

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARK'S WOODTHORPE

England & Wales · Charity number 1131702

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-09-18
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	De Vere Gardens Woodthorpe Nottingham NG5 4PH
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Activities

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

Activities: Religious Activities

Classification

- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£181,642	£192,628	-	-
2024-12-31	£187,691	£188,820	-	-
2023-12-31	£175,441	£166,764	-	-
2022-12-31	£163,470	£150,678	-	-
2021-12-31	£155,367	£156,237	-	-
2020-12-31	£156,780	£174,456	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Daniele Bocchetti	Chair	2025-11-24
Catherine Mary Honey		2026-04-26
Claire Achola		2026-04-26
Daniel James Fletcher		2025-04-27
Flona Olivene Myers		2026-04-26
Gary Ditchfield		2022-04-24
Halina Cranston		2025-04-27
JACQUELINE DIANE CAREY		
Joanna Michele Pratt		2026-04-26
Kerri Joanne Ditchfield		2022-04-24
Marcus Pratt		2026-04-26
Ron Lee Myers		2026-04-26
Sarah McNichol		2023-04-23
Stephen Philip Leek		2025-04-27
Stephen William Palmer		2026-04-26
Thomas Nigel BIRD		2012-05-28

Accounts

St Mark's Church

Hearts on Fire. Hope Alive.

FOR THE PEOPLE OF NORTH NOTTINGHAM

2025

ACCOUNTS

St Mark's Church

Financial Review

2025 has been another busy year at St Mark's continuing ministry to the folk in Woodthorpe whilst in Vacancy until end November, and the Church members have all rallied together using gifts God has given them as well as financially. Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

We have continued to support our partners in Burundi (Burundi Sunday) and in Guatemala and had fundraising RELOVED events to support Safe Families and Angel Tree project at Prison Fellowship, as well as supporting our Children and Youth ministries. A new venture is Baby Basics which is self supporting. The ministry to our older members and friends is thriving thanks to our volunteers.

The Church Hall produce a good income from hirers and contributes to the finances of the Church and it enables us to share this facility with the local community as well as using it for Church ministry. However, expenditure for utilities and repairs in particular has increased for both premises and at the year end we had an deficit.

Many thanks to the Finance Team who help to keep our finances in order.

Jackie Carey
Treasurer
14 March 2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of the Parochial Church Council of St Mark's, Woodthorpe

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St Mark's, Woodthorpe for the year ended 31 December 2025 as set out in the Annual Accounts 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's trustee are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Respective Responsibilities of members of the PCC

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records and for preparing the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

You are also responsible for determining whether, in respect of the year (and the preceding two years), the PCC meets the conditions for exemption from an audit of the accounts set out in section 144(1) of the Act and the Regulations, and for providing me with information and explanations required for my examination.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirements that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Name: Flona Myers – CGMA
Can be contacted via St Mark's Office
Date: 12th March 2026

St Marks Church
Receipts and Payments
Prior Year Comparison Report

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>Receipts</u>		
VOLUNTARY: Planned Giving	86682	91279
Collections at Services	2909	3302
Gift Aid recovered	22207	24660
Legacies, Miscellaneous	275	2772
GENERATED: CCLA Investment interest	6362	6290
Easy Fundraising/ink cartridge	226	294
Flowers	107	405
Church Hire	5170	5802
CYM/Edge/Youth Cafe/Hol.Club/Refresh	11931	11931
Funerals/Weddings/Baptisms	1374	1726
Church Hall Hire	31802	25388
DESIGNATED: Mission/Outreach	459	475
Hall	330	0
Reloved	2184	1790
Building/Windows Church	1249	10000
CYM Fund	0	98
Baby Basics	4033	0
RESTRICTED: CYM salary/Burundi	4343	7685
	<u>181642</u>	<u>187691</u>
<u>Payments</u>		
CHURCH ACTIVITIES: Charitable Giving	2910	5903
Parish Share	93000	83309
Vicar's discretionary	13	150
Clergy & staff expenses	1831	2625
Travel	837	966
Training	259	479
Readers	60	60
Audio & Visual equipment	2563	537
Office Administration	2185	1827
Publicity/Website/Broadband	1201	1017
Generated Funds:Mission/Outreach	194	11
CYM/Youth Cafe/Hol.Club/Refresh	11402	6204
Church Services	18	18
Coffee Bar	1110	726
Flowers	261	324
Reloved	2154	2154
Baby Basics	477	0
Restricted: Burundi	3950	6419
	<u>124423</u>	<u>112346</u>
<u>Overheads</u>		
Salaries, PAYE, Pensions, HMRC	24954	29400
Accounts subscription	1663	1504
Bank Charges/Bad Debt Write-off	27	130
CHURCH Insurance & Licences	2705	2781
Church Utilities (Gas & Electric)	7249	5268
Church Water, Waste, Repairs	12344	13230
Church Cleaning, Gardening	6112	6055
HALL Insurance & Licences	1465	1561
Hall Utilities (Gas & Electric)	4566	3422
Hall Water, Repairs & Equipment	2157	8336
Hall Cleaning	4961	4786
	<u>68205</u>	<u>76474</u>
<u>Net Profit/(Loss):</u>	<u>-10985</u>	<u>-1130</u>

St Marks Church
Financial Statements
Prior Year Comparison

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Debtors	1802	1301
Bank Acc	33719	16952
Petty Cash	1	1
CBF Interest Acc - Projects (CB.784)	36871	61871
CBF Interest Acc - General Investments (CB.789)	10142	10142
CBF Equity Investments - UK Equity (CB.787)	0	27249
CBF Investments - Investment (CB.786)	89776	32647
CBF Investments - Property (CB.785)	14392	15451
	186703	165614
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Creditors - Short term	8957	0
	8957	0
<u>Current Assets less Current Liabilities:</u>	177746	165614
<u>Total Assets less Current Liabilities:</u>	177746	165614
<u>Long term Liabilities</u>	0	0
<u>Total Assets less Total Liabilities:</u>	177746	165614
<u>Funds</u>		
General Fund	187058	159456
Des.CYM, Yth Café, Hol.Club Refresh Cafe Fund	0	5419
OrganService/Repair Fund	665	773
EEB Bank A/c Fund	1008	1008
Prev. Year Adjustment	0	88
P & L Account	-10985	-1130
	177746	165614

Note: Investments now recorded at Market Value in the accounts giving a gain of £28,644.31 since last restatement

ST MARK'S CHURCH HALL

PRIOR YEAR REPORT

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Receipts		
Hall Regular Bookings	24704	16722
Hall One-Off Bookings	7098	8716
Hall Designated	330	425
	<u>32132</u>	<u>25863</u>
Payments		
Hall Cleaning	4961	4786
Hall Electric	2081	2210
Hall Gas	2485	1211
Hall Water	658	502
Hall Repairs & Maintenance	1190	7512
Hall Equipment Purchases	309	323
Hall Insurance & Licenses	1465	1561
	<u>13149</u>	<u>18105</u>
Gross Profit/(Loss):	18983	7758
Net Profit/(Loss):	18983	7758

Repairs & Equipment 2025

Fused spur Main hall	12.99
3x hall shed keys	13.00
Service, thermostat, repairs, Hall Imm.heater	588.00
Replace leaking cold water pipe kitchen hall	144.00
Curtain track fixtures	5.89
Tuning 3 pianos Church & Hall	220.00
New Remote control CHall TV	6.97
Replace broken door 5yr guarantee	136.46
2 Lincat water filters	41.00
Whistles for evacuations	15.98
Fire Exit Signs	5.99
	<u>1190.28</u>

Repairs & Equipment 2024

Replacement Windows Toilets Ladies & Gents	1231
Main hall Hall windows	5130
Men's toilet repair suspended ceiling	39.99
Men's toilet lights replacement	385
Men's toilet water leak repair	144
Replace syphon in disabled toilet	109.52
Heating in hall repair	78
4 Door closers Fire doors	56.81
Remove & fit lever taps in kitchen	75
Door keys	16.25
Music cabinet locks + 2 headphones	19.83
Mirror Gents toilet	16.22
Tuning pianos x3	210
	<u>7511.62</u>

Accounts



St Mark's
Woodthorpe

Journeying together in Faith

Annual Accounts

2024

Financial Review

During 2024 we've had a very busy year keeping the Church and Church Hall well maintained so everyone who uses our premises, whether hired or for church activities, can enjoy warmth, cleanliness and comfort. The support of our volunteers, providing physical presence for children's and vulnerable adult's activities as well as maintenance skills which reduces having to hire many tradesmen. We are most grateful for the time and talents that are given to St Mark's.

During 2023 it was agreed that we needed to do something about the windows in the Church and the Church Hall. Quotations were sought in 2024 to replace the old lead framed single-glazed windows in the Hall (main hall) and the Church with UPVC double glazed windows that shut properly and are more vandal proof and will help us save on heating costs. We've noticed such a difference in the Church Hall. We started fundraising for the Church windows in 2024. They were finished in February 2025. The congregation have been wonderful in giving financial support for these two big expenditure projects and we are so grateful for their contributions.

At the beginning of 2024 our friends in Burundi had a major food and fuel crisis (lasted all year) and St Mark's congregation responded financially. Also, we annually have an appeal in October to provide help with a need in Burundi that our Bishop and colleagues in the Anglican Church in Burundi identifies and in 2024 the money sent provided materials for a school in Buterere. Some churches and schools don't have doors and windows or heat due to adverse weather that has demolished or washed away their buildings. God is good to us and we are blessed to respond in this way to help our brothers and sisters in Burundi.

We have a finance team of 4 volunteers who work tirelessly together to keep our finances up-to-date and in good order and from January 2025 our computer package was switched over to Charities Module which will enable the computer to work out gift aid claims to (hopefully) automatically be sent to HMRC. Other areas we have done manually will produce automatic reports for us, including digital giving. New things for us to learn about but in the long term it should make it easier for us and our successors.

Jackie Carey - Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mark's, Woodthorpe

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on the attached pages, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

Respective Responsibilities of members of the PCC

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records and for preparing the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

You are also responsible for determining whether, in respect of the year (and the preceding two years), the PCC meets the conditions for exemption from an audit of the accounts set out in section 144(1) of the Act and the Regulations, and for providing me with information and explanations required for my examination.

Responsibilities of the Independent Examiner

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145 of the Charities Act 2011.

That examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

- a. accounting records were not kept in respect of St Mark's, Woodthorpe as required by section 130 of the Charities Act 2011
- b. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- c. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

Name: Flona Myers – CGMA
Can be contacted via St Mark's Office
Date: 26th February 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The Financial statements 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

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 for which they are given. Where such funds are not invested separately, any interest earned is retained in the general account.

Unrestricted Funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are claimed on a quarterly basis and recognised when the income resource to which they relate are received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. All other income is recognised when it is received.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if the award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts (in accordance with s.298 Charities Act 2011)

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Church Wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are in alienable property. Listed in the church's inventory, this can be inspected (at any reasonable time). Other assets, such as office equipment, are either deemed to have no residual value, or are written off when purchased their cost being less than £1,000.

There are no investments, other than those shown in the accounts with the Central board of Finance.

ST MARK'S WOODTHORPE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PRIOR YEAR COMPARISON

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Current Assets		
Debtors	1301	2338
Bank Acc	16952	47971
Petty Cash	1	1
CBF Interest Acc - Projects	61871	31871
CBF Interest Acc - General Investments	10142	10142
CBF Equity Investments - UK Equity	27249	27249
CBF Investments - Investment	32647	32647
CBF Investments - Property	15451	15451
	165614	167670
Current Liabilities		
Creditors - Short term	0	906
	0	906
Current Assets less Current Liabilities:	165614	166764
Total Assets less Current Liabilities:	165614	166764
Long Term Liabilities	0	0
Total Assets less Total Liabilities:	165614	166764
Funds		
General Fund	159456	143383
Des. Church Hall Fund	0	300
Des. Building/Windows Fund	0	205
Des. CYM,Yth Café, Hol.Club, Refresh	5419	2423
Des. Yth & Children Fund (grant)	0	7228
Organ Service/Repair Fund	773	881
EEB Bank A/c Fund	1008	1008
P & L Account	-1130	11335
Previous Year Adj	88	
	165614	166764

SHARES

C of E General Investments (UK Equity Fund) 18,252.1700 units @ £1.9976 per share. Value £36,460.53 @ 31/12/2024

CBF C of E Investment Fund Inc. 2,412.1200 units @ £23.1227 per share. Value £55,774.73 @ 24.12.2024

CBF C of E Property Fund 11,437.0700 units @ £1.2319 per share. Net asset value £14,089.33 @ 31.12.24

St Mark's Church Prior Year Report

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Receipts		
VOLUNTARY RECEIPTS: Planned giving	91279	85326
Collections at Services	3302	4374
Gift Aid recovered	24660	20102
Legacies, Miscellaneous	2772	361
GENERATED:CCLA Investment interest	6290	5039
Easy Fundraising/ink cartridge	294	97
Coffee Bar	54	60
Flowers/Thursday Club	405	160
Church Hire/Mission Events	5671	5139
Church Hall Hire	25388	29022
CYM/Youth Cafe/Hol. Club/Refresh	5802	4643
Funerals/Weddings/Baptism	1726	664
DESIGNATED: Mission/Outreach/Hall	475	684
Reloved	1790	1570
CYM Fund	98	15000
Building/Windows	10000	205
RESTRICTED: Giving/CYM salary/Burundi	7685	3006
	187691	175453
Payments		
CHURCH ACTIVITIES: Charitable Giving	5903	8871
Parish Share	83309	80212
Vicar's discretionary	150	146
Clergy & staff expenses	2625	1272
Travel	966	1639
Training	479	374
Readers	60	57
Audio & Visual equipment	537	269
Office Administration	1827	2445
Publicity/Website/Broadband etc.	1017	903
Flowers	324	293
GENERATED FUNDS:Mission/Outreach	11	137
CYM/Youth Cafe/Hol.Club/Refresh	6204	3971
Coffee Bar	726	511
DESIGNATED: Reloved	1790	1570
RESTRICTED: Burundi	6419	2602
	112346	105272
Overheads		
Salaries, PAYE, Pensions, HMRC	29400	27187
Accounts subscription	1504	1355
Bank Charges	130	4
CHURCH Insurance & Licences	2781	2671
Church Utilities (Gas & Electric)	5268	6550
Church Water, Waste, Repairs	13230	2455
Church Cleaning, Gardening	6055	5102
HALL Insurance & Licences	1561	1681
Hall Utilities (Gas & Electric)	3422	5197
Hall Water, Repairs & Equipment	8336	2322
Hall Cleaning	4786	4320
	76474	58845
Net Profit/(Loss):	-1130	11335

St Mark's Church Hall PRIOR YEAR REPORT

	<u>2024</u> Actual	<u>2023</u> Prior Year	
Receipts			
Hall Regular Bookings	16722	23207	
Hall One-Off Bookings	8716	5815	
Hall Designated	<u>425</u>	<u>300</u>	
	<u>25863</u>		<u>29322</u>
Payments			
Hall Cleaning	4786	4320	
Hall Electric	2210	2688	
Hall Gas	1211	2509	
Hall Water	502	423	
Hall Repairs & Maintenance	7512	1646	
Hall Equipment Purchases	323	254	
Hall Insurance & Licenses	<u>1561</u>	<u>1681</u>	
	<u>18105</u>		<u>13521</u>
Net Surplus/(Loss)	<u>7758</u>		<u>15801</u>

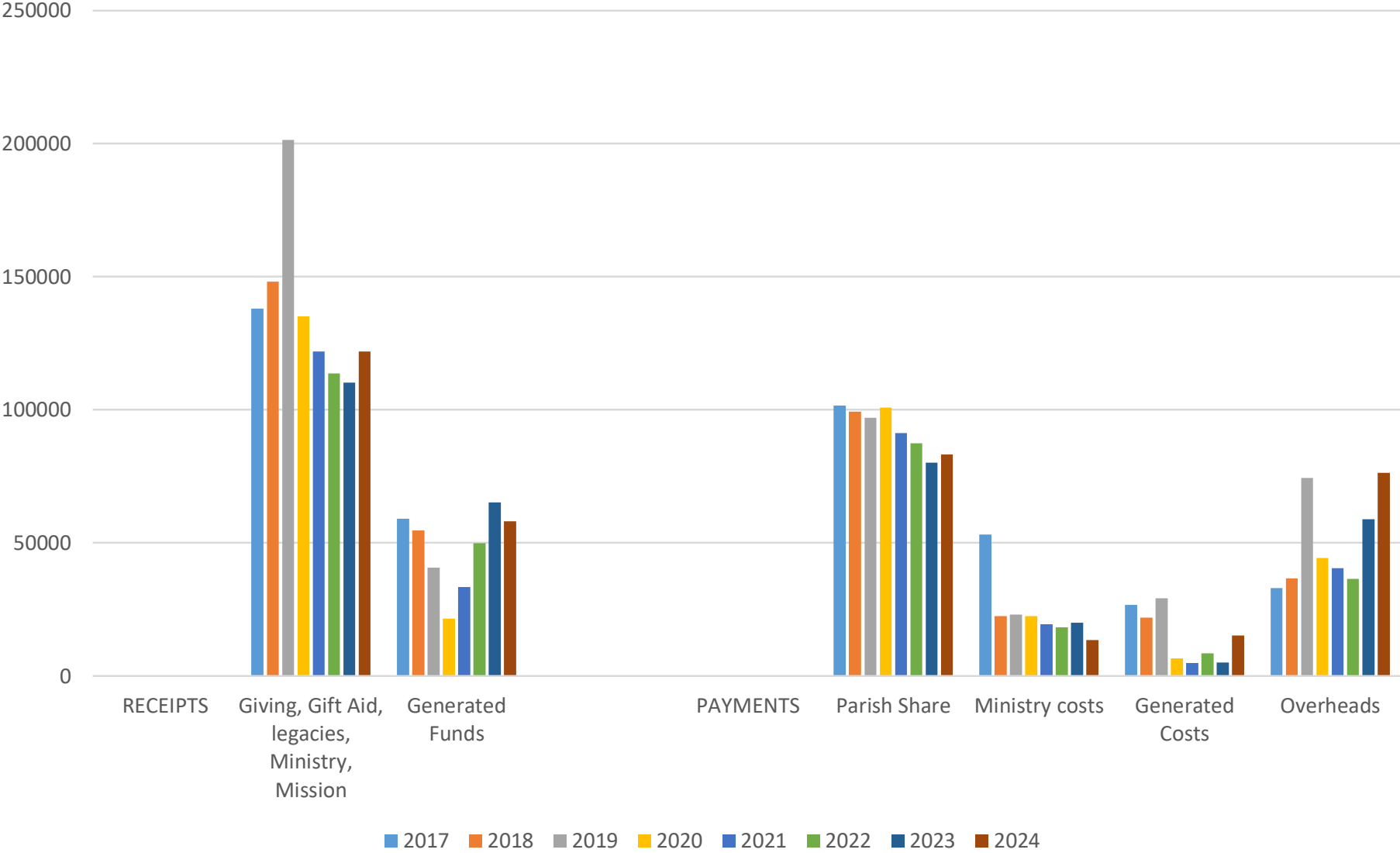
Repairs and Maintenance (2024)

Suspended ceiling tiles after leak	40	
Repairs after burst pipe gent's toilet	144	
Gents toilet lights	385	
Mirror Gents toilet	16	
Remove & fit new lever taps	75	
Disabled toilet cistern repair	110	
New front door keys x5	16	
Tune 3 pianos	210	
Music cabinet locks	20	
Hall heating repair	78	
4 fire door closers	57	
D/glazed windows: Toilets	688	
d/glazed gents toilet & kitchen	543	
Large hall d/glazed windows	5130	
	<u>7512</u>	

Equipment Purchases

Flourescent tubes	29	
Wifi	<u>294</u>	
	<u>323</u>	

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS COMPARISON



BUDGET 6 YEAR FORECAST

		2025 Budget approved at Nov.24 PCC	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
	Actual 2024						
TOTAL RECEIPTS	187691	162937	166196	169520	172910	176368	179895
PAYMENTS	112346	114388	116676	119010	121390	123818	125645
OVERHEADS	76474	63316	64582	65874	67191	68535	69906
Net surplus/(Loss)	-1130	-14767	-15062	-15364	-15671	-15985	-15656

NOTE:

- 1 2024 Fundraising for Burundi - Food Crisis and Burundi Sunday. Total £6419 which includes gift aid sent.
- 2 2024 Fundraising for Church windows £10,000. Balance pay in 2025 £3829 and £1200 raised by February.
- 3 2025 repair to Audio visual equipment required. Waiting for quotes so not included in figures.

Accounts



St Mark's
Woodthorpe

Journeying together in Faith

Annual Reports and Accounts

2023

Aims and Purposes

St Mark's Woodthorpe seeks to be a heart for the community. As the only church in the parish, we desire to provide pastoral care, a social space and the opportunity to explore faith, both within and beyond the parish boundary, working ecumenically and holistically with a range of faith and non-faith based organisations.

Objectives and Activities

We have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

As an Anglican Church in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community.

Our aims and purposes are focussed around, although not wholly limited to:

- Discipleship and pastoral care
- Community engagement
- Children and Young People

Vicar's Introduction

Dear friends

Have you noticed that God's Word never runs dry?

I love the way that He speaks to us through familiar and unfamiliar Bible verses.

"Whenever the cloud lifted from above the tent, the Israelites set out; wherever the cloud settled, the Israelites encamped. At the Lord's command the Israelites set out, and at his command they encamped" (Numbers 9:17-18).

This Old Testament passage speaks to us about dependence on God. This scripture reminds us not to rush ahead without God's leading, but it also reminds us not to stay put when God is calling us forwards.

The psalmist (Psalm 34:4) declares:

"I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears."

I sought the Lord.

In the Old Testament, God's people were, to a large extent, afraid of His presence. They left it to leaders like Moses to approach God directly.

As followers of Jesus, we need to seek God on a daily basis. On an hour-by-hour basis. God's presence is with us today. Now. Here.

I love Journeying Together in Faith. These pages highlight some of the many activities that take place throughout the year at St Mark's. More details can be found on our website: stmarksonline.co.uk or Facebook page: facebook.com/StMarksWoodthorpe

My heartfelt thanks to those who make all of this possible, through generously sharing their time, talents and treasure.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).

Grace and Peace

Rev Matt Roberts

St Mark's Parochial Church Council

Trustees

The Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. As a result of the Charities Act 2006 St Mark's registered with the Charity Commission in 2009. Our Registered Charity Number is 1131702.

Incumbent Rev. Matt Roberts

Curate

[illegible]

Members of Deanery Synod Mr Peter Fisher

Elected members	Mr Tom Bird	Mr Peter Fisher
	Mrs Pat Simpson	Mr Gary Ditchfield
	Mrs Jackie Carey	Mrs Pat Fenton
	Mr Alan Stuart	Mrs Sarah McNichol
	Mrs Linda Sheppard	Mrs Kerri Ditchfield

Recruitment of trustees – Trustees are ex-officio or elected at the APCM. Those who are ex-officio members have been elected or appointed to the role of Incumbent, Curate, Church Warden or a member of a Synod (Deanery, Diocesan or General). The APCM elects up to 12 people who are members of the Electoral Roll to serve as trustees for one year. Those whose names are nominated for election as proposed and seconded by members of the electoral roll. There is no procedure for identifying specific skills required by the PCC or nominating people who have appropriate skills except on an informal basis for the roles of Treasurer and Secretary.

Induction of new trustees – There is no formal induction procedure in place for new trustees. However, trustees are subject to best practice around safeguarding.

Risk Management – The trustees have not undertaken a Risk Management audit.

Reserves Policy – The policy of this church is to hold in reserve the equivalent of 3 months' running costs of £35,000. It is also our policy to hold £35,000 for possible building works resulting from the Quinquennial inspection. This policy is to be reviewed annually.

PCC Committees – The PCC operates through a number of committees that report to the PCC with recommendations for action. The Vicar is an ex officio member of all committees.

Standing Committee – This is the only committee required by regulation. It has power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any direction given to it by the PCC.

Fabric Committee – This committee is responsible for assisting the Church Wardens in the care and maintenance of the church building and contents.

Mission Committee – The role of this committee is to mobilise the church in understanding its own missional role within the community; overview and coordinate missional activities and events within the Church and parish; enable and support prayer for the Church internationally and locally; coordinate, develop and maintain international mission links; advise PCC regarding the Church’s giving/donations to the Church internationally and locally.

Church Hall Management Committee – The committee is responsible for the care, maintenance and improvement of the Church Hall, promotion and publicity of the premises and reviewing the conditions of letting and hire charges.

Appointment of Officers

PCC Vice-Chair	John Sargent
Secretary	Ann Gorman
Treasurer	Jackie Carey
Insurance	Bryan Mallows
Electoral Roll	Ann Gorman
Gift Aid Treasurer	Howard Lea
Cashier	Howard Lea
Health & Fire Safety Officer	Ron Myers
Safeguarding and DBS Administration	Pat Simpson
Gedling Deanery Synod	Peter Fisher

Appointments to Sub-Committees

	Chair	PCC members	Other members
Fabric	John Sargent	Tom Bird Pat Fenton Alan Stuart Janet Tyers	Steve Leek
Mission	Gary Ditchfield	Alan Stuart Kerri Ditchfield	Paul Day Simon Court Guy Mather Jane Court Jenny Duncombe
Church Hall Management	Bryan Mallows	Tom Bird John Sargent	Jane Danvers Ann Gorman Vicki Hardy
Standing	Matt Roberts	John Sargent Janet Tyers Jackie Carey	Ann Gorman

Church Attendance and Other Statistics

The statistics for 2023 are in the same format as for 2022 and are as quoted in the 'Statistics for Mission' Annual Return sent to the Diocese. The figures in brackets show the previous year.

The average attendance on a normal Sunday (that is one excluding major Christian Festivals and services which attract large number of visitors) is **86.5** adults (+6) and **14** children (-4) (all Sunday services).

The total number attending worship on Easter Day and was **129** adults (+13) and **21** children (-1), the number of communicants was **108** (+14).

The total number attending church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day was **440** (+23), the number of communicants was **0**.

During 2023 there were a total of **4** Baptism (+3), of this 2 were under 1 year of age (+2). There were **0** weddings (-2) in 2023 and **3** funeral (+2) in church for the whole of the year.

At the APCM 2023 there were **121** (+7) names on the Electoral Roll.

Fabric Report

Our **Fabric Committee** formally met on four occasions during 2023, submitting reports, notes and suggestions to PCC.

During 2023 we installed a **Digital Hub** through the Diocesan initiative. Our Treasurer, Jackie Carey, and two of us were trained in the usage. We have now set up the hub near the sound desk alongside the Foodbank basket in a quieter area, now designated as the 'Giving Area'. After early teething problems it is now working well and people seem to be able to find and use it. A **visual QR code** for donating (both projected and on documents) is also now in use. During the year we had to obtain and install a new and improved **Wi-Fi hub**.

The **Sound System** saw our only major refurbishment project of 2023. When the failure of the controller battery in the sound-desk late in the year, resulted in Bruce Roberts, engaging specialists and leading various work groups to set up speakers on stands and restore the sound whilst we awaited the replacement and repair. Consequently, all services, especially the Christmas ones were able to continue unimpaired. **Projection** is such a core feature in our 10.30 and special services and we are considering the next step in event of the projector failing. 'Low-tech' screens are now being hung on the inner doors to prevent glare from the car-park during 10.30 services.

In terms of the actual fabric of the building, minor problems were identified and repairs effected, swiftly in most cases, as they arose by Steve Leek, Tom Bird and myself (the easy ones). Late in the year the bottom lock on **front door** failed and we operate on one lock. The year ended with us considering our options for better quality locks. The **Bell Rope** snapped and we couldn't ring for a couple of months (*perhaps to the delight of the neighbours*). Tom sourced a repairer in Loughborough and the rope was repaired and refitted, so our single bell was back in action before Christmas. Thanks to Steve and Tom the **Tower Cross light** now has far brighter lamps, is cleaner and there is a timer fitted at ground level enabling the constant seasonal adjustments to timings to be made.

Donated additional **Fire extinguishers** have been located in the main body of the Church, following a successful Fire Service annual inspection.

Toilets seemed to be a daily concern at times this year, the Office area one, being an original, in particular. Over the years the stop valves had seized, so **Severn-Trent Water** had to be called to locate the external one. They did that but it too had seized up and had to be replaced: there is now only one external shut-off valve for both Church and Hall. The internal stop valves were then replaced and the toilet returned to use. A faulty syphon had to be replaced in the smallest 'new' toilet.

The internal **cleanliness** of the Church building remains at the highest standard due to the continual diligence and dedication of Elaine Cuthill. She took the opportunity during the summer to seal the floors.

Stephen Tyers and Steve Leek spent much time and energy early in 2023 improving and rationalising the cabling, plugs and storage of leads around **the musicians' corner** of the dais. It is now far tidier than in former years and there are fewer trip hazards. Our **organ** was tuned during the autumn. The **piano** used primarily at 08.45 services, on Monday mornings and by The Woodthorpe Singers had to have two castors replaced and it now glides across the floor.

Externally our aged, failing 1960 **windows and gutters** have caused focus and concern and plans to be discussed, but no work was done during the year. The failing Fascia board outside Chapel has been replaced.

The **Church grounds**, like all gardens, are a continual pleasure and concern. We commend Mark Williams, our gardener, for his faithful service. We had a special grounds work-party in November to cut-back and remove, clear and tidy. Kind members took all the branches, twigs, weeds, leaves and berries to the tip. We discovered the talents of our Vicar for clearing ivy; no wonder we didn't sing that carol at Christmas!

St Mark's only continues to function so well due to the energy and commitment of the members, some that I have named and most that I haven't, but who are nevertheless, devoted servants. Thank you to all who do the many unseen jobs week by week, maintaining and changing displays, cleaning and tidying, opening and locking, setting out and putting away. Most only notice when something hasn't been done! Thank you all!

John Sargent – Church Warden

Church Hall Report

Introduction

The Church Hall has continued to support a wide range of different activities and organisations over the past year. Inevitably, there have been changes in the overall weekly schedule as some groups were not able to continue for a variety of reasons, whilst new ones emerged to ensure that our level of income was not affected significantly. Because of rising costs, especially for energy, we had to increase charges from October, but gave our users good notice so that they could plan for recouping this from their clients. We compared our charges to those of other similar venues to ensure that we were not pricing ourselves out of the market. We must continue to be grateful that we have such a versatile venue, with accommodation appropriate to the needs of different sized groups, excellent catering facilities, effective heating and toilet provision and excellent on-site parking.

User profile

As highlighted above, there have been changes during the year in our regular users. Through no fault of our own, **Tiny Talk**, **Little Legs** and **BeBops** terminated their provision at different times of the year. However, we welcomed new groups, including **Kick Boxing** and **Cookstars**. A number of other potential groups are in the pipeline as we move further into 2024. So, a typical week last year was as follows:

Sunday	Children's groups (CYM) in the morning, using all rooms. Birthday/celebration parties in the afternoon, using a variety of accommodation. Older youth group (Edge) in the evening, using various rooms.
Monday	Lullababy , using the Main Hall all morning, into the early afternoon. KS Dance Academy using the Main and Small Halls from late afternoon until 8.30pm. Cookstars using the large kitchen fortnightly late afternoon.
Tuesday	Zumba classes for adults in the early evening.
Wednesday	Tiny Talk using the Main Hall until lunchtime. KS Dance Academy using the Main and Small Halls from late afternoon until 8.30pm.
Thursday	Little Legs using the Main Hall mid-morning only. Woodthorpe Brownies using the Main Hall early evening only.
Friday	BeBops using the Main Hall for two hours in the morning. Woodthorpe Beaver Scouts using both Halls early evening (Oct.-March only)
Saturday	Kick Boxing from 10am in the Main Hall (morning only)

Tiny Talk (Friday am) and **Zumba** (Thursday evening) also offered additional sessions in the church. **Woodthorpe Singers** are now based permanently in the church on Monday evenings. Other activities are booked occasionally in the Church Hall, including **Thursday Club**, **Gedling BC for elections**, **Lydia Prayer Group**, **NHS** etc.

Maintenance

The Church Hall is maintained on a daily basis by our cleaner, **Elaine Cuthill**. She attends according to the weekly schedule presented to her, so we are indeed very fortunate to have someone so dedicated and flexible looking after the premises.

Since writing the last report, further improvements have been made to the building, including the fitting of new door closers to stop them slamming (thanks to **Steve Leek**) and automatic lighting to the men's toilets. Also, thanks to **Tim Ball** (Youth Minister) and other users for overhauling the storage facilities in the Small Hall.

We anticipate the installation of double-glazed windows in the toilets and Main Hall in the near future.

Conclusion

The Church Hall generates significant income which depends largely on the efficiency of the Church Administrator, **Ann Gorman**, who deals with the bookings, telephone enquiries, collection of keys, invoicing, weekly schedule for cleaning, ordering equipment/resources etc. Many thanks.

Bryan Mallows – Church Hall Manager

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a priority at St Mark's.

We are committed to following the principles of the House of Bishop's Policy for Safeguarding Children and Young People and Adults.

Our aim to ensure that children and adults are kept safe whilst in our care, whether in church, or meeting on-line, and this is an integral part of our church life. We endeavour to do this through good working practice, including the safe recruitment of workers, as laid out in our C&YP and Adults Policies and Procedures, copies of which are on display on the Church Noticeboard or can be obtained from the Church Office.

All Church Officers, Employed Staff and Volunteers are required to have a DBS, if appropriate, and to keep up to date with the required safeguarding training as set out by Southwell Diocese.

We also have procedures in place to ensure that all users and hirers of our Church and Church Hall Premises adhere to the same principles regarding safeguarding.

Safeguarding is an agenda item at each of our PCC meetings and is reviewed regularly by the PCC.

If you wish to speak to somebody about safeguarding, please speak to our Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator, Pat Simpson, via the Church Office on 0115 9267859.

Mission Committee

Background

Following the death of a much-loved member of the St Mark's family and missional lead, Rosemary Cottingham, there was a temporary lull in the activities of the Mission Committee during the first half of 2023. It was decided that a review of St Mark's missional life would be undertaken, commencing in June 2023 based around the Anglican '5 Marks of Mission'. A group of 8 church members with a heart for missional life began to meet on a regular basis to evaluate our current missional activities and identify opportunities and priorities with which to regain momentum. The findings of the group were recorded in a detailed missional review document and were presented to PCC in the Autumn of 2023. The following summarises the initial priorities of the group.

Burundi

St Mark's Woodthorpe has a long-standing partnership with the church in Burundi which is a highly treasured relationship. Direct communications with representatives in Burundi were re-energised. In response to urgent human need, a fund-raising initiative was instigated in October 2023 which raised £2635 for church building and water supply projects and again in January 2024 which raised £1600 which was distributed between two dioceses in Burundi to assist with food and fuel shortages for parishioners.

Arrangements have been set in place for a special Burundi Sunday service with preaching by Bishop Paul Butler (formally of Southwell and then Durham) in the coming year.

Guatamala

Regular contact, prayer and financial assistance has been maintained with our Church Mission Society partner in Guatamala, Azaria, to assist in the family and children's ministry in vulnerable communities.

Ukraine

As part of the Welcoming Churches Network, St Mark's is delighted to welcome a Ukrainian family into our community and fully embrace them in St Mark's life.

Mission in our community

St Mark's continues to support the needs of the local community in numerous practical and fundraising initiatives. Some examples of these include the twice yearly 'Reloved Sale' providing reasonably priced clothing and equipment to families, 'Thursday Lunch Club' providing fellowship for all including isolated friends and the 'Refresh Café' providing fellowship and support to young families. A pop-in Youth Café and a 'Birthday Card Scheme' are being launched to broaden local missional outlets.

Treasuring Creation

Mission Committee continue to support the work of the St Mark's Eco Church team in the continuing ministry of treasuring God's creation.

Communications

Opportunities are being developed to improve internal and external communications by regular updates to missional website material, improvements to missional visual display materials and regular verbal updates for all members during services.

Children's and Youth Ministry (CYM)

There have been some pretty major changes for the Children's and Youth Ministry in 2023. Most notably the departure of Beth over the summer. I would like to thank her for all her hard work over her time at St Mark's and the positive impact that she has had on the ministry. Her handover and the excellent team we have here made my transition into the role as smooth as it could possibly have been.

We had two weekends away this year, Bonsal Camp for Edge in March and a second edition of the joint weekend away with St Martin's Sherwood to the Oakes in November. Both of these were well received by the young people and are often talked about as highlights of the year. Our Sunday Groups of Sparklers, Rockets, Game Changers and Edge have continued throughout the year thanks to the dedication of the volunteers, both the adults and the older youth providing extra support. In addition to these, our aim is that every young person who regularly attends Edge or supports the younger youth groups and wants one, has an adult mentor who they meet with on a regular basis.

A particular highlight of the year was the two Edge outreach events, visiting some of the older members of our community before the summer and the afternoon tea that we provided at church in November. As well as being a blessing to the people that we were reaching out to, both gave the young people a chance to build and display their skills and grow in confidence. It has also been a blessing to see an increase in young people serving, not just in CYM groups but in the band and other ministries as well.

Looking forward to 2024 I have identified 4 key focuses for the Children's and Youth Ministry in addition to continuing the existing groups.

1. A return of the Good Friday Treasure Hunt
2. Starting an after-school Youth Cafe after Easter
3. A holiday club in October Half Term
4. Preparing and equipping the young people to be able to lead a church service later in the year.

Finally, thank you all for your welcome of me and how easy you've made my transition into this role.

Tim Ball - Children's and Youth Minister

Gedling Deanery Synod Report

Synod met three times this year. In addition to our focus on Ministry and Mission, we were visited by Ruth Lee, the Growing Disciples Younger lead, who shared her enthusiasm for sharing the Good News with young people. James Halstead, Principal of the School of Discipleship came to talk to us about Lay Vocations, and Jean Lamb shared her vision for a deanery wide Lent/Easter trail, based on the stations of the cross, for 2024.

At each meeting, news from around the Deanery and from Diocesan Synod is shared. We hold discussions in small groups, and we pray for each other. We receive regular reports from Diocesan Synod with Revd. Sam Hustwayte still in post as Chair, as well as our lay representatives Michael, Peter, David and Muriel continuing to serve alongside Revd. John Allister. We also circulate regular reports from General Synod. John encourages representatives to share information with their PCCs, as one purpose of Deanery Synod is to feed information through from the diocese to the parish, and vice versa.

This year saw a new triennium so we needed to elect members to the standing committee. We were pleased to welcome Chris Childs as Lay Chair. Sam Hustwayte continued as Secretary along with Kurt Baron as clergy rep. Lay representative Peter Fisher was joined by Kathy Hogan. There are vacant positions for both lay and clergy representatives.

Churches in vacancy- Netherfield, Carlton, Colwick, Lambley, Gedling and Arnold continue in vacancy. Our churches in vacancy have continued their commitment to church life, with support from retired clergy and hardworking lay teams.

The post of Deanery Treasurer is still vacant. Please consider prayerfully whether you know anyone suited to this role. Encourage them to talk to our Area Dean, John Allister. We are supported by Gary Stevenson, whose details Portia can share if a parish needs support with treasurer matters.

Area Dean Revd. John Allister shared information about the Diocese of Goma and we agreed that, if at all possible, each church would make a donation of £100 via JustGiving. That amount would make a significant difference to a diocese with an annual budget of £20k, where ministers are unpaid and unlikely to have been educated beyond primary level.

Refresh Community Café



Refresh Community Café has continued to offer a place of safety, fun and belonging for parents/carers and their under 5s in the community. The café meets every Wednesday in term time from 10-11.30am providing refreshment to parents and carers physically, emotionally and spiritually. It is a privilege to see God at work as we share the love of God with so many young families, welcoming them into church, listening, and offering prayer.





At the end of every morning, a short thought for the day is shared and we finish with a time of singing and bubbles! Refresh Church has continued to feature every term, with the opportunity to explore Bible stories in an engaging accessible format, using puppets, stories and song.

This year, to deepen relationships and demonstrate love in action, we have also invited parents/carers to additional events without their children including a 'paint a pot' evening and a wreath making workshop.



Refresh Community Café welcomes around 40 families every Wednesday and has a Facebook page with over 350 followers. We are very grateful to all those who help enable Refresh Community Café to share God's love with families in our community.

Thursday Club

This group is aimed primarily at Senior Citizens, but other adults are very welcome to attend. There are no restrictions placed on anyone wishing to attend from the Woodthorpe community and beyond. It is not an exclusive 'club' with membership fees etc. It is simply an opportunity to meet up with friends in the church hall, or occasionally the church, receiving some form of entertainment, refreshments and time to catch up with each other. During 2023, the average attendance was forty four across twelve meetings, one per month on a Thursday.

The majority of meetings were held in the afternoon, starting at 2.30pm. As we like to offer homemade cakes with tea and coffee, it was heartening to receive offers of baking from some of the members. Alan Stuart kicked off the year in January with a very interesting, illustrated talk on his experiences visiting Burundi. Other talks in the year included reflections of a retired auctioneer, the story of gin from a Victorian perspective, an insight into the life and death of Richard 111, revisiting afternoon etiquette with the Baroness Bolsover, opening up the Old Curiosity Box with fascinating gadgets from the past and Gillian Buck's Malaysian Adventure.

Our March meeting is always a charity event and this year we supported the Angel Tree Foundation, a prison charity event to raise money for the families of prisoners. Two speakers amplified the work of the charity and how volunteers can offer different levels of support.

Other meetings provided musical entertainment provided by local musicians and singers, principally members of Burlington Live, the Stanza Singers and St Mark's very own Stephen Tyers at the Summer Garden Party. We also welcomed Stephen (guitar) and Gemma Thomas (singer) to lead our carols at the annual Christmas Lunch at Ramsdale Park Golf Club.

We also managed to fit in an additional meeting in August in the form of a short trip. We were invited to go to the Waxwings and Goldcrest Gardens, part of the National Gardens Scheme, just beyond Redhill roundabout on the A60. Thirty five members were treated to a guided tour, followed by a delicious selection of refreshments and the opportunity to buy plants. The proceeds of this event were donated to charity. We hope to go again this year, but in another month to see the gardens in a different light. Whilst mentioning charity, the Thursday Club now donates 10% of income to the Arnold Food Bank.

Below are some examples of the activities mentioned above:



Sadly, some of our long-term members are no longer able to join us because of health issues, more often than not restricting their mobility. We wish them all the very best and will always hold them dear to our hearts. We have welcomed quite a number of new members. I would encourage anyone reading this to forward the names and contact details of anyone who might benefit from belonging to a group such as the St Mark's Thursday Club. We have an excellent team who will provide a friendly welcome.

Further details can be found on the church website or by contacting Bryan Mallows as follows:

bryan.mallows@ntlworld.com or 07884 062337

Home Groups

At St Mark's, we encourage everyone to join a Home Group. Home Groups are small groups that meet regularly in people's homes for fellowship, discipleship and support. They often include worship, bible study, prayer and fun and they enable us to take God's values, gifts and calling into all of our lives. The groups create a secure, trusting environment where people can share openly and honestly and give members the opportunity to grow in the Christian faith and in their walk with God.

We currently have 6 groups; 2 meet during the day and 4 either Wednesday or Thursday evenings. There are 64 people from St Mark's who attend a home group regularly. If you are not already in a group and would like to be, please speak to Matt or Pat Fenton.

Men@stmarks

St Mark's has a group specifically for the men in our parish.

We meet at 9am on the first Saturday of the month for breakfast at a local eatery and usually get around 15/18 men coming along.

We are hoping to add other meetings throughout the year and all of our events are on our web site and our Facebook page 'men@stmarks'

For more information contact Alan at menatstmarks@virginmedia.com

"Julian" Prayer Meeting

These are silent prayer meetings held in church on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm and lasting 30 minutes. This is time between those who come and God in a prayerful atmosphere. We start with a short reading and then enter 30 minutes of silence, ending with some music and the Grace. As this is personal prayer, we do not share what we have prayed about or anything we may have received from the Lord.

Silence is essential so we encourage people to be there for a prompt start and refreshments are available afterwards. These are Ecumenical meetings so everyone is welcome to come to these and we usually have around 15 at the meetings.

Open Church

Open Church is a warm, friendly space and runs from 10-12 on Monday mornings in the church coffee bar area. Anyone coming through the doors will find a welcoming bunch of folk who enjoy a coffee and chat and the occasional birthday cake! It is an opportunity to form connections and deepen friendships. With a regular attendance of over twenty people, it is proving to be a popular

point of call, marked on people's calendars. Before Christmas Jane, one of the regular attendees, set up craft tables so people could make their own special Christmas cards.



So why not drop by and pop in and see for yourself? If you enjoy singing there is a chance to join in, from 11.30-12 noon, with an informal time of songs of praise which has proved to be a popular addition to the morning. You can request a favourite hymn of your choice. We look forward to seeing you there and anyone is welcome so bring your friends and neighbours!

Diana Mallows/Gillian Buck

Dove House

During 2023, St Mark's Church continued to work with Hope into Action in supporting the tenants in Dove House. Both tenants in the house reached the end of their two-year contract at the end of the summer and one of them moved out in September. The other tenant was able to stay in the house whilst the council sorted out accommodation for her and her son. A new tenant moved into the house in October with her young daughter to fill the vacancy but with a shorter tenancy due to the age of her daughter.

It has been quite challenging supporting the tenants. The small team of volunteers try to keep regular contact by phone and with visits to the house and in supporting them by going to groups or appointments with them as appropriate. A couple of volunteers from church also helped with some essential garden maintenance. A big thank you to everyone involved with this project. Ongoing prayer support is essential as we continue to show God's love and grace in this ministry.

Linda Sheppard

Voice

Voice is well into its third year of running, making music together and providing a safe space for young people to meet and explore faith. We meet fortnightly on Wednesday evenings in St Mark's Church, with a concert at the end of each school term. We currently have 7 regular members and are looking to expand our provision in Woodthorpe to offering primary workshops over the next half of the academic year. We loved performing at St Mark's Carol Service in December, performing 2 songs to a huge number of people and this was both inspiring and empowering for our young people. Another highlight has been our socials at the end of terms, with our favourite one being bowling and bringing out our competitive sides. In addition to our regular sessions, we offer a mentoring programme, meeting with young people in either a 1:1 setting or a small group session to chat more openly and to read the bible and pray together.

We are reaching more young people through this, and it is amazing to see them grow in faith with God and to see a real desire to understand, know and love God more deeply. As a team, our desire is to create a space where young people feel safe to ask questions of faith and about how it can impact their everyday life. We have loved seeing friendships grow and blossom and can't wait to see where the next year takes us.



Reloved

Reloved is a core team of 9 women from St Mark's and other local churches. We meet twice a year to serve our local community by selling good quality, pre-owned (0-14years) (Reloved) children's clothes, toys, games, equipment. We met in March 2023 and October 2023.

In March, we had 125 adult buyers (plus kids and helpers), total sales £2,300.00. £770.00 for the charity this time Safer Families Nottingham, 1463 items sold. We also recycle the clothing to Share wear.

In October 2023, we had 149 buyers (plus kids and helpers), Total sales £2,486.00, £812.00 for the Charity Angel Tree who provide Christmas presents for the children of prisoners, 1600 items sold.

Over the last two sales, the Reloved team have had an increase in the support from our church family at St Mark's who have come with enthusiasm and have enjoyed their time helping at the sales. Without this ongoing support we could not continue with these sales. Thank you St Mark's.

Financial Review

2023 has been an exciting but challenging year. We were grateful for the hard work of our Children and Youth Minister and Intern for helping the growth of our young people's work. When they moved on we have been fortunate to employ a new Children and Youth Minister who has further ideas in promoting this work. Volunteers have continued to support this important area of the Church ministry.

Without volunteers our ministry in many different fields from 0 years to the elderly would be hard pushed to succeed. The financial support they give is enormous and their generosity in using their gifts, time and talents is so appreciated. The love and care shown by so many of our congregation to others reflects the desire Jesus has for all to share what he has given us and to do it with love.

As we all know the increase in prices for consumables has hit some groups in our community really hard. None so than keeping warm and although our utility bills have increased, we at

St Mark's open our doors every Monday morning for anyone in the community to come in for coffee and chat and friendship. The Refresh café on a Wednesday in term time for mums/grandparents/carers to bring their preschool children and this has become very popular. It is lovely to see the local schools using our premises, on occasion, for some school events.

We are also pleased that our Church Hall is widely used by community groups for their activities and for parties. We're grateful for any grants and legacies we receive to assist with our ministries.

Because the world is becoming more digitally oriented, churches have to keep up and at St Mark's this has been developed over the year so contactless giving and online giving is being encouraged as well as upgrading our computer programmes – easier for the younger generations to understand than others! It is wonderful that help is at hand and pride is swallowed as we ask for help! We are, of course, a family.

Jackie Carey – Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mark's, Woodthorpe

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on the attached pages, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

Respective Responsibilities of members of the PCC

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records and for preparing the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

You are also responsible for determining whether, in respect of the year (and the preceding two years), the PCC meets the conditions for exemption from an audit of the accounts set out in section 144(1) of the Act and the Regulations, and for providing me with information and explanations required for my examination.

Responsibilities of the Independent Examiner

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145 of the Charities Act 2011.

That examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

- a) accounting records were not kept in respect of St Mark's, Woodthorpe as required by section 130 of the Charities Act 2011
- b) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- c) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

Name: Flona Myers – CGMA

Can be contacted via St Mark's Office

Date: 28th February 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The Financial statements 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

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 for which they are given. Where such funds are not invested separately, any interest earned is retained in the general account.

Unrestricted Funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are claimed on a quarterly basis and recognised when the income resource to which they relate are received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. All other income is recognised when it is received.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if the award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts (in accordance with s.298 Charities Act 2011)

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Church Wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are in alienable property. Listed in the church's inventory, this can be inspected (at any reasonable time). Other assets, such as office equipment, are either deemed to have no residual value, or are written off when purchased their cost being less than £1,000.

There are no investments, other than those shown in the accounts with the Central board of Finance.

ST MARK'S CHURCH
Financial Statements Prior Year Comparison

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Current Assets	Actual	Prior Year
Debtors	2338	1306
Bank Acc	47971	37253
Petty Cash	1	1
CBF Interest Acc - Projects	31871	31871
CBF Interest Acc - General Investments	10142	10142
CBF Equity Investments - UK Equity	27249	27249
CBF Investments - Investment	32647	32647
CBF Investments - Property	15451	15451
	167670	155919
 Current Liabilities		
Creditors - Short term	906	103
	906	103
Current Assets less Current Liabilities:	166764	155816
Total Assets less Current Liabilities:	166764	155816
Long Term Liabilities	0	0
 Total Assets less Total Liabilities:	166764	155816
 Funds		
General Fund	143383	139691
Des. Church Hall Fund	300	0
Des. Building/Windows Fund	205	0
Des. Refresh Cafe Fund	2423	1361
Des. Yth & Children Fund (grant)	7228	0
Organ Service/Repair Fund	881	965
EEB Bank A/c Fund	1008	1008
P & L Account	11335	12792
	166764	155817

CBF Equity fund Income Shares @ 31.12.2023 value £ 35995.10

CBF Property Fund Income Shares @ 31.12.2023 value £ 14011.66

C of E Investment Fund Income shares @ 31.12.2023 value £54526.70

ST MARK'S CHURCH

Prior Year Report

	<u>2023</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2022</u> <u>Prior Yr</u>
Receipts		
VOLUNTARY RECEIPTS: Planned giving	85326	88712
Collections at Services	4374	5592
Gift Aid recovered	20102	19261
Legacies, Miscellaneous	361	35
GENERATED FUNDS: Funerals;Weddings;Quiet Days	664	1509
Church Hire; Mission Eventsl	5139	7439
Church Hall	29022	24872
Coffee Bar	30	75
Flowers,Thurs.Club	160	450
Easy Fundraising/Printer Cartridges	97	201
DESIGNATED: Mission/Outreach/RBP	384	760
Reloved, Refresh Cafe, CYM	6232	6217
Youth & Children Fund	15000	1228
Building/Windows	205	0
Church Hall	300	0
RESTRICTED: Giving;CYM;Burundi;Fabric	3006	2889
CBF Investment & Deposit Interest	5039	3677
	<u>175441</u>	<u>162916</u>
Payments		
CHURCH MINISTRY COSTS: Parish Share	80212	87505
Mission charitable giving	8871	10987
Office Administration	2445	1727
Publicity, Website, Broadband etc.	903	2270
Ministry expenses, pastoral, fees, audio	3326	2740
Training, Quiet Days, Away Days	431	453
Children & Youth Ministry	1252	60
Tiddlywinks/Refresh Community Cafe	2719	3259
GENERATED COSTS: Mission Events/Outreach	137	0
Coffee Bar	511	445
Flowers	293	324
Reloved; Cafe Church	1559	1688
RESTRICTED: Burundi	2602	2748
	<u>105261</u>	<u>114206</u>
Overheads		
Salaries, PAYE, Pensions	27187	9983
Accounts subscription	1355	1246
Bank Charges	4	-5
Insurance & Licences	2671	2463
Utilities,Waste,Cleaning,Garden,Repairs	14107	10950
Hall Insurance & Licenses	1681	1361
Hall Utilities, Cleaning, Repairs, Equipment	11839	10469
	<u>58845</u>	<u>36467</u>
Net Profit/(Loss):	<u>11335</u>	<u>12243</u>

ST MARK'S CHURCH HALL

Prior Year Report

	2023 Actual	2022 Prior Year
Receipts		
Hall Regular Bookings	23207	17243
Hall One-Off Bookings	5815	7629
Hall Designated	300	0
	29322	24872
Payments		
Hall Cleaning	4320	3550
Hall Electric	2688	1734
Hall Gas	2509	1396
Hall Water	423	429
Hall Repairs & Maintenance	1646	1736
Hall Equipment Purchases	254	1625
Hall Insurance & Licenses	1681	1361
	13521	11831
Gross Surplus/(Loss)	15801	13041
Net Surplus/(Loss)	15801	13041

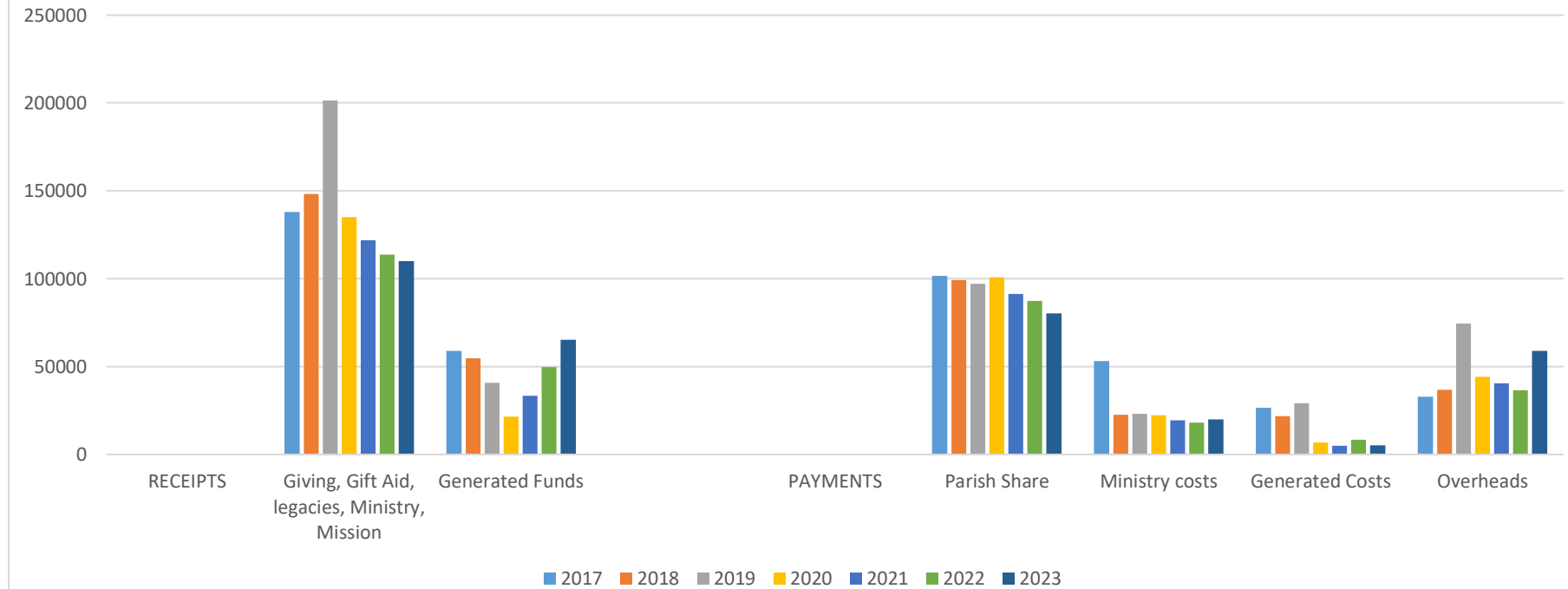
Repairs and Maintenance Itemised

Beavers Storage cupboard clasp & lock	11
Additional roof repair	100
Hall roof repair	320
Dishwasher salt	2
Dance academy storage hasp & padlock	11
Lounge carpet	152
PIR security light	20
Hall boilers service	414
Lounge carpet fitting	190
boiler leak repair	234
Speaker in large hall	115
Repair leaking radiator in large hall	78
	1646

Equipment Itemised

Broadband in hall Jan-Mar @ £18.75	56
Broadband 9 mths @ £21.45	193
Keys for hall kitchen	4
	254

Receipts & Payments Comparisons



Accounts



St Mark's
Woodthorpe

Journeying together in Faith

Annual Reports and Accounts

2022

Aims and Purposes

St Mark's Woodthorpe seeks to be a heart for the community. As the only church in the parish, we desire to provide pastoral care, a social space and the opportunity to explore faith, both within and beyond the parish boundary, working ecumenically and holistically with a range of faith and non-faith based organisations.

Objectives and Activities

We have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

As an Anglican Church in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community.

Our aims and purposes are focussed around, although not wholly limited to:

- Discipleship and pastoral care
- Community engagement
- Children and Young People

Vicar's Introduction

Dear friends

Last year my introduction to the annual report included the following verses:

"Whenever the cloud lifted from above the tent, the Israelites set out; wherever the cloud settled, the Israelites encamped. At the Lord's command the Israelites set out, and at his command they encamped" (Numbers 9:17-18).

This Old Testament passage speaks to us about dependence on God. This scripture reminds us not to rush ahead without God's leading, but it also reminds us not to stay put when God is calling us forwards.

Over the past year we have sought the Lord together. As we have brought before him the needs of our church and wider community, he has provided for us in wonderful ways. Around the time of St Mark's 60th anniversary, there was a real sense of thanksgiving for all that God has done among us and through us over the past six decades, including in recent months.

As we look back on the past year with thanksgiving, may we continue to Journey Together in Faith, remembering that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

The psalmist reminds us in Psalm 46:

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
- ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
- ³ though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.
- ¹¹ The LORD Almighty is with us...

These pages highlight some of the many activities that take place throughout the year at St Mark's. More details can be found on our website: stmarksonline.co.uk and Facebook page: facebook.com/StMarksWoodthorpe

My heartfelt thanks to those who make all of this possible, through generously sharing their time, talents and treasure.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).

Grace and Peace

Rev Matt Roberts

St Mark's Parochial Church Council

Trustees

The Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. As a result of the Charities Act 2006 St Mark's registered with the Charity Commission in 2009. Our Registered Charity Number is 1131702.

Incumbent	Rev. Matt Roberts	
Curate		
Church Wardens	Mr Bryan Mallows Mr John Sargent	
Members of Deanery Synod	Mr Peter Fisher Mrs Laura Cuthill	
Elected members	Mr Tom Bird Mrs Naomi Burton Mrs Jackie Carey Mrs Andrea Moore Miss Rosemary Cottingham Mrs Laura Cuthill Mrs Kerri Ditchfield	Mr Peter Fisher Mrs Pat Simpson Mrs Pat Fenton Mr Alan Stuart Mrs Linda Sheppard Mr Gary Ditchfield

Recruitment of trustees – Trustees are ex-officio or elected at the APCM. Those who are ex-officio members have been elected or appointed to the role of Incumbent, Curate, Church Warden or a member of a Synod (Deanery, Diocesan or General). The APCM elects up to 12 people who are members of the Electoral Roll to serve as trustees for one year. Those whose names are nominated for election as proposed and seconded by members of the electoral roll. There is no procedure for identifying specific skills required by the PCC or nominating people who have appropriate skills except on an informal basis for the roles of Treasurer and Secretary.

Induction of new trustees – There is no formal induction procedure in place for new trustees. However, trustees are subject to best practice around safeguarding.

Risk Management – The trustees have not undertaken a Risk Management audit.

Reserves Policy – The policy of this church is to hold in reserve the equivalent of 3 months' running costs of £35,000. It is also our policy to hold £35,000 for possible building works resulting from the Quinquennial inspection. This policy is to be reviewed annually.

PCC Committees – The PCC operates through a number of committees that report to the PCC with recommendations for action. The Vicar is an ex officio member of all committees.

Standing Committee – This is the only committee required by regulation. It has power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any direction given to it by the PCC.

Fabric Committee – This committee is responsible for assisting the Church Wardens in the care and maintenance of the church building and contents.

Mission Committee – The role of this committee is to mobilise the church in understanding its own missional role within the community; overview and coordinate missional activities and events within the Church and parish; enable and support prayer for the Church internationally and locally; coordinate, develop and maintain international mission links; advise PCC regarding the Church's giving/donations to the Church internationally and locally.

Church Hall Management Committee – The committee is responsible for the care, maintenance and improvement of the Church Hall, promotion and publicity of the premises and reviewing the conditions of letting and hire charges.

Appointment of Officers

PCC Vice-Chair	Bryan Mallows
Secretary	Ann Gorman
Treasurer	Jackie Carey
Insurance	Bryan Mallows
Electoral Roll	Ann Gorman
Gift Aid Treasurer	Howard Lea
Cashier	Howard Lea
Health & Fire Safety Officer	Ron Myers
Communications Officer	Alan Stuart
Safeguarding and DBS Administration	Pat Simpson
Gedling Deanery Synod	Peter Fisher – Laura Cuthill

Appointments to Sub-Committees

	Chair	PCC members	Other members
Fabric	John Sargent	Bryan Mallows Tom Bird Pat Fenton Alan Stuart	Steve Leek
Mission	Matt Roberts	Rosemary Cottingham Naomi Burton Laura Cuthill	Paul Day Guy Mather
Church Hall Management	Bryan Mallows	Tom Bird John Sargent	Jane Danvers Ann Gorman Vicki Hardy
Standing	Matt Roberts	Bryan Mallows John Sargent Jackie Carey	Ann Gorman

Church Attendance and Other Statistics

The statistics for 2022 are in the same format as for 2021 and are as quoted in the 'Statistics for Mission' Annual Return sent to the Diocese. These are obviously severely affected by the Covid pandemic.

The average attendance on a normal Sunday (that is one excluding major Christian Festivals and services which attract large number of visitors) is **79.7** adults and **18.1** children (all Sunday services).

The total number attending worship on Easter Day and was **116** adults and **22** children, the number of communicants was **94**.

The total number attending church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day was **417**, the number of communicants was **0**.

During 2022 there were a total of **1** Baptism, of this **0** was under 1 year of age, There were **2** weddings in 2022 and **1** funeral in church for the whole of the year.

At the APCM in October 2022 there were **114** names on the Electoral Roll.

Fabric Report

The past year has seen much return to (the new) normal. No major refurbishment projects have been undertaken and St Mark's finished the year stronger than it had started it (*not only a Fabric related remark!*).

The **cleanliness** of the Church building has been visibly improved due to the diligence of Elaine Cuthill. Likewise, the toilet areas have remained stocked for all users. Since Covid has receded (in our everyday perceptions, at least) we no longer have to leave already drafty **windows** open when in Church. However, the state of these old fittings, some of which allow rain to drive through, remains a concern and a replacement programme seems inevitable. On top of this a 'Beast from the East' (and I don't refer to a weather system, though December was colder in 2022) initiated things that have dramatically increased our **heating costs**. Further increased usage by church groups and external hirers naturally increased heating and lighting costs.

Our **Audio-Visual systems** have functioned extremely well in 2022 with improved sound and vision, thanks to a committed and skilled team. The year ended with plans for an overhaul of cabling, sockets and general storage of sound equipment on the dais. Vigilance, good reporting and regular **internal maintenance** have kept heaters, taps and toilets functioning and we remain particularly grateful to Steve Leek and Tom Bird for so many actions.

Externally, the state of the building and grounds remain good. A leaking gutter and overgrown bushes are in our sights for 2023. Again, routine maintenance (e.g. clearing leaves from drains and ledges) has paid off. A **defibrillator** was fitted to a front wall last Spring.

Internally, **storage** remains a problem, largely due to the inexorable and wonderful growth of '**Refresh**': they have so much to get out and put away every week and naturally look for shortest routes. In addition to Refresh, the main church is used on several days and furniture removal and replacement teams are kept active. The main **chairs** are now all back in the building and they're of sound construction, though making them heavy, has stood the test of regular upheaval. The Monday morning '**Open Church**' group has expanded during the year and has provided a warm space in so many ways. The **piano** used primarily at 08.45 services and by The Woodthorpe Singers is now a redeployed one. It is more tuneful and lighter to shift!

The productive and proactive group that is **Fabric Committee** has been reconvened. Following the 'loss' of Rich Bull an **Eco-Church** Group was on the runway by the end of 2022.

John Sargent – Church Warden

Church Hall Report

Introduction

Looking back on 2022, it was the year that we moved ever nearer what we might call 'normality', following nearly two years of restrictions imposed because of the Covid pandemic. The wearing of masks, hand sanitising, social distancing and ventilating rooms were still evident, but as the year progressed they became less and less of a burden. The organisations which had chosen to use the church hall at St Mark's continued to offer their services and, for the most part, went from strength to strength, ensuring their viability. The impact of this was that some groups, because of time and space availability, have relocated additional sessions to the church building.....good news for St Mark's as this generates additional income.

User profile

Various parts of the church hall accommodation are used every day of the week. The majority of the activities are booked on a regular basis, with the exception of school holidays and weekends. Here is a typical example:

Sunday	Children's groups (CYM) in the morning, using all rooms. Older youth group (Edge) in the evening, using all the rooms. Birthday/celebration parties in the afternoon by arrangement
Monday	Lullababy using the Main Hall all morning until just after lunchtime KS Dance Academy using the main and small halls from late afternoon until 8.30pm.
Tuesday	KS Dance Academy using the main hall only until 11am. Zumba using the main hall for two hours in the evening.
Wednesday	Tiny Talk using the main hall from 10am until lunchtime. KS Dance Academy using the main and large halls from 4.30pm until 8.30pm.
Thursday	Little Legs using the main hall mid-morning only. Woodthorpe Brownies using the main hall early evening only.
Friday	BeBops using the main hall for two hours in the morning. Woodthorpe Beaver Scouts using the main and small halls early evening (Oct.-March)
Saturday	Birthday parties and other celebrations

Tiny Talk and **Zumba** offer additional sessions in the church. **Woodthorpe Singers** are based in the church permanently on Monday evenings.

Other organisations book rooms occasionally, including Thursday Club, Gedling BC for elections, Lydia prayer group etc.

Maintenance

The church hall is maintained on a daily basis according to need by our cleaner, **Elaine Cuthill**. We are very fortunate that she is both highly efficient and flexible in her hours of working. Apart from day-to-day routine maintenance issues, the only major changes in 2022 were as follows:

An **electric range cooker** was installed in the main kitchen following the failure of the industrial gas cooker. The cost of repair to an obsolete cooker was deemed not to be cost effective, bearing in mind that there are now very few occasions when full cooking facilities are required. The new addition will serve its purposes as well as negating any need for the use of gas.

Following problems with the lighting in the ladies' toilets, our electrician has installed an automatic LED lighting system. This is far more energy efficient, with the lights only coming on when movement sensed.

It will be a longer-term objective to replace windows which are not double-glazed, especially in view of the high cost of energy. To help to minimise the cost of electricity, the thermostats in the main hall, small and back rooms have been reduced to 17 degrees.

Conclusion

As always, many thanks to **Ann Gorman**, our administrator, for her excellent work in managing the enquiries, bookings and invoicing which support significant income for the church.

Bryan Mallows – Church Hall Manager

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a priority at St Mark's.

We are committed to following the principles of the House of Bishop's Policy for Safeguarding Children and Young People and Adults.

Our aim to ensure that children and adults are kept safe whilst in our care, whether in church, or meeting on-line, and this is an integral part of our church life. We endeavour to do this through good working practice, including the safe recruitment of workers, as laid out in our C&YP and Adults Policies and Procedures, copies of which are on display on the Church Noticeboard or can be obtained from the Church Office.

All Church Officers, Employed Staff and Volunteers are required to have a DBS, if appropriate, and to keep up to date with the required safeguarding training as set out by Southwell Diocese.

We also have procedures in place to ensure that all users and hirers of our Church and Church Hall Premises adhere to the same principles regarding safeguarding.

Safeguarding is an agenda item at each of our PCC meetings and is reviewed regularly by the PCC.

If you wish to speak to somebody about safeguarding, please speak to our Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator, Pat Simpson, via the Church Office on 0115 9267859.

Mission Committee

Following a short illness, we were deeply saddened at Rosemary Cottingham's passing. However, Rosemary died peacefully in the full knowledge that she would spend eternity with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Rosemary's heart for mission inspired so many.

Thank you to all who supported Burundi Sunday, which raised £2398.

Our partnership with Azaria Spencer in Guatemala was celebrated in January.

St Mark's continues to give away 10% of planned giving to the following charitable partners: Church Mission Society (Azaria), Hope into Action (Dove House), Tearfund, Safe Families, Barnabas Fund and Age UK.

Please pray for wisdom for the Mission Committee as they discern the way forward.

Gedling Deanery Synod Report

Synod met via zoom on March 9th, but we were thrilled to resume in person meetings on June 22nd and November 16th. In addition to our focus on Mission, we were visited by Robert Cleave, Diocesan Environment Officer, who gave a presentation about the importance of caring for creation. 2022 saw the launch of the Parish Refresh process to discern the next steps in our strategy for growing disciples. At each meeting, news from around the Deanery and from Diocesan Synod is shared. We hold discussions in small groups, and we pray for each other. We receive regular reports from Diocesan Synod with Revd. Sam Hustwayte still in post as Chair, as well as our lay representatives Michael, Peter, David and Muriel continuing to serve alongside Revd. John Allister. We also circulate regular reports from General Synod.

Revd. Margaret Caunt retired from St Mary's Arnold and Revd. Mic Johnson from All Hallows Gelding and Holy Trinity Lambley; Revd. Debs Moyet went to Canada to be Associate Minister at The Church of Our Lord, Victoria in Canada and Outreach Director at Street Hope, Victoria. Lay Chair Tony Mellor stepped down and we thank him for his work. The post of Lay Chair is currently still vacant.

Churches in vacancy- Netherfield continues in vacancy, joined by Carlton, Colwick, Lambley, Gedling and Arnold. Our churches in vacancy have continued their commitment to church life, with support from retired clergy and hardworking lay teams.

The post of Deanery Treasurer is still vacant. Please consider prayerfully whether you know anyone suited to this role. Encourage them to talk to our Area Dean, John Allister.

Across the Deanery, we were able to meet just 67.8% of our share allocation, with three churches managing 100% despite recent difficulties, which was greatly appreciated. After significant discussion and consultation, we continued to trial apportioning Parish Share for 2023 on an 'offer based' approach. Changes were made to the 'suggested' figures, using a formula based on 'agreed principles'. We recognise that this system was fair, while not perfect, and that many churches would not be able to meet their allocation.

2022 also saw the return of the popular Deanery Quiz. John made a demanding quiz master, and £190.20 was raised for Ukraine. There were teams from St Paul's Carlton le Willows, St Jude's Mapperley, St John's Carlton, St James' Porchester, St Paul's Daybrook, and St Mark's Woodthorpe. There were 17 teams, and approx. 100 people had a very enjoyable, if taxing, evening! We plan to hold another very soon!

Refresh Community Café



Refresh Community Café opens its doors to families/carers and their under 5s every Wednesday morning during term time. The aim of the café is to refresh parents and carers physically, emotionally and spiritually.



Fresh pastries and hot drinks are provided as well as snacks for the children. Whilst the children play, adults can catch up with friends and get to know others in the community. The Refresh café team spend time building relationships with those that come, sharing the love of God by welcoming them, listening, and offering prayer. It has been a privilege this year to see God at work as we journey with these families.

At the end of the morning, members of the team offer a short thought for the day based around a Bible verse before we enjoy a time of singing together. A new venture this year has been the introduction of Refresh Church, a half termly Refresh Community Café where we share 'church' together in place of our normal singing session. An interactive half an hour where the gospel message is presented in an engaging way for families using puppets, stories and song. It has been appreciated by all who have attended and is now a regular feature of our programme.



Refresh Community Café now welcomes around 45 families every Wednesday and has a Facebook page with over 200 followers. We are very grateful to all those who help enable Refresh Community Café to share God's love with families in our community.

Thursday Club

It was such a relief in 2022 finally to emerge from the constraints imposed by the Covid pandemic. With Senior Citizens identified as one of the most at-risk categories, it was important to continue to tread carefully, building on the resumption of our monthly programme of activities at the latter end of 2021.

So it was that we were able to hold a full programme of monthly meetings on Thursday afternoons, using either the church or church hall depending on the type of activity. We were delighted to welcome members of the former Woodthorpe Wives Group who decided to join us, based on the fact that we had everything organised, including a solid funding base. This obviously helped the club to swell its numbers, with a regular attendance of approximately 40 members.

By and large, the Thursday Club team decided to offer a consistent meeting time of 2.30pm, usually on the 3rd Thursday of every month. The format was consistent with some form of entertainment offered, followed by tea/coffee and cakes and an opportunity to interact socially with others. It was so gratifying to receive offers of baking homemade cakes from some of the members.

However, we did change the status quo on a few occasions, offering a Fish and Chip Lunch in March and September, a salad lunch in August, a Garden Party in June to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and St Mark's Diamond Jubilee and Christmas Lunch at Ramsdale Park Golf Club in December which was attended by 90 people from the wider church community! These final two events were certainly the highlights of the year, photographs of which below give a flavour of sharing enjoyable times together.



Other entertainments during the year consisted of several talks, ranging from Afternoon Tea Etiquette with the Baroness Bolsover, how to use our recently installed defibrillator, 'Container Gardening' with the Head Gardener from Hodsock Priory to an insight into the diary of a Victorian lady. We also welcomed musical performances from the Stanza Singers and members of local jazz group, Burlington Live.

Please encourage others to join us where they will always receive a friendly welcome. Further details can be found on the church website and by contacting Bryan Mallows on 07884 062337 or bryan.mallows@ntlworld.com.

Men@stmarks

St Mark's has a group our parish.

We meet at 9am on the for breakfast at a local around 15/18 men

We are hoping to add the year now lockdown events are on our web page 'men@stmarks'



specifically for the men in

first Saturday of the month eatery and usually get coming along.

other meetings throughout has passed, and all of our site and our Facebook

For more information contact Alan at menatstmarks@virginmedia.com

"Julian" Prayer Meeting

These are silent prayer meetings held in church on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm and lasting 30 minutes, this is time between those who come and God in a prayerful atmosphere. We start with a short reading and then enter 30 minutes of silence, ending with some music and the Grace. We do not share what we have prayed about or anything we may have received from the Lord.

Silence is essential, so we encourage people to be there for a prompt start and refreshments are available afterwards. These are Ecumenical meetings, so everyone is welcome to come to them.

Open Church

Open Church is on a Monday morning from 10am until noon.

It is a warm space for people to enjoy a chat with friends with refreshments provided, spend quiet time in church or light a candle and pray.

In January we celebrated a year of opening on a Monday and the feedback from people attending has been very positive, it has deepened friendships and allowed people to make new connections. We have enjoyed doing crafts with the help of Jane on the occasional Mondays.

We had up to 24 people attending with an average of 12 and counting!



St Mark's
Woodthorpe

Journeying together in Faith

Annual Accounts

2022

Financial Review

2022 has been another challenging year with Covid 19 still being about and having to have good ventilation in buildings and some people being wary to mix with groups. The energy costs for 2022 have been higher than 2021, but that's to be expected with the hype in fuel costs and the cost-of-living inflation. However, our ministry has continued to progress and new initiatives have been developed including Open Church which provides a warm space for the community and Refresh Community Café for parents and young children. The hire of the Church and Church Hall for community events has generated a very helpful income as well as providing venues for community groups and parties.

We were fortunate to be given two grants towards our children and youth work, which is growing, and we have been able to appoint a Children and Youth Minister as well as having an Intern. These grants have helped fund the staff and ministry.

Our voluntary receipts for 2022 were down on 2021, mainly due to the economic and cost of living climate as well as some members retiring from full-time work. It has been encouraging to welcome some new members who have moved into the neighbourhood. We are very grateful for the way our church members contribute to the ministry of St Mark's – so many give of their time, gifts and talents as well as financially.

Jackie Carey - Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mark's, Woodthorpe

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on the attached pages, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

Respective Responsibilities of members of the PCC

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records and for preparing the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

You are also responsible for determining whether, in respect of the year (and the preceding two years), the PCC meets the conditions for exemption from an audit of the accounts set out in section 144(1) of the Act and the Regulations, and for providing me with information and explanations required for my examination.

Responsibilities of the Independent Examiner

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145 of the Charities Act 2011.

That examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

- a. accounting records were not kept in respect of St Mark's, Woodthorpe as required by section 130 of the Charities Act 2011
- b. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- c. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

*Flona Myers – CGMA
Can be contacted via St Mark's Office
Date: 6th March 2023*

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The Financial statements 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

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 for which they are given. Where such funds are not invested separately, any interest earned is retained in the general account.

Unrestricted Funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are claimed on a quarterly basis and recognised when the income resource to which they relate are received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. All other income is recognised when it is received.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if the award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts (in accordance with s.298 Charities Act 2011)

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Church Wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are in alienable property. Listed in the church's inventory, this can be inspected (at any reasonable time). Other assets, such as office equipment, are either deemed to have no residual value, or are written off when purchased their cost being less than £1,000.

There are no investments, other than those shown in the accounts with the Central board of Finance.

St Mark's Church

Financial Statement Comparison with Prior Year

	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>
	<u>Year End</u>		<u>Prior Year</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	1306		3128
Bank Acc	37253		24406
Petty Cash	1		1
CBF Interest Acc - Projects	31871		31871
CBF Interest Acc - Church Fabric/CHIM	0		977
CBF Interest Acc - General Investments	10142		10142
CBF Equity Investments - UK Equity	27249		27249
CBF Investments - Investment	32647		32647
CBF Investments - Property	15451		15451
	<u>155919</u>		<u>145872</u>
 Current Liabilities			
Creditors - Short term	103		838
	103		838
 Current Assets less Current Liabilities:	155816		145034
Total Assets less Current Liabilities:	155816		145034
Long Term Liabilities	0		0
 Total Assets less Total Liabilities:	<u>155816</u>		<u>145034</u>
 Funds			
General Fund	139691		142998
Des. Refresh Cafe Fund	1361		0
Reloved			
Des. Organ Repairs Fund	965		1097
EEB Bank Acc Fund	1008		1808
P & L Account	12792		-869
	<u>155817</u>		<u>145034</u>

CBF Equity Fund Income Shares @ 31.12.2022 value £49,837.78 and bid market value £49,800.39

CBF Property Fund Income shares @ 31.12.2022 value £14,927.66 and bid value £14,696.63

C of E Investment Fund Income shares @ 31.12.2022 value £32,532.67 and bid value £32,488.86

St Mark's Church
Receipts and Payments Comparison with Prior Year

	<u>2022</u> <u>Year End</u>	<u>2021</u> <u>Prior Year</u>
Receipts		
VOLUNTARY RECEIPTS: Planned giving	88712	95745
Collections at Services	5608	2040
Gift Aid recovered	19261	23081
Legacies, Miscellaneous	35	1049
GENERATED FUNDS:Funerals; Weddings; Quiet Days	1509	1354
Church Hire; Mission Events	7439	2061
Church Hall	24872	16323
Coffee Bar	75	51
Newsletter, Flowers, Thurs. Club	450	207
Easy Fundraising/Printer Cartridges	201	169
DESIGNATED: Mission/Outreach/RBP	760	2521
Reloved, Refresh Cafe, CYM	6217	2421
Youth & Children Fund	1766	0
RESTRICTED: Giving;CYM;Burundi;Fabric	2889	4991
CBF Investment & Deposit Interest	3677	3357
	<u>163470</u>	<u>155367</u>
Payments		
CHURCH MINISTRY COSTS: Parish Share	87505	91297
Mission charitable giving	10987	12022
Office Administration	1727	2167
Publicity, Website, Broadband etc.	2270	714
Ministry expenses, pastoral, fees, audio	2740	2885
Training, Quiet Days, Away Days	453	70
Children & Youth Ministry	60	206
Tiddlywinks/Refresh Community Cafe	3259	1458
Coffee Bar	445	238
Flowers	324	139
Reloved; Cafe Church	1688	518
RESTRICTED: Burundi	2748	3966
	<u>114206</u>	<u>115679</u>
Overheads		
Salaries, PAYE, Pensions	9983	18851
Accounts subscription	1246	1198
Bank Charges	0	456
Insurance & Licences	2463	2431
Utilities,Waste,Cleaning,Garden,Repairs	10950	8695
Hall Insurance & Licenses	1361	1308
Hall Utilities, Cleaning, Repairs, Equipment	10469	7618
	<u>36472</u>	<u>40557</u>
Net Profit/(Loss):	<u>12792</u>	<u>-869</u>

St Marks Church Hall Prior Year Comparison

	2022 Actual	2021 Prior Year
Receipts		
Hall Regular Bookings	17243	12619
Hall One-Off Bookings	7629	3705
	24872	16323
Payments		
Hall Cleaning	3550	2318
Hall Electric	1734	954
Hall Gas	1396	919
Hall Water	429	279
Hall Repairs & Maintenance	1736	1818
Hall Equipment Purchases	1625	1330
Hall Insurance & Licenses	1361	1308
	11839	8927
Net Profit/(Loss):	13033	7397

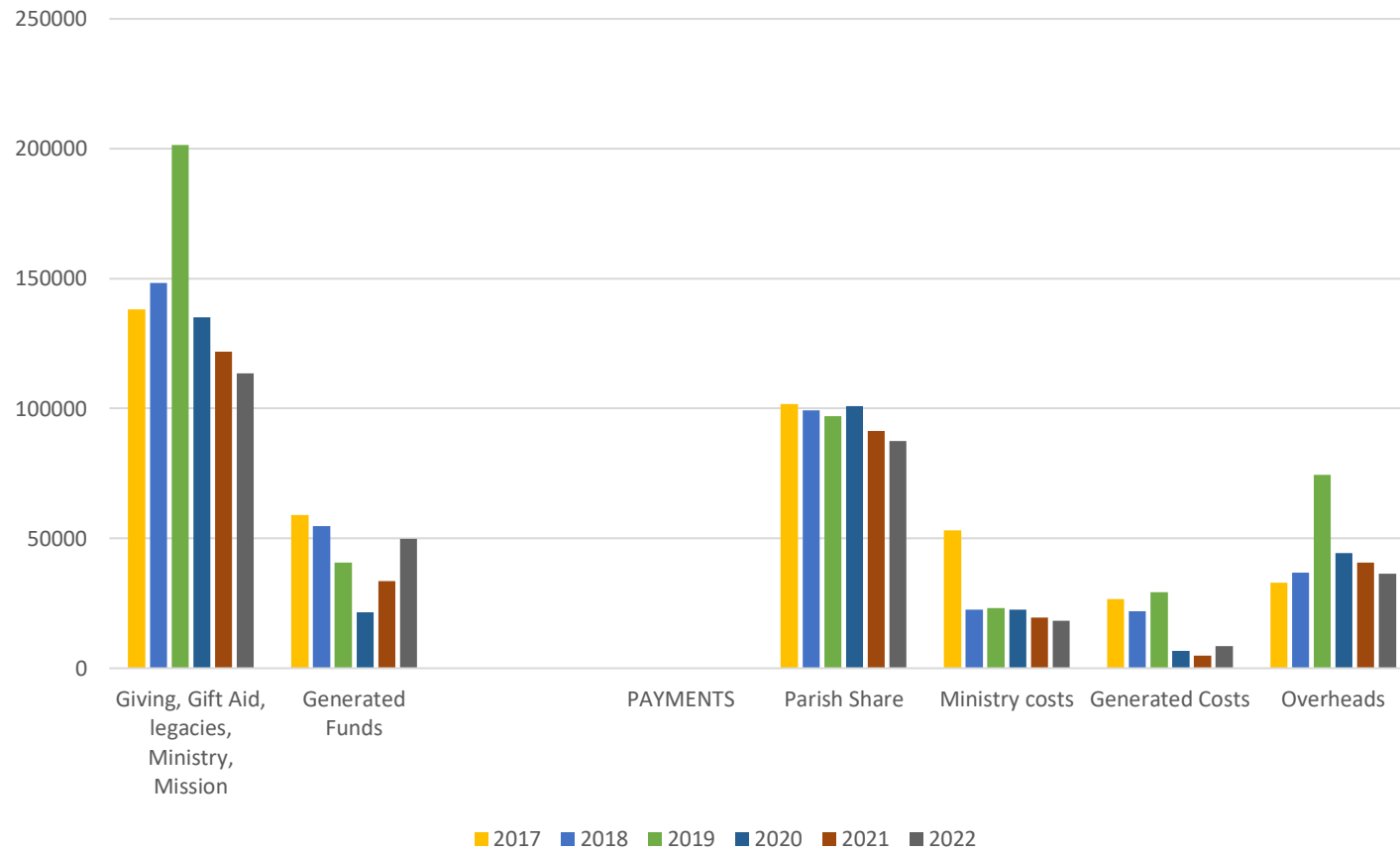
Repairs and Maintenance Itemised

Kitchen taps, valves etc	106
Electrical installation	350
Radiator leak repair	108
Disconnect & remove gas cooker	152
Hall kickplate for damaged wall	23
Electrical remedial work for certificate	195
Service Boilers	390
Kitchen door closer	33
Lights ladies bathroom	378
	1736

Equipment Itemised

Hall wi-fi Jan	20
Hall wifi Feb	20
Leisure Kitchen range cooker	979
Hall wifi March	20
Installation of new cooker	380
Hall wifi April	23
Hall wifi May	22
Hall wifi June	22
Keys, tags x7 lounge	28
Hall wifi July	19
Hall wifi Aug	19
Hall wifi Sept	19
Hall wifi Oct	19
Hall wifi Nov	19
Hall wifi Dec	19
	1625

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS COMPARISONS



Accounts



St Mark's
Woodthorpe

Journeying together in Faith

**ANNUAL REPORTS
AND
ACCOUNTS**

2021

Aims and Purposes

St Mark's Woodthorpe seeks to be a heart for the community. As the only church in the parish, we desire to provide pastoral care, a social space and the opportunity to explore faith, both within and beyond the parish boundary, working ecumenically and holistically with a range of faith and non-faith based organisations.

Objectives and Activities

We have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

As an Anglican Church in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community.

Our aims and purposes are focussed around, although not wholly limited to:

- Discipleship and pastoral care
- Community engagement
- Children and Young People

Vicar's Introduction

Dear friends

"Whenever the cloud lifted from above the tent, the Israelites set out; wherever the cloud settled, the Israelites encamped. At the Lord's command the Israelites set out, and at his command they encamped" (Numbers 9:17-18).

After two years of uncertainty, this Old Testament passage speaks to us about dependence on God. This scripture reminds us not to rush ahead without God's leading, but it also reminds us not to stay put when God is calling us forwards.

The psalmist (Psalm 34:4) declares:

"I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears."

I sought the Lord.

In the Old Testament, God's people were, to a large extent, afraid of His presence. They left it to leaders like Moses to approach God directly.

As followers of Jesus, we need to seek God on a daily basis. On an hour-by-hour basis. God's presence is with us today. Now. Here.

These pages highlight some of the many activities that take place throughout the year at St Mark's. More details can be found on our website: stmarksonline.co.uk or Facebook page: facebook.com/StMarksWoodthorpe

My heartfelt thanks to those who make all of this possible, through generously sharing their time, talents and treasure.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).

Grace and Peace

Rev Matt Roberts

St. Mark's Parochial Church Council

Trustees

The Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. As a result of the Charities Act 2006 St Mark's registered with the Charity Commission in 2009. Our Registered Charity Number is 1131702.

Incumbent	Rev. Matt Roberts	
Curate		
Church Wardens	Mr Bryan Mallows Mr John Sargent	
Members of Deanery Synod	Mr Peter Fisher Mrs Laura Cuthill	
Elected members	Mr Tom Bird Mrs Naomi Burton Mrs Jackie Carey Mrs Andrea Moore Miss Rosemary Cottingham Mrs Laura Cuthill	Mr Peter Fisher Mrs Pat Simpson Mrs Pat Fenton Mr Alan Stuart Mrs Linda Sheppard

Recruitment of trustees – Trustees are ex-officio or elected at the APCM. Those who are ex-officio members have been elected or appointed to the role of Incumbent, Curate, Church Warden or a member of a Synod (Deanery, Diocesan or General). The APCM elects up to 12 people who are members of the Electoral Roll to serve as trustees for one year. Those whose names are nominated for election as proposed and seconded by members of the electoral roll. There is no procedure for identifying specific skills required by the PCC or nominating people who have appropriate skills except on an informal basis for the roles of Treasurer and Secretary.

Induction of new trustees – There is no formal induction procedure in place for new trustees. However, trustees are subject to best practice around safeguarding.

Risk Management – The trustees have not undertaken a Risk Management audit.

Reserves Policy – The policy of this church is to hold in reserve the equivalent of 3 months' running costs of £35,000. It is also our policy to hold £35,000 for possible building works resulting from the Quinquennial inspection. This policy is to be reviewed annually.

PCC Committees – The PCC operates through a number of committees that report to the PCC with recommendations for action. The Vicar is an ex officio member of all committees.

Standing Committee – This is the only committee required by regulation. It has power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any direction given to it by the PCC.

Fabric Committee – This committee is responsible for assisting the Church Wardens in the care and maintenance of the church building and contents.

Mission Committee – The role of this committee is to mobilise the church in understanding its own missional role within the community; overview and coordinate missional activities and events within the Church and parish; enable and support prayer for the Church internationally and locally; coordinate, develop and maintain international mission links; advise PCC regarding the Church's giving/donations to the Church internationally and locally.

Church Hall Management Committee – The committee is responsible for the care, maintenance and improvement of the Church Hall, promotion and publicity of the premises and reviewing the conditions of letting and hire charges.

Appointment of Officers

PCC Vice-Chair	Bryan Mallows
Secretary	Ann Gorman
Treasurer	Jackie Carey
Insurance	Bryan Mallows
Electoral Roll	Ann Gorman
Gift Aid Treasurer	Howard Lea
Cashier	Howard Lea
Health & Fire Safety Officer	Ron Myers
Communications Officer	Alan Stuart
Safeguarding and DBS Administration	Pat Simpson
Gedling Deanery Synod	Peter Fisher – Laura Cuthill

Appointments to Sub-Committees

	Chair	PCC members	Other members
Fabric	John Sargent	Bryan Mallows Tom Bird Pat Fenton Alan Stuart	Vicki Hardy Steve Leek
Mission	Matt Roberts	Rosemary Cottingham Naomi Burton	Steve Leek Laura Cuthill
Church Hall Management	Bryan Mallows	Tom Bird John Sargent	Jane Danvers Ann Gorman Vicki Hardy
Standing	Matt Roberts	Bryan Mallows Alan Stuart John Sargent Jackie Carey	

Church Attendance and Other Statistics

During 2021 we commissioned a team to go with our curate, Rev Jack Bull, to graft into St Paul's Daybrook. A total of **28** people, including children, have joined St Paul's from St Mark's. Our worshipping community is now: **22** Children (0-10), **16** Young People (11-17), **83** Adults (18-69) and **43** Adults (70+).

The total number attending worship on Easter Day was **52** (Covid-19 pandemic).

The total number attending church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day was **230**.

There were **0** Baptisms, **1** wedding, and **5** funerals during 2021.

There were **111** names on the Electoral Roll at the 2021 APCM.

Fabric Report

This is a report on a 'slightly more normal' year than the previous one, but everything that has happened at St. Mark's has had to take Covid-19 and the consequent social protection measures into account. This has usually increased workloads and responsibilities. I am compiling this report having been off the pitch for the second half of the year. One player is rarely replaced with two or more and the whole Church is indebted to the energies and expertise of Steve Leek and Tom Bird, who have been (and are) a formidable double-act in monitoring and maintaining the fabric of St. Mark's. They, along with the permanently energetic Bryan Mallows, have demonstrated the modern reality that is pop-up work parties!

Routine inspection and maintenance continue to occupy time and energy. During 2021 work was done on the **front entrance door** (bolt, lock and protective varnish) along with repairs to rear and side **blinds**. Church heaters have been serviced and the **water heaters** in the Toilets have been turned back on, us having been advised to shut them off, previously. In the toilet area 'faulty' (*read overzealous!*) **lights** have monitored and adjusted. The opening **side windows** have been used daily to increase ventilation and every time many of them fail to close properly. Serious attention to the replacement of these already draughty and in 2021, thankfully not quite so leaky, must be a priority, particularly in terms of energy efficiency

Early in 2021 I started to address the extent and nature of internal **Storage**, attempting both **creation and rationalisation**: we have more and we need it together! Work begun by me in the Vestibule cupboards, Organ Loft, Basement and Sheds was picked up, improved on and finished by Steve and Tom. In the vestibule the cupboards, high and low, have been more clearly designated and a lockable stand-alone cupboard for Office use alone is now present. There is an inventory of what is where!

A **Spring Clean** to supplement the excellent work of Elaine Cuthill, was done in the Spring by Ruth and Diana with help from 'The Wardens'. With a certain departure the **Re-ordering of rear of Church** has largely stalled and is now in need of a new vision.

The increased **Use of Church mid-week** has been a major factor in the weekly pattern. Monday to Friday one or two regular users appear: some from Church Hall overspill but most from new initiatives.

Much focus has been on the **Audio-Visual equipment** in, centred around the Sound-desk and maintaining quality projection. We know much more about the esoteric sound system and have a new laptop to ensure greater reliability in projection. Regarding projection, Steve Sheppard, along with Steve, Tom and Alan Stuart, in both A and V aspects, are all to be thanked for their tenacity! The need to enhance the 'skeleton staff' with new volunteers remains a priority.

We have an abundance of **pianos** (*is that an 'accompaniment'?*) and they are now strategically located in order of quality having all been serviced and tuned.

Steve L has directed work in the Tower rooms and to enhance the lighted cross. The timer has been relocated and is now considerably more accessible and efficient, making the BST changes much easier.

We continue to monitor the **External fabric** and there has been work done on the **Office/Vestry area downpipes**, where a hopper has been blocked for some time and **Drain covers**. In regard of **Security**, Alan Stuart helped to erect a new camera and solar panel on the church hall front elevation pointing across the carpark.

Maintenance work has continued in the **Church Grounds**. In addition to the work of our gardener and that of John and Jackie Carey, some of the overgrown and untidy areas have been addressed, but there is a growing (!) need for work party evident. The use of bark chips has been suggested.

The **car park signage** has been replaced this year and the information on it is now up to date and consistent with what happens! Repairs were made to the external notice board. Work to replace the Longridge Road sign was put on hold owing to costs.

2021 has been a considerable challenge for me and it is teamwork that has produced the substantial content on which I merely report.

John Sargent

Church Hall Management Committee

Introduction

The pandemic, now in its second year, continued to influence how the church hall could and could not be used. With restrictions continually subject to change according to the emergence of different variants of the virus, we regularly had to hold conversations with our hall hirers and review what was allowed. Social distancing requirements meant that, apart from the main church hall, all other rooms became redundant for hire as being too small. All adult groups continued to be suspended until the summer months, giving the opportunity for children's activities to flourish, albeit still only using the main hall. When some adult groups did eventually return, finding available spaces in the main hall proved to be a real challenge as outlined below.

Management of accessibility

All hall hirers were required to provide their own risk assessments, according to the nature of the activity. By agreement, they also undertook essential cleaning of touch points, toilet protocols and entrance/exit strategies. Our cleaner, **Elaine Cuthill**, has continued to provide an excellent service by working flexibly around the hours of occupancy to ensure that the highest standards of cleanliness have been maintained. With the expansion of a variety of children's groups, we had some difficult conversations with some of our adult groups when they decided they wanted to return. However, we tried to offer different options if their 'normal' time slot was no longer available. All but two adult groups complied. **Woodthorpe Singers** agreed to move into the main church building on Monday evenings. **Asian Elders** declined alternative arrangements and sadly moved to other premises. **Pilates** (Claire Johnson) opted to continue offering her sessions in this area via Zoom. To facilitate further accessibility using the church, many thanks to dedicated 'chairs' team (principally **Tom Bird**, **Gillian Buck**, **Pat Fenton** and myself), all the chairs are moved to the side aisles EVERY WEEK to create a central space and returned to their positions in readiness for Sunday services.

User profile

As highlighted above, the majority of activities operating in the church hall are centred around children. **KS Dance Academy** continues to thrive as our biggest client, offering a wide variety of dance-related sessions, ranging from toddlers right up to older teenagers. Another very successful children's group is **Tiny Talk** for mothers and toddlers, now operating sessions both in the church hall (Wednesdays) and the church (Fridays). **Lullababy** (Mondays), **Little Legs** (Thursdays) and **BeBops** (Fridays) complete the picture of independent hirers.

As regards uniformed organisations, we now only accommodate two groups. **Woodthorpe Brownies** returned in September on Thursdays and **Woodthorpe Beavers** followed on Fridays in October.

Following the lifting of restrictions on large group gatherings, the hall has hosted a large number of parties in the latter part of the year, particularly at weekends. With a large hall, kitchen and dedicated car park, the venue is very popular for both children's/adult parties, increasing church revenue.

An additional **Zumba** group now uses the space in the church building on Thursdays, following the use of the same space by **Refresh** on Wednesdays for mothers and babies/toddlers...a brilliant innovation!

Repairs and maintenance

Not much to report on this front as the main kitchen has been mothballed for the majority of the year. However, the small kitchen has had a makeover, with a new double sink unit and cupboards, removal of the large, antiquated hot water tank and installation of two separate undercounter heaters to provide hot water on demand...far more energy efficient.

Other improvements include the replacement of further double-glazed units which had failed in the Garden Room and Hallway. Also, the installation of a wifi security camera overlooking the car park.

Conclusion

Many thanks to **Ann Gorman**, our administrator, for her dedication and support in helping to manage this facility, skilfully dealing with all the trials and tribulations in this uncertain world.

Bryan Mallows - Church Hall Manager

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a priority at St. Mark's.

We are committed to following the principles of the House of Bishop's Policy for Safeguarding Children and Young People and Adults.

Our aim to ensure that children and adults are kept safe whilst in our care, whether in church, or meeting on-line, and this is an integral part of our church life. We endeavour to do this through good working practice, including the safe recruitment of workers, as laid out in our C&YP and Adults Policies and Procedures, copies of which are on display on the Church Noticeboard or can be obtained from the Church Office.

All Church Officers, Employed Staff and Volunteers are required to have a DBS, if appropriate, and to keep up to date with the required safeguarding training as set out by Southwell Diocese.

We also have procedures in place to ensure that all users and hirers of our Church and Church Hall Premises adhere to the same principles regarding safeguarding.

Safeguarding is an agenda item at each of our PCC meetings and is reviewed regularly by the PCC.

If you wish to speak to somebody about safeguarding, please speak to our Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator, Pat Simpson, via the Church Office on 0115 9267859.

Mission Committee

As a sub-committee of the PCC, the Mission Committee has continued to have lively and productive discussions and to look creatively at mission locally and globally.

The Easter trail on Good Friday last year and the Christmas tree festival, held in association with Mapperley Plains Primary School, proved to be very successful community events and attracted large numbers of people to St Mark's.

An organ recital in the summer given by Richard Marsden, a former organist at St Mark's, and held in conjunction with Thursday Club helped raise funds for roofing materials for churches in Burundi. The proceeds went along with the money given on Burundi Sunday to support St Mark's, Gahosha's sub-parish of Gakwende with iron sheets to roof their Church. It was with sadness that we learned of considerable damage to the Church following a violent storm at the end of February this year, just as the roofing work was nearing completion.

Congratulations were sent to the newly elected Archbishop of Burundi, the Most Reverend Sixbert Macumi.

As part of a series of sermons on generosity we linked up with Azaria Spencer, our CMS Mission partner in Guatemala, to find out about her work with Street Children Direct helping vulnerable children and youth living on the streets. CMS is one of St Mark's nominated charities and our giving helps to support Azaria's ministry.

Mission partners have been the focus of the monthly "Person to pray for" now featured in the weekly e-mail.



As with many activities over the past 12 months things have sometimes had to be curtailed or adapted due to Covid 19 and resulting imposed restrictions.

The committee thanks Steve Leek for all that he has contributed during his time on Mission Committee and looks forward to working closely with him at future events. We are pleased that in the near future two new members will be joining the committee.

The Committee is grateful for all the support and encouragement given during the year.

Gedling Deanery Synod Report

Synod met on March 25th, June 17th and November 17th via zoom, though in person meetings were discussed.

We have maintained a focus on mission, along with how we reach out to our communities as we recover from the impact of the pandemic. This has included hearing about a regular community littler pick organised by St Jude's, Mapperley and an after-school club in Colwick and Carlton. At each meeting, news from around the Deanery and from Diocesan Synod is shared. We hold discussions in small groups, and we pray for each other.

This year, we said goodbye to Revd. Amanda Digman, who has moved to Birstall and Wanlip. We welcomed Revd. Mike Forsyth as vicar at St James, Porchester. Revd. Jack Bull was installed as Priest in Charge at St Paul's Daybrook, when she finished her curacy at St Mark's Woodthorpe. Our churches in vacancy have continued their commitment to church life, with support from retired clergy and hardworking lay teams.

Our links to Diocesan Synod have strengthened with Revd. Sam Hustwayte being elected as Chair, as well as our lay representatives Michael, Peter, David, Muriel and Tony continuing to serve alongside Revd. John Allister. Additionally, Gavin Drake from our deanery was elected to General Synod.

In November our Deanery Treasurer, David Yates, resigned from his role, although remaining a member of Synod in his capacity as a member of Diocesan Synod. We thanked him for his years of service, and encouraged people to consider who might be suited to stand as treasurer in his stead. Those interested should contact the Deanery Administrator or the Area Dean.

Across the Deanery, we were able to meet just over 81% of our share allocation, with some churches able to meet 100% despite recent difficulties, which was greatly appreciated. After significant discussion and consultation, we changed our method of apportioning Parish Share for 2022 to an 'offer based' approach.

Children's and Youth Ministry (CYM)

Once again, we have completed another difficult year offering CYM support to our young people here at St Mark's. Covid restrictions have derailed many plans we had and also losing key personnel and numbers to help St Paul's, Daybrook relaunch meant that we needed to regroup and pray into the way forward. We managed to continue with our groups although it was decided to merge the infants and juniors together to help with resource and volunteers worked tirelessly keeping the various groups going. With covid restricting our young people attending services it meant full hour plus sessions having to be given and although it was a strain, our wonderful team managed to cope.

Despite frequent advertising the post of Children and Youth worker at St Mark's remained vacant in 2021 although a temporary coordinator was appointed in December. During the early part of

2022, covid restrictions were somewhat lifted and both our children's workers and young people were able to attend the main church at St Mark's during services.

This seemed to be a turning point in CYM work. We have at last recruited a Children and Youth worker Beth Hampshire (soon to be Mrs Beth Bevan) who starts her role on the 25th April. The older youth group The Edge is going from strength to strength and a demand to meet weekly on Sunday nights is being addressed. The Creche team are a wonderful group and having witnessed both children and parents enjoying the fellowship and having the opportunity to worship knowing their toddler is safe and happy is a real blessing. Key personnel are in the near future going to address ways and means of enhancing our offering to the infants and juniors but again having witnessed the commitment, love, and energy to this role we are fortunate to have such a team that is so driven in sharing the love of Christ and planting seeds that will blossom and witness for future generations.

Likewise, our Younger Youth group are both creative and challenging. They rightly have a concern for the environment and need a lot of nurturing with regards to playing a bigger role in the main body of St Mark's. Something for Beth to help with in the near future.

Finally, I would encourage members of the congregation of St Mark's to visit the various groups and take ownership of the whole body of Christ and support both our helpers and our young people with encouragement, prayer and resource. I sincerely believe that God's spirit is working among our groups, and we will see remarkable things as we listen and act and discern God's plans.

The Light cannot be extinguished.

David Simpson

Refresh



Every Wednesday morning, we welcome parents/carers and their under 5s into St Mark's Church for Refresh Community Café. The café started in September 2021 and builds on the success of Tiddlywinks providing opportunities for parents and carers to be refreshed physically, emotionally and spiritually. The long-standing toddler group which met in the church hall, kindly donated toys and funds when they closed in the summer which enabled us to source items required such as non-spill cups, tablecloths and T-shirts printed with the church logo for the team.

The church is transformed into a huge play space with café area on Tuesday evening thanks to an amazingly dedicated team who move chairs and set up toy areas. The Refresh Café team meets at 9.30am every Wednesday (term time only) to chat and pray before the doors are opened at 10am.

The café provides space to play, time to chat, fresh pastries and hot drinks. Whilst the children play, adults can enjoy refreshments and build new friendships with others. The Refresh café team spend time building relationships with those that come, sharing the love of God by welcoming them, listening, and offering prayer.

During the morning, we stop for a thought for the day which is led by members of the team. We will share a testimony, a favourite Bible verse or use a short video clip as a stimulus for a thought-provoking talk. At the end of the morning, we gather to sing. A highlight of the year was our Christmas party where we dressed up as nativity characters in our nativity photo booth and enjoyed a visit from Santa.

Refresh Community Café welcomes around 40 families every Wednesday and has a Facebook page with 170 followers. Our team has grown as we have welcomed others from the community who have offered their support. We are very grateful to all those who help enable Refresh Community Café to serve the families in our community.

'It is such a welcoming friendly place – a lovely community'

Parent, Refresh Community Café



Thursday Club

Looking back on 2021, the second year of the pandemic, the St.Mark's Thursday Club for Senior Citizens continued to flourish against all the odds. Although the programme of regular monthly meetings was once again thrown into turmoil, we managed to maintain contact through a variety of means. Amongst highlights of the year were a Summer Garden Party in June, an organ recital kindly given by Richard Marsden in August supporting Burundi, an illustrated talk by Vince Eager entitled 'You're Never Too Old to Rock 'n Roll' and a splendid Christmas Lunch at Ramsdale Park Golf Club for over 60 guests.

We have continued to welcome new members, increasing attendance to over 40 on most occasions, thanks to the strong support of existing members and the dedication of the 'team'. Very sadly, we lost two of our longest serving members....Michael Wright, former church organist, and Alan Rowe, our oldest member who celebrated his 100th birthday in April.



We are optimistic that our regular activities will return to some form of normality in 2022. Already, a full programme of monthly meetings has been arranged, generally on the third Thursday of every month. Some form of entertainment is generally provided and, just to provide a flavour, we can look forward to a visit from the Head Gardener of Hodsock Priory, a Garden Party to celebrate St.Mark's 60th Anniversary, a presentation on how to use our recently installed defibrillator and the return of 60's popstar Vince Eager to enlighten us about 'Life after Eurovision'!

Please encourage others to join us where they will always receive a friendly welcome. Further details can be found on the church website and by contacting Bryan Mallows (bryan.mallows@ntlworld.com or 07884 062337)

Church Friendship Group

Our group has been running for six years, usually meeting monthly. It started with families of primary school age children, but has expanded as our children got older and new younger additions have arrived at St Marks! The first aim was to encourage the children to develop lasting friendships - to encourage a lifelong commitment to church, but we also want to welcome children outside church. However, another key benefit has been the opportunity for parents to meet, chat and support one another, while drinking lots of tea!

Our WhatsApp group also provided a source of information, encouragement and prayer, especially during lockdown.

Things have inevitably been quieter during covid, however we have recently started meeting again - after school on a Friday (roughly once each half term), at the Pratt's house, where the children play board games or crazy games of hide and seek. We also hope to start up outings again as we have in the past - these have included walks and trips to local family friendly venues.



Numbers vary, but the group has seen approximately 18 children in total attend in the last year, plus parents.

Please contact Jo Pratt or Kari Lao if you wish to be added to the group.

Men @ stmarks

St. Mark's has a group specifically for the men in our parish.

The group has been in hibernation during lockdown but we have recently started meeting again for breakfast at a local eatery and usually get around 10 men coming along.

We hope to add other meetings throughout the year and all of our events are on our web site and our Facebook page 'men@stmarks'

For more information contact Alan at menatstmarks@virginmedia.com

Reloved

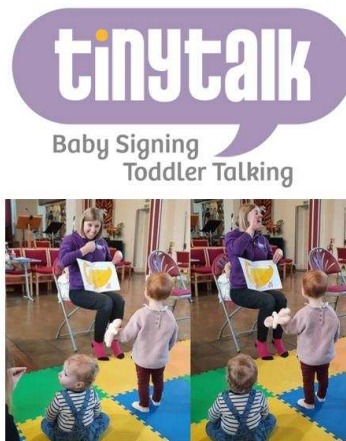
Reloved is a sale of nearly new, good quality children's clothes, books, toys and equipment which is held at St Mark's twice a year in March and October. It is run by a team of women from St Mark's, with huge support from many church members, as well as our community of volunteer helpers from amongst the sellers. At each sale we have had approximately 200 buyers from the local area. Due to restrictions in place during the pandemic the sale did not run in March 2021 and was held as a car boot style sale in October 2021, during which the ReLoved Café was born! The sale and café together raised £435.00 for charitable causes. Half of the funds raised have gone towards the children's work at St Mark's and half towards different children's charities. Following the October sale we again supported the Angel Tree project - buying Christmas presents for the children of men who are in prison. We feel that God really blesses our sales, in many practical ways, but also by giving us a great connection to many people in the local community who might otherwise never set foot in church. It is also a great blessing to us, in serving God and building very special friendships.

Tiny Talk

TinyTalk Baby Signing (suitable from birth to 18 months/2years) & Toddler Talking Classes (18months/2years plus) taking place on Wednesdays & Fridays in term time.

St Mark's Church Hall – Wednesdays - 10am Toddler Talking & 11.15am Baby Signing
St Mark's Church – Fridays – 10am Baby Signing & 11.15am Toddler Talking

Maximum class numbers apply of between 15-20 families per class.



Classes involve lots of singing, signing & sensory fun! Each week we follow a different theme in which we focus on a selection of core words & signs. We teach these by singing lots of nursery rhymes and bring them to life with props, puppets and flashcards. We also include a sensory or language-based activity, designed to help support different aspects of Baby's or Toddlers early years developments. The second half of class is social time with toys for the little one to play with whilst the adults get to enjoy a natter over a cuppa and biscuits

The first highlight of 2021 was being able to return to in-person classes for the Summer term, followed by September 2021 social distancing measures relaxing to allow little ones to play & share together again. The second highlight was launching a NEW Friday Toddler Talking class.

Lullababy



LullaBaby Nottingham classes are held in the Main Hall every Monday (9am-2pm) during term time.

Our 5 week 'Step 1 Course' is suitable for babies aged 0-5 months and has a different focus each week; Baby Massage, Tummy Time Techniques, Baby Yoga, Paediatric First Aid Awareness and Sensory Play. On average a Step 1 class contains 10 parents with their babies.

Our Step 2 classes (suitable for babies aged 2-12 months) and Step 3 classes (for crawlers/walkers up to 24 months) have different themes each week eg Pyjama Party, Autumn, Jurassic Jungle. These classes contain a mixture of activities including baby yoga, sensory play, music, Makaton signing. They also include exploratory play and social time. On average each Step 2 class is attended by 15 parents with their babies. Up to 10 parents and carers attend the Step 3 classes. On an average Monday up to 50 parents in total attend Lullababy classes.

LullaBaby Nottingham actually launched at St Mark's in Summer 2021, which was obviously the main highlight for me! It's been wonderful to see the business grow over the past few months. A main priority for me in offering Baby and Toddler development classes is to provide a support network for new parents and a huge highlight is seeing how parents who met through my classes now go off for lunch/ coffee after the classes and have become good friends.

Financial Review

With the Covid-19 pandemic continuing into 2021 we have not been able to welcome as many people back to St Mark's or groups to hire our facilities as prior to the pandemic. The latter part of the year, with restrictions lifted a little, we have been able to use our premises more and it's been a joy to see folk again. However, some people are still very cautious, and as a Church we are ensuring that everyone is safe. The support of our congregation financially and giving of time and talents, is greatly appreciated.

Our utilities expenses are high due to a lot of ventilation still being needed in Church and Hall.

In June we grafted 20+ church members to another church in the Diocese and we're excited seeing God working His purposes out. However, this has affected our income from regular giving by a substantial amount.

With lots of banks closing their local branches and having already been moved from community to business status 3 years previously due to turnover rules set by bank, which involved monthly account charges and transaction charges and these were being increased again, we decided in November to change banks from Barclays to Co-Op who have given us charity status and no charges. We look forward to a good working relationship with our new bank.

*Jackie Carey - Treasurer
February 2022*

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mark's, Woodthorpe

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on the attached pages, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective Responsibilities of members of the PCC

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records and for preparing accounts; you consider that the audit requirements of the Regulations and that section 145 of the Act apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on the financial statements in accordance with the Regulations.

You are also responsible for determining whether, in respect of the year (and the preceding two years), the PCC meets the conditions for exemption from an audit of the accounts set out in section 144(1) of the Act and the Regulations, and for providing me with information and explanations required for my examination.

Responsibilities of the independent examiner

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145 of the Account and can be found in the Church guidance, 2013 edition. That examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- a) accounting records have not been properly kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- b) the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- c) do not comply with the Regulations other than in respect of the requirement for a true and fair view.

Mrs Flona Myers ACMA, CGMA

Can be contacted via St Mark's Office

Date 8th March 2022

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The Financial statements 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

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 for which they are given. Where such funds are not invested separately, any interest earned is retained in the general account.

Unrestricted Funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are claimed on a quarterly basis and recognised when the income resource to which they relate are received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. All other income is recognised when it is received.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if the award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts (in accordance with s.298 Charities Act 2011)

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Church Wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are in alienable property. Listed in the church's inventory, this can be inspected (at any reasonable time). Other assets, such as office equipment, are either deemed to have no residual value, or are written off when purchased their cost being less than £1,000.

There are no investments, other than those shown in the accounts with the Central board of Finance.

St Mark's Church

Financial Statement Comparison with Prior Year

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	<u>Year End</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Current Assets		
Debtors	3128	685
Bank Acc - Barclays	0	27327
Bank Acc - Co-Op	24406	0
Petty Cash	1	1
CBF Interest Acc - Projects	31871	31871
CBF Interest Acc - Church Fabric/CHIM	977	1997
CBF Interest Acc - General Investments	10142	10142
CBF Equity Investments - UK Equity	27249	27249
CBF Investments - Investment	32647	32647
CBF Investments - Property	15451	15451
	<u>145872</u>	<u>147370</u>
Current Liabilities		
Creditors - Short term	838	183
	838	183
Current Assets less Current Liabilities:	145034	147187
Total Assets less Current Liabilities:	145034	147187
Long Term Liabilities	0	0
Total Assets less Total Liabilities:	<u>145034</u>	<u>147187</u>
Funds		
General Fund	142998	159643
Designated Fund	0	408
Designated Thursday Club Fund	0	275
Des. RELOVED Fund	0	547
Des. Organ Repairs Fund	1097	1181
EEB Bank Acc Fund	1808	1000
P & L Account	-869	-17676
	<u>145034</u>	<u>147187</u>

CBF Equity Fund Income shares @ 31.12.2021 value £56487.27 and bid market value £56411.53

CBF Property Fund Income shares @ 31.12.2021 value £16912.00 and bid value £16650.09

C of E Investment Fund Income shares @ 31.12.2021 value £40572.75 and bid value £40528.94

St Mark's Church

Receipts and Payments Comparison with Prior Year

	2021	2020
	Year End	Prior Year
Receipts		
VOLUNTARY RECEIPTS: Planned giving	95745	104972
Collections at Services	2040	4788
Gift Aid recovered	23081	24192
Legacies, Miscellaneous	1049	1200
GENERATED FUNDS: Funerals; Weddings; Quiet Days	1354	1400
Church Hire; Mission Events	2061	72
Church Hall	16323	7132
Coffee Bar	51	19
Newsletter, Flowers, Thurs. Club	207	1087
Easy Fundraising/Printer Cartridges	169	88
DESIGNATED: Mission/Outreach/RBP	2521	1278
Reloved, Refresh Cafe, CYM	2421	1639
Church Hall	0	200
RESTRICTED: Giving; CYM; Burundi; Fabric	4991	5132
CBF Investment & Deposit Interest	3357	3582
	<u>155367</u>	<u>156780</u>
Payments		
CHURCH MINISTRY COSTS: Parish Share	91297	100848
Mission charitable giving	12022	10355
Office Administration	2167	1229
Publicity, Website, Broadband etc.	714	1096
Ministry expenses, pastoral, fees, audio	2885	2070
Training, Quiet Days, Away Days	70	60
Development Fund	0	7167
CYM; Refresh Cafe	1664	529
GENERATED COSTS: Mission Events/Outreach	0	892
Coffee Bar	238	44
Newsletter	0	767
Flowers	139	74
Reloved; Cafe Church	518	1223
RESTRICTED: Burundi	3966	3695
	<u>115679</u>	<u>130049</u>
Overheads		
Salaries, PAYE, Pensions	18851	23722
Accounts subscription	1198	1145
Bank Charges	456	154
Insurance & Licences	2431	2465
Utilities, Waste, Cleaning, Garden, Repairs	8695	8753
Hall Insurance & Licenses	1308	1590
Hall Utilities, Cleaning, Repairs, Equipment	7618	6578
	<u>40558</u>	<u>44407</u>
Net Profit/(Loss):	-869	-17676

St Mark's Church Hall

Comparison with Prior Year

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	<u>Year End</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Receipts		
Hall Regular Bookings	12618	6331
Hall One-Off Bookings	3705	801
Hall Designated	0	200
	<u>16323</u>	<u>7332</u>
Payments		
Hall Cleaning	2318	2331
Hall Electric	954	1135
Hall Gas	919	1038
Hall Water	279	292
Hall Repairs & Maintenance	1818	1581
Hall Equipment Purchases	2013	200
Hall Insurance & Licenses	1308	1590
	<u>9610</u>	<u>8168</u>
Gross Profit/(Loss):	<u>6714</u>	<u>-836</u>
Net Profit/(Loss):	<u>6714</u>	<u>-836</u>

2021 Details

Repairs and Maintenance

Feb C/O Alarm	204
May Casters for piano	32
July Sink unit & cupboards small kitchen	1020
Aug Decorating small kitchen	246
Oct Water filter	9
Oct Entrance porch light	47
Oct Replacement double glazing	260
	<u>1818</u>

Equipment

WiFi broadband in hall	234
Water filter kitchen	19
Defibrillator (Reloved donation + Councillor's donations & community fundraising)	1760
	<u>2013</u>

Note: Church Fundraising designated for
defibrillator & councillor's donations

Plus Reloved donation

£1,399

£650

£2,049

Balance for fitting etc in 2022

£289

Receipts & Payments Comparisons

