of the year.

Financial review and reserves policy: Treasurers' report

Unsurprisingly 2020 proved to be a challenging year for PCC finances solely due to the current pandemic. Our inability to hold normal church services for much of the year had a number of adverse consequences. These included much reduced service collections and a huge reduction in donations from the envelope scheme which together we have estimated as a combined reduction of around £8000. In addition our normal village fundraising was not possible because of social distancing and other government rules and guidance.

Our attempt to encourage members of the envelope scheme to continue to donate on the same basis as previously met with some welcome response and in particular a number of supporters increased their standing orders and/or made one off donations. Overall standing orders and related gift aid increased by around £3000. We are truly grateful to all those who responded in this way which has been a lifeline. There were some small reductions in our running costs but most of our costs are fixed.

Although our annual accounts show a small surplus, this is misleading. The figure for restricted funds shown in the analysis on page 11 includes a legacy of £10,000 whose purpose is restricted to specific expenditures within the costs of upkeep of the graveyard at St Mary's Church. In substance we recorded an operating loss of around £6000. This would have been considerably worse if we had not reduced our Parish Share by a little over £5000. This decision, which was not uncontroversial, resulted from us having ascertained from the Diocese's new transparency approach to the calculation of Parish Share that we were previously paying more than the Diocesan tariff figure for fifty per cent of the cost for a Priest in Charge. Our unrestricted reserves at the end of 2019 were around £23,500 which have now been depleted by around £6000 rather than £11,000.

Whilst we will hopefully be back to some new form of normality during 2021, our finances will inevitably continue to be adversely affected and in all likelihood into 2022. We have determined to avoid all unnecessary expenditure and to ensure that no commitment is contemplated without a thorough prior costing. The Priorities and Strategy Review approved by the PCC in early 2020 highlighted the serious deterioration in our unrestricted reserves between 2010 and 2015 and the importance of guarding our remaining reserves as best we can. We have some confidence that we can ride this financial storm, which feeling has been buoyed up by some significant one off donations received since the beginning of the year. Plans are also in preparation for some online village fundraising.

Special thanks are due to Anthony Corin for his immaculate control of our accounting records and to Carolyn Pissarro for fulfilling her role as our Independent Examiner. See pages 11 and 12 for the financial accounts and page 13 for the examiner's report.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members was conducted in accordance with Rule 14 of the Church Representation Rules 2017 (Rule M15 of the Church Representation Rules 2020). Membership of the PCC for 2020 is listed on the next page. Langham with Boxted PCC is a registered charity. PCC members are the charity trustees and accept responsibility as such, being accountable to the Charity Commission. Thus PCC members must comply with both charity law and with church (ecclesiastical) law, being clear about the PCC's purposes, procedures and governance.

Members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC. During 2020 there were three additions to the Electoral Roll and one removal. This brings the current listing to 75 of which 63 are parish residents and 12 are non-resident.

The full PCC met six times during the year, with three of these meetings held virtually by video and audio links due to the pandemic. The annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting were delayed to October, but thankfully were held at St Mary's Church, physically distanced in line with guidelines.

Members of the PCC during 2020:

Ex officio:

The Revd Dr Amanda Elmes	Rector, Priest in Charge and Chairman
The Revd Anne Mason	Assistant Curate
Mrs Denise Hobday	Lay Minister, Churchwarden, St Mary's and Deanery Synod Representative
Mr Stephen Garner	Churchwarden, St Mary's
Mr Dominic Sheil	Churchwarden, St Peter's and Deanery Synod Representative

Elected from the Laity:

Mrs Patsy Ann Maggs	(elected 2020 retiring 2023)
Mr Graham Pullen	(elected 2020 retiring 2023)
Mrs Jocelyn Carter	(elected 2019 retiring 2022)
Mrs Jacqueline Budenberg	(elected 2019 retiring 2022)
Mr Stephen Whybrow	(elected 2018 retiring 2021)
Mr James Collitt	(elected 2020 retiring 2021)

The PCC appointed the following Officers:

Vice-chair:	Mrs Patsy Ann Maggs
Secretary:	Mrs Elizabeth Nickerson (Jan-April 2020) Mrs Emma Fowler (from May 2020)
Joint Treasurers:	Mr Stephen Whybrow and Mr Anthony Corin
Electoral Roll Officer:	Mr Tim Clarke
Gift Aid Secretary:	Mrs Michelle Percival
Fabric Officer, St Mary's:	Mr Brian Flack
Fabric Officer, St Peter's:	Mr Graham Pullen
Chairman, Good Neighbours:	Mr David Hope (January-August) Mrs Arabella Brentnall (Sept-December)
Zone and Edge groups leader:	Mr Dominic Sheil
Safeguarding Officer:	Mrs Laura Benns
Tree Officer, St Mary's:	Mr Stephen Garner
Tree Officer, St Peter's:	Mr Graham Pullen
Tree Warden:	Mr Roger Hobday
Newsletter Editor:	Mr Tim Clarke (January-February) Mr Stephen Pollington (March-December)
Advertising Manager:	Mrs Claire Arculus (January-March) Mr Paul Armstrong (July - December)

Mrs Denise Hobday was appointed the PCC's representative on the Langham Community Council (the management body for the Langham Community Centre).

Committees of the Council

Under 2020 rules, the following were appointed to the Standing Committee: the Rector, Mr Stephen Garner, Mrs Patsy Ann Maggs Mr Dominic Sheil, and Mr Stephen Whybrow, with Mrs Emma Fowler to act as secretary to take the minutes when required.

The Council appointed no other committees.

APPENDIX I: attendance at services

Attendance (all ages) at church services *excluding* school services, weddings and funerals:

Year:	2020		2019	2018	2017
	St Mary's Church	St Peter's Church	Parish	Parish	Parish
January	58	117	150	207	248
February	79	94	151	158	162
March	32	60	194	188	313
April (1)	nil		266	341	295
May (1)			162	112	227
June (1)			157	183	257
July (1)			164	173	226
August	11	21	119	269	124
September	11	15	257	252	200
October	20	19	189	147	206
November (2)	45	54	298	127	281
December (3)	15	153	480	545	492
Totals by church	271	533			
Parish Totals (4)	804		2,587	2,702	3,031

NOTES:

(1) Church buildings closed, virtual services held for 3 parishes and streamed from St Mary's in West Bergholt, the only church with adequate mobile signal. Those 'attending' (viewing) were from West Bergholt, Great Horkesley as well as Boxted with Langham.

Online services viewing figures (for 3 parishes): April 572, May 314, June 199 and July 158.

(2) Includes two Acts of Remembrance in Langham at School Memorial gate and at the Airfield memorial; and an outdoor service at St Peter's.

(3) St Mary's: the outdoor Christingle service was cancelled due to bad weather.

St Peter's: includes Carol service held outdoors (16 aged under 16, 9 were aged 16-18 and 71 over 18).

(4) The Parish Totals 2020 are not comparable with previous years: (a) concerns over Covid-19 transmission with the arrival of the new virus in the UK in January, (b) the closure of church buildings in late March, (c) after re-opening in August, space was restricted by physical distancing rules and many churchgoers did not return to indoor services for shielding reasons.

There were two graveside funeral services at St Mary's, one memorial service at St Peter's and one funeral service at the Crematorium. There were no weddings or baptisms.

APPENDIX II: financial accounts

Langham with Boxted PCC Receipts and Payments Account (Charity registration number: 1131211)

For the period from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<u>Receipts</u>						
Planned Giving	33,256.80	-	-	-	33,256.80	40,785.55
Collections and other giving	6,602.72	-	575.00	-	7,177.72	29,076.58
Other voluntary receipts	19,476.76	-	10,000.00	-	29,476.76	15,470.15
Gift Aid recovered	7,252.29	-	-	-	7,252.29	13,526.75
Other receipts	2,119.25	-	-	-	2,119.25	346.33
Activities for generating funds	6,092.31	-	709.10	-	6,801.41	19,673.35
Investment Income	65.08	-	597.06	-	662.14	1,966.95
Receipts from church activities	1,849.00	-	-	-	1,849.00	3,952.07
Total receipts	76,714.21	-	11,881.16	-	88,595.37	124,797.73
<u>Payments</u>						
Cost of generating funds	-	-	300.00	-	300.00	194.12
Missionary and Charitable Giving	247.13	-	(276.70)	-	(29.57)	488.56
Parish Share	39,471.98	-	-	-	39,471.98	44,207.52
Clergy and Staffing costs	7,433.95	-	-	-	7,433.95	2,751.91
Church Running Expenses	9,869.03	-	4,199.79	-	14,068.82	19,171.00
Church Repairs & Maintenance	17,714.94	-	-	-	17,714.94	57,066.97
New Building work	5,090.88	-	-	-	5,090.88	3,638.32
Governance Costs	-	-	-	-	-	1,558.94
Total payments	79,827.91	-	4,223.09	-	84,051.00	129,077.34
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	(3,113.70)	-	7,658.07	-	4,544.37	(4,279.61)
<u>Transfers</u>						
Excess of receipts over payments before other...	(3,113.70)	-	7,658.07	-	4,544.37	(4,279.61)
Net movement in funds	(1,851.09)	-	7,658.07	-	5,806.98	(2,717.61)
<u>Reconciliation of funds</u>						
Bank accounts at 01 January 2020	32,607.62	478.45	544.21	-	33,630.28	36,347.89
Bank accounts at 31 December 2020	30,756.53	478.45	8,202.28	-	39,437.26	33,630.28

cont.../

APPENDIX II: financial accounts

Langham with Boxted PCC Balance Sheet detailed

	As at 31/12/2020	As at 31/12/2019
<u>Current Assets</u>		
6501: Bank current account - General	13,130.45	9,776.16
6502: Bank current account - YW	2,225.61	1,856.23
6503: Bank current account - GN	1,584.40	1,508.62
6505: Bank deposit account	-	-
6510: CCLA (CBF) deposit account	12,902.35	12,847.80
6520: Tithe Chancel Fund	11,137.10	10,117.64
6580: Cash account - GN	-	-
Total Current Assets	40,979.91	36,106.45
<u>Liabilities</u>		
6699: Agency collections	1,542.65	1,638.02
Z04: Accounts Payable	-	838.15
Total Liabilities	1,542.65	2,476.17
Net Asset surplus (deficit)	39,437.26	33,630.28
<u>Reserves</u>		
Excess/(deficit) to date	4,544.37	-
Z01: Starting balances	33,630.28	32,068.28
Z02: Gains and losses on investments	424.46	1,562.00
Z03: Gains and losses own use	838.15	-
Total Reserves	39,437.26	33,630.28

<u>Represented by Funds</u>		
Unrestricted	30,756.53	32,607.62
Designated	478.45	478.45
Restricted	8,202.28	544.21
Endowment	-	-
Total	39,437.26	33,630.28

APPENDIX III: Examiner's report

Langham with Boxted PCC

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Langham with Boxted PCC

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Langham with Boxted PCC (the PCC) for the year ended 31st December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC'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 Act.

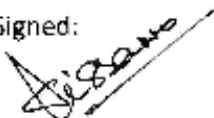
Independent examiner's statement

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 respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed:



CAROLYNN PRYSE PISSARRO

F.C.A.

Holly Lodge Farm, Holly Lane, Great Horkesley, Colchester, CO6 4AW

Date 27/03/2021

Further information and contact details

The Parish of Langham with Boxted is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England.

Parish office: Church Office, Church Close, West Bergholt CO6 3JF
telephone: 01206 243683 email: lwb.wb.gh.parishes@gmail.com

St Mary's Church:
Langham Hall, Langham CO4 5PS

St Peter's Church:
Church Street, Boxted CO4 5SU

Parish website: www.lb-churches.co.uk

Charity registration number: 1131211