

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

England & Wales · Charity number 1131568

Details

Other names	GOLDINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-09-10
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Marys Church Church Lane Goldington Bedford MK41 0AP
Phone	01234328823
Email	office@stmarygoldington.org.uk
Website	www.stmarygoldington.com

Activities

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

Activities: Regular public worship open to all. The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved. Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small study groups. Promoting the whole mission of the Church through provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and toddlers and other special need groups.

Classification

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

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£123,126	£120,632	-	-
2023-12-31	£118,281	£106,687	-	-
2022-12-31	£102,324	£102,133	-	-
2021-12-31	£128,390	£99,001	-	-
2020-12-31	£124,441	£129,302	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Simon Paul Dommett	Chair	2018-11-05
Alan George Bates		2022-03-20
CHRISTINE MARION JONES		2011-04-29
COLIN LAST		2014-04-01
Catherine Sanderson		2019-03-24
Christopher Lawrance Hjelt		2014-03-23
David-James Alino-Wilcockson BSc		2021-03-07
Debbie Richardson		2017-03-19
Jeffrey Alino-Abbott		2022-03-20
Nesta Gedrych		2022-03-20
Rev Marcus Ottaviani		2020-09-26
SARAH ELIZABETH COLLINSON		
Susan Ann Lennon		2019-03-24
Susan Elizabeth Lane		2022-03-20

Accounts

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2024

**The Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric & Ornaments of the Church
and the Deanery Synod Report**

The Minutes of the Annual Church Meetings held on 28th April 2024

Incumbent:

Rev'd Simon Dommett

Bank:

National Westminster Bank
81 High Street,
Bedford

Independent Examiner:

Amy Eyles
44 Wellington Road,
Raunds

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

Administrative Information

St. Mary's Church is situated in Church Lane, Goldington, Bedford. It is part of the Diocese of St. Albans within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St. Mary's Parish Office, Church Lane, Goldington, Bedford MK41 0AP.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 1131568.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Members of the PCC are either *ex-officio* or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following have served as members of the Council:

Ex-Officio Members

Vicar:	Rev'd Simon Dommett
Assistant Curate:	Rev'd Joss Sanders
Churchwardens:	Colin Last Nesta Gedrych
Licensed Readers:	Michael Furlong Cathy Sanderson Susan Lane Ceri-Anne Ashby (from September 2024)
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Susan Lane

Elected Members

Sarah Collinson (elected in 2024 for three years) (Secretary)
Sue Lennon (elected in 2024 for three years) (Parish Safeguarding Officer)
D-J Alino-Wilcockson (elected in 2024 for three years)

Debbie Richardson (elected in 2022 for three years) (Minutes Secretary)

Susan Lane (elected in 2022 for three years)

Jeff Alino-Abbott (elected in 2022 for three years) (Treasurer)

Alan Bates (elected in 2022 for three years)

Craig Brandon (elected in 2023 for three years) (resigned)

Committees and Working Groups

The PCC operates through a series of committees in order to carry out its aims and objectives. All these committees have the power to make recommendations but all spiritual, pastoral and financial decisions are made by the full PCC. All committees have agreed Terms of Reference ratified by the PCC in 2019.

Standing Committee

The only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The committee must comprise the incumbent, each churchwarden and at least two other members of the PCC.

The committee of St Mary's comprises the incumbent, churchwardens, secretary, treasurer and at least one ordinary member. Members of the congregation wishing matters to be raised at the PCC should bring them, in the first instance, to this committee for consideration. In general, it meets two weeks before a full Council meeting to prepare the Agenda for PCC meetings and to consider financial and property reports and other matters.

Finance Committee

The committee comprises the Vicar, Treasurer, a Churchwarden and the Planned Giving Officer. It supervises budgets and maintains an overview of the parish finances.

Pastoral Committee

The committee prepares Services of Thanksgiving for the bereaved and supports the sick and housebound with prayer and anniversary or other greetings cards. It also organises a Christmas tree bauble scheme in aid of St John's hospice, Moggerhanger.

Property Committee

The committee is responsible for all aspects of the church fabric and the church hall.

Publicity Committee

This committee is currently in abeyance therefore publicity is jointly shared by PCC members by arranging advertising and publicity using multiple media, and tries to ensure that all activities and events at St Mary's are well promoted.

Worship Committee

All service planning is considered under the aegis of this committee which regularly reviews our worship. The members meet two or three times a year to check that all scheduling is in hand and that services are running smoothly.

Fund-finding Committee

The committee meets nearly every month or two to discuss and apply for available grants. Grants are for projects both capital and social outreach initiatives. During the year, this group was recognised as a full PCC committee and will report directly to the PCC.

The Health & Safety Officer (currently vacant) reports directly to the Standing Committee of the PCC.

The Environmental Officer, North Bedford Churches Together and Deanery Synod representatives report directly to the PCC.

Objectives and Achievements

The PCC co-operates with the Churchwardens in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, co-ordinating and inspiring the congregation in its pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical mission. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of St. Mary's Church and the Church Hall in Church Lane, Goldington.

St. Mary's PCC is dedicated to helping all those living in Goldington and beyond to worship at St. Mary's without discrimination, to engage with its activities, to develop their spiritual lives and to become part of the family of God through our Lord's unconditional love. It is constantly reviewing and developing new ways of involving those who have no background of church life.

We aim to do this by providing services and facilities which will support our work of outreach in the community, by maintaining a framework of church services where worship, praise and prayer can be offered; by hosting courses where people may learn about the Christian message and be encouraged to live it and grow spiritually in a Christian environment and by the pastoral care of our parishioners at focal times in their lives.

The PCC under the chairmanship of the Vicar has complied with its duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

The PCC has complied with their duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.)

In April 2024 there were 119 (120) names registered on the Electoral Roll.

Attendance numbers for 2024 have remained steady in comparison to 2023 with particular increases in young families and children due to Sunday Seekers (formerly Diddy Disciples), Messy Church and during services such as Christingle and Nativity. There remains a good core of online worshippers both locally, nationally and internationally.

8 (5) marriages were celebrated during the year and 12 (15) baptisms. There were 16 (10) funerals in church and 17 (14) funerals at Norse Road Chapel. There was also 1 (0) interment of ashes without a

service (funeral took place in 2020.) There were also 2 (0) Admissions to Communion before Confirmation and 1 (0) Confirmation.

Safeguarding as ever has been at the forefront of our PCC deliberations as an Agenda item at every meeting with Sue Lennon continuing as our Parish Safeguarding Officer. There have been changes to the Church of England and Diocesan strategies and planning and these have required a lot of work by our PSO. Led by our PSO, the PCC has discussed and reviewed how it can better promote a healthy and safe church culture with a worksheet. New National Safety and Quality Assurance Standards were brought in but the PCC decided on advisement, as these are non-mandatory, and we would not be using them at the expense of mandatory requirements, especially when in a vacancy. All PCC members, church leaders, officers and relevant volunteers will be required to undertake a recruitment process with relevant safeguarding training in order to comply with regulations and to ensure that we are living out our faith in the safest and most caring ways.

WORSHIP

The PCC worked hard on finding ways to worship that would suit the needs of as many as possible including the choice of the Common Cup (but with no intinction) or Communion in one kind or a blessing. We continue to purchase the necessary licenses for music and live-streaming services online. There was good attendance at our Christmas services, in particular our Christingle, Carol Service and Nativity. The congregation has settled into to the pattern of weekly worship but some of the more vulnerable or housebound continue to worship at home.

There are a variety of services at St Mary's. As well as our usual sung Eucharists on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays, we hold a said Holy Communion service (BCP) on Wednesdays at 10am and 8am on 1st Sundays. 9:30 am on 1st Sundays takes the form of Family Praise - an informal non-Communion service designed for all-ages especially families and children. A candlelit Taizé service takes place at 5pm on 1st Sundays during darker months and a service of Praise is Rising occurs at 5pm on 2nd Sundays where a member of the congregation alongside a member of the Ministerial Team explores worship songs in an informal form of worship. In September, Ceri-Anne Ashby led a teaching and worship session called Grandparenting in Faith - this attracted not only members of the congregation but also members and ministers from around the Deanery and beyond. We held our annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving and a Blue Christmas service - another service to remember and reflect.

Main services are still being live-streamed and are available on our YouTube platform with some services such as funerals and weddings also privately live-streamed on request. The technology in use continues to evolve with the 'tech team' trained and led by our Vicar. In the run-up to the vacancy, one of the 'tech-team' has worked closely with our vicar for a hand-over of leadership, setting up and maintenance.

We introduced the inclusion of three readings at main services; the addition of the Old Testament reading has been well received and provides a richer lectionary diet and teaching balance.

In the summer this year our Assistant Curate, Rev'd Joss Sanders, was ordained as priest and has taken on more responsibilities especially in the latter months of 2024 when notice of our Vicar's retirement was given. This is despite him remaining a full-time teacher at a local public school.

As well as our hard-working Vicar and Curate, the other members of the ministerial team comprising the Rev'd Jennie Cappleman (Associate Priest) and our four Licensed Readers have continued to give their invaluable support ensuring variety and freshness in our worship.

Ceri-Anne Ashby was appointed in January 2024. She has assumed leadership of our Sunday School group, *Sunday Seekers* which provides teaching and play for the youngest members of the congregation, works closely with the Messy Church Lead and has implemented other ideas to extend our outreach to all local families and children including Family Drop-In sessions. She has established a Christian Lunch Club at a local Primary School, maintains a sister Facebook page for families and children and has established regular contact and relationships with other local groups.

The Messy Church Team has worked incredibly hard this year holding monthly sessions with average attendances of around forty-two congregation members. Leadership of Messy Church has been with Cathy Sanderson but will be co-run by Cathy and Ceri-Anne Ashby going forward and the introduction of Young Leaders – children from the age of 12 years which help younger attendees with activities and games. Much continued prayer has been offered for the work of these Fresh Expressions of our faith.

The Signing Group has continued to sign at the Family Praise service and meets once per month to practice together. In late 2024, The Lord's Prayer has also been signed at our main Sunday morning service. Signing is well-received with many joining in during the services and even joining the group.

St Mary's Choir sings regularly at the 9.30am Sunday service. It also takes the lead at the Lessons & Carol Service which is augmented by extra singers. We are fortunate to have additional organ cover for some services including weddings and funerals and recently welcomed a new young organist to our occasional team. The 1st Sunday Singers group are very ably led with piano and guitar accompaniment.

During August, the choir have a break. We trialled opening up hymn selection to the congregation including an additional hymn in lieu of the Gloria. This was well received with a variety of regularly /not-so regularly sung favourite hymns chosen and ably accompanied by guest pianists or organists.

The Bell Ringers regularly ring for main services inviting all to worship and welcoming new families. They have also welcomed members of the community and invited them to try ringing.

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care lies at the heart of everything we do at St. Mary's. Ceaseless prayers for the vulnerable and sick have been offered and the bereaved remembered with anniversary cards. Holy Communion is taken to those housebound members who request it and once per month is celebrated at a local care home. Three ladies have joined the main team and others regularly call congregation members who can no longer attend church. A survey of the congregation was useful to help identify what it considers 'pastoral' to mean and to identify those who may need prayer and support from the team.

PROPERTY

Throughout the year the Property Committee has maintained the fabric of the church and hall. Thanks go to those who have helped with maintenance, minor repairs and engaged with third party contractors.

The church building had its Quinquennial Inspection in May 2024 by our Architect. This is a thorough survey of the building and no major issues were identified. Inevitably though with an old church building, there were several recommendations, mainly to do with the stonework.

The refurbishment of the south porch is still proceeding and other minor matters have been addressed.

An inspection of the church hall roof sadly means we would need to spend an extensive amount of capital to replace the current low weight bearing one to then install extra insulation and possibly solar panels. All the hall's old strip lighting was replaced by energy-efficient LED lighting and paid for by a grant. Light bulbs in the church were also replaced with LED's.

Surveys continue to be carried out and plans produced to help us in our aim to become net zero carbon neutral by 2030 including inviting the congregation to assess their own carbon footprint at home. We renewed our gas and electric contracts onto greener zero carbon tariffs and smart electric meters in the church and hall were installed, and a smart gas meter in the hall.

Work was carried out with our Environmental Officer as part of our EcoChurch plans. We are working towards our 'Silver' EcoChurch award and with the addition of a hedgerow, bird boxes, vegetable patch, and a bug hotel alongside regular maintenance parties.

Cathy Sanderson agreed temporarily to oversee our Risk Assessments while we are still seeking a new Health and Safety Officer.

A new church hall caretaker and cleaner was appointed.

The Hall Manager has worked hard building and maintaining our client base and bookings are continuing to look healthy. The thanks of the PCC and Property Committee go to him for all the work he does re the hall's management.

MISSION, CHARITY AND OUTREACH

The church hall is a focus of much community activity and the various groups and activities which are so much part of the life of St Mary's often attract people from beyond our congregation. Our annual summer fête and autumn fair were our most lucrative to date, largely in part to successful leaflet drops and local community canvassing.

Other social gatherings i.e. indoor bowls, the walking group, and monthly breakfasts have all run regularly and welcome both church members and those from the wider community. Post-service refreshments are available and the catering team provided its usual much appreciated services for the Harvest lunch and at our summer and autumn fairs.

The North Bedford Churches Together group offered a Lent course with multiple venues and start times to suit all. Links to the online material were distributed to the wider congregation with references made in church *via* displays. The annual Remembrance Day Service organised by the group took place on Goldington Green. The group is currently assessing its purpose - it is most likely it will be restructured to maintain at least the ecumenical aspects.

Activities and events have been well advertised despite no active formal Publicity Group. Media used included: online platforms and any other media such as posters, handbills, the large noticeboards and word of mouth. This publicity has been supplemented by the regular circulation of our parish magazine *Parish & People* which continues to be published each month online and in print for those who prefer this format.

The congregation still support the Children's Society with donations *via* house boxes and the Christingle service raises much needed funds and awareness for the charity. Our Children's Society Parish Co-Ordinator organises the yearly box opening with results that confirmed the generosity of our givers.

The parish also supports financially and in kind the *Dwell Well Support – Bedford* initiative which provides new/like-new every day household goods for those moving from homelessness into new

accommodation - a project co-ordinated and administered by two members from the congregation with a small team of volunteers when required. This initiative has gone from strength to strength in 2024 reaching nearly 200 packs sent out since starting with requests from more key workers coming in, and more donations from the community generously given. Towards the end of 2024, it was also awarded a grant so we can help more people in need with a larger variety of essential items.

During 2024, our Monday afternoon Warm Spaces expanded with an average of forty-five guests per week in 2024. Members of the public have found friendship and companionship. Sessions are supplemented by official visits from the local Public Health team, Goldington Ward Councillors and local Police Community team. This initiative has proved to be a life-line to many in our community as well as our congregation with new guests still coming. A new Lead was appointed in late 2024 to work with two Deputy Leads to ensure sessions can go ahead as long as one of the three Leads are present. Thanks to a successful application; 'Cuppa, Cake and Chat aka Warm Spaces' plan to expand post-Easter 2025 to include a second weekly session.

The PCC continued to review and re-invigorate our Mission Action Plan. This tool allows us to advance our ministry and mission with clear goals in mind. Our mission statement has remained the same but continuing and new goals were prepared and priorities identified. The PCC endeavours to engage the congregation to take ownership of our MAP.

The prayers and practical support of everyone have ensured that St Mary's is even more at the heart of the community and we look forward to growing in faith and love having as our vision *'To grow together as a worshipping church family, to know Jesus better and to find new ways to express our faith within our local community, and to be a safe place of joy and peace for the whole community.'*

Mission Action Plan 2023-24

Going Deeper into God + Making New Disciples + Transforming Communities

Vision

What is the vision for your Church, Parish, Team Ministry or Benefice?

To grow together as a worshipping church family, to know Jesus better and to find new ways to express our faith within our local community.

Values

What are the core values for your Church, Parish, Team Ministry or Benefice?

- Inclusive.
- Place of welcome in the community.
- Accepting of difference.

Priorities

What is your 1st Priority to make your vision a reality?

Employ a Family and Children's worker.

Which of the 3 strands of Living God's Love does your 1st Priority most focus on?

Making New Disciples.

SMART Goal to achieve your 1st Priority

Planning in Autumn 2023/Employ by Spring 2024.

SMART Goal 2 to achieve your 1st Priority

Advertise in Autumn 2023.

SMART Goal 3 to achieve your 1st Priority

Interview in late Autumn 2023.

Smart Goal 4 to achieve your 1st priority

- To confirm pledges and grants by Spring 2024.
- To put plans in place in 2024 for any shortfall for the three-year funding plan.

COMPLETE

What is your 2nd Priority to make your vision a reality?

To become a carbon neutral church by 2030.

Which of the 3 strands of Living God's Love does your 2nd Priority most focus on?

Transforming Communities.

SMART Goal 1 to achieve your 2nd Priority

Have an energy audit in Summer 2023 to get baseline usage.

SMART Goal 2 to achieve your 2nd Priority

Improve insulation and energy usage in hall and church by Autumn 2024.

SMART Goal 3 to achieve your 2nd Priority

To move to carbon neutral or sustainable energy suppliers in 2024.

Smart Goal 4 to achieve your 2nd priority

To put together a planned pathway to being a carbon neutral community by Autumn 2024.

2nd Priority PARTIALLY COMPLETE WITH PLANS REDEFINED IN MAP 2024-25. Goal 1 COMPLETE; Goal 2 PARTIALLY COMPLETE, Goal 3 PARTIALLY COMPLETE; Goal 4 PARTIALLY COMPLETE

What is your 3rd Priority to make your vision a reality?

To grow the scope and influence of Warm Spaces.

Which of the 3 strands of Living God's Love does your 3rd Priority most focus on?

Transforming Communities.

SMART Goal to achieve your 3rd Priority

To appoint Deputy Leads by Spring 2024.

SMART Goal 2 to achieve your 3rd Priority

To obtain external funding for the project for 2024 Spring/Summer 2024.

SMART Goal 3 to achieve your 3rd Priority

To train and recruit volunteers to run the event safely and sustainably by Summer 2024

COMPLETE

Financial Review for the year 2024 (figures are rounded to nearest '000 for ease of understanding)

The PCC has kept financial activity under close review during 2024, recognising the potential impacts of rising inflation on both those who provide our income and the church's direct costs, which now include the salary of the Family and Children's Minister. Concerns about a reduction in income proved to be unfounded once again and it is gratifying to note that the value of regular donations has risen this year. Although general expenditure has also risen, driven largely by increases in utility prices, this was outweighed by the increase in income, creating a small surplus on unrestricted funds of £7,000 for the year.

During 2023, we noted the significant rise in the level of restricted income, due to the receipt of grants in support of the new Family and Children's Minister, who started her work within the parish early in 2024. The direct costs associated with this post (£9,000) have been funded through applying part of these restricted grant receipts in 2024. The total of grants received for this purpose totalled £20,000 and consideration will need to be given for the source of funding for this post in future years.

This situation is being kept under detailed review by the PCC, and activities designed to both increase income and decrease expenditure are being brought forward.

The Parish Giving Scheme continues to be a success and has replaced regular cash giving in most cases, although around 20 members continue to use standing orders and envelopes. The Scheme requires regular donations to be made by direct debit and saves the Stewardship Recorder from having to maintain records to support gift aid tax claims.

The summer fête and autumn fair were very successful in 2024, generating record receipts and several other social activities took place. In addition, there was an increase in income generated by hall lettings of nearly £4,000.

The market value of long-term investments increased by £1,300 arising largely from increases in interest rates. As with the gains enjoyed in 2023, gains of this nature do not give any indication of future performance.

The PCC set aside 4.3% of stewardship income, plate collections and gift aid tax recovery for missionary giving. This is shared between support for the work of our CMS mission partner, Heather Johnstone, at the Rehema Project in Tanzania (3/4) and WaterAid (1/4). The resulting donation amounts for CMS and WaterAid were consistent with the previous year. A full list of charitable donations appears in Note 9 to the Financial Statements.

Reserves Policy

The church is partly an historic building and, therefore, expensive to repair as modern materials and methods are usually not permitted. Consequently, it is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted and relevant restricted funds to mitigate the costs of future major maintenance work that has been identified in the Quinquennial survey. A similar policy is adopted for work required to the church hall, although the hall is not subject to a professional survey. No work of any major significance has been carried out in recent years, but some stonework repairs were undertaken in 2022. The church hall has benefitted from the installation of new heating and lighting equipment, which will help to reduce consumption. In recognition of the Church of England's policy to move to a zero-carbon energy position the Property Committee has been looking at various other options of reducing consumption. The amount set aside for both buildings at the end of the year was £79,000. Funds 'set aside' for future expenditure are designated funds and there is no restriction on the money being used for other purposes should this prove necessary.

Where no specific purpose for a legacy is expressed, it is PCC policy to consult with the family as appropriate and put the money to a use which reflects the interests of the donor. The PCC has received several such legacies over the years and the amount remaining unspent stands at £102,000. These gifts comprise a significant part of general church funds.

It is also PCC policy to retain sufficient unrestricted reserves to cover any deficit forecast for the following year plus an amount to cover any adverse cash flow situations that may arise from time to time. The amount required by this policy amounts to £17,000 for the year 2024.

At the end of the year, the available unrestricted and relevant restricted funds totalled £164,000. Cash represents £93,000 of this amount and is sufficient to meet regular cash requirements and the repair expenditure likely to be required in the next two years. Cash funds and the PCC's long-term investments, taken together, are sufficient to meet the cost of repairs and the commitment to spend legacies on worthwhile improvement projects. The amount held in reserve for repair and cash flow purposes is reviewed on an annual basis.

It is PCC policy to invest a proportion of reserve funds in CBF Church of England Investment Funds for long term growth and income. The remainder, in the form of cash, is held by Virgin Money and the CBF Deposit Fund.

Annual report approved by the PCC on 3rd March 2025 and signed on their behalf by Colin Last, PCC Lay Chair.

Colin Last
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Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of St. Mary the Virgin, Goldington

I report on the Accounts of the PCC of St. Mary the Virgin, Goldington for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 12 to 18.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Independent Examiner

The PCC's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts.

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

It is my responsibility to: -

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

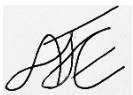
Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the Accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the Accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the Accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: -
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare Accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the Accounts to be reached.



Amy Eyles- CPFA, BA (Hons)
44 Wellington Road, Raunds
23rd February 2025

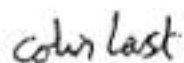
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
		£	£	£	2024	2023
					£	£
INCOME						
Voluntary income	2(a)	71,998	5,343	-	77,341	88,592
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	20,425	394	-	20,819	16,950
Income from investments	2(c)	5,603	-	213	5,816	4,244
Church activities	2(d)	17,830	-	-	17,830	8,495
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		115,857	5,737	213	121,806	118,281
EXPENDITURE						
Church activities	3(a)	101,553	10,575	-	112,128	95,400
Costs of generation of income	3(b)	207	-	-	207	685
Major repairs and depreciation	3(c)	5,359	-	-	5,359	8,009
Support costs	3(d)	2,938	-	-	2,938	2,593
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		110,057	10,575	-	120,632	106,687
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		5,799	(4,838)	213	1,174	11,595
Gain/(Loss) on revaluation of investments	5(b)	1,314	-	-	1,314	2,481
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		7,113	(4,838)	213	2,488	14,076
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		138,628	35,613	4,073	178,314	164,238
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		145,741	30,775	4,286	180,802	178,314
BALANCE SHEET at 31 December 2024						
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible fixed assets	5(a)	3,945	-	-	3,945	4,084
Investments	5(b)	69,139	-	1,619	70,758	69,444
		73,084	-	1,619	74,703	73,528
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stock of goods for sale		-	-	-	-	-
Debtors & prepayments	6	2,083	-	-	2,083	4,315
Short term deposits		83,815	7,000	2,667	93,482	87,666
Bank & cash balances		(9,550)	23,775	-	14,225	16,919
		76,348	30,775	2,667	109,790	108,901
LIABILITIES: Amounts falling due within one year	7	(3,691)	-	-	(3,691)	(4,115)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		72,657	30,775	2,667	106,099	104,787
TOTAL NET ASSETS		145,741	30,775	4,286	180,802	178,314
PARISH FUNDS						
Unrestricted	8	145,741	-	-	145,741	138,628
Restricted		-	30,775	-	30,775	35,613
Endowment		-	-	4,286	4,286	4,073
		145,741	30,775	4,286	180,802	178,314

Approved by the Parochial Church Council 3rd March and signed on its behalf by:

Colin Last 

S E Collinson 

The notes on pages 15 to 18 form part of these Accounts.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The Accounts have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with the current Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities and is in compliance with accounting standard FRS102.

The Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at a fair value. The Accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average basis.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for ordinary PCC purposes. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC, such as the church repair fund, are also unrestricted.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the income to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable; interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable.

Gifts in kind for the PCC's own use are included in the SOFA as incoming resources at their fair value when receivable, and expensed as and when consumed in use. Gifts of fixed assets, if material, are included in the balance sheet at their fair value and expensed over the asset's useful economic life.

All incoming resources are accounted for gross. Amounts generated specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. Amounts received for mission in which the PCC acts only as an intermediary are not shown as income of the PCC, except where the PCC is involved in the fund-raising process.

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due. Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on

revaluation of investments at 31st December. The value of any donated services or voluntary help received are not included in the Accounts but are described in the trustees' annual report.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Any parish share unpaid at 31st December is provided for in these Accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the financial statements in accordance with S.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011. All expenditure on consecrated or benefice buildings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Accounts in the year in which it is incurred.

Land and buildings held for the functional use of the PCC are valued at original cost, less provision for depreciation. Buildings are depreciated over a period of 50 years; pre-fabricated buildings are assumed to have a useful life of 25 years. Additions to existing buildings, which do not substantially extend the life of the asset, are written off over the remaining life of the original building. Land is not depreciated.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property. They are listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected at any reasonable time. For anything acquired prior to the year 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the Accounts. Subsequent to this date no individual item has cost more than £1,000, so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Fixtures & fittings and equipment used within the church premises, including moveable church furnishings, are depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items with a purchase price of less than £1,000 are written off when the asset is acquired. Investments are valued at a fair value, which is deemed to be the market value at 31st December.

Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits comprise cash held on deposit with Virgin Money plc and the CBF Church of England Funds.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2024

2 INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2024 £	2023 £
2(a) Voluntary income					
Planned giving:					
Gift Aid donations	47,007	-	-	47,007	36,399
Tax recoverable on gift aid donations	3,348	-	-	3,348	6,308
Other planned giving	11,480	-	-	11,480	10,068
Collections at all services	2,375	-	-	2,375	1,965
Donations and appeals	3,722	-	-	3,722	5,451
Donations for missions and charities	1,087	2,043	-	3,130	1,520
Legacies				-	1,000
Grants received	2,979	3,300	-	6,279	25,881
	71,998	5,343	-	77,341	88,592
2(b) Activities for generating funds					
Fetes, bazaars, and other fund raising events	4,746	394	-	5,140	5,059
Church hall lettings	15,679	-	-	15,679	11,990
Sale of purchased and donated goods					(99)
	20,425	394	-	20,819	16,950
2(c) Income from investments					
Dividends and interest	5,603	-	213	5,816	4,244
2(d) Income from Church activities					
Magazine	295	-	-	295	10
Social events	1,650	-	-	1,650	456
Church fees	15,885	-	-	15,885	8,029
	17,830	-	-	17,830	8,495
TOTAL INCOME	115,857	5,737	213	121,806	118,281

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2024

4 (a) STAFF COSTS	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	14,345	5,421
During the year the PCC employed a Families and Children's minister, a verger and a hall caretaker. All positions are part-time.		

- (b) **PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS & RELATED PARTIES**
 No transactions have taken place with related parties.
 No trustee has received payment for services provided or expenses incurred as a trustee.
 Verger's fees of **£930** were paid to PCC members and persons closely connected with them, who acted as vergers at weddings and funerals
 Apart from the above, no other payments were made to any PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties except for the reimbursement of purchases made on behalf of the PCC.

5 FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

		Freehold Land & Buildings £	Hall Fittings £	Hall Equipment £	Total £
(a) Tangible fixed assets (all unrestricted)					
ACTUAL/DEEMED COST	at 1 January 2024	108,414	39,453	3,910	151,777
	additions	-	-	-	-
	disposals	-	-	-	-
	at 31 December 2024	<u>108,414</u>	<u>39,453</u>	<u>3,910</u>	<u>151,777</u>
DEPRECIATION	at 1 January 2024	104,330	39,453	3,910	147,693
	charge for the year	139	-	-	139
	withdrawn on disposals	-	-	-	-
	at 31 December 2024	<u>104,469</u>	<u>39,453</u>	<u>3,910</u>	<u>147,832</u>
WRITTEN-DOWN VALUE	at 31 December 2024	3,945	-	-	3,945
	at 31 December 2023	4,084	-	-	4,084

The freehold land and buildings comprise the church hall and Dilworth Room and are shown at their original cost, less provision for buildings amortisation. Land is not amortised. The hall and contents are valued for insurance purposes at £2,900,000 and this is considered to be a fair estimate of the current value in use of the property.

(b) Investments	2024	2023
	£	£
Fair value at 1 January	69,444	66,962
Revaluation gain/(loss)	1,314	2,482
Fair value at 31 December	<u>70,758</u>	<u>69,444</u>

The following investments are held and are shown at fair value as at 31 December :	2024	2023
	£	£
10,872 units CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund - historical cost £18,650	16,213	15,738
18,408 units CBF Property Fund- historical cost £25,000	22,677	22,551
1,378 units CBF Investment Fund - historical cost £15,072	31,868	31,155
	<u>70,758</u>	<u>69,444</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2024

3 EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2024 £	2023 £
3(a) Church activities					
Missionary & charitable giving:					
Church overseas:					
- missionary societies	2,057	-	-	2,057	2,048
- relief and development agencies		1,481	-	1,481	1,520
Secular charities	685	424	-	1,109	821
	<u>2,742</u>	<u>1,905</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,647</u>	<u>4,389</u>
Ministry:					
Diocesan parish share	69,396	-	-	69,396	65,635
Other ministry costs & housing	1,405	8,670	-	10,075	1,798
Parish training and mission	1,044	-	-	1,044	988
Church running & maintenance expenses	11,324	-	-	11,324	8,930
Upkeep of services	1,853	-	-	1,853	989
Upkeep of churchyard and grounds	263	-	-	263	
Church hall running costs	13,526	-	-	13,526	12,671
	<u>98,811</u>	<u>8,670</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>107,481</u>	<u>91,011</u>
	<u>101,553</u>	<u>10,575</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>112,128</u>	<u>95,400</u>
3(b) Costs of fund raising activities					
Cost of fetes, fairs and social activities	207	-	-	207	685
	<u>207</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>207</u>	<u>685</u>
3 (c) Major repairs and depreciation					
Church repairs & furnishings	1,020	-	-	1,020	-
Church hall equipment & furnishings	4,200	-	-	4,200	7,870
Depreciation of buildings	139	-	-	139	139
	<u>5,359</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,359</u>	<u>8,009</u>
3(d) Support costs					
Printing and stationery	80	-	-	80	294
Office equipment & computer software	2,298	-	-	2,298	1,054
Parish office telephone	328	-	-	328	
Other costs	232	-	-	232	1,245
	<u>2,938</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,938</u>	<u>2,593</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>110,057</u>	<u>10,575</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>120,632</u>	<u>106,687</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2024

6 DEBTORS	2024	2023
	£	£
Income tax recoverable		1,631
Prepayments for goods and services and accrued interest		1,103
Other debtors	2,083	1,581
	<u>2,083</u>	<u>4,315</u>

7 LIABILITIES	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts falling due in one year:		
Creditors for goods and services	-	43
Missionary giving	3,691	3,776
Accrued expenses and deferred income	-	296
	<u>3,691</u>	<u>4,115</u>

8 FUND DETAILS	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	2024	2023
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
The PCC funds comprise the following:	£	£	£	£	£
General	71,149	-	-	71,149	64,036
Church repairs	48,902	-	-	48,902	48,902
Chancel repairs	-	-	4,286	4,286	4,073
Church hall repairs	25,690	-	-	25,690	25,690
Others	-	30,775	-	30,775	35,613
	<u>145,741</u>	<u>30,775</u>	<u>4,286</u>	<u>180,802</u>	<u>178,314</u>

The Chancel Repair Fund is a permanent endowment which permits only the income to be spent. Designated funds are unrestricted and may be used for other purposes.

Summary of Fund Movements	Unrestricted	Designated Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Fund	2024
	general fund	church repairs	church hall repairs	others	chancel repairs	Total
		£	£	£	£	£
Balance at 1 January 2024	64,036	48,902	25,690	35,613	4,073	178,314
Incoming resources	115,857	-	-	5,737	213	121,806
Resources expended/Amortisation	(110,057)	-	-	(10,575)	-	(120,632)
Investment gains/(losses)	1,314	-	-	-	-	1,314
Balance at 31 December 2024	<u>71,149</u>	<u>48,902</u>	<u>25,690</u>	<u>30,775</u>	<u>4,286</u>	<u>180,802</u>

9 CHARITABLE GIVING FOR THE YEAR

From PCC resources:	£	From other donations & events:	£
CMS (for our Mission Partner)	2,057	Bishop's harvest appeal	434
WaterAid	686	Christian Aid	652
	<u>2,743</u>	Water Aid	394
			<u>1,480</u>
From Christmas donations:			
SMART Prebend Day Centre	212		
Families First Bedfordshire	212		
	<u>424</u>	Total Charitable Giving	4,647

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT ON FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS

Our church building has been battered by the weather this year – not least by torrential rain in September. A good test to find any leaks in the roof or elsewhere. There weren't any. Our thanks go to Richard Cope who amongst the many maintenance jobs he has undertaken this year resealed the flat roof above the vestries a week before the rains came. Thanks to all members of the property committee and others who have undertaken maintenance jobs around the church and hall, and the churchyard, over the past year.

In the autumn the Quinquennial Inspection was undertaken, a 5-yearly inspection of the church by our architect. No major works were reported as being required, although there is a certain amount of work needed on the stonework and elsewhere. Some things we can do ourselves, but the majority will need skilled contractors for which we are currently getting quotes.

Getting to net zero carbon by 2030 is one of our goals and the heating of our buildings is a major contributor of our carbon dioxide emissions. We have looked into this extensively over the past few years and now have a plan for how realistic this is to achieve. See EcoChurch report for more information.

The Log Book and Terrier (inventory of all church possessions) has been kept up to date with no major additions or deletions. We do now have a picture of our King, Charles III which is in the remembrance chapel.

Thanks to all who have helped us during the past year but particularly to Simon who been a fount of knowledge on all matters and has always answered our questions, however daft. It goes without saying that he will be missed.

Colin Last and Nesta Gedrych
Churchwardens

BEDFORD DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The Church of England has three Synods – General, Diocesan and Deanery. Bedford Deanery Synod consists of 23 parishes. Representatives from each parish meet to exchange ideas and pool strengths, so that no church in the deanery feels on their own. Areas such as safeguarding, training and mission action planning are discussed. Bedford Deanery Synod met three times in 2024, in various churches around the deanery. We had some interesting talks this year, alongside the more formal business part of the meetings.

In March, Suzanne Clackson and Amanda Young gave a talk on the Diocesan Dispute Advisory Service. The Service offers a safe, accessible, voluntary, and confidential process that helps to resolve disputes in a broad range of situations and at all levels in the church community.

In June, we had a presentation by Roy Lambert called 'A Church Inclusive for Racial Justice and Diversity'. Some points that came out of the subsequent discussion included: how can we make our congregations more diverse; how can we deal with incidences straight away; how can we reorder churches which have monuments to slavery.

In October, there was a talk about 'Impact' from Becky Guynn (Schools Worker) and Jane Spencer (Chair of Trustees.) Becky and Jane spoke of their work in approx. 60 schools in the Bedford area. They also spoke about the prayer spaces they are establishing and the need for 'Church Champions' to link, engage and advocate for them.

Susan Lane
St Mary's, Deanery Synod Rep.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

As your Parish Safeguarding Officer, I'm pleased to be able to report that the PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidelines. As part of this compliance, safeguarding is a standing agenda item at each PCC meeting, and policies and procedures are regularly reviewed.

My thanks go to all those of you who, in order to volunteer as Leaders or Helpers in groups St. Mary's runs for children, young people and vulnerable adults, have gone through DBS clearance, and have done the required safeguarding training. You've consistently either done new training or refreshed after a three-year interval as required by the Church of England, without my needing to urge or wheedle. My thanks also to Simon for the tremendous support he's been to me in this role, and to Cathy, my predecessor in it, whose door has remained open to me should I need some advice.

In an Advent Service sermon, Joss touched on how easy it is to feel powerless when we look at the many dismaying situations there are nationally and globally. He encouraged us not to feel overwhelmed, but to ask for God's help to speak out where we see wrong, or where better could be achieved. It may only be a small voice, but use it. Your PCC were moved to do this towards the end of last year. You will be aware of the cases that came to media attention in 2024 over truly worrying failures by senior members of the clergy to take effective action when allegations of serious abuse within the Church were brought to their attention. Your PCC felt worried about the impact of these failings first and foremost on the victims and survivors of that abuse; and to a lesser extent but still importantly, on all at parish level who have been trying so hard to meet the requirements the Church expects. There were also concerns about how undermining to the reputation of church and faith this could be in the wider community. The PCC decided to submit to the General Synod (the highest of the Church of England's Councils) a question asking for reassurances and to be told of actions that will address the causes of the failings. By the time you read this, the General Synod will have met, and we'll know if the question from St Mary's was considered.

As from 1 January 2025, there have been changes in the safeguarding training required for some roles. These will be affecting some of us. The new safeguarding requirements have been approved as Safeguarding Code by the General Synod. Whereas previously, we could use some discretion in how we paid 'due regard' to safeguarding guidance, including training, the new Safeguarding Code must be followed by "all relevant persons." This may present us with a few training challenges, but I'm sure if we all pull together, we'll get there. We know that what we're working for is to create a truly safe environment for all who come together to experience our worship and our activities.

Sue Lennon
Parish Safeguarding Officer

ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON
Sunday 28th April 2024

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS – 11:00am in the Church Hall

The Meeting of Parishioners was attended by ?? people.

1. The Rev'd Simon Dommett opened the meeting with an introductory welcome and prayer.
2. **Apologies for absence**
Richard & Dorothy Kirby, Andrew & Shelly Dennison, Yvonne Sowerby, Jackie and David Gregg, Michael Furlong

3. **Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners – Sunday 16th April 2023**
The Minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. No amendments were submitted.

1st: Antony Collinson 2nd: Jeff Alino-Abbott

All present agreed and the Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

4. **Election of Churchwardens for 2024/2025**
There were two nominations for the two posts:

Colin Last	Proposer: Cathy Sanderson
	Seconder: Wendy Watmough

Nesta Gedrych	Proposer: Marla Darling
	Seconder: Mari-Lou Alino-Abbott

There being no other nominations, these two were appointed to serve as Churchwardens for the 2024/2025 and the meeting showed its appreciation. The two Wardens were welcomed to the new term of office and thanked for their contribution during the previous year.

There being no other business, the Meeting was closed at 11:04am.

DR 28.04.2024

ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON
Sunday 28th April 2024

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING – 11:05am in the Church Hall

1. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Sunday 16th April 2023

The Minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. No amendments were submitted.

Proposer: Helen Green

Seconder: Francis Tyler

Accepted: unanimously

The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

2. Presentation of the Electoral Roll

John Sheffield, the Electoral Roll Officer, announced that the revised roll has 119 names with 5 deletions and 4 additions. He reminds us that after 15/16 years of service he is retiring from the role. Jenny Thompson has already agreed to be the new ERO. The Meeting is reminded that Electoral Rolls have a six-year life so a new roll will need to be made in 2025. John was thanked for his work on this and for his many years of service.

3. Presentation of the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the PCC

The Report was circulated and available to parishioners before the Meeting.

Two amendments were highlighted referring to incorrect dates on two pages:

Page 1 the date should be amended to 31st December 2023 – not 2021.

Page 13 the date should be amended to 31st December 2023 – not 2022.

Jeff Alino-Abbott highlighted various points in his verbal report. (*See Addendum 1: Treasurer's Comments*)

The Treasurer brought to the Meeting's attention an error on page 9 paragraph 4 of the report which should be amended as follows:

The market value of long-term investments has increased by £2,500, arising largely from increases in interest rates. As with the losses suffered in 2022, gains of this nature do not give any indication of future performances.

With no further amendments and no questions, it was proposed that the Annual Report and Financial Statements, as approved by the PCC, be adopted.

Proposer: Antony Collinson

Seconder: Nesta Gedrych

Accepted: unanimously

The Chairman thanked Jeff Alino-Abbott for his continued hard work as our Treasurer and Debbie Richardson for producing the Annual Report.

4. Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

Colin Last explained the requirement for the Report and noted the continued diligence of the Property Committee in always ensuring that work on the church building is carried out with no

major expenses in 2023. He presented the Inventory and Terrier and reminded the meeting that as well as a hard copy, there is a digital copy on a USB stick. Both include itemisation of all the church property - plate, furniture etc. - and photographs of all the objects. All the items entered are recorded as still present with some small changes. He announces the next Quinquennial Inspection is due on May 10th and only work on the South Porch is an ongoing work. There was one Faculty in 2023 for the installation of a churchyard pond. Colin thanked the members of the Property Committee.

Both he and Nesta Gedrych were thanked and applauded for their hard work as Wardens.

Rev'd Simon Dommett took the opportunity to mention the upcoming 800th Anniversary of St Mary's Church, Goldington in 2028. A meeting to begin to discuss ideas of how we mark this occasion is commended and is scheduled for Tuesday 28th May at 7:30pm in the Dilworth Room, led by Sarah Collinson.

5. **Group Reports 2023**

The reports were circulated before the Meeting. The Vicar thanked everyone for their time and contributions to the many church groups. He reminded us all of the requirement for up-to-date Risk Assessments and relevant Safeguarding Training for each group, activity and the leaders of them.

6. **Deanery Synod Report**

The report was circulated before the meeting and taken as read. Susan Lane was thanked for her work as our sole Deanery Synod representative. She mentioned we can have another Representative and briefly explained that the Deanery Synod meets approximately 3 times per year. She suggested joining her for meeting as a trial.

7. **Safeguarding Report showing PCC Compliance with the House of Bishops' Guidance on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults**

Sue Lennon, Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), confirmed that the PCC is compliant with the House of Bishops' Guidance. She reported we are doing very well as the church community in completing relevant Safeguarding Training. She reminded us that the Diocese encourages all members of the congregation, regardless of whether they hold specific roles, to take the Basic online Safeguarding course and let her know if they intend to so that she can guide them through the process. She also impressed on the Meeting that Safeguarding refers to adults as well as children. Renewal of training is always ongoing but overall, we are up to date. Sue Lennon took this opportunity to thank Rev'd Simon Dommett for his continual support of her as PSO and commitment to Safeguarding at St Mary's. She says they effectively 'share' the role with regular contact.

8. **a. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives**

There being no nominations, Susan Lane remains the sole Deanery Synod Representative (Elected in 2022 for 3 years.)

b. Election of Parochial Church Councillors

There were 3 nominations for the three-year vacancies:

Addendum 1: Treasurer's Comments

The accounts for 2023 are presented within the Annual Report, as analysed within the standard accounts format required by recommended accounting practice.

While I do not intend to consider every aspect of the accounts that have been presented to you, I will draw out key highlights. Please raise any questions or concerns as they arise – alternatively, there will be time at the end.

I am sure that you will all recall the details of my presentation for the 2022 accounts, where I noted the concerns we had about the impacts of rising inflation on our financial position. The impacts of those concerns are very clear within the 2023 accounts.

At the highest level, when we consider unrestricted and restricted funds together, the financial statements show that we enjoyed a surplus of £14,000. However, this surplus has been delivered through the receipt of grants which are restricted in terms of their use. Once they are set aside, we can see that there was a deficit in year on unrestricted funds of over £8,000.

This is where the impact of the economic context is clear and there has been a reduction in our income. One of the key barometers for financial health used within the Church of England considers whether the total of 'voluntary giving' – envelopes, PGS, standing orders etc. – was higher than the Diocesan Parish Share. In 2023, this was not the case.

In addition, letting income for the Church Hall was lower than in recent years, although there were signs of a recovery in the last quarter of the year.

This overall deficit was reduced by the success of the various social activities that took place in 2023. The Summer and Autumn Fetes in 2023 alone provided a contribution of over £5,000.

Turning to expenditure, the accounts show slight decreases in both church and hall running costs, although we must be mindful of the fact that 2024 brought the need to negotiate new energy contracts, which delivered an inevitable increase in those costs. Some significant maintenance activity was completed in the Hall during the year, the costs of which were offset by the receipt of grants.

We need to carefully consider how we should manage this overall situation. The PCC will be reviewing all aspects of our income and expenditure in the light of the accounts and forthcoming anticipated rise in utility costs.

We have, for example, recently been successful in applying for support from the Church of England Digital Giving Unit, who will be supplying an electronic, contactless giving point within the church. You have probably seen one of these devices in use in other churches and they are common within cathedrals.

The Digital Giving Team will also design and build a new web page as a focus for online giving. Experience elsewhere suggests that these two initiatives will increase the level of our voluntary giving.

Additionally, a sub-group of the PCC is being set up to coordinate our approach towards grant applications, where we will seek to obtain grant funding in support of our general activities, including building maintenance. Again, other churches have been highly successful in obtaining additional funding in this way, and we now also have some useful experience.

Another important aspect of the accounts reflects the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted and relevant restricted funds to mitigate the costs of future major maintenance work.

At the end of the year the available unrestricted and relevant restricted funds totalled £157,000. Cash represents £88,000 of this amount and is sufficient to meet the regular cash requirements and the repair expenditure likely to be required in the next two years.

It is PCC policy to invest a proportion of reserve funds in CBF Church of England Investment Funds for long-term growth and income. The remainder in the form of cash is held by Virgin Money and the CBF Deposit Fund. Interest earned on both deposits is now rising due to the bank rate policy of the Bank of England.

And it is in relation to these balances that I must point out an error in my narrative report. Page 9 of the Annual Report – around halfway down. The report states that “The market value of long-term investments decreased by £2,500” – this is incorrect and the market value of investments actually increased by £2,500.

Any Questions?

Addendum 2: Priest's Comments

2023 - A Year in Review

As I look back on the last year, I want to start by thanking everybody who has worked to support and develop God's kingdom here in Goldington.

Starting with Jennie Cappleman as our Associate Priest; Joss Sanders as our Curate; Cathy, Susan and Michael as our Readers; Sue Lennon as our Lay leader of Worship; Ceri-Anne as our Family and Children's Minister; Sarah Collinson as our Musical Director; for Mary, Helen and Jane who have played the piano; for Tanya on her guitar and leading Praise is Rising; for Heather and her singing. For the Welcomers, the Streamers, the Choir, the Bell Ringers, the Flower Arrangers, the Bible Readers, the Prayer Leaders, the Pastoral Team, for Warm Spaces, for Messy Church and Diddy Disciples, the PCC and its Committee members. For Geoff looking after Hall bookings, for Colin and Nesta our Wardens and everybody else that I haven't mentioned. The point is we have worked as a team, together.

So, as we look back it is good to celebrate the continued contribution that Dwell Well has on those in need. The simple boxes of provisions have helped over 160 people since we started and thanks to Debbie and Andy for looking after this in the past year.

We also want to celebrate Messy Church; this new church congregation is nearly as big as our Sunday 9:30 congregation. They meet in the hall and worship in a very different way. This congregation is growing and with the new help of Ceri-Anne we hope to increase the discipleship of these members. That is not to say we don't also need to continue to disciple our other congregations as well!

Diddy Disciples has grown in number and age and it is lovely to see them more in our morning worship.

We have continued to reach out and grow with Warm Spaces on Monday, thanks to Heather and her team and those wonderful people supplying all the cakes that get consumed. We now have a regular Councillor's Surgery, local Health Team and local Community Police dropping in. Warm Spaces is a real way that we reach out to our community and simply show God's love and care.

As we give thanks to God for all that he is doing through these activities, we also had the sad death of some of our members, and it was lovely to see full churches as we gathered to remember and give thanks for them.

Sadly, Angus' death has also left a large hole in the work of the Church Hall, which we are struggling to fulfil. Finding all the little things that he quietly did are now causing a lot of activity to fulfil them. As a team this is causing us some stress and we need everybody's help to resolve this.

As a church we had a very good turnout for the Summer Fete and Autumn Fair, which we believe was because of all the invitations we sent out. This shows how important publicity is and the need for a new person to take on the wider role of Publicity Lead. With so much good stuff going on we should be shouting about it to our community. There is our Eco-Church, the hedge planting, swift boxes, church pond, wildlife areas. There are Family Drop-ins, Warm Spaces, and so much more. Each one of us should be sharing this with friends, family and neighbours, inviting others to come and enjoy. But to have somebody who would head this up would be a fantastic help to us all.

I have enjoyed this last year at St. Mary's, and hope you have too. And I rejoice that God is at work in our congregation and community, but we still have a way to go in the coming year.

My Vision for 2024

As we have heard we will be struggling financially as a church, just as all our members are struggling with the cost of living. I would like to see us as a church be financially secure in the coming year. This will mean having a stewardship campaign to raise awareness of the problem. We are putting a Fund-finding Group in place to try and alleviate some of this pressure but we don't know how successful they will be, any help for this group would be greatly appreciated.

We need to look at our costs and make the Church Hall an income producer and not a drain on finances, to run as a business not a charity or add on.

I would like to see Warm Spaces double in size, we have seen how much life it can give and want this to be enjoyed by more in our community.

I would like to see our Eco-Church credentials shouted from the roof tops, and for us to be an eco-people, not in a wild hippy way, but as responsible members of our society. I believe that there is much to be gained for us and our community through this. Our environment is very important for the younger generations, it is a way for us to engage with them on common ground and start conversations about why God's creation is important to us.

We must continue working to reduce our carbon footprint. This is not just as a church organisation, but must extend to all our members that each of us does all we can to care for God's creation and our children's future. For example, we should all be using renewal energy at home as well as at church. We could be sharing our best practices for energy saving and usage, using only renewable resources and fairly traded products.

I would like to see our Fetes and Fairs become central gathering places for Goldington as a community not just the church. We saw a dramatic increase in their impact last year, which also had an impact on our bottom line. So, a double win!

For this vision to grow I believe we need to have a new and effective publicity push. We are doing so much from worship to community action that goes unseen. Now some people might think Debbie is our church's Publicity Lead, but that is no longer true. Debbie heads up the Dwell Well initiative, she is a Deputy Lead at Warm Spaces, she is on the Fund-finding Group, she helps stream the services, she is the PCC Minutes Secretary, she is a member of the choir, she looks after the church Facebook page. She is doing so much; it is unreasonable to expect her to have the time and focus needed for effective publicity as well.

So, to stand up and offer to lead our publicity will not be standing on her toes or pushing her out, it would be a great help to take our church engagement forward.

So, there is much to do, great places to grow. What we need is the will and the people to accomplish this.

My thanks to our new and returning PCC members, my thanks to those who have offered help with projects already this year.

I continue to commend our outreach to your prayers, your finances, your action.

And I pray that God will continue to bless us in all that we do in his name, bringing His kingdom to the people of Goldington. Amen

Accounts

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2023

**The Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric & Ornaments of the Church
and the Deanery Synod Report**

The Minutes of the Annual Church Meetings held on 16th April 2023

Incumbent:

The Rev'd Simon Dommett

Bank:

National Westminster Bank
81 High Street,
Bedford

Independent Examiner:

Amy Eyles
44 Wellington Road,
Raunds

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

Administrative Information

St. Mary's Church is situated in Church Lane, Goldington, Bedford. It is part of the Diocese of St. Albans within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St. Mary's Parish Office, Church Lane, Goldington, Bedford MK41 0AP.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 1131568.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following have served as members of the Council:

Ex-Officio Members

Vicar:	The Rev'd Simon Dommett
Assistant Curate:	The Rev'd Joss Sanders
Churchwardens:	Colin Last Nesta Gedrych
Licensed Readers:	Michael Furlong Cathy Sanderson Susan Lane
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Susan Lane

Elected Members

Sarah Collinson (elected in 2021 for three years) (Secretary)

Chris Hjelt (elected in 2021 for three years)

D-J Alino-Wilcockson (elected in 2021 for three years)

Debbie Richardson (elected in 2022 for three years) (Minutes Secretary)

Susan Lane (elected in 2022 for three years) (Licensed Reader and Deanery Synod Representative)

Jeff Alino-Abbott (elected in 2022 for three years) (Treasurer)

Alan Bates (elected in 2022 for three years)

Sue Lennon (elected in 2023 for one year) (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Craig Brandon (elected in 2023 for three years) (resigned)

Committees and Working Groups

The PCC operates through a series of committees in order to carry out its aims and objectives. All these committees have the power to make recommendations but all spiritual, pastoral and financial decisions are made by the full PCC. All committees have agreed Terms of Reference ratified by the PCC in 2019.

Standing Committee

The only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The committee must comprise the incumbent, each churchwarden and at least two other members of the PCC.

The committee of St Mary's comprises the incumbent, churchwardens, secretary, treasurer and at least one ordinary member. Members of the congregation wishing matters to be raised at the PCC should bring them, in the first instance, to this committee for consideration. In general, it meets two weeks before a full Council meeting to prepare the Agenda for PCC meetings and to consider financial and property reports.

Finance Committee

The committee comprises the Vicar, Treasurer, a Churchwarden and the Planned Giving Officer. It supervises budgets and maintains an overview of the parish finances.

Pastoral Committee

The committee prepares Services of Thanksgiving for the bereaved and supports the sick and housebound with prayer and anniversary or other greetings cards. It also organises a Christmas tree bauble scheme in aid of St John's hospice, Moggerhanger.

Property Committee

The committee is responsible for all aspects of the church fabric and the church hall.

Publicity Committee

The committee arranges advertising and publicity using multiple media and tries to ensure that all activities and events at St Mary's are well promoted.

Worship Committee

All service planning is considered under the aegis of this committee which regularly reviews our worship. The members meet two or three times a year to check that all scheduling is in hand and that services are running smoothly.

The Health & Safety Officer (currently vacant) reports directly to the Standing Committee of the PCC.

The Environmental Officer, North Bedford Churches Together and Deanery Synod representatives report directly to the PCC.

Objectives and Achievements

The PCC co-operates with the Churchwardens in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, co-ordinating and inspiring the congregation in its pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical mission. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of St. Mary's church and church hall in Church Lane, Goldington.

St. Mary's PCC is dedicated to helping all those living in Goldington and beyond to worship at St. Mary's without discrimination, to engage with its activities, to develop their spiritual lives and to become part of the family of God through our Lord's unconditional love. It is constantly reviewing and developing new ways of involving those who have no background of church life.

We aim to do this by providing services and facilities which will support our work of outreach in the community, by maintaining a framework of church services where worship, praise and prayer can be offered, by hosting courses where people may learn about the Christian message and be encouraged to live it and grow spiritually in a Christian environment and by the pastoral care of our parishioners at focal times in their lives.

The PCC under the chairmanship of the Vicar has complied with its duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

The PCC has complied with their duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.)

In April 2023 there were 120 (122) names registered on the Electoral Roll.

Attendance numbers for 2023 have remained steady in comparison to 2022 with particular increases in young families and children due to Diddy Disciples, Messy Church and during services such as Christingle and Nativity. There remains a good core of online worshippers both locally, nationally and internationally.

5 (5) marriages were celebrated during the year and 15 (14) baptisms. There were 10 (11) funerals in church and 14 (12) funerals at Norse Road Chapel.

Safeguarding as ever has been at the forefront of our PCC deliberations with Sue Lennon continuing as our Parish Safeguarding Officer. There have been changes to the Church of England and Diocesan strategies and planning and these have required a lot of work by our PSO. New policies include Safer Use of Images and the introduction of the Safeguarding Hub. All PCC members, church leaders, officers and relevant volunteers will be required to undertake a recruitment process with relevant safeguarding training in order to comply with regulations and to ensure that we are living out our faith in the safest and most caring ways.

WORSHIP

The PCC worked hard on finding ways to worship that would suit the needs of as many as possible including the re-introduction of the Common Cup and decreased social distancing requirements. We continue to purchase the necessary licenses for music and online services. There was good attendance at our Christmas services, in particular our Christingle and Nativity. Most of the congregation has settled into the pattern of weekly worship but some of the more vulnerable are still understandably wary and continue to worship at home.

Services are still being live-streamed and are available on our YouTube platform. Great strides have been made in what the technology can offer and continues to evolve. The 'tech team' led by our vicar is to be congratulated on their knowledge and dedication in this work.

This year we said good bye to the Rev'd Marcus Ottaviani and his family and pray for God's blessing on their future ministry in Battersea. In the summer we welcomed the Rev'd Joss Sanders as our new part time Assistant Curate and his wife and family to join us at St. Mary's. He has already proved a great source of support to the ministerial team and in particular has enhanced the musical worship in the Family Praise service and the interactive talks at Messy Church which our young members engage in and thoroughly enjoy.

As well as our hard-working Vicar and Curate, the other members of the ministerial team comprising the Rev'd Jennie Cappleman (Associate Priest) our three Licensed Readers Cathy Sanderson, Michael Furlong, and Susan Lane and Sue Lennon (Lay Leader of Worship) have continued to give their invaluable support throughout the year ensuring variety and freshness in our worship.

We celebrated the coronation of HM King Charles III in May by organising events which the local community were warmly invited to and enjoyed. As part of the celebrations, we like the country were encouraged to organise events over the Bank Holiday weekend. On Sunday 7th May we hosted a 'Coronation Big Lunch' event in our hall with a 'Right Royal Bring & Share Picnic Lunch'. Soft drinks were provided and we were pleased of the plethora of food attendees brought. On Monday 8th May we organised a 'Big Help Out' event of a community litter pick which was very well attended by congregation members as well as local community and Goldington Ward Councillors. Most of the litter pickers then joined the Warm Spaces session in the hall for much needed refreshments and fellowship.

The Worship Committee led by Cathy Sanderson constantly reviewed all aspects of our worship during the year.

The Messy Church Team has worked incredibly hard this year holding monthly with average attendances of around forty-five family members. Diddy Disciples is our Sunday group meeting regularly each week and providing teaching and play for the youngest members of the congregation. Since Amanda Ottaviani left us, Diddy Disciples has continued under Heather Dommett's leadership with invaluable support from volunteers and parent helpers. Much continued prayer has been offered for the work of these two Fresh

Expressions of our faith. A small team applied to multiple trusts and organisations for grants towards the 3-years contract of a new Families and Children's Minister. Interviews of two candidates were undertaken in late 2023 with Ceri-Anne Ashby being successful and subsequently appointed. She will assume leadership of Diddy Disciples in January 2024, and plans to implement other ideas to extend our outreach to all local families and children.

The Signing Group has continued to sign at the First Sunday service and meets once per month to practise together. The choir, although much reduced in number, is singing regularly at the 9.30am Sunday service. It also contributed to the Carol Service which is boosted by extra singers from within the congregation and from another church.

The Bell Ringers in the tower regularly ring for main services inviting all to worship and welcoming new families. They have also welcomed members of the community up into the tower and, as part of the summer fete, invited them to try ringing.

PASTORAL CARE

Susan Lane has continued her leadership of the Pastoral matters. Prayers for the vulnerable and sick have been offered ceaselessly and the bereaved remembered with anniversary cards. Holy Communion is taken to those housebound members who request it and once per month is celebrated at a local care home. The ministry of the team would love to be expanded with more volunteers, could you help? Sadly, the team is very low in numbers and we shall need to look to reducing the pressure on them.

PROPERTY

Throughout the year the Property Committee has maintained the fabric of the church and hall. After a few years of leadership Chris Hjelt retired and Colin Last has taken over this role in the interim.

The refurbishment of the south porch is still proceeding as well as work on the oak beams. Various leaks and other minor matters have been addressed and any outstanding quinquennial items have now been complete. The church building is due it's next quinquennial inspection in 2024. This is a thorough survey of the building for wear and repairs.

Surveys and plans were carried out and plans produced to help us in our aim to become carbon neutral including inviting the congregation to assess their own carbon footprint at home. Some small changes can be effected immediately but other issues such as heating and lighting changes are ongoing. We installed a new boiler in the church hall and we look to renewing our gas and electric contracts on green zero carbon tariffs. Some projects require more thought and could incur considerable expense. This work was carried out with our Environmental Officer, Colin Last, as part of our Eco Church plans. We are working towards our 'Silver' EcoChurch award and with the addition of a pond in the churchyard and regular maintenance of the grounds, this should come to fruition in the near future.

Craig Brandon was appointed as Health & Safety Officer and carried out a much-needed overview of our risk Assessments, Health & Safety protocols and Due Diligence procedures. Unfortunately, he had to relinquish this post for personal reasons at the beginning of 2024 and we are now seeking a new Officer.

Geoff Sowerby has continued to work hard to building our client base in the hall and bookings are now looking healthy again with some spaces still available. Our thanks go to him for all the work he does re the hall's management.

MISSION, CHARITY AND OUTREACH

Diddy Disciples and a much-expanded Messy Church are going from strength to strength.

The church hall is a focus of much community activity and the various groups and activities which are so much part of the life of St Mary's often attract people from beyond our congregation. Our annual summer fête and autumn fair were held as usual and, largely in part to successful leaflet drops and local community canvassing, were our most lucrative to date.

Other social gatherings i.e. indoor bowls, the walking group, monthly breakfasts have all run regularly and welcome both church members and those from the wider community. Post-service refreshments are available and the catering team provided its usual much appreciated services for the Harvest lunch and at our summer and autumn fairs.

The North Bedford Churches Together group offered a Lent course with multiple venues and start times to suit all. Links to the online material were distributed to the wider congregation with references made in church *via* displays. The annual Remembrance Day Service organised by the group took place on Goldington Green.

All these activities and events have been well advertised by the Publicity Group under Debbie Richardson using online platforms (Facebook and website) and any other available media such as posters, handbills, the large noticeboards and word of mouth. This publicity has been supplemented by the regular circulation of our parish magazine *Parish & People* which continues to be published each month online and in print for those who prefer this format.

The congregation still support the Children's Society with donations *via* house boxes and the Christingle service raise much needed funds and awareness for the charity. Christine Chapman organises the yearly box opening with results that confirmed the generosity of our givers. The parish also supports financially and in kind the Dwell Well Support – Bedford initiative which provides new/like-like every day household goods for those moving from homelessness into new accommodation - a project founded by Marcus and Amanda Ottaviani and now administered by Debbie and Andy Richardson.

Since late 2022, our Monday afternoon Warm Spaces has gone from strength to strength with an average of forty guests per week in 2023. Under the leadership of Heather Dommatt and her team of volunteers, members of the public have found friendship and companionship. Sessions are supplemented by official visits by the local Public Health team, Goldington Ward Councillors and local Police Community team. This initiative has proven to be a life-line to many in our community as well as our congregation with new guests still coming. Late 2023 saw Chris Jones and Debbie Richardson interviewed and appointed Deputy Leads which ensures sessions can go ahead as long as one of the three Leads are present.

The PCC continued to review and re-invigorate our Mission Action Plan. This tool allows us to advance our ministry and mission with clear goals in mind. Our mission statement has remained the same but continuing and new goals were prepared and priorities identified. The PCC is constantly engaging the congregation to take ownership of our MAP.

The prayers and practical support of everyone have ensured that St Mary's is even more at the heart of the community and we look forward to growing in faith and love having as our vision the aim '*To grow together as a worshipping church family, to know Jesus better and to find new ways to express our faith within our local community.*'

Mission Action Plan 2023-24

Going Deeper into God + Making New Disciples + Transforming Communities

Vision

What is the vision for your Church, Parish, Team Ministry or Benefice?

To grow together as a worshipping church family, to know Jesus better and to find new ways to express our faith within our local community.

Values

What are the core values for your Church, Parish, Team Ministry or Benefice?

- Inclusive.
- Place of welcome in the community.
- Accepting of difference.

Priorities

What is your 1st Priority to make your vision a reality?

Employ a Family and Children's worker.

Which of the 3 strands of Living God's Love does your 1st Priority most focus on?

Making New Disciples.

SMART Goal to achieve your 1st Priority

Planning in Autumn 2023/Employ by Spring 2024.

SMART Goal 2 to achieve your 1st Priority

Advertise in Autumn 2023.

SMART Goal 3 to achieve your 1st Priority

Interview in late Autumn 2023.

Smart Goal 4 to achieve your 1st priority

- To confirm pledges and grants by Spring 2024.
- To put plans in place in 2024 for any shortfall for the three-year funding plan.

What is your 2nd Priority to make your vision a reality?

To become a carbon neutral church by 2030.

Which of the 3 strands of Living God's Love does your 2nd Priority most focus on?

Transforming Communities.

SMART Goal to achieve your 2nd Priority

Have an energy audit in Summer 2023 to get baseline usage.

SMART Goal 2 to achieve your 2nd Priority

Improve insulation and energy usage in hall and church by Autumn 2024.

SMART Goal 3 to achieve your 2nd Priority

To move to carbon neutral or sustainable energy suppliers in 2024.

Smart Goal 4 to achieve your 2nd priority

To put together a planned pathway to being a carbon neutral community by Autumn 2024.

What is your 3rd Priority to make your vision a reality?

To grow the scope and influence of Warm Spaces.

Which of the 3 strands of Living God's Love does your 3rd Priority most focus on?

Transforming Communities.

SMART Goal to achieve your 3rd Priority

To appoint Deputy Leads by Spring 2024.

SMART Goal 2 to achieve your 3rd Priority

To obtain external funding for the project for 2024 Spring/Summer 2024.

SMART Goal 3 to achieve your 3rd Priority

To train and recruit volunteers to run the event safely and sustainably by Summer 2024.

Financial Review for the year 2023 (figures are rounded to nearest '000 for ease of understanding)

During 2023, the PCC has kept financial activity under close review, recognising the potential impacts of rising inflation on both those who provide our income and the church's direct costs. Concerns about a reduction in voluntary giving proved to be unfounded, although income from this source has remained flat. General expenditure has risen, creating a deficit in unrestricted funds for the year. This is despite our costs for gas and electricity remaining constant throughout 2023, due to the fixed rate contracts that were in place during the year.

There has, however, been a significant rise in the level of restricted income, due to the receipt of grants in support of the new Children's and Families Minister, who started her work within the parish early in 2024. The total of grants received for this purpose totalled £20,000 and, together with other restricted receipts of net £2,000, allowed the overall Income and expenditure account for 2023 to show a surplus of £14,000.

This situation is being kept under detailed review by the PCC, especially as 2024 brings increased gas and electricity costs, and activities designed to both increase income and decrease expenditure are being brought forward.

The Parish Giving Scheme continues to be a success and has replaced regular cash giving in most cases, although around 30 members continue to use standing orders and envelopes. The Scheme requires regular donations to be made by direct debit and saves the Stewardship Recorder from having to maintain records to support gift aid tax claims.

The summer and autumn fetes were very successful in 2023, generating record receipts and several other social activities took place. Conversely, there was a reduction in income generated by hall lettings, largely due to the loss of some regular bookings. By the third and fourth quarters there was evidence of a recovery, with new regular lettings and an increase in ad-hoc bookings becoming evident.

The market value of long-term investments increased by £2,500, arising largely from increases in interest rates. As with the losses suffered in 2022, gains of this nature do not give any indication of future performance.

The PCC sets aside 5% of stewardship income, plate collections and gift aid tax recovery for missionary giving. This is shared between support for the work of our CMS mission partner, Heather Johnstone, at the Rehema Project in Tanzania ($\frac{3}{4}$) and WaterAid ($\frac{1}{4}$). The resulting donation amounts for CMS and WaterAid were consistent with the previous year. A full list of charitable donations appears in Note 9 to the Financial Statements.

Reserves Policy

The church is partly an historic building and, therefore, expensive to repair as modern materials and methods are usually not permitted. Consequently, it is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted and relevant restricted funds to mitigate the costs of future major maintenance work that has been identified in the Quinquennial survey. A similar policy is adopted for work required to the church hall, although the hall is not subject to a professional survey. No work of any major significance has been carried out in recent years, but some stonework repairs were undertaken in 2022. The church hall has benefitted from the installation of new heating equipment, which will help to reduce consumption. In recognition of the Church of England's policy to move to a zero-carbon energy position the Property Committee has been looking at various other options of reducing consumption. The amount set aside for both buildings at the end of the year was £72,000. Funds 'set aside' for future expenditure are designated funds and there is no restriction on the money being used for other purposes should this prove necessary.

Where no specific purpose for a legacy is expressed, it is PCC policy to consult with the family as appropriate and put the money to a use which reflects the interests of the donor. The PCC has received several such legacies over the years and the amount remaining unspent stands at £85,000. These gifts comprise a significant part of general church funds.

It is also PCC policy to retain sufficient unrestricted reserves to cover any deficit forecast for the following year plus an amount to cover any adverse cash flow situations that may arise from time to time. The amount required by this policy amounts to £17,000 for the year 2023.

At the end of the year the available unrestricted and relevant restricted funds totalled £157,000. Cash represents £88,000 of this amount and is sufficient to meet the regular cash requirements and the repair expenditure likely to be required in the next two years. Cash funds and the PCC's long-term investments, taken together, are sufficient to meet the cost of repairs and the commitment to spend legacies on worthwhile improvement projects. The amount to be held in reserve for repair and cash flow purposes is reviewed on an annual basis.

It is PCC policy to invest a proportion of reserve funds in CBF Church of England Investment Funds for long-term growth and income. The remainder in the form of cash is held by Virgin Money and the CBF Deposit Fund. Interest earned on both deposits is now rising due to the bank rate policy of the Bank of England.

Annual report approved by the PCC on 9th April 2024 and signed on their behalf by the Rev'd Simon Dommett, Vicar

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'SD', is written over a horizontal dotted line. The signature is cursive and extends across the width of the line.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of St. Mary the Virgin, Goldington

I report on the Accounts of the PCC of St. Mary the Virgin, Goldington for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 12 to 19.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Independent Examiner

The PCC's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts.

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

It is my responsibility to: -

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement


My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the Accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the Accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full

audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the Accounts present a 'true and fair' view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: -
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare Accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the Accounts to be reached.



Amy Eyles - CPFA, BA (Hons)
44 Wellington Road, Raunds
7th April 2024

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
		£	£	£	2023	2022
		£	£	£	£	£
INCOME						
Voluntary income	2(a)	64,979	23,613	-	88,592	70,400
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	16,950	-	-	16,950	19,286
Income from investments	2(c)	3,988	-	256	4,244	3,202
Church activities	2(d)	8,495	-	-	8,495	9,436
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		94,412	23,613	256	118,281	102,324
EXPENDITURE						
Church activities	3(a)	93,741	1,659	-	95,400	98,957
Costs of generation of income	3(b)	685	-	-	685	269
Major repairs and depreciation	3(c)	8,009	-	-	8,009	1,389
Support costs	3(d)	2,593	-	-	2,593	1,518
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		105,028	1,659	-	106,687	102,133
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(10,616)	21,954	256	11,595	191
Gain/(Loss) on revaluation of investments	5(b)	2,481	-	-	2,481	(9,245)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(8,134)	21,954	256	14,076	(9,054)
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		146,762	13,659	3,817	164,238	173,292
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		138,628	35,613	4,073	178,314	164,238

BALANCE SHEET at 31 December 2023

FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible fixed assets	5(a)	4,084	-	-	4,084	4,223
Investments	5(b)	67,861	-	1,582	69,444	66,962
		71,945	-	1,582	73,528	71,185
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stock of goods for sale		-	-	-	-	-
Debtors & prepayments	6	4,315	-	-	4,315	4,777
Short term deposits		78,176	7,000	2,490	87,666	83,422
Bank & cash balances		(11,694)	28,613	-	16,919	13,087
		70,797	35,613	2,490	108,901	101,286
LIABILITIES: Amounts falling due within one year	7	(4,115)	-	-	(4,115)	(8,233)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		66,682	35,613	2,490	104,787	93,053
TOTAL NET ASSETS		138,628	35,613	4,073	178,314	164,238
PARISH FUNDS						
Unrestricted	8	138,628	-	-	138,628	146,762
Restricted		-	35,613	-	35,613	13,659
Endowment		-	-	4,073	4,073	3,817
		138,628	35,613	4,073	178,314	164,238

Approved by the Parochial Church Council 9th April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

The Rev'd S P Dommett



S E Collinson



The notes on pages 16 to 19 form part of these Accounts.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The Accounts have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with the current Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities and is in compliance with accounting standard FRS102.

The Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at a fair value. The Accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average basis.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for ordinary PCC purposes. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC, such as the church repair fund, are also unrestricted.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the income to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable; interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable.

Gifts in kind for the PCC's own use are included in the SOFA as incoming resources at their fair value when receivable, and expensed as and when consumed in use. Gifts of fixed assets, if material, are included in the balance sheet at their fair value and expensed over the asset's useful economic life.

All incoming resources are accounted for gross. Amounts generated specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. Amounts received for mission in which the PCC acts only as an intermediary are not shown as income of the PCC, except where the PCC is involved in the fund-raising process.

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due. Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31st December. The value of any donated services or voluntary help received are not included in the Accounts but are described in the trustees' annual report.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Any parish share unpaid at 31st December is provided for in these Accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the financial statements in accordance with S.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011. All expenditure on consecrated or benefice buildings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Accounts in the year in which it is incurred.

Land and buildings held for the functional use of the PCC are valued at original cost, less provision for depreciation. Buildings are depreciated over a period of 50 years; pre-fabricated buildings are assumed to have a useful life of 25 years. Additions to existing buildings, which do not substantially extend the life of the asset, are written off over the remaining life of the original building. Land is not depreciated.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property. They are listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected at any reasonable time. For anything acquired prior to the year 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the Accounts. Subsequent to this date no individual item has cost more than £1,000, so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Fixtures & fittings and equipment used within the church premises, including moveable church furnishings, are depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items with a purchase price of less than £1,000 are written off when the asset is acquired. Investments are valued at a fair value, which is deemed to be the market value at 31st December.

Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits comprise cash held on deposit with Virgin Money plc and the CBF Church of England Funds.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

2 INCOME

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Funds	Funds	Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
2(a) Voluntary income					
Planned giving:					
Gift Aid donations	36,399	-	-	36,399	34,909
Tax recoverable on gift aid donations	6,308	-	-	6,308	8,174
Other planned giving	10,068	-	-	10,068	14,555
Collections at all services	1,826	139	-	1,965	3,031
Donations and appeals	1,927	3,524	-	5,451	2,932
Tax recoverable on other gift aid donations	-	-	-	-	84
Tax recovered on small donations (GASDS)	-	-	-	-	555
Donations for missions and charities	1,520	-	-	1,520	1,160
Legacies	1,000	-	-	1,000	5,000
Grants received	5,931	19,950	-	25,881	-
Government grants received	-	-	-	-	-
	64,979	23,613	-	88,592	70,400
2(b) Activities for generating funds					
Fetes, bazaars, and other fund raising events	5,059	-	-	5,059	2,803
Church hall lettings	11,990	-	-	11,990	16,082
Rental income, 1 Atholl Walk	-	-	-	-	346
Sales of purchased and donated goods	(99)	-	-	99	54
	16,950	-	-	16,950	19,286
2(c) Income from investments					
Dividends and interest	3,988	-	256	4,244	3,202
2(d) Income from Church activities					
Magazine	10	-	-	10	55
Donations for use of church hall	-	-	-	-	-
Social events	456	-	-	456	1,719
Church fees	8,029	-	-	8,029	7,662
	8,495	-	-	8,495	9,436
TOTAL INCOME	94,412	23,613	256	118,281	102,324

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

3 EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2023 £	2022 £
3(a) Church activities					
Missionary & charitable giving:					
Church overseas:					
- missionary societies	2,048			2,048	2,285
- relief and development agencies		1,520		1,520	969
Home missions and other Church societies					
Secular charities	682	139		821	1,884
	<u>2,730</u>	<u>1,659</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,389</u>	<u>5,138</u>
Ministry:					
Diocesan parish share	65,635	-	-	65,635	60,536
Other ministry costs & housing	1,798	-	-	1,798	7,391
Parish training and mission	988	-	-	988	396
Church running & maintenance expenses	8,930	-	-	8,930	10,298
Upkeep of services	989	-	-	989	1,082
Upkeep of churchyard and grounds		-	-		170
Church hall running costs	12,671	-	-	12,671	13,946
	<u>91,011</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>91,011</u>	<u>93,819</u>
	<u>93,741</u>	<u>1,659</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>95,400</u>	<u>98,957</u>
3(b) Costs of fund raising activities					
Cost of fetes, fairs and social activities	685	-	-	685	215
Cost of purchased items for sale	-	-	-	-	54
Costs of Christian Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>685</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>685</u>	<u>269</u>
3 (c) Major repairs and depreciation					
Church repairs & furnishings		-	-		1,250
Church hall equipment & furnishings	7,870	-	-	7,870	
Depreciation of buildings	139	-	-	139	139
Depreciation of church hall fixtures & fittings	-	-	-	-	
	<u>8,009</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,009</u>	<u>1,389</u>
3(d) Support costs					
Printing and stationery	294	-	-	294	677
Office equipment & computer software	1,054	-	-	1,054	87
Parish office telephone		-	-		316
Other costs	1,245	-	-	1,245	438
	<u>2,593</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,593</u>	<u>1,518</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>105,028</u>	<u>1,659</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>106,687</u>	<u>102,133</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

4	(a) STAFF COSTS		2023	2022
			£	£
	Wages and salaries		5,421	6,172
	During the year the PCC employed a verger, hall caretaker and a hall manager.			
	All positions are part-time.			

- (b) PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS & RELATED PARTIES
 No transactions have taken place with related parties.
 No trustee has received payment for services provided or expenses incurred as a trustee.
 Verger's fees of £378 were paid to PCC members and persons closely connected with them, who acted as vergers at weddings and funerals
 Apart from the above, no other payments were made to any PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties except for the reimbursement of purchases made on behalf of the PCC.

5 FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

		Freehold Land & Buildings	Hall Fittings	Hall Equipment	Total
		£	£	£	£
(a) Tangible fixed assets (all unrestricted)					
ACTUAL/DEEMED COST	at 1 January 2023	108,414	39,453	3,910	151,777
	additions	-	-	-	-
	disposals	-	-	-	-
	at 31 December 2023	<u>108,414</u>	<u>39,453</u>	<u>3,910</u>	<u>151,777</u>
DEPRECIATION	at 1 January 2023	104,191	39,453	3,910	147,554
	charge for the year	139	-	-	139
	withdrawn on disposals	-	-	-	-
	at 31 December 2023	<u>104,330</u>	<u>39,453</u>	<u>3,910</u>	<u>147,693</u>
WRITTEN-DOWN VALUE	at 31 December 2023	4,084	-	-	4,084
	at 31 December 2022	4,223	-	-	4,223

The freehold land and buildings comprise the church hall and Dilworth Room and are shown at their original cost, less provision for buildings amortisation. Land is not amortised. The hall and contents are valued for insurance purposes at £2,900,000 and this is considered to be a fair estimate of the current value in use of the property.

(b) Investments		2023	2022
		£	£
	Fair value at 1 January	66,962	76,207
	Revaluation gain/(loss)	2,482	(9,245)
	Fair value at 31 December	<u>69,444</u>	<u>66,962</u>

The following investments are held and are shown at fair value as at 31 December :

	2023	2022
	£	£
10,872 units CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund - historical cost £18,650	15,738	14,852
18,408 units CBF Property Fund- historical cost £25,000	22,551	23,654
1,378 units CBF Investment Fund - historical cost £15,072	31,155	28,456
	<u>69,444</u>	<u>66,962</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

6 DEBTORS	2023	2022
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	1,631	2,357
Prepayments for goods and services and accrued interest	1,103	370
Other debtors	1,581	2,050
	<u>4,315</u>	<u>4,777</u>

7 LIABILITIES	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts falling due in one year:		
Creditors for goods and services	43	850
Missionary giving	3,776	4,510
Accrued expenses and deferred income	296	2,873
	<u>4,115</u>	<u>8,233</u>

8 FUND DETAILS	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
The PCC funds comprise the following:					
General	64,036	-	-	64,036	73,213
Church repairs	48,902	-	-	48,902	48,333
Chancel repairs	-	-	4,073	4,073	3,817
Church hall repairs	25,690	-	-	25,690	25,216
Others	-	35,613	-	35,613	13,659
	<u>138,628</u>	<u>35,613</u>	<u>4,073</u>	<u>178,314</u>	<u>164,238</u>

The Chancel Repair Fund is a permanent endowment which permits only the income to be spent.
Designated funds are unrestricted and may be used for other purposes.

Summary of Fund Movements	Unrestricted	Designated Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Fund chancel repairs	2023 Total
	general fund	church repairs	church hall repairs	others	£	£
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance at 1 January 2023	73,213	48,333	25,216	13,659	3,817	164,238
Incoming resources	93,369	569	474	23,613	256	118,281
Resources expended/Amortisation	(105,028)	-	-	(1,659)	-	(106,687)
Investment gains/(losses)	2,481	-	-	-	-	2,481
Balance at 31 December 2023	<u>64,036</u>	<u>48,902</u>	<u>25,690</u>	<u>35,613</u>	<u>4,073</u>	<u>178,314</u>

9 CHARITABLE GIVING FOR THE YEAR

From PCC resources:	£	From other donations & events:	£
CMS (for our Mission Partner)	2,048	Bishop's harvest appeal	473
WaterAid	683	Christian Aid	1,047
	<u>2,730</u>		
From Christmas donations:			<u>1,520</u>
SMART Prebend Day Centre	69		
Families First Bedfordshire	70		
	<u>139</u>	Total Charitable Giving	4,388

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT ON FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS

It has been a quiet year with no major expenses regarding the church building. We have kept on top of the routine maintenance jobs. There is still some outstanding work to do in the South Porch. Thanks are due to the Property Committee for all the work they do in keeping the church in a good condition.

There is concern about damp getting into the church in one or two places. This summer the Quinquennial Survey is due, 5-yearly inspection of the building by our architect. He will no doubt flag up what works we need to undertake to deal with the damp problem and also other works that are needed to keep the building in a fit state.

The churchyard continues to be looked after regularly. We required a Faculty, permission from the Diocese, when we decided to dig a large hole in the churchyard for our pond.

The Log Book and Terrier (inventory of all church possessions) has been kept up to date. There have been no major additions, and we haven't lost anything either.

The annual Archdeacon's Visitation went well with favourable comments about how things are going at St Mary's. We churchwardens got the praise, but thanks to everyone who has helped us both in the past year. It's a team effort.

Colin Last and Nesta Gedrych
Church Wardens

BEDFORD DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Bedford Deanery Synod met three times in 2023 in various churches around the deanery. We have had some interesting talks this year alongside the more formal business part of the meetings.

In March, we had a talk by a representative of the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust. We heard a brief history of the Trust and how it makes grants. We discovered that churches don't have to be historic to benefit from grants from the Trust. The bulk of the Trust's income arises from the annual bike ride, which raises around £100,000 each year. Half the sponsorship money goes to the churches. St. Mary's has benefitted from the Trust in this way over the years through the dedicated folk who cycle or walk to as many local churches as they can on one day in September.

In June, we had a very interesting talk on how churches can communicate well. We were encouraged to consider what our church offers, what message we are giving out, what draws people into our church, and lots of other ideas to get our creative juices flowing. At that meeting, we also heard from Revd David Thomas from Christchurch, Bedford, about his first year of incumbency.

In October, Sheila Bissell gave a report on General Synod and Cathy Sanderson gave a report on Diocesan Synod. We also had a presentation by two young people from Transfiguration Church in Kempston, highlighting the views of young people in caring for God's creation and what their church is doing to fulfil the fifth Mark of Mission.

Previously, there have been two St. Mary's representatives at Deanery Synod. If you would like to join me in representing St. Mary's in our local Deanery, please do speak to me to find out more.

Susan Lane
St Mary's, Deanery Synod Rep.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

As the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) for St. Mary's, I can confirm that the PCC has complied with the duty to have "due regard" to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidelines. In order to comply, safeguarding is a standing agenda item at every PCC meeting. Here, feedback is given on the elements of safeguarding that require annual review by the PCC, and on any other safeguarding matters that need the PCC's attention. The elements needing annual review are those that apply to St. Mary's involvement with activities for children, young people or vulnerable adults. As such, policies on safeguarding, and the recruitment and safeguarding training of people who lead and volunteer to help with Messy Church, Diddy Disciples and Warm Spaces must be reviewed, as well as necessary DBS checks; and certain safeguarding procedures used in those activities. The PCC also has to annually review the organisations that use the church hall that are for children, young people or vulnerable adults; and ensure that safeguarding guidelines and the Church of England Policy Statement are displayed in the church hall (for hirers to see) and in church.

The PCC subscribes to an electronic service provided by the Church of England, called The Dashboard, which reminds us of when the annual reviews are due. It's very useful, and the reminders have helped us to be – at the time of writing – 99% up-to-date with every requirement. This year, the PCC has given approval for us to subscribe to a second Church of England electronic service called The Hub, which will retain people's DBS and safeguarding training records, and send out reminders electronically when updates are required.

Across the past year, some concerns have been brought to the PSO regarding people who might be at risk. Usually, these have resolved themselves, with just a watchful eye being kept to monitor situations. Occasionally, they've been referred to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, who then gives guidance on further action. This can result in a concern being passed to a professional body. We sometimes hear that some church members have felt that safeguarding is only about children. It truly isn't. In the past three years, all but one concern has been about adults. Whether we come into contact with children or not in the church environment, safeguarding is relevant to us all. Even the strongest of us can, through circumstance, go through a time of being vulnerable. We may find ourselves in need of, or being able to offer, caring concern. The Introduction to the Church of England's Policy Statement for Children, Young People and Adults: Promoting a Safer Church states, "The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all."

Sue Lennon
Parish Safeguarding Officer

ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

Sunday, 16th April 2023

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS – 11.00 am in church

The Meeting of Parishioners was attended by 42 people.

1. The Rev'd Simon Dommett opened the meeting with an introductory welcome and prayer.

2. **Apologies for absence**

Sue Barker, Jean Bloom, The Rev'd Jennie Cappleman, Vi Tulloch, Michael Barker, Alan Bates, Russell Bloom, Craig Brandon, Daniel Everitt, Geoff Sowerby

3. **Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners – Sunday, 20th March 2022**

The Minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. It was agreed that they be adopted.

There being no amendments, the Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

4. **Election of Churchwardens for 2023/2024**

There were two nominations for the two posts

Colin Last	Proposer:	Richard Kirby
	Seconder:	Susan Lane

Nesta Gedrych	Proposer:	Mary Everitt
	Seconder:	Michael Barker

There being no other nominations, these two were appointed to serve as Churchwardens for the 2023/2024 and the meeting showed its appreciation. The two wardens were welcomed to the new term of office and thanked for their contribution during the previous year.

There being no other business, the Meeting was closed at 11.05 am.

S.E.C. 17.04.23

ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

Sunday, 16th April 2023

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING – 11.10 am in church

1. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Sunday, 20th March 2022

The Minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. It was agreed that they be adopted. There being no amendments, the Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

2. Presentation of the Electoral Roll

John Sheffield, the Electoral Roll Officer, announced that the revised roll has 120 names with 5 deletions and 3 additions. He was thanked for his work on this.

3. Presentation of the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the PCC

The Report was circulated and available to parishioners before the meeting. After noting that this was his first year in office, the treasurer, Jeff Alino-Abbott highlighted various points.

- The PCC almost broke even during the year with a nominal surplus of £191.
- There was a significant reduction in investment value of *ca* £9,000 caused by market fluctuations.
- In general income has recovered post Covid.
- The roll-out of the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) has been very successful with only a few people still paying by Standing Order.
- Overall costs have been consistent largely due to the PCC having fixed contracts for utilities which still have a while to run. Hall costs will be reviewed in the light of increased utility prices once the contract have expired.
- Social activities - fêtes and fairs etc. - have continued to bring in good sums.
- Hall lettings are almost back to pre-Covid levels bringing in *ca* £16,000. The Hall Manager was thanked for all his efforts in ensuring this level of letting.
- Running costs have increased mainly as a result of church repairs and increased cleaning expenses in the hall.

The treasurer concluded by thanking Richard Kirby for guiding him through his first year in office. *The Rev'd David Gregg* asked whether any thought had been given to installing solar panels. The vicar replied that it was the PCC's aim to be carbon-neutral by 2030 and various options were being considered.

Andrew Dennison, the Independent Examiner, brought the meeting's attention to an error in the page numbering of the report noting that the following references within the financial statements are incorrect and should be amended as follows:

Page 7: The first paragraph of the independent examiner's report should refer to pages 8 to 14 instead of 10 to 15.

Page 8: The last line should read 'The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these Accounts. The final version for submission to the diocese and Charity Commission has been amended accordingly.

We are now trying to appoint a children and families' worker for three years and have already obtained pledges of £10,000 support from the congregation. £15,000 is earmarked from PCC reserves and there are several ongoing grant applications.

Warm Spaces on Monday afternoons is much appreciated and, working with our local councillors and other organisations, is branching out to incorporate activities with initiatives such as Golden Gardens and include some skills workshops.

Dwell Well, set up by Marcus Ottaviani, continues to fill a big need and over 100 tenancy packs have been prepared. Again, we work with other organisations to optimise our help and these include St Paul's church and Bridging the Gap.

Environmental issues are also at the heart of our parish life and Colin Last, the environmental Officer has initiated several projects including tree planting and the installation of swift bird boxes.

Praying and sharing are essential to our church life and four of the Lent House Groups have decided to continue their companionship. The meeting noted how much the prayer ministry had helped and supported them during the year.

Sadly, we shall say farewell to Marcus and his family this summer but shall welcome Joss Sanders as our new curate in training. The congregation was thanked for supporting him during his training.

We give thanks for God's work with our children and families and pray for this vision to continue.

Finally, the vicar thanked the hard-working Ministry Team and all those who work behind the scenes to make St Mary's what it is.

David Gregg in turn thanked Simon and Heather Dommett for their oversight and care.

11. **Any Other Business**

Susan Lane thanked the Ministry team for its support during her training and said how honoured she was to have been admitted as a Reader. She asked for everyone's continued prayer.

Frances Tyler asked whether the ongoing work at Bury Court flats had caused any undue problems for the church and Simon Dommett replied that he was in constant touch with the site team and was monitoring any parking issues.

Susan Lane reported on the renovation of the church library which has seen several books given to theological colleges and charity outlets. The book trolley will now be in the hall weekly after services. Any number of books may be borrowed for an unlimited time. Work is still continuing on classification of the remaining holdings.

Colin Last reiterated the meetings thanks to Andrew Dennison the retiring Independent Examiner and gave him a card.

12. **Closing Prayer**

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 11.53 with the grace.

S.E.C. 17.04.23

Accounts

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2022

**The Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric & Ornaments of the Church
and the Deanery Synod Report**

The Minutes of the Annual Church Meetings held on 22nd March 2022

Incumbent:

The Rev'd Simon Dommett

Bank:

National Westminster Bank
81 High Street
Bedford

Independent Examiner:

Andrew Dennison
12 Chepstow Gardens
Bedford

Registered Charity No: 1131568

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

Administrative Information

St. Mary's Church is situated in Church Lane, Goldington, Bedford. It is part of the Diocese of St. Albans within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St. Mary's Parish Office, Church Lane, Goldington, Bedford MK41 0AP.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 1131568.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following have served as members of the Council:

Ex-Officio Members

Vicar:	The Rev'd Simon Dommett
Assistant Curate:	The Rev'd Marcus Ottaviani
Churchwardens:	Colin Last Cathy Sanderson (until May 2022) Nesta Gedrych (from May 2022)
Licensed Readers:	Michael Furlong Cathy Sanderson
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Sue Lennon

Elected Members

Chris Jones (elected in 2020 for three years) [resigned May 2022]
Brian Backhouse (elected in 2020 for three years) [resigned April 2022]
Nick Fowler (elected in 2020 for three years) [resigned April 2022]
Colin Last (elected in 2020 for three years [*ex officio* Churchwarden])

Sarah Collinson (elected in 2021 for three years) (Secretary)
Chris Hjelt (elected in 2021 for three years)
D-J Alino-Wilcockson (elected in 2021 for three years)

Susan Lane (elected in 2022 for three years) Licensed Reader from September 2022
Debbie Richardson (elected in 2022 for three years)
Jeff Alino-Abbott (elected in 2022 for three years) (Treasurer)
Alan Bates (elected in 2022 for three years)

Committees and Working Groups

The PCC operates through a series of committees in order to carry out its aims and objectives. All these committees have the power to make recommendations but all spiritual, pastoral and financial decisions are made by the full PCC. All committees have agreed Terms of Reference ratified by the PCC in 2019.

Standing Committee

The only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The committee must comprise the incumbent, each churchwarden and at least two other members of the PCC

The committee of St Mary's comprises the incumbent, churchwardens, secretary, treasurer and at least one ordinary member. Members of the congregation wishing matters to be raised at the PCC should bring them, in the first instance, to this committee for consideration. In general, it meets two weeks before a full Council meeting to prepare the Agenda for PCC meetings and to consider financial and property reports.

Finance Committee

The committee comprises the Vicar, Treasurer, a Churchwarden and the Planned Giving Officer. It supervises budgets and maintains an overview of the parish finances.

Pastoral Committee

The committee prepares Services of Thanksgiving for the bereaved and supports the sick and housebound with prayer and anniversary or other greetings cards. It also organises a Christmas tree bauble scheme in aid of St John's hospice, Moggerhanger.

Property Committee

The committee is responsible for all aspects of the church fabric, the church hall and currently 1 Atholl Walk and their grounds.

Publicity Committee

The committee arranges advertising and publicity using multiple media and tries to ensure that all activities and events at St Mary's are well promoted.

Worship Committee

All service planning is considered under the aegis of this committee which regularly reviews our worship. The members meet two or three times a year to check that all scheduling is in hand and that services are running smoothly.

The Health & Safety Officer (currently vacant) reports directly to the Standing Committee of the PCC.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer, Environmental Officer, North Bedford Churches Together and Deanery Synod representatives report directly to the PCC.

Objectives and Achievements

The PCC co-operates with the Churchwardens in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, coordinating and inspiring the congregation in its pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical mission. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of St. Mary's church and church hall in Church Lane, Goldington.

St. Mary's PCC is dedicated to helping all those living in Goldington and beyond to worship at St. Mary's without discrimination, to engage with its activities, to develop their spiritual lives and to become part of the family of

God through our Lord's unconditional love. It is constantly reviewing and developing new ways of involving those who have no background of church life.

We aim to do this by providing services and facilities which will support our work of outreach in the community, by maintaining a framework of church services where worship, praise and prayer can be offered, by hosting courses where people may learn about the Christian message and be encouraged to live it and grow spiritually in a Christian environment and by the pastoral care of our parishioners at focal times in their lives.

The PCC under the chairmanship of the Vicar has complied with its duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

In March 2022 there were 122 [123] names registered on the Electoral Roll.

Attendance numbers for 2022 began to pick up during the year but have not yet reached pre-pandemic levels. There is still a good core of online worshippers.

5 (2) marriages were celebrated during the year and 14 (19) baptisms. There were 11 (6) funerals in church and 12 (17) cremations. There was 1 confirmation.

Safeguarding continues to be a vital aspect of our church life and under the guidance of Sue Lennon, our PSO we are fully compliant with all the requirements. PCC training is up to date and all DBS checks have been completed or are being processed.

WORSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE

We rejoiced that worship at St Mary's has now not only resumed its former diversity but has managed to grow with new services settling in and our children's work going from strength to strength. The regular Sunday and Wednesday morning services remain the keystones to our worship but *Taizé* and *Praise is Rising* offer less formal ways to worship looking at new songs which are then introduced into the First Sunday Service. *Messy Church* is flourishing as a *Fresh Expression* and has attracted lots of new families as we live out our vision to 'find new ways to express our faith within our local community'. The diocese also recognised the initiative as an example of what can be achieved. *Diddy Disciples* provides material appropriate for our young children when they meet in the hall before joining the rest of the church family in the 9.30 am Sunday service. Cathy Sanderson and Amanda Ottaviani with their dedicated teams coordinate these groups and we owe them a huge debt of gratitude for their hard work and enthusiasm. The choir continues to lead the musical aspect of our main services and although still small in number practises each week and sings a wide variety of anthems and motets at the Parish Communion and for the seasonal services. We were able to hold the usual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols with a good number of singers including our faithful extras and former members some of whom travel quite a distance to join us. Andy Thomas now plays the organ about once a month and this is a very welcome addition to our musical offering. Jane Davey and Helen Nightingale with Tanya Fearon skilfully head up the music for the First Sunday service using piano and guitar accompaniment. The 'tech team' produces professional standard online worship which is much appreciated by those who are unable to attend in person. The Signing Group still adds to the First Sunday service and it has been a joy to hear the bell ringers in full swing once more under the direction of the Tower Captain Jenny Thompson. The Welcomers' Team is always in place at each service ensuring that old and new are greeted with a smile and given any assistance they need. Inside the church our worship is enhanced by the beautiful floral arrangements created by Sally Gilbert and her team. An amazing variety of worship is therefore in place to which has also been added a monthly Communion service for those living at Oakhill.

Covid restrictions have been removed and although Communion is still given by intinction it is hoped to resume the use of the common cup in the New Year.

All the worship has been led by our Ministry Team headed by Simon Dommett our vicar, Jennie Cappleman - associate priest and Marcus Ottaviani - assistant curate. They are ably supported by the Licensed Readers Michael Furlong and Cathy Sanderson and by Susan Lane who joined them in September. Sue Lennon is our Lay Leader of Worship.

The pastoral care of the congregation is always at the forefront of our Christian ministry and during the year Susan Lane took over the chairmanship of the Pastoral Group from Chris Jones who had served so devotedly for many years. Cards were sent out to those in need of support and visits arranged. Prayer is constantly offered up by the Prayer Fellowship and others as we sought to ensure that spiritual care was available for everyone.

PROPERTY

The tireless Property Committee continued to maintain the fabric of the church and hall, both inside and out, and keep the grounds in a good state. All the recommended Quinquennial Report work was completed and the next review is due in 2024. Thanks to the efforts of Richard Cope the south porch was renovated with new illuminated noticeboards. He hopes to finish the structural timber replacement in 2023. Various minor replacements and repairs were carried out and a comprehensive annual maintenance schedule implemented. The chancel priests' door was weatherproofed.

Colin Last continued his work on the Zero Carbon Project and plans are in hand to reduce our utility usage and encourage more in the way of recycling. Swift bird boxes were installed in the church tower and we look forward to them providing nesting for the swifts this summer. Some of the suggested steps for becoming carbon neutral are controversial and expensive but this should not discourage us in our efforts to become a zero carbon church.

MISSION, CHARITY AND OUTREACH

As a key element of our Mission Action Plan mission and outreach have been very much in evidence.

The many social and group activities began to flourish again with the removal of Covid restrictions and we welcomed the opportunity to provide a 'Warm Space' giving people a place where they can be warm, have drinks and snacks and enjoy playing board games and chatting at a time when cost of living increases have caused suffering for so many people. Heather Dommett has spearheaded this initiative with a team of loyal helpers and ensured that it become a wonderful time of fellowship in the community - endorsed and supported by our local councillors. It is now hoped to continue this for the foreseeable future.

Included in our outreach are *Messy Church* and *Diddy Disciples* and these have both seen an increase in attendance. Marcus Ottaviani organised a Christian Children's Holiday Venture with Hope Church in the hall during the summer holidays

The annual Fetes and Fairs were also reinstated and saw good crowds come in from the locality and this year we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with a Bring and Share picnic. North Bedford Churches Together continued to bring the various churches together with its programme of events and services such as the Remembrance Day Service on the green and the Palm Sunday worship. .

Other groups, which include non-church members, such as Knit & Natter, the Short Mat Bowls and Walking Groups and the Breakfast Groups met more regularly again this year.

So much of our social outreach and mission is underpinned by the Catering Group, from after service refreshments to sumptuous lunches at the summer and autumn fair, and we thank them for providing such wonderful hospitality.

To advise everyone of all these events is mainly the remit of the Publicity Group (although nothing beats word-of-mouth invitations!) and our activities are widely advertised by means of *Pews News*, *Facebook* and the magazine *Parish & People* which is issued monthly by the Editorial Team both online and as a printed edition.

Charitable giving is also a part of our life and the congregation continued to give generously to the Children's Society under the leadership of Christine Chapman through the house boxes and the Christingle Service. Wendy Watmough organised Christian Aid week again with Dorothy Kirby.

Sadly at the end of the year it became obvious that, for various reasons, not least the passing into administration of Traidcraft, it was no longer possible for Andrew and Shelly Dennison to run our Fairtrade Stall after the Sunday services but we continue to promote all Fairtrade goods and urge the congregation to use other outlets stocking these.

Our tenancy pack project "Dwell Well Support Bedford" has continued to provide much needed help to those moving into temporary or permanent accommodation. St Mary's has given out around 100 boxes since 2021 and has linked in well now with the local authorities and local charities who help with refugees, homelessness, the Foodbank, modern day slavery and domestic abuse victims and Probation. Dwell Well has also been consistently supported by donations from church members and local residents along with funding from the council and Deanery Mission Fund. Lastly, Dwell Well & St Mary's have been invited to become part of the Deputy Lieutenant of Bedford's Bridging the Gap Homelessness Coalition which seeks to bring all Bedford partners together who are currently helping those struggling with homelessness, so no-one falls through the gaps.

As a PCC we concentrated on various aspects of our Mission Action Plan making this the main focus of several of our meetings.

Safeguarding requirements and recommendations have all been met and always brought to the attention of the PCC and the safety of the congregation has been strengthened with the publication of the Terrorist Prevention Plan, Fire Risk Assessments and Disaster Recovery Plan all of which have been produced by the Churchwardens and others involving many hours of preparation.

At the end of the year the PCC embarked on the exciting journey to find a Children and Families Minister for the church and plans for this are ongoing.

We enter 2023 at a time of international turmoil and national unease but look forward to seeing our new King, Charles III crowned in May. The reign of Queen Elizabeth was long and eventful but her entire life was lived as a model of Christian love and generosity. May we at St Mary's follow her example in our own lives as we 'grow together as a worshipping church family, seeking to know Jesus better and to find new ways to express our faith within our local community.'

Financial Review for the year 2022 (figures are rounded to nearest '000 for ease of understanding)

With the end of the restrictions required by the Coronavirus Pandemic, church attendance and regular income has substantially recovered and been augmented by a number of one-off donations from Church members. Our costs have, for the most part, remained consistent – largely due to the fixed rate contracts that are in place for our use of electricity and gas.

The Parish Giving Scheme has been a success and has replaced regular cash giving in most cases, although around 30 members continue to use standing orders and envelopes. The Scheme requires regular donations to be made by direct debit and saves the Stewardship Recorder from having to maintain records to support gift aid tax claims.

The summer and autumn fetes were very successful in 2022 and several other social activities took place. By the end of the year hall lettings had returned to a normal level with few vacant slots now available. In addition, two legacies from former Church members were received amounting to £5,000.

Once the subsidence repairs to 1 Atholl Walk had been completed it was possible to put the property up for sale. The costs were met by the Insurers with the PCC required to make a contribution of £1,000. The house was sold at the end of January 2022. The PCC did not own the property and has no income arising from the sale. The arrangement with the Diocese for the Curate's house at Hatfield Crescent is on a different basis, with a notional annual rental of £4,000 being charged to the Parish. Parish Share contribution was otherwise little changed.

There were no major repairs carried out in 2022 or other exceptional items of expenditure. Electricity costs will increase significantly in future years, but the PCC has a fixed price contract in force for gas usage which has one more year to run. The PCC can report a break-even position for the year, and we will be reviewing all aspects of our income and expenditure in the light of the forthcoming anticipated rise in utility costs.

The market value of long-term investments decreased by £9,000, arising from volatility in the financial markets. As with the gains enjoyed in 2021, losses of this nature do not give any indication of future performance.

The PCC sets aside 5% of stewardship income, plate collections and gift aid tax recovery for missionary giving. This is shared between support for the work of our CMS mission partner, Heather Johnstone, at the Rehema Project in Tanzania ($\frac{3}{4}$) and WaterAid ($\frac{1}{4}$). The resulting donation amounts for CMS and WaterAid were consistent with the previous year. A full list of charitable donations appears in Note 9 to the Financial Statements.

Reserves Policy

The church is partly an historic building and, therefore, expensive to repair as modern materials and methods are usually not permitted. Consequently, it is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted and relevant restricted funds to mitigate the costs of future major maintenance work that has been identified in the Quinquennial survey. A similar policy is adopted for work required to the church hall, although the hall is not subject to a professional survey. No work of any major significance has been carried out in recent years, but some stonework repairs were undertaken in 2022. There are no plans for major work to the church hall but should the old warm air heater fail it cannot be replaced and a completely different system will have to be installed. In recognition of the Church of England's policy to move to a zero-carbon energy position the Property Committee has been looking at various options of reducing consumption. Initial outlay will be significant and, therefore, the need to set aside a large sum of money remains. The amount set aside for both buildings at the end of the year was £77,000. Funds 'set aside' for future expenditure are designated funds and there is no restriction on the money being used for other purposes should this prove necessary.

Where no specific purpose for a legacy is expressed, it is PCC policy to consult with the family as appropriate and put the money to a use which reflects the interests of the donor. The PCC has received several such legacies over the years and the amount remaining unspent stands at £71,000. These gifts comprise a significant part of general church funds.

It is also PCC policy to retain sufficient unrestricted reserves to cover any deficit forecast for the following year plus an amount to cover any adverse cash flow situations that may arise from time to time. The amount required by this policy amounts to £17,000 for the year 2023.

At the end of the year the available unrestricted and relevant restricted funds totalled £150,000. Cash represents £83,000 of this amount and is sufficient to meet the regular cash requirements and the repair expenditure likely to be required in the next two years. Cash funds and the PCC's long-term investments, taken together, are sufficient to meet the cost of repairs and the commitment to spend legacies on worthwhile improvement projects. The amount to be held in reserve for repair and cash flow purposes is reviewed on an annual basis.

It is PCC policy to invest a proportion of reserve funds in CBF Church of England Investment Funds for long-term growth and income. The remainder in the form of cash is held by Virgin Money and the CBF Deposit Fund. Interest earned on both deposits is now rising due to the bank rate policy of the Bank of England.

Annual report approved by the PCC on 28th March 2023 and signed on their behalf by the Rev'd Simon Dommett, Vicar



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Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of St. Mary the Virgin, Goldington

I report on the Accounts of the PCC of St. Mary the Virgin, Goldington for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 9 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Independent Examiner

The PCC's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts.

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

It is my responsibility to: -

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the Accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the Accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the Accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: -
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare Accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the Accounts to be reached.

Andrew Dennison FCA
12 Chepstow Gardens, Bedford

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
		£	£	£	2022	2021
		£	£	£	£	£
INCOME						
Voluntary income	2(a)	63,735	6,665	-	70,400	93,853
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	19,286	-	-	19,286	26,076
Income from investments	2(c)	3,128	-	74	3,202	2,538
Church activities	2(d)	9,436	-	-	9,436	5,923
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		95,585	6,665	74	102,324	128,390
EXPENDITURE						
Church activities	3(a)	98,225	732	-	98,957	96,075
Costs of generation of income	3(b)	269	-	-	269	789
Major repairs and depreciation	3(c)	1,389	-	-	1,389	742
Support costs	3(d)	1,518	-	-	1,518	1,395
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		101,401	732	-	102,133	99,001
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(5,817)	5,933	74	191	29,389
Gain/(Loss) on revaluation of investments	5(b)	(9,054)	-	(191)	(9,245)	6,183
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(14,870)	5,933	(117)	(9,054)	35,572
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		161,632	7,726	3,934	173,292	137,720
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		146,762	13,659	3,817	164,238	173,292

BALANCE SHEET at 31 December 2022

FIXED ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets	5(a)	4,223	-	-	4,223	4,362
Investments	5(b)	65,516	-	1,446	66,962	76,207
		69,739	-	1,446	71,185	80,569

CURRENT ASSETS

Stock of goods for sale		-	-	-	-	54
Debtors & prepayments	6	4,693	84	-	4,777	6,958
Short term deposits		74,051	7,000	2,371	83,422	80,220
Bank & cash balances		5,296	7,791	-	13,087	13,895
		84,040	14,875	2,371	101,286	101,127

LIABILITIES: Amounts falling due within one year

	7	(7,017)	(1,216)	-	(8,233)	(8,404)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		77,023	13,659	2,371	93,053	92,723

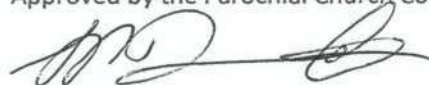
TOTAL NET ASSETS

		146,762	13,659	3,817	164,238	173,292
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PARISH FUNDS

Unrestricted	8	146,762	-	-	146,762	161,632
Restricted		-	13,659	-	13,659	7,726
Endowment		-	-	3,817	3,817	3,934
		146,762	13,659	3,817	164,238	173,292

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 28th March 2023 and signed on its behalf by:


The Rev'd S P Dommett

S E Collinson



The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these Accounts.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The Accounts have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with the current Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities and is in compliance with accounting standard FRS102.

The Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at a fair value. The Accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average basis.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for ordinary PCC purposes. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC, such as the church repair fund, are also unrestricted.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the income to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable; interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable.

Gifts in kind for the PCC's own use are included in the SOFA as incoming resources at their fair value when receivable, and expensed as and when consumed in use. Gifts of fixed assets, if material, are included in the balance sheet at their fair value and expensed over the asset's useful economic life.

All incoming resources are accounted for gross. Amounts generated specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. Amounts received for mission in which the PCC acts only as an intermediary are not shown as income of the PCC, except where the PCC is involved in the fund-raising process.

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due. Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31st December.

The value of any donated services or voluntary help received are not included in the Accounts but are described in the trustees' annual report.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Any parish share unpaid at 31st December is provided for in these Accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the financial statements in accordance with S.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011. All expenditure on consecrated or benefice buildings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Accounts in the year in which it is incurred.

Land and buildings held for the functional use of the PCC are valued at original cost, less provision for depreciation. Buildings are depreciated over a period of 50 years; pre-fabricated buildings are assumed to have a useful life of 25 years. Additions to existing buildings, which do not substantially extend the life of the asset, are written off over the remaining life of the original building. Land is not depreciated.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property. They are listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected at any reasonable time. For anything acquired prior to the year 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the Accounts. Subsequent to this date no individual item has cost more than £1,000, so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Fixtures & fittings and equipment used within the church premises, including moveable church furnishings, are depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items with a purchase price of less than £1,000 are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments are valued at a fair value, which is deemed to be the market value at 31st December.

Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits comprise cash held on deposit with Virgin Money plc and the CBF Church of England Funds.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2022

2 INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2022 £	2021 £
2(a) Voluntary income					
Planned giving:					
Gift Aid donations	34,909	-	-	34,909	33,887
Tax recoverable on gift aid donations	7,455	719	-	8,174	8,495
Other planned giving	14,555	-	-	14,555	15,773
Collections at all services	2,517	514	-	3,031	1,746
Donations and appeals	2,660	272	-	2,932	7,669
Tax recoverable on other gift aid donations	84	-	-	84	927
Tax recovered on small donations (GASDS)	555	-	-	555	1,255
Donations for missions and charities	-	1,160	-	1,160	1,381
Legacies	1,000	4,000	-	5,000	3,000
Grants received	-	-	-	-	422
Government grants received	-	-	-	-	19,298
	63,735	6,665	-	70,400	93,853
2(b) Activities for generating funds					
Fetes, bazaars, and other fund raising events	2,803	-	-	2,803	3,579
Church hall lettings	16,082	-	-	16,082	13,979
Rental income, 1 Atholl Walk	346	-	-	346	8,340
Sales of purchased and donated goods	54	-	-	54	178
	19,286	-	-	19,286	26,076
2(c) Income from investments					
Dividends and interest	3,128	-	74	3,202	2,538
2(d) Income from Church activities					
Magazine	55	-	-	55	51
Donations for use of church hall	-	-	-	-	75
Social events	1,719	-	-	1,719	1,410
Church fees	7,662	-	-	7,662	4,387
	9,436	-	-	9,436	5,923
TOTAL INCOME	95,585	6,665	74	102,324	128,390

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2022

3 EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2022 £	2021 £
3(a) Church activities					
Missionary & charitable giving:					
Church overseas:					
- missionary societies	1,723	562	-	2,285	2,291
- relief and development agencies	969	-	-	969	1,185
Home missions and other Church societies	-	-	-	-	135
Secular charities	1,884	-	-	1,884	1,912
	<u>4,576</u>	<u>562</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,138</u>	<u>5,523</u>
Ministry:					
Diocesan parish share	60,536	-	-	60,536	60,132
Other ministry costs & housing	7,391	-	-	7,391	14,925
Parish training and mission	396	-	-	396	1,154
Church running & maintenance expenses	10,128	170	-	10,298	7,011
Upkeep of services	1,082	-	-	1,082	823
Upkeep of churchyard and grounds	170	-	-	170	-
Church hall running costs	13,946	-	-	13,946	6,506
	<u>98,225</u>	<u>732</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>98,957</u>	<u>96,075</u>
3(b) Costs of fund raising activities					
Cost of fetes, fairs and social activities	215	-	-	215	530
Cost of purchased items for sale	54	-	-	54	171
Costs of Christian Stewardship	-	-	-	-	142
	<u>269</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>269</u>	<u>789</u>
3 (c) Major repairs and depreciation					
Church repairs & furnishings	1,250	-	-	1,250	-
Depreciation of buildings	139	-	-	139	139
Depreciation of church hall fixtures & fittings	-	-	-	-	603
	<u>1,389</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,389</u>	<u>742</u>
3(d) Support costs					
Printing and stationery	677	-	-	677	615
Office equipment & computer software	87	-	-	87	220
Parish office telephone	316	-	-	316	334
Other costs	438	-	-	438	226
	<u>1,518</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,518</u>	<u>1,395</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>101,401</u>	<u>732</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>102,133</u>	<u>99,001</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2022

4 (a) STAFF COSTS	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	6,172	2,877

During the year the PCC employed a verger, hall caretaker and a hall manager.
All positions are part-time.

(b) PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS & RELATED PARTIES

No transactions have taken place with related parties.

No trustee has received payment for services provided or expenses incurred as a trustee.

Mr Antony Collinson (verger, husband of Sarah) received £594 for verger's fees at weddings & funerals.

Further verger's fees of £520.80 were paid to PCC members who acted as vergers at weddings and funerals

Apart from the above, no other payments were made to any PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties except for the reimbursement of purchases made on behalf of the PCC.

5 FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

		Freehold Land & Buildings £	Hall Fittings £	Hall Equipment £	Total £
(a) Tangible fixed assets (all unrestricted)					
ACTUAL/DEEMED COST	at 1 January 2022	108,414	39,453	3,910	151,777
	additions	-	-	-	-
	disposals	-	-	-	-
	at 31 December 2022	<u>108,414</u>	<u>39,453</u>	<u>3,910</u>	<u>151,777</u>
DEPRECIATION	at 1 January 2022	104,052	39,453	3,910	147,415
	charge for the year	139	-	-	139
	withdrawn on disposals	-	-	-	-
	at 31 December 2022	<u>104,191</u>	<u>39,453</u>	<u>3,910</u>	<u>147,554</u>
WRITTEN-DOWN VALUE	at 31 December 2022	4,223	-	-	4,223
	at 31 December 2021	4,362	-	-	4,362

The freehold land and buildings comprise the church hall and Dilworth Room and are shown at their original cost, less provision for buildings amortisation. Land is not amortised. The hall and contents are valued for insurance purposes at £2,900,000 and this is considered to be a fair estimate of the current value in use of the property.

The house at 1 Atholl Walk, Bedford was held in trust for the parish by St. Alban's Diocese. This property was acquired for £76,215 in 1988 with a loan provided by the Church Commissioners and was previously used to house the curate attached to the parish. The PCC had neither the risk nor rewards of ownership; consequently neither the asset nor liability to repay the loan were taken into these Accounts. The property was sold on 28th January 2022 and the loan repaid.

(b) Investments	2022	2021
	£	£
Fair value at 1 January	76,207	70,024
Revaluation gain/(loss)	(9,245)	6,183
Fair value at 31 December	<u>66,962</u>	<u>76,207</u>

The following investments are held and are shown at fair value as at 31 December :

	2022	2021
	£	£
10,872 units CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund - historical cost £18,650	14,852	17,177
18,408 units CBF Property Fund- historical cost £25,000	23,654	26,798
1,378 units CBF Investment Fund - historical cost £15,072	28,456	32,232
	<u>66,962</u>	<u>76,207</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2022

6 DEBTORS		2022	2021
		£	£
Income tax recoverable		2,357	1,431
Prepayments for goods and services and accrued interest		370	1,244
Other debtors		2,050	4,283
		<u>4,777</u>	<u>6,958</u>

7 LIABILITIES		2022	2021
		£	£
Amounts falling due in one year:			
Creditors for goods and services		850	1,007
Missionary giving		4,510	4,301
Accrued expenses and deferred income		2,873	3,096
		<u>8,233</u>	<u>8,404</u>

8 FUND DETAILS	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	2022	2021
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
The PCC funds comprise the following:					
General	73,213	-	-	73,213	89,125
Church repairs	48,333	-	-	48,333	47,764
Chancel repairs	-	-	3,817	3,817	3,934
Church hall repairs	25,216	-	-	25,216	24,743
Others	-	13,659	-	13,659	7,726
	<u>146,762</u>	<u>13,659</u>	<u>3,817</u>	<u>164,238</u>	<u>173,292</u>

The Chancel Repair Fund is a permanent endowment which permits only the income to be spent. Designated funds are unrestricted and may be used for other purposes.

Summary of Fund Movements	Unrestricted	Designated Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Fund	2022
	general fund	church repairs	church hall repairs	others	chancel repairs	Total
		£	£	£	£	£
Balance at 1 January 2022	89,125	47,764	24,743	7,726	3,934	173,292
Incoming resources	94,543	569	473	6,665	74	102,324
Resources expended/Amortisation	(101,401)	-	-	(732)	-	(102,133)
Investment gains/(losses)	(9,054)	-	-	-	(191)	(9,245)
Balance at 31 December 2022	<u>73,213</u>	<u>48,333</u>	<u>25,216</u>	<u>13,659</u>	<u>3,817</u>	<u>164,238</u>

9 CHARITABLE GIVING FOR THE YEAR

From PCC resources:	£	From other donations & events:	£
CMS (for our Mission Partner)	2,285	Bishop's harvest appeal	249
WaterAid	761	Christian Aid	720
	<u>3,046</u>		
From Christmas donations:			<u>969</u>
SMART Prebend Day Centre	562		
Families First Bedfordshire	561		
	<u>1,123</u>	Total Charitable Giving	<u>5,138</u>

Summarised Version of the PCC Income & Expenditure Account for the Year 2022
(This Summary is not part of the formal Accounts.)

	2022	2021
Income		
Planned giving	49,464	49,660
Tax reclaimed on gift aid	8,813	10,677
Collections at church services	3,031	1,746
Donations, grants, appeals and legacies	7,932	30,389
Missionary appeals	1,160	1,381
Fetes & other fund raising activities	2,858	3,757
Rental income, 1 Atholl Walk	346	8,340
Fees and other church income	9,436	5,923
Church hall hire	16,082	13,979
Interest and investment income	3,202	2,538
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of investments	(9,245)	6,183
	<u>93,079</u>	<u>134,573</u>
Expenditure		
Diocesan Parish Share:		
- Stipend contribution	35,056	35,140
- Ministry support	25,480	24,993
Clergy housing & expenses	7,391	14,925
Missionary giving	5,138	5,523
Parish mission, adult, children & youth groups	396	1,154
Upkeep of services	1,082	823
Cost of fund-raising activities and card stall purchases	269	647
Church and hall expenses:		
- Running costs	17,848	11,704
- Maintenance of buildings & grounds	6,704	2,555
- Major repairs & improvements	1,250	
Support Costs:		
- Printing, stationery & office supplies	765	977
- Parish Office and other general costs	754	560
	<u>102,133</u>	<u>99,001</u>
Result for the year - Surplus/(Deficiency) of Income	(9,054)	35,572
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022		
Land, buildings & equipment – at written down value	4,223	4,362
Investments at market value	66,962	76,207
Cash on deposit	83,422	80,220
Bank balances	13,087	13,895
Amounts owing to the PCC	4,777	6,958
Stock of goods for sale	-	54
	<u>172,471</u>	<u>181,696</u>
Less amounts owing by the PCC:		
- Grants to missions & charities	4,510	4,301
- Other items	3,723	4,103
Net Assets	<u>164,238</u>	<u>173,292</u>
Parish Funds:		
General fund	73,213	89,125
Amounts set aside for special purposes:		
- Church & hall repairs	73,549	72,507
- Other funds	17,476	11,660
	<u>164,238</u>	<u>173,292</u>

Accounts

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2021

Incumbent:

The Rev'd Simon Dommett

Bank:

National Westminster Bank
81 High Street
Bedford

Independent Examiner:

Andrew Dennison
12 Chepstow Gardens
Bedford

Registered Charity No: 1131568

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

Administrative Information

St. Mary's Church is situated in Church Lane, Goldington, Bedford. It is part of the Diocese of St. Albans within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St. Mary's Parish Office, Church Lane, Goldington, Bedford MK41 0AP.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 1131568.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following have served as members of the Council:

Ex-Officio Members

Vicar:	The Rev'd Simon Dommett
Assistant Curate:	The Rev'd Marcus Ottaviani
Churchwardens:	Wendy Watmough (until May 2021) Cathy Sanderson Colin Last (from May 2021)
Licensed Readers:	Michael Furlong Cathy Sanderson
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Richard Tysoe Sue Lennon

Elected Members

Debbie Richardson (elected in 2019 for three years)
Richard Kirby (elected in 2019 for three years) (Treasurer)
Andy Richardson (elected in 2019 for three years)

Chris Jones (elected in 2020 for three years)
Brian Backhouse (elected in 2020 for three years)
Nick Fowler (elected in 2020 for three years)
Colin Last (elected in 2020 for three years (*ex officio* Churchwarden))

Sarah Collinson (elected in 2021 for three years) (Secretary)
Chris Hjelt (elected in 2021 for three years)
D-J Alino-Wilcockson (elected in 2021 for three years)
Tanya Fearon (elected in 2021 for one year)

Committees and Working Groups

The PCC operates through a series of committees in order to carry out its aims and objectives. All these committees have the power to make recommendations but all spiritual, pastoral and financial decisions are made by the full PCC. All committees have agreed Terms of Reference ratified by the PCC in 2019.

Standing Committee

The only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The committee must comprise the incumbent, each churchwarden and at least two other members of the PCC

The committee of St Mary's comprises the incumbent, churchwardens, secretary, treasurer and at least one ordinary member. Members of the congregation wishing matters to be raised at the PCC should bring them, in the first instance, to this committee for consideration. In general, it meets two weeks before a full Council meeting to prepare the Agenda for PCC meetings and to consider financial and property reports.

Finance Committee

The committee comprises the Vicar, Treasurer, a Churchwarden and the Planned Giving Officer. It supervises budgets and maintains an overview of the parish finances.

Pastoral Committee

The committee prepares Services of Thanksgiving for the bereaved and supports the sick and housebound with prayer and anniversary or other greetings cards. It also organises a Christmas tree bauble scheme in aid of St John's hospice, Moggerhanger.

Property Committee

The committee is responsible for all aspects of the church fabric, the church hall and currently 1 Atholl Walk and their grounds.

Publicity Committee

The committee arranges advertising and publicity using multiple media and tries to ensure that all activities and events at St Mary's are well promoted.

Worship Committee

All service planning is considered under the aegis of this committee which regularly reviews our worship. The members meet two or three times a year to check that all scheduling is in hand and that services are running smoothly.

The Health & Safety Officer (currently vacant) reports directly to the Standing Committee of the PCC.

The Environmental Officer, North Bedford Churches Together and Deanery Synod representatives report directly to the PCC.

Objectives and Achievements

The PCC co-operates with the Churchwardens in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, coordinating and inspiring the congregation in its pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical mission. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of St. Mary's church and church hall in Church Lane, Goldington.

St. Mary's PCC is dedicated to helping all those living in Goldington and beyond to worship at St. Mary's without discrimination, to engage with its activities, to develop their spiritual lives and to become part of the family of God

through our Lord's unconditional love. It is constantly reviewing and developing new ways of involving those who have no background of church life.

We aim to do this by providing services and facilities which will support our work of outreach in the community, by maintaining a framework of church services where worship, praise and prayer can be offered, by hosting courses where people may learn about the Christian message and be encouraged to live it and grow spiritually in a Christian environment and by the pastoral care of our parishioners at focal times in their lives.

The PCC under the chairmanship of the Vicar has complied with its duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

In March 2021 there were 123 (124) names registered on the Electoral Roll.

Attendance numbers for 2021 cannot be compared to previous figures as worship in church was cancelled or disrupted and online viewing data are not really representative of the actual numbers.

2 (3) marriages were celebrated during the year and 19 (2) baptisms of which 3 were adults. There were 6 (10) funerals in church and 17 (27) cremations.

Safeguarding as ever has been at the forefront of our PCC deliberations and we welcomed Sue Lennon as our new Parish Safeguarding Officer following the resignation of Cathy Sanderson after several years in post. There have been many changes to the Church of England and Diocesan strategies and planning and these have required a lot of work by our PSO. New policies include dealings with Ex-Offenders, how to report Serious Incidents and awareness of Domestic Violence. Different regulations are now in place and all PCC members and church leaders and officers will be required to undertake new training in order to comply with these and to ensure that we are living out our faith in the safest and most caring ways.

WORSHIP

The PCC worked hard on finding ways to worship that would suit the needs of as many as possible whilst adhering to the ever changing pandemic guidelines and gradually during 2021 worship began to adjust to the less stringent restrictions put in place for Covid, thanks largely to the success of the government's vaccination programme. We purchased the necessary licences for online services and reviewed our Use of Images and Streaming policies to ensure compliance. As the year progressed we were able to accommodate more people in the building although face coverings are still required and these must still be worn when singing. Communion is still received only in the one kind but there are hopes that this guidance may be changed shortly. There was good attendance at our slimmed down Christmas services and for some of these there was free ticketed admission only so that we did not have excess attendance. Most of the congregation has now returned to the pattern of weekly worship but some of the more vulnerable are still understandably wary and continue to worship at home.

Services are still being streamed live and are available on our YouTube platform and great strides have been made in what the technology can offer. The 'tech team' led by our vicar and curate are to be congratulated on their work in this field.

As well as our hard working Vicar and Curate, the other members of the ministerial team comprising the Rev'd Jennie Cappleman (Associate Priest) our two Licensed Readers Cathy Sanderson and Michael Furlong, Susan Lane (Reader in training) and Sue Lennon (Lay Leader of Worship) have continued to give their invaluable support throughout the year ensuring variety and freshness in our worship.

The Worship Committee led by Cathy Sanderson constantly reviewed all aspects of our worship during the year and also considered some sort of commemoration for those whose lives have been destroyed or disrupted by Covid. In due course we hope that this will come to fruition.

The Messy Church Team has worked incredibly hard this year holding several events which have been fully-booked with attendances of around fifty family members. Some of these events were face-to-face but early in the year the team delivered items to families before social mixing was allowed. A new venture, organised by Amanda Ottaviani is *Diddy Disciples* - a Sunday group meeting regularly each week and providing teaching and play for the youngest members of the congregation. Much prayer has been offered for the success of these two Fresh Expressions of our faith.

The Signing Group has continued to sign at the First Sunday service and the choir, although much reduced in number, is now able to sing regularly at the 9.30 am service again. It also contributed to the Carol Service which sadly had been cancelled in 2020.

The Bell Ringers have also now returned to the tower and once more the bells sound out over Goldington inviting all to worship and welcoming new families.

Various factors, mostly Covid related, have meant that the Hospital Chapel Team is now in abeyance and we thank them for all their service over so many years.

PASTORAL CARE

Chris Jones (almost single-handedly) has continued to send out cards to the housebound and those in care each month and these have been warmly appreciated. Prayer for the vulnerable and sick has been offered ceaselessly and the bereaved remembered with anniversary cards. Communion is taken to those housebound members who request it. Once life is again on a more even keel the remit and constitution of the Pastoral Group will be reassessed to take some pressure off the very small numbers currently supporting this aspect of our parochial responsibility.

PROPERTY

Throughout the pandemic the Property Committee has maintained the fabric of the church and hall. After tireless decades of service Brian Backhouse stood down as Chairman and Chris Hjelt has taken over this role. The refurbishment of the south porch is proceeding with the new notice boards now complete and work on the oak beams due to commence shortly. Various leaks and other minor matters have been addressed and any outstanding quinquennial items are in hand.

A comprehensive survey was carried out to help us in our aim to become carbon neutral. Some small changes can be effected immediately but other issues such as heating and lighting will require more thought and will incur considerable expense. This work was carried out with our Environmental Officer, Colin Last, as part of our Eco Church plans. We have now gained the Eco Church bronze award and are looking at further ways to 'green' our church life including the re-wilding of parts of the churchyard.

Atholl Walk was finally sold to the sitting tenants and the curate is now housed in Hatfield Crescent.

Jeff Nash was briefly appointed as Health & Safety Officer and carried out a much needed update on our risk Assessments, Health & Safety protocols and Due Diligence procedures. Unfortunately he had to relinquish this post for personal reasons and we are now seeking a new Officer.

Geoff Sowerby has worked hard to rebuild our client base in the hall and bookings are now looking healthy again. Our thanks go to him during these difficult years.

MISSION, CHARITY AND OUTREACH

Whilst many aspects of our outreach were scaled back last year, this year has seen the introduction of the Diddy Disciples and a much expanded Messy Church. The church hall is once again a focus of much community activity and once people were able to meet again face-to-face (albeit with limitations) the various groups and activities

which are so much part of the life of St Mary's began to function more fully. Our annual summer fête and autumn fair were held together with some other social gatherings. Indoor bowls, the walking group, monthly breakfasts have all restarted and welcome both church members and those from the wider community. Post-service refreshments are available and the catering team provided its usual much appreciated services for the Harvest lunch and at our summer and autumn fairs.

The North Bedford Churches Together group maintained a quiet presence offering a Lent course and services for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity online. The annual Remembrance Day Service organised by the group took place on Goldington Green.

All these activities and events have been well advertised by the Publicity Group under Debbie Richardson using online platforms (facebook and website) and any other available media such as posters, handbills, the large hoarding and word of mouth. This publicity has been supplemented by the regular circulation of our parish magazine *Parish & People* which is now successfully published each month online and in print for those who prefer this format.

The congregation still gives liberally to the Children's Society and this year we were able to hold our Christingle service again which raises much need funds for the charity. Christine Chapman organised the yearly box opening which confirmed the generosity of our givers. The parish also supported financially and in kind the Dwell Well project which provides everyday household goods for those moving from homelessness into new accommodation - a project spearheaded by Marcus and Amanda Ottaviani.

During the second part of the year the PCC was able to move from its inevitable over-riding concerns with Covid to concentrate on renewing and re-invigorating our Mission Action Plan. This tool allows us to advance our ministry and mission with clear goals in mind. A new vision statement was prepared and priorities identified. During the autumn the church engaged with the Everyone Welcome Course which members of the PCC and congregation attended on Saturday afternoons. The PCC then took away the many suggestions, comments and ideas which came out of the course and has been discussing how these might be implemented. This work will continue into the new year but we have already put into place several of the recommendations.

St Mary's therefore finds itself at the end of another turbulent year in a much better place than was reported in 2020. The prayers and practical support of everyone have ensured that St Mary's is even more at the heart of the community and we look forward to growing in faith and love having as our vision the aim "To grow together as a worshipping church family, to know Jesus better and to find new ways to express our faith within our local community."

Financial Review for the year 2021 (figures are rounded to nearest '000 for ease of understanding)

Another year of restrictions due to the Coronavirus Pandemic inevitably had an effect upon church attendance and regular income, which was £2,000 less than the previous year. This reduction was more than made up by one-off donations from Church members, perhaps in recognition that the continuing situation was causing a loss of income, but costs remained the same. The main Sunday service with social distancing in place continued to be 'streamed' live to those at home with an Internet connection. The Parish Giving Scheme had been under consideration for some time and it was introduced to Church members in the spring. It requires regular donations to be made by direct debit and saves the Stewardship Recorder from having to maintain records to support gift aid tax claims. The take-up of the Scheme has been good with 50 members having transferred, leaving about 30 continuing to use bank standing orders or envelopes. Not so good was the decline in gift aid tax recovery with some members no longer paying sufficient income tax to cover their donation.

It was possible to hold summer and autumn fetes again and some social activities took place. By the end of the year hall lettings had returned to a normal level with Rainbows and Brownies taking up a vacant slot. The further Covid restrictions resulted in Central Government making money available for businesses suffering losses due to enforced closure. The PCC made application to Bedford Borough Council for loss of hall hire income and was

awarded a very generous grant of £19,000, which has greatly improved the financial situation for the year. Two legacies from former Church members were received amounting to £3,000.

Once the subsidence repairs to 1 Atholl Walk had been completed it was possible to put the property up for sale. The costs were met by the Insurers with the PCC required to make a contribution of £1,000. The house was sold to the existing tenants at the end of January 2022. The PCC did not own the property and has no income arising from the sale. The arrangement with the Diocese for the Curate's house at Hatfield Crescent is on a different basis, with a notional annual rental of £4,000 being charged to the Parish. Parish Share contribution was otherwise little changed.

There were no major repairs carried out in 2021 or other exceptional items of expenditure. Electricity costs will increase significantly in future years but the PCC has a fixed price contract in force for gas usage which has two more years to run. With the help of the Covid grant and the lack of any major expenditure the PCC is able to report a surplus of £29,000 for the year. This will cover an overspending to the same extent that is expected in 2022 when stonework repairs and replacement of porch roof timbers will take place. The market value of long-term investments increased by £6,000 but gains of this nature are not guaranteed to be maintained.

The PCC sets aside 5% of stewardship income, plate collections and gift aid tax recovery for missionary giving. This is shared between support for the work of our CMS mission partner, Heather Johnstone, at the Rehema Project in Tanzania ($\frac{3}{4}$) and WaterAid ($\frac{1}{4}$). The resulting donation amounts for CMS and WaterAid were down slightly on the previous year. A full list of charitable donations appears in Note 9 to the Financial Statements.

Reserves Policy

The church is partly an historic building and therefore expensive to repair as modern materials and methods are usually not permitted. It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted and relevant restricted funds (as far as possible) to cover future major maintenance work that has been identified in the Quinquennial survey. A similar policy is adopted for work required to the church hall, although the hall is not subject to a professional survey. No work of any significance has been carried out in recent years but stonework repairs and the replacement of porch roof timbers will take place in 2022. The cost estimates obtained for both items amount to £21,000. There are no plans for major work to the church hall but should the old warm air heater fail it cannot be replaced and a completely different system will have to be installed. In recognition of the Church of England's policy to move to a zero-carbon energy position the Property Committee has been looking at various options of reducing consumption. Initial outlay will be significant; changing the hall lighting to LED units alone will cost £5,000. Therefore the need to set aside a large sum of money remains. The amount for both buildings at the end of the year was £73,000. Funds 'set aside' for future expenditure are designated funds and there is no restriction on the money being used for other purposes should this prove necessary.

Where no specific purpose for a legacy is expressed it is PCC policy to consult with the family as appropriate and put the money to a use which reflects the interests of the donor. The PCC has received several such legacies over the years and the amount remaining unspent stands at £59,000. These gifts comprise a significant part of general church funds.

It is also PCC policy to retain sufficient unrestricted reserves to cover any deficit forecast for the following year plus an amount to cover any adverse cash flow situations that may arise from time to time. The amount required by this policy amounts to £17,000 for the year 2022.

At the end of the year the available unrestricted and relevant restricted funds totalled £157,000. Cash represents £81,000 of this amount and is sufficient to meet the regular cash requirements and the repair expenditure likely to be required in the next two years. Cash funds and the PCC's long-term investments, taken together, are sufficient to meet the cost of repairs and the commitment to spend legacies on worthwhile improvement projects. The amount to be held in reserve for repair and cash flow purposes is reviewed on an annual basis.

It is PCC policy to invest a proportion of reserve funds in CBF Church of England Investment Funds for long-term growth and income. The remainder in the form of cash is held by Virgin Money and the CBF Deposit Fund. Interest earned on both deposits is negligible due to the bank rate policy of the Bank of England.

Annual report approved by the PCC on 1st March 2022 and signed on their behalf by the Rev'd Simon Dommett, Vicar

Rev'd Simon Dommett

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Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of St. Mary the Virgin, Goldington

I report on the Accounts of the PCC of St. Mary the Virgin, Goldington for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 9 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Independent Examiner

The PCC's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts.

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

It is my responsibility to: -

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the Accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the Accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the Accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: -
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare Accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the Accounts to be reached.

Andrew Dennison FCA

12 Chepstow Gardens, Bedford

2nd March 2022

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted Note	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Funds	Funds	Funds	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Voluntary income	2(a)	90,754	3,099	93,853	96,723
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	25,535	541	26,076	18,368
Income from investments	2(c)	2,495		43	2,538
Church activities	2(d)	5,707	216	5,923	6,506
Other incoming resources	2(e)				
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		124,491	3,858	43	128,390
EXPENDITURE					
Church activities	3(a)	92,803	3,272	96,075	93,580
Costs of generation of income	3(b)	573	216	789	1,318
Major repairs and depreciation	3(c)	742		742	33,315
Support costs	3(d)	1,395		1,395	1,089
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		95,513	3,488	-	99,001
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		28,978	368	43	29,389
Gain/(Loss) on revaluation of investments	5(b)	5,977		206	6,183
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		34,955	368	249	35,572
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		126,677	7,358	3,685	137,720
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		161,632	7,726	3,934	173,292
BALANCE SHEET at 31 December 2021					
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets	5(a)	4,362		4,362	5,104
Investments	5(b)	74,570		1,637	76,207
		78,932	-	1,637	80,569
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock of goods for sale		54		54	171
Debtors & prepayments	6	6,755	203	6,958	5,130
Short term deposits		70,923	7,000	2,297	80,220
Bank & cash balances		11,902	1,993	13,895	10,204
		89,634	9,196	2,297	101,127
LIABILITIES: Amounts falling due within one year	7	(6,934)	(1,470)	(8,404)	(10,595)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		82,700	7,726	2,297	92,723
TOTAL NET ASSETS		161,632	7,726	3,934	173,292
PARISH FUNDS					
Unrestricted	8	161,632		161,632	126,677
Restricted			7,726	7,726	7,358
Endowment			3,934	3,934	3,685
		161,632	7,726	3,934	173,292

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 1st March 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Rev. S P Dommett

S E Collinson

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these Accounts.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The Accounts have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with the current Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities and is in compliance with accounting standard FRS102.

The Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at a fair value. The Accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average basis.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for ordinary PCC purposes. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC, such as the church repair fund, are also unrestricted.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the income to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable; interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable.

Gifts in kind for the PCC's own use are included in the SOFA as incoming resources at their fair value when receivable, and expensed as and when consumed in use. Gifts of fixed assets, if material, are included in the balance sheet at their fair value and expensed over the asset's useful economic life.

All incoming resources are accounted for gross. Amounts generated specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. Amounts received for mission in which the PCC acts only as an intermediary are not shown as income of the PCC, except where the PCC is involved in the fund-raising process.

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due. Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31st December.

The value of any donated services or voluntary help received are not included in the Accounts but are described in the trustees' annual report.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Any parish share unpaid at 31st December is provided for in these Accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the financial statements in accordance with S.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011. All expenditure on consecrated or benefice buildings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Accounts in the year in which it is incurred.

Land and buildings held for the functional use of the PCC are valued at original cost, less provision for depreciation. Buildings are depreciated over a period of 50 years; pre-fabricated buildings are assumed to have a useful life of 25 years. Additions to existing buildings, which do not substantially extend the life of the asset, are written off over the remaining life of the original building. Land is not depreciated.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property. They are listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected at any reasonable time. For anything acquired prior to the year 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the Accounts. Subsequent to this date no individual item has cost more than £1,000, so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Fixtures & fittings and equipment used within the church premises, including moveable church furnishings, are depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items with a purchase price of less than £1,000 are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments are valued at a fair value, which is deemed to be the market value at 31st December.

Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits comprise cash held on deposit with Virgin Money plc and the CBF Church of England Funds.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2021

2 INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2021 £	2020 £
2(a) Voluntary income					
Planned giving:					
Gift Aid donations	33,887			33,887	38,333
Tax recoverable on gift aid donations	8,495			8,495	9,583
Other planned giving	15,773			15,773	13,783
Collections at all services	1,746			1,746	1,283
Donations and appeals	6,783	886		7,669	1,810
Tax recoverable on other gift aid donations	616	311		927	811
Tax recovered on small donations (GASDS)	1,156	99		1,255	418
Donations for missions and charities		1,381		1,381	1,725
Legacies	3,000			3,000	
Grants received		422		422	25,627
Government grants received	19,298			19,298	3,350
	90,754	3,099	-	93,853	96,723
2(b) Activities for generating funds					
Fetes, bazaars, and other fund raising events	3,038	541		3,579	587
Church hall lettings	13,979			13,979	7,744
Rental income, 1 Atholl Walk	8,340			8,340	8,340
Sales of purchased and donated goods	178			178	1,697
	25,535	541	-	26,076	18,368
2(c) Income from investments					
Dividends and interest	2,495		43	2,538	2,844
2(d) Income from Church activities					
Magazine	51			51	531
Donations for use of church hall	75			75	
Social events	1,194	216		1,410	1,163
Church fees	4,387			4,387	4,812
	5,707	216	-	5,923	6,506
TOTAL INCOME	124,491	3,856	43	128,390	124,441

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2021

3 EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2021 £	2020 £
3(a) Church activities					
Missionary & charitable giving:					
Church overseas:					
- missionary societies	2,291			2,291	2,381
- relief and development agencies		1,185		1,185	1,171
Home missions and other Church societies	135			135	
Secular charities	764	1,148		1,912	2,592
	3,190	2,333	-	5,523	6,144
Ministry:					
Diocesan parish share	60,133			60,133	61,263
Other ministry costs & housing	14,698	227		14,925	9,604
Parish training and mission	459	695		1,154	80
Parish magazine					174
Church running & maintenance expenses	7,011			7,011	8,943
Upkeep of services	806	17		823	694
Upkeep of churchyard and grounds					550
Church hall running costs	6,506			6,506	6,128
	92,803	3,272	-	96,075	93,580
3(b) Costs of fund raising activities					
Cost of fetes, fairs and social activities	314	216		530	233
Cost of purchased items for sale	117			117	977
Costs of Christian Stewardship	142			142	108
	573	216	-	789	1,318
3 (c) Major repairs and depreciation					
Church repairs & furnishings					32,573
Depreciation of buildings	139			139	139
Depreciation of church hall fixtures & fittings	603			603	603
	742	-	-	742	33,315
3(d) Support costs					
Printing and stationery	615			615	425
Office equipment & computer software	220			220	80
Parish office telephone	334			334	401
Other costs	226			226	183
	1,395	-	-	1,395	1,089
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	95,513	3,488	-	99,001	129,302

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2021

4 (a) STAFF COSTS	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	2,877	2,485
During the year the PCC employed a verger, hall caretaker and a hall manager. All positions are part-time.		

(b) PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS & RELATED PARTIES

No transactions have taken place with related parties.
No trustee has received payment for services provided or expenses incurred as a trustee.
Mr Antony Collinson (verger, husband of Sarah) received £360 for verger's fees at weddings & funerals.
Apart from the above, no other payments were made to any PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties except for the reimbursement of purchases made on behalf of the PCC.

5 FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

		Freehold Land & Buildings £	Hall Fittings £	Hall Equipment £	Total £
(a) Tangible fixed assets (all unrestricted)					
ACTUAL/DEEMED COST	at 1 January 2021	108,414	39,453	3,910	151,777
	additions				
	disposals				
	at 31 December 2021	<u>108,414</u>	<u>39,453</u>	<u>3,910</u>	<u>151,777</u>
DEPRECIATION	at 1 January 2021	103,913	39,453	3,307	146,673
	charge for the year	139		603	742
	withdrawn on disposals				
	at 31 December 2021	<u>104,052</u>	<u>39,453</u>	<u>3,910</u>	<u>147,415</u>
WRITTEN-DOWN VALUE	at 31 December 2021	4,362	-		4,362
	at 31 December 2020	4,501		603	5,104

The freehold land and buildings comprise the church hall and Dilworth Room and are shown at their original cost, less provision for buildings amortisation. Land is not amortised. The hall and contents are valued for insurance purposes at £2,000,000 and this is considered to be a fair estimate of the current value in use of the property.

The house at 1 Atholl Walk, Bedford is held in trust for the parish by St. Alban's Diocese. This property was acquired for £76,215 in 1988 with a loan provided by the Church Commissioners and is no longer required to house the curate attached to the parish. The PCC has neither the risk nor rewards of ownership; consequently neither the asset nor liability to repay the loan have been taken into these Accounts. The property was sold on 28th January 2022 and the loan repaid.

(b) Investments	2021	2020
	£	£
Fair value at 1 January	70,024	68,812
Revaluation gain/(loss)	6,183	1,212
Fair value at 31 December	<u>76,207</u>	<u>70,024</u>

The following investments are held and are shown at fair value as at 31 December :

	2021	2020
	£	£
10,872 units CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund - historical cost £18,650	17,177	18,390
18,408 units CBF Property Fund- historical cost £25,000	26,798	23,454
1,378 units CBF Investment Fund - historical cost £15,072	32,232	28,180
	<u>76,207</u>	<u>70,024</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2021

6 DEBTORS	2021	2020
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	1,431	2,739
Prepayments for goods and services and accrued interest	1,244	1,418
Other debtors	4,283	973
	<u>6,958</u>	<u>5,130</u>

7 LIABILITIES	2021	2020
	£	£
Amounts falling due in one year:		
Creditors for goods and services	1,007	3,608
Missionary giving	4,301	4,772
Accrued expenses and deferred income	3,096	2,215
	<u>8,404</u>	<u>10,595</u>

8 FUND DETAILS	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
The PCC funds comprise the following:					
General	89,125			89,125	54,787
Church repairs	47,764			47,764	47,340
Chancel repairs			3,934	3,934	3,685
Church hall repairs	24,743			24,743	24,550
Others		7,728		7,728	7,358
	<u>161,632</u>	<u>7,728</u>	<u>3,934</u>	<u>173,292</u>	<u>137,720</u>

The Chancel Repair Fund is a permanent endowment which permits only the income to be spent. Designated funds are unrestricted and may be used for other purposes.

Summary of Fund Movements	Unrestricted general fund	Designated Funds church repairs church hall repairs		Restricted Funds others	Endowment Fund chancel repairs	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance at 1 January 2021	54,787	47,340	24,550	7,358	3,685	137,720
Incoming resources	123,874	424	193	3,856	43	128,390
Resources expended/Amortisation	(95,513)			(3,488)		(99,001)
Investment gains/(losses)	5,977				206	6,183
Balance at 31 December 2021	<u>89,125</u>	<u>47,764</u>	<u>24,743</u>	<u>7,726</u>	<u>3,934</u>	<u>173,292</u>

9 CHARITABLE GIVING FOR THE YEAR

From PCC resources:	£	From other donations & events:	£
CMS (for our Mission Partner)	2,291	Bishop's harvest appeal	724
WaterAid	764	Christian Aid	461
	<u>3,055</u>	A Rocha (Eco-Church)	85
		Sue Ryder: St. John's Hospice	80
		St. Mary's Church, Pickersleigh	50
			<u>1,400</u>
From Christmas donations:			
SMART Prebend Day Centre	534		
Families First Bedfordshire	534		
	<u>1,068</u>	Total Charitable Giving	5,523

Summarised Version of the PCC Income & Expenditure Account for the Year 2021
(This Summary is not part of the formal Accounts.)

	2021	2020
Income		
Planned giving	49,660	52,116
Tax reclaimed on gift aid	10,677	10,812
Collections at church services	1,746	1,283
Donations, grants, appeals and legacies	30,389	30,787
Missionary appeals	1,381	1,725
Fetes & other fund raising activities	3,757	2,284
Rental income, 1 Atholl Walk	8,340	8,340
Fees and other church income	5,923	6,506
Church hall hire	13,979	7,744
Interest and investment income	2,538	2,844
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of investments	6,183	1,212
	<u>134,573</u>	<u>125,653</u>
Expenditure		
Diocesan Parish Share:		
- Stipend contribution	35,140	35,140
- Ministry support	24,993	28,123
Clergy housing & expenses	14,925	9,604
Missionary giving	5,523	6,144
Parish mission, adult, children & youth groups	1,154	80
Parish magazine		174
Upkeep of services	823	694
Cost of fund-raising activities and card stall purchases	647	1,210
Church and hall expenses:		
- Running costs	11,704	11,559
- Maintenance of buildings & grounds	2,555	4,804
- Major repairs & improvements		32,573
Support Costs:		
- Printing, stationery & office supplies	977	613
- Parish Office and other general costs	580	584
	<u>99,001</u>	<u>129,302</u>
Result for the year – Surplus/(Deficiency) of Income	35,572	(3,649)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021		
Land, buildings & equipment – at written down value	4,362	5,104
Investments at market value	76,207	70,024
Cash on deposit	80,220	57,682
Bank balances	13,895	10,204
Amounts owing to the PCC	6,958	5,130
Stock of goods for sale	54	171
	<u>181,696</u>	<u>148,315</u>
Less amounts owing by the PCC:		
- Grants to missions & charities	4,301	4,772
- Other items	4,103	5,823
Net Assets	<u>173,292</u>	<u>137,720</u>
Parish Funds:		
General fund	89,125	54,787
Amounts set aside for special purposes:		
- Church & hall repairs	72,507	71,890
- Other funds	11,660	11,043
	<u>173,292</u>	<u>137,720</u>

Accounts

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2020

Incumbent:

The Rev'd Simon Dommett

Bank:

National Westminster Bank
81 High Street
Bedford

Independent Examiner:

Andrew Dennison
12 Chepstow Gardens
Bedford

Registered Charity No: 1131568

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020

Administrative Information

St. Mary's Church is situated in Church Lane, Goldington, Bedford. It is part of the Diocese of St. Albans within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St. Mary's Parish Office, Church Lane, Goldington, Bedford MK41 0AP.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 1131568.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following have served as members of the Council:

Ex-Officio Members

Vicar:	The Rev'd Simon Dommett
Assistant Curate:	The Rev'd Marcus Ottaviani (from September 2020)
Churchwardens:	Brian Backhouse (until May 2020) Wendy Watmough Cathy Sanderson (from May 2020)
Licensed Readers:	Michael Furlong Cathy Sanderson
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Richard Tysoe Sue Lennon

Elected Members

Chris Hjelt (elected in 2018 for three years)
Fred Padley (elected in 2018 for three years)
Brian Greaves (elected in 2018 for three years - resigned)
Sarah Collinson (elected in 2018 for three years) (Secretary)

Debbie Richardson (elected in 2019 for three years)
Richard Kirby (elected in 2019 for three years) (Treasurer)
Andy Richardson (elected in 2019 for three years)
Robin Morgan (elected in 2019 for three years - resigned)

Chris Jones (elected in 2020 for three years)
Brian Backhouse (elected in 2020 for three years)
Nick Fowler (elected in 2020 for three years)
Colin Last (elected in 2020 for three years)

Committees and Working Groups

The PCC operates through a series of committees in order to carry out its aims and objectives. All these committees have the power to make recommendations but all spiritual, pastoral and financial decisions are made by the full PCC. All committees have agreed Terms of Reference ratified by the PCC in 2019.

Standing Committee

The only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The committee must comprise the incumbent, each churchwarden and at least two other members of the PCC

The committee of St Mary's comprises the incumbent, churchwardens, secretary, treasurer and at least one ordinary member. Members of the congregation wishing matters to be raised at the PCC should bring them, in the first instance, to this committee for consideration. In general, it meets two weeks before a full Council meeting to prepare the Agenda for PCC meetings and to consider financial and property reports.

Finance Committee

The committee comprises the Vicar, Treasurer, a Churchwarden and the Planned Giving Officer. It supervises budgets and maintains an overview of the parish finances.

Pastoral Committee

The committee prepares a twice-yearly Service of Thanksgiving for the bereaved and supports the sick and housebound with prayer and anniversary or other greetings cards. It also organises a Christmas tree bauble scheme in aid of St John's hospice, Moggerhanger.

Property Committee

The committee is responsible for all aspects of the church fabric, the church hall and currently 1 Atholl Walk and their grounds.

Publicity Committee

The committee arranges advertising and publicity using multiple media and tries to ensure that all activities and events at St Mary's are well promoted.

Worship Committee

All service planning is considered under the aegis of this committee which regularly reviews our worship. The members meet two or three times a year to check that all scheduling is in hand and that services are running smoothly.

The Health & Safety Officer (currently vacant) reports directly to the Standing Committee of the PCC.

The Environmental Officer, North Bedford Churches Together, Deanery Synod and the Staff Team report directly to the PCC.

Objectives and Achievements

The PCC co-operates with the Churchwardens in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, coordinating and inspiring the congregation in its pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical mission. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of St. Mary's church and church hall in Church Lane, Goldington and the house at 1 Atholl Walk formerly used to house the curate.

St. Mary's PCC is dedicated to helping all those living in Goldington and beyond to worship at St. Mary's without discrimination, to engage with its activities, to develop their spiritual lives and to become part of the family of God through our Lord's unconditional love. It is constantly reviewing and developing new ways of involving those who have no background of church life.

We aim to do this by providing services and facilities which will support our work of outreach in the community, by maintaining a framework of church services where worship, praise and prayer can be offered, by hosting courses where people may learn about the Christian message and be encouraged to live it and grow spiritually in a Christian environment and by the pastoral care of our parishioners at focal times in their lives.

The PCC under the chairmanship of the Vicar has complied with its duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

In March 2020 there were 124 (122) names registered on the Electoral Roll.

Attendance numbers for 2020 cannot be compared to previous figures as worship in church was cancelled or disrupted and online viewing data are not really representative of the actual numbers.

3 (3) marriages were celebrated during the year and 2 (14) children baptised. There were 10 (13) funerals in church and 27 (15) cremations.

2020 was inevitably a year unlike any other and presented the church with enormous challenges and opportunities. Worship in church was only possible for a few interrupted weeks although after the first lockdown was eased private prayer and short services with limited attendance were possible. Pastoral visits and face to face communication with the vulnerable members of our community were curtailed or prohibited and weddings and funerals could only take place under very restricted conditions.

However, in September we welcomed our new assistant curate, Marcus Ottaviani and his family and together the vicar and he have provided amazing and much appreciated sessions of online worship, streamed and recorded services. The other members of the ministerial team comprising the Rev'd Jennie Cappleman (Associate Priest) our two Licensed Readers Cathy Sanderson and Michael Furlong, Susan Lane (Reader in training) and Sue Lennon (Lay Leader of Worship) have given unstinting support throughout and helped provide a varied and important programme of worship, prayer and study. Sadly during the year our former Licensed Reader Sheila Berry died following a period of ill-health and St Mary's lost an invaluable member who dedicated all her life to the pastoral care of the congregation and community with humour, love and prayer.

WORSHIP

Worship at the beginning of the year took place with the normal pattern of services but with the first lockdown in March all churches were closed. The ministerial team under the leadership of the vicar produced online worship for those with internet access and as the months progressed so did the team's technical skills and many and more varied ways of worshipping were adopted. Printed matter was made available for those without computers and a 'phone in service is also now available. Use was made of national initiatives in worship and in the absence of choral or congregational singing, recorded music was included too. The PCC ensured that all the relevant licences for uploading resources were purchased. There was brief period during the late summer and autumn when

church services were again permitted and these were prepared in a thoroughly Covid compliant form with limited singing from a small number of choir members and first Sunday singers. The signing group also contributed to services. After lockdown the Hospital Chapel Team was unable to support services at South Wing and during this time the Rev'd Nicola Macintosh the hospital chaplain retired down from her post. A new chaplain has now been appointed.

At the beginning of the year surveys were carried out to understand how St Mary's congregation worships, prays and encourages new people to be part of the church family. Obviously the arrival of the virus has meant we have not been able to implement the results of these to the best advantage yet.

PASTORAL CARE

This aspect of the life of St Mary's has also been necessarily curtailed with visiting being prohibited for most of the year. However the Pastoral Team has continued to send out cards to the housebound and those in care each month and these have been warmly appreciated. Prayer for the vulnerable and sick has been offered continuously and the bereaved remembered with anniversary cards. A time of prayer and remembrance was held in church in November when this was allowed.

PROPERTY

The tireless Property Committee has ensured that all routine church maintenance and servicing has been carried out and also overseen the major rewiring project in the spring and summer. We have now received the promised grants for this work. Drains have been cleared and the roof re-treated with protective Smart Water. Work on the porch continues but we await instructions from the architect on the replacement of rotten roof timbers found during the work. Some minor quinquennial work has been postponed and will be carried out as soon as it is safe to do so.

The Diocesan Estates Office considered that 1, Atholl walk was no longer adequate to house a curate and purchased a property in Hatfield Crescent as a replacement. The Atholl Walk property will be offered for sale once the repairs arising from soil shrinkage under the foundations have been completed.

The church hall, too, has been very well maintained and all servicing carried out. Volunteers redecorated the inside when it was not in use and thorough cleaning and Covid compliant restraints were put in place in preparation for the brief period when bookings again took place. All necessary cleaning agents and sanitisers were purchased and risks assessments carried out. The hall is again now closed.

Thanks are due to all who have ensured that the church and hall could be used safely when permitted.

Some social activities have taken place and these have embraced the wider community wherever possible. Some have moved to online meetings but during the relaxation of regulations in the summer some face to face activities took place. Catering, group breakfasts, fetes and fairs and the craft groups all fell victim to virus guidelines after March but the walking group managed a few excursions as the rules regarding outdoor exercise have been generally more relaxed.

We have tried to involve and keep in touch with the wider parish as much as possible and the re-formed publicity group has taken the lead in advertising what is available at St Mary's. For those who use social media, facebook has been a good source of information together with the vicar's weekly news sheet. *Parish & People* moved to online publication and a revamped format but a few printed copies are made available for those who need them. Readers were canvassed on how the magazine is read and used and we hope to take forward many of the constructive comments in forthcoming months.

MISSION, CHARITY AND OUTREACH

Our charitable work was inevitably dented by the virus but the Children's Society box income saw a gratifying increase although sadly no Christingle service could take place. Instead the Messy Church team and Children's Society distributed 'Christingle in a bag' to local church families. We continue to support Heather Johnstone of the CMS financially and in prayer and welcomed her February visit. Christian Aid activities were drastically cut back.

Other initiatives during the year included a competition as part of our Mission Action Plan to design a new logo for the church and the results are still being assessed. A full colour calendar was produced to raise some funds for the church and plans were begun to implement the Parish Giving Scheme in the new year. St Mary's has signed up to be an Eco Church and under the guidance of our Environmental Officer is aiming to become a bronze award holder trying to ensure that we do our best to address climate problems and keep environmental issues to the fore. The churches of St Mary's, Putnoe Heights, Priory, Holy Cross and Ss Philip & James comprising North Bedford Churches Together signed a new agreement at the beginning of the year and they continue to meet whenever possible online to plan online courses and events. As ever our Parish Safeguarding Officer ensured that all safeguarding training and DBS checks are up to date and all our policies have been reviewed. In addition to this the Standing Committee has worked hard to keep abreast of all the C of E and government legislation regarding the coronavirus.

Whilst there have been many public comments that church services and the major Christian festivals have been cancelled this year, nothing could be further from the truth. The church and locally St Mary's have continued to show God's love in the community with new initiatives and a greater appreciation of the effects of the restrictions on our mental and spiritual wellbeing. We have celebrated Easter and Christmas in new ways and the church is very much alive and active in Goldington. All this has been possible through the dedication of our clergy, ministers, officers, PCC members and the congregation as a whole. To paraphrase the passage from the letter to the Romans: "neither life, nor death...[nor coronavirus] ..., nor any other creature can separate us from the love of God, which is in Jesus Christ our Lord."

Financial Review for the year 2020 (figures are rounded to nearest '000 for ease of understanding)

The Coronavirus Pandemic has affected so many activities and businesses in 2020 that it was inevitable that the Church would be no different. The PCC is pleased to report however, that the financial situation was not as bad as it could have been despite the inability to hold Church services or hire out the hall for a large part of the year. Stewardship income remained constant with members appreciating that the costs of the ministry in Goldington continue whether worship in church is permitted or not. Finances suffered from the inability to hold the usual fetes and a loss of income from the church hall, itself £10,000 down from the previous year. The PCC was partly able to offset the latter with a grant of £3,000 from a Government Covid compensation scheme administered by the local authority.

The electrical re-wiring and lighting improvements in the church building were carried out later than planned due to the pandemic. The final cost came in slightly less than expected at £33,000, of which £31,000 was met from grants, donations and fund-raising efforts. (£6,000 of this income was received and set aside in 2019.)

The arrival of Rev. Marcus Ottaviani in July brought the doubts about the suitability of the curate's house at 1 Atholl Walk to a conclusion. The Diocese purchased a dwelling in Hatfield Crescent for which the PCC will pay £4,000 each year, a proportion of the notional rental value. The property in Atholl Walk remains tenanted until it is able to be sold; with the proceeds going to the Church Commissioners. The PCC has no financial interest in the sale. It was necessary to repair the garden wall at a cost of £3,000 but all of the other required improvements to bring the property up to the standard required by the Diocese were avoided by the Hatfield Crescent purchase.

Goldington's contribution to the parish share scheme was at a similar amount to 2019 but will increase in 2021 when the charge for the curate's house is included. There were no other significant costs during the year but building repairs to the church will take place in 2021, Covid permitting. With closure of church and hall there was a saving on energy and cleaning costs.

The PCC sets aside 5% of stewardship income, plate collections and gift aid tax recovery for missionary giving. This is shared between support for the work of our CMS mission partner, Heather Johnstone, at the Rehema Project in Tanzania ($\frac{3}{4}$) and WaterAid ($\frac{1}{4}$). Although the level of giving from which CMS and WaterAid benefit was maintained, the inability to hold social events reduced the amount raised for other charities. A full list of charitable donations appears in Note 9 to the Financial Statements

Reserves Policy

The church is partly an historic building and therefore expensive to repair as modern materials and methods are usually not permitted. It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted and relevant restricted funds (as far as possible) to cover future major maintenance work that has been identified in the Quinquennial survey. A similar policy is adopted for work required to the church hall, although the hall is not subject to a professional survey. No work of any significance arising from the surveys has been carried out in recent years and the need to set aside a large sum of money remains. With the renewal of the electrical installation in the church having been completed an amount of £10,000 has been transferred back from the repair fund to general fund.

The church hall repair fund is considered sufficient and remains at £25,000 making a total for both buildings of £72,000. The amount recognised for improvements at Atholl Walk will not be required and has been released.

These amounts 'set aside' for future expenditure are designated funds and there is no restriction on the money being used for other purposes should this prove necessary.

Where no specific purpose for a legacy is expressed it is PCC policy to consult with the family as appropriate and put the money to a use which reflects the interests of the donor. The PCC has received several such legacies over the years and the amount remaining unspent stands at £56,000, and is included in general church funds.

It is also PCC policy to retain sufficient unrestricted reserves to cover any deficit forecast for the following year plus an amount to cover any adverse cash flow situations that may arise from time to time. The amount required by this policy amounts to £19,000 for the year 2021.

At the end of the year the available unrestricted and relevant restricted funds totalled £127,000. Cash represents £51,000 of this amount and is sufficient to meet the regular cash requirements and the repair expenditure likely to be required in the next two years. Cash funds and the PCC's long term investments, taken together, are sufficient to meet the cost of repairs and the commitment to spend legacies on worthwhile improvement projects. The amount to be held in reserve for repair and cash flow purposes is reviewed on an annual basis.

It is PCC policy to invest a proportion of reserve funds in CBF Church of England Investment Funds for long-term growth and income. The remainder in the form of cash is held by Virgin Money and the CBF Deposit Fund. Interest earned on cash funds is negligible.

Annual report approved by the PCC on 2nd February 2021 and signed on their behalf by the Rev'd Simon Dommett, Vicar

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Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of St. Mary the Virgin, Goldington

I report on the Accounts of the PCC of St. Mary the Virgin, Goldington for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 8 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Independent Examiner

The PCC's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts.

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

It is my responsibility to: -

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the Accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the Accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the Accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: -
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare Accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the Accounts to be reached.

Andrew Dennison FCA

12 Chepstow Gardens, Bedford

8th February 2021

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
		£	£	£	2020	2019
					£	£
INCOME						
Voluntary income	2(a)	74,197	22,526		96,723	82,936
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	18,084	284		18,368	33,152
Income from investments	2(c)	2,794		50	2,844	3,236
Church activities	2(d)	5,867	639		6,506	10,668
Other incoming resources	2(e)					2,570
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		100,942	23,449	50	124,441	132,562
EXPENDITURE						
Church activities	3(a)	89,987	3,593		93,580	103,960
Costs of generation of income	3(b)	1,191	127		1,318	3,741
Major repairs and depreciation	3(c)	7,452	25,863		33,315	8,061
Support costs	3(d)	1,089			1,089	1,898
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		99,719	29,583	-	129,302	117,660
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		1,223	(6,134)	50	(4,861)	14,902
Gain/(Loss) on revaluation of investments	5(b)	1,120		92	1,212	3,875
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		2,343	(6,134)	142	(3,649)	18,777
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		124,334	13,492	3,543	141,369	122,592
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		126,877	7,358	3,685	137,720	141,369
BALANCE SHEET at 31 December 2020						
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible fixed assets	5(a)	5,104			5,104	5,846
Investments	5(b)	68,593		1,431	70,024	68,812
		73,697	-	1,431	75,128	74,658
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stock of goods for sale		171			171	321
Debtors & prepayments	6	4,796	334		5,130	4,234
Short term deposits		48,428	7,000	2,254	57,682	59,805
Bank & cash balances		8,582	1,622		10,204	11,878
		61,977	8,956	2,254	73,187	76,238
LIABILITIES: Amounts falling due within one year	7	(8,997)	(1,598)		(10,595)	(9,527)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		52,980	7,358	2,254	62,592	66,711
TOTAL NET ASSETS		126,877	7,358	3,685	137,720	141,369
PARISH FUNDS						
Unrestricted	8	126,877			126,877	124,334
Restricted			7,358		7,358	13,492
Endowment				3,685	3,685	3,543
		126,877	7,358	3,685	137,720	141,369

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 2nd February 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Rev. S P Dommett

S E Collinson

The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these Accounts.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2020

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The Accounts have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with the current Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities and is in compliance with accounting standard FRS102.

The Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at a fair value. The Accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average basis.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for ordinary PCC purposes. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC, such as the church repair fund, are also unrestricted.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the income to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable; interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable.

Gifts in kind for the PCC's own use are included in the SOFA as incoming resources at their fair value when receivable, and expensed as and when consumed in use. Gifts of fixed assets, if material, are included in the balance sheet at their fair value and expensed over the asset's useful economic life.

All incoming resources are accounted for gross. Amounts generated specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. Amounts received for mission in which the PCC acts only as an intermediary are not shown as income of the PCC, except where the PCC is involved in the fund-raising process.

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due. Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31st December.

The value of any donated services or voluntary help received are not included in the Accounts but are described in the trustees' annual report.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Any parish share unpaid at 31st December is provided for in these Accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet. Amounts received from insurance claims are deducted from the relevant expenditure. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the financial statements in accordance with S.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011. All expenditure on consecrated or benefice buildings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Accounts in the year in which it is incurred.

Land and buildings held for the functional use of the PCC are valued at original cost, less provision for depreciation. Buildings are depreciated over a period of 50 years; pre-fabricated buildings are assumed to have a useful life of 25 years. Additions to existing buildings, which do not substantially extend the life of the asset, are written off over the remaining life of the original building. Land is not depreciated.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property. They are listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected at any reasonable time. For anything acquired prior to the year 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the Accounts. Subsequent to this date no individual item has cost more than £1,000, so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Fixtures & fittings and equipment used within the church premises, including moveable church furnishings, are depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items with a purchase price of less than £1,000 are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments are valued at a fair value, which is deemed to be the market value at 31st December.

Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits comprise cash held on deposit with Virgin Money plc and the CBF Church of England Funds.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2020

2 INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2020 £	2019 £
2(a) Voluntary income					
Planned giving:					
Gift Aid donations	38,333			38,333	37,341
Tax recoverable on gift aid donations	9,583			9,583	9,333
Other planned giving	13,783			13,783	12,334
Collections at all services	1,283			1,283	4,179
Donations and appeals	1,474	336		1,810	8,334
Tax recoverable on other gift aid donations	434	377		811	2,122
Tax recovered on small donations (GASDS)	375	43		418	1,611
Donations for missions and charities		1,725		1,725	2,242
Legacies					
Grants received	8,932	20,045		28,977	5,440
	74,197	22,526	-	96,723	82,936
2(b) Activities for generating funds					
Fetes, bazaars, and other fund raising events	303	284		587	5,842
Church hall lettings	7,744			7,744	17,479
Rental income, 1 Atholl Walk	8,340			8,340	7,361
Sales of purchased and donated goods	1,697			1,697	2,470
	18,084	284	-	18,368	33,152
2(c) Income from investments					
Dividends and interest	2,794		50	2,844	3,236
2(d) Income from Church activities					
Magazine	531			531	499
Donations for use of church hall					540
Social events	524	639		1,163	4,273
Church fees	4,812			4,812	5,356
	5,867	639	-	6,506	10,668
2(e) Other income					
Insurance claims				-	2,570
TOTAL INCOME	100,942	23,449	50	124,441	132,562

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2020

3 EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2020 £	2019 £
3(a) Church activities					
Missionary & charitable giving:					
Church overseas:					
- missionary societies	2,381			2,381	2,438
- relief and development agencies		1,171		1,171	3,865
Home missions and other Church societies					
Secular charities	1,093	1,499		2,592	2,968
	<u>3,474</u>	<u>2,670</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,144</u>	<u>9,271</u>
Ministry:					
Diocesan parish share	58,954			58,954	60,695
Other ministry costs	11,913			11,913	8,868
Parish training and mission	80			80	488
Publicity					65
Parish magazine	174			174	531
Church running & maintenance expenses	8,225	718		8,943	10,159
Upkeep of services	489	205		694	1,160
Upkeep of churchyard and grounds	550			550	1,254
Church hall running costs	6,128			6,128	11,469
	<u>89,987</u>	<u>3,593</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>93,580</u>	<u>103,960</u>
3(b) Costs of fund raising activities					
Cost of fetes, fairs and social activities	106	127		233	1,282
Cost of purchased items for sale	977			977	2,309
Costs of Christian Stewardship	108			108	150
	<u>1,191</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,318</u>	<u>3,741</u>
3 (c) Major repairs and depreciation					
Church repairs & furnishings	6,710	25,863		32,573	5,041
Church hall equipment & furnishings					2,278
Depreciation of buildings	139			139	139
Depreciation of church hall fixtures & fittings	603			603	603
	<u>7,452</u>	<u>25,863</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,315</u>	<u>8,061</u>
3(d) Support costs					
Printing and stationery	425			425	509
Office equipment maintenance and renewal	80			80	77
Honorarium					642
Parish office telephone	401			401	422
Other costs	183			183	248
	<u>1,089</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,089</u>	<u>1,898</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>99,719</u>	<u>29,583</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>129,302</u>	<u>117,660</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2020

4 (a) STAFF COSTS	2020	2019
	£	£
Wages and salaries	2,485	4,754
During the year the PCC employed a verger, hall caretaker and a hall manager. All positions are part-time.		

(b) PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS & RELATED PARTIES

No transactions have taken place with related parties.
No trustee has received payment for services provided or expenses incurred as a trustee.
Mr Antony Collinson (verger, husband of Sarah) received £240 for verger's fees at funerals.
Apart from the above, no other payments were made to any PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties except for the reimbursement of purchases made on behalf of the PCC.

5 FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

		Freehold Land & Buildings £	Hall Fittings £	Hall Equipment £	Office Equipment £	Total £
(a) Tangible fixed assets (all unrestricted)						
ACTUAL/DEEMED COST	at 1 January 2020	108,414	39,453	3,910	2,174	153,951
	additions					
	disposals				(2,174)	(2,174)
	at 31 December 2020	<u>108,414</u>	<u>39,453</u>	<u>3,910</u>		<u>151,777</u>
DEPRECIATION	at 1 January 2020	103,774	39,453	2,704	2,174	148,105
	charge for the year	139		603		742
	withdrawn on disposals				(2,174)	(2,174)
	at 31 December 2020	<u>103,913</u>	<u>39,453</u>	<u>3,307</u>		<u>146,673</u>
WRITTEN-DOWN VALUE	at 31 December 2020	4,501	-	603	-	5,104
	at 31 December 2019	4,640		1,206	-	5,846

The freehold land and buildings comprise the church hall and Dilworth Room and are shown at their original cost, less provision for buildings amortisation. Land is not amortised. The hall and contents are valued for insurance purposes at £2,900,000 and this is considered to be a fair estimate of the current value in use of the property. The house at 1 Atholl Walk, Bedford is held in trust for the parish by St. Alban's Diocese. This property was acquired for £76,215 in 1988 with a loan provided by the Church Commissioners and is no longer required to house the curate attached to the parish. The current value of the loan is equal to the market value of the property. The PCC has neither the risk nor rewards of ownership; consequently neither the asset nor liability to repay the loan have been taken into these Accounts. The insurance value of the property is £202,000.

(b) Investments	2020	2019
	£	£
Fair value at 1 January	68,812	64,937
Revaluation gain/(loss)	1,212	3,875
Fair value at 31 December	<u>70,024</u>	<u>68,812</u>

The following investments are held and are shown at fair value as at 31 December :

	2020	2019
	£	£
10,872 units CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund - historical cost £18,650	18,390	17,773
18,408 units CBF Property Fund- historical cost £25,000	23,454	24,679
1,378 units CBF Investment Fund - historical cost £15,072	28,180	26,360
	<u>70,024</u>	<u>68,812</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, GOLDINGTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2020

6 DEBTORS		2020	2019		
		£	£		
Income tax recoverable		2,739	3,533		
Prepayments for goods and services and accrued interest		1,418	880		
Other debtors		973	21		
		<u>5,130</u>	<u>4,234</u>		
7 LIABILITIES		2020	2019		
		£	£		
Amounts falling due in one year:					
Creditors for goods and services		3,808	2,784		
Missionary giving		4,772	5,186		
Accrued expenses and deferred income		2,215	1,557		
		<u>10,595</u>	<u>9,527</u>		
8 FUND DETAILS	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2020 Total	2019 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
The PCC funds comprise the following:					
General	54,787			54,787	43,884
Church repairs	47,340			47,340	56,800
Chancel repairs			3,685	3,685	3,543
Church hall repairs	24,550			24,550	23,850
Church electrical project fund					6,086
Others		7,358		7,358	7,406
	<u>126,677</u>	<u>7,358</u>	<u>3,685</u>	<u>137,720</u>	<u>141,369</u>

The Chancel Repair Fund is a permanent endowment which permits only the income to be spent. Designated funds are unrestricted and may be used for other purposes.

Summary of Fund Movements	Unrestricted general fund	Designated Funds		Restricted Funds		Endowment Fund chancel repairs
		church repairs	church hall repairs	electrical project	others	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance at 1 January 2020	43,884	56,800	23,850	6,086	7,406	3,543
Incoming resources	99,502	540	900	19,904	3,545	50
Resources expended/Amortisation	(99,719)			(25,990)	(3,593)	
Investment gains/(losses)	1,120					92
Transfers between funds	10,000	(10,000)				
Balance at 31 December 2020	<u>54,787</u>	<u>47,340</u>	<u>24,550</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,358</u>	<u>3,685</u>

9 CHARITABLE GIVING FOR THE YEAR

From PCC resources:	£	From other donations & events:	£
CMS (for our Mission Partner)	2,381	Christian Aid	525
WaterAid	793	Bishop's harvest appeal	646
		Traidcraft Exchange	300
	<u>3,174</u>		
From Christmas donations:			<u>1,471</u>
SMART Prebend Day Centre	750		
Families First Bedfordshire	749		
	<u>1,499</u>	Total Charitable Giving	6,144

£1,396 was raised for the Children's Society during the year from donations and special events.

