

**St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking**

**Annual Report  
and  
Financial Statements  
of the Parochial Church Council**

For the year ended 31 December 2023

*Dear Loving Lord.*  
*You sent Your Son to serve.*  
*You sent Him, to give His life, for each of us.*  
*Let Your spirit awaken our hearts, and give in each of us, that same serving spirit.*  
*Let us not look for position or gain.*  
*Instead show us, how to let others, go before us.*  
*Make us meek, and humble.*  
*So we too can, give our lives, wilfully, obediently, and faithfully to You.*  
*In Love with CHRIST, and in the image of CHRIST.*  
*In Jesus name, Amen.*

Prayer written by Peter Goodwin, Church Warden

**St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking  
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council  
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**Administrative information**

St. Margaret's is situated in The Green, Stanford-le-Hope. It is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St Margaret's Church, The Green, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex SS17 OEP. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission. Registration number: 1132298

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

*Incumbent:* The Revd Thomas Rout (chairman)

*Wardens:* Jacqueline Feeney (to APCM 2023)  
Peter Goodwin  
Richard Allen (from APCM 2023)

*Representatives on  
the Deanery Synod:* David Hamilton  
Mark Wenn

*Elected members:* Kathleen Bienvenu (to APCM 2023)  
Julie Bowley (to July 2023)  
Michael Coakley  
Lyn Fry (to APCM 2023)  
Sue Lester (from APCM 2023)  
Debbie Ling-Chant (to January 2023)  
Ramatu Mavita  
Lilian Mitchell  
Anita Nuss  
Norman Pickett  
Denise Wenn (to APCM 2023)

## **St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### **Structure, governance and management**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Margaret's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, churchwardens, deanery synod representatives and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to consider standing for election to the PCC.

### **Aims and purposes**

St. Margaret's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Tom Rout in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the buildings and grounds of St. Margaret's, The Green, Stanford-le-Hope and our part of the churchyard at St John the Baptist, Mucking.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to build a relationship with God through Jesus Christ and to become part of our parish community at St Margaret's. The PCC maintains an overview of mission and ministry throughout the area and makes suggestions on how our ministry can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services seek to put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of Christianity. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for all people regardless of background or status.
- Missionary and outreach work.

As part of this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the buildings and grounds of St Margaret's, Stanford-le-Hope and our part of the churchyard at St John the Baptist, Mucking.

### **Achievements and performance**

#### **Church attendance**

All are welcome to attend our regular services. The AGM of October 2023 reported, there are 103 (107 in 2022) parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. The average weekly attendance was 61 adults (61 in 2022).



**St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking  
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council (continued)  
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

***Review of the PCC year***

The full PCC met nine times during the year (eight in 2022), with an average attendance level of eleven (twelve in 2022). The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members are made aware of resources available to assist them in their role.

***Worship and Prayer***

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. We carried out our usual variety of special Christmas services, including Carols by Candlelight, Christingle and Christmas Eve Midnight Holy Communion. Our usual Good Friday services, Creative Worship and Reflective Service took place. We also offered a mid-week Holy Communion service on Thursdays which had an average attendance level of sixteen.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism and thanksgiving we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. We have celebrated three weddings (three in 2022), and held fourteen funerals (twenty in 2022) in our church this year as well as conducting crematoria services.

**St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking  
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council (continued)  
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**Mothers' Union**

Stanford-le-Hope with the United Benefice of Corringham and Fobbing

Rev Tom Rout chaired the AGM and spoke to us from Philippians 3 verses 15-18. He also reminded us of the value and importance of teamwork.

An Amalgamation service was held in St Margaret's Church in April to combine Corringham and Fobbing branches with Stanford-le-Hope.

Sadly, one of our members, Margaret Wright died. A Service of Thanksgiving for Margaret's life took place in St Margaret's Church, attended by MU members and Margaret's many friends from various other organisations.

Three new members were welcomed into the branch in 2023. Janet Webb, Sheila Burt and Mary Jeffries were enrolled by Jeannie Hyde-Allen.

Jeannie has resigned as Branch Leader and Anne Finch has agreed to accept this position.

With the resignation of Linda Phillips as Branch Treasurer, and with the Amalgamation of Stanford, Corringham & Fobbing Branches, John Hibbert, who was Corringham Branch treasurer, was willing to take on this position for us.

A Lent course on the Apostles' Creed was enjoyed and well attended.

Funds were raised by holding two coffee mornings and a Christmas Bazaar. Proceeds were sent to Mothers' Union appeal funds.

During the year, we invited various visiting speakers to our meetings: Peter Newall from Thurrock Foodbank; Elizabeth Marshall on English for Women; and Rose Gorton challenged us the Transformation now! Julie and John Bowley shared with us their holiday of a lifetime when they returned from Australia. Other meetings enjoyed were; Knit and Natter, Christmas memories; My Mum said! Who Am I? Garden Quiz; Desert Island Discs, WWI Home Front.

Marion's Catering provided a delicious Christmas buffet which was very popular and much appreciated.

We welcome everyone to come to our meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays each month at 2pm in the Church Hall.

Branch Leader  
Anne Finch



**St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking  
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council (continued)  
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**The Buildings**

**Church Wardens Report**

The year 2023 to 2024 has been a busy year in the life of St Margaret's Church.

Following a clean out of our two upstairs rooms in the old stables, to create a youth room and change the use of the larger room from office to meeting room which we now use for our PCC meetings. We hired a skip to remove and dispose of the bulky furniture. We were privileged to be donated 15 chairs to replace them for the new meeting room.

The church organ has had its annual tune up to keep it in good order for use at our services as well as weddings and funerals.

We purchased a new noticeboard to replace the old and worn wooden noticeboard. The new noticeboard was paid for by specific donation. The new noticeboard has enhanced the look to the frontage of the church and allows us to show details of who to contact as well as showing A2 posters advertising events at St Margaret's.

We painted the outside of the coach house, using contractors, who also carried out any minor repairs as required.

Gas boilers and appliances were given their annual service. PAT Testing service has been carried out by electric specialists. Our utility contracts were renewed. Hall electrics have been repaired, along with rewiring of the upstairs youth room and the meeting room. The five yearly hard wiring check was also carried out. The church roof alarm servicing has been carried out. Fire extinguishers and fire alarms have been serviced and checked.

Gutter clearance has been carried out with further clearances where required to clear blockages. Further investigation looking at preventative measures are ongoing.

Lych gate lighting has been installed and works on a timer system.

We have started to use lanyards for the Church Wardens, Welcomers, Prayer Ministry, Tuesday Tots and Vergers. The idea is to make specific roles within the church visible, so both regular congregation and visitors have a visual point of contact for help and advice.

A noticeboard in the church now includes photos of those on the PCC, The Wardens, Safeguarding Officer (currently vacant) and Rev Tom Rout. We also have a rota system on the noticeboard so people can check when they are on duty, to show others we have volunteer roles which they may also be able to do. It is also useful for the Church Wardens to check on Sundays to look for gaps if someone doesn't turn up for whatever reason.

**St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking  
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council (continued)  
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

We were contacted by the company we lease our printer / photocopier from, as the lease was finishing. We were given the opportunity to replace it with a new one which has colour printing capability, is more up to date and also cheaper, which we accepted.

A small group are currently looking at our website with a view to upgrading to ensure our digital communications remain relevant and up to date.

The large office ceiling has been repaired, where a small section had collapsed. Volunteers came forward to repaint our church Hall which has given it a fresh look. We are also looking into the best way of protecting the walls from further scuffs and scrapes

The year 2023 through to now has not been without its challenges where money is scarce, parish shares must be met, but repairs still need to be carried out and our buildings maintained.

We are aware how much the church relies on the generosity of both congregation and local community, who give either financially or through offering their skills and hard work to help in various ways.

We appreciate any role within our church community, whether, PCC, administration, cleaning, grounds maintenance, building maintenance, fundraising, tech support, music provisions and more.

We would especially like to thank Rev Tom Rout for his excellent leadership throughout the year and taking us into the future. We give thanks and praise for the guidance of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

**Church Wardens**

Richard Allen

Peter Goodwin



## **St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### **Tuesday Tots**

The mother and toddler group meets on a Tuesday morning, which is well attended. We meet only during school terms. The children play from 9.15 until 10am when we have a refreshment break then we have a short bible story and some nursery rhymes. That mothers and grandmothers take part. By this time all toys are put away and we have a short pray before the children go home. The playgroup finishes at 11am. The cost per session is £3 per family.

### **Deanery Synod**

Our lay members this year were Mark Wenn and David Hamilton. Tom attends as a member of deanery clergy. St Margaret's makes a small annual financial contribution towards the running costs and finances of the synod (~£9).

This year Thurrock Deanery Synod received occasional visiting speakers: Michaela Southworth, Chief Executive and Diocesan Secretary, speaking about diocesan finances and how our Parish Share payments fit in; Belinda Ramsey, Youth and Families Advisor, Bradwell Area, speaking about the Mustard Seed Team and how the team can support new ventures with children and families in our churches. We followed up on this by inviting Belinda to speak about her work and passion for young people at our March prayer and praise lunch.

At the end of 2023 Rev Canon Darren Barlow moved to Shenfield after 12 years as Area Dean. In January 2024 Fr David Rollins was commissioned as new Area Dean, with Rev Dr Kate Carter appointed Assistant Area Dean. Tom was elected to the standing committee. The new Bishop of Bradwell, Adam Atkinson, was consecrated in September and visited the deanery in November. Adam spoke at the recent deanery synod held at St Margaret's on April 9<sup>th</sup> 2024. The deanery continues to have a presence at the Orsett Show, seeking new and creative ways of working together at the event to engage with people.

Rev Tom Rout

### **Pastoral Care**

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Our clergy and other members have visited all church members who have requested it, to chat or to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or in hospital.

### **Mission and Evangelism**

Mission and evangelism lie at the heart of the work Jesus gave his church to do, and a church stays healthy by sticking to the task! We have sought to make mission and evangelism more of a priority in the past year.



## **St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council (continued) for the year ended 31 December 2023**

The Open the Book team have continued to bring the stories and message of the Bible to our local primary schools. Tuesday Tots is a ministry that shares the message of Jesus with toddlers and parents, with visits into the church to mark Christmas, Easter and the end of term.

In early 2023 we showed The Chosen video series in church as a means of introducing people to Jesus. In September 2023 we ran the 321 course. While church members attended in good numbers, unfortunately very few new people came along. We realised the need to build stronger relationships with our local community. A car boot sale in July 2023 brought people together, in a way they felt comfortable, and we plan to build on this in 2024 with monthly car boot sales from May-October with the addition of a pop-up tent where people can get information about the church, chat or share prayer needs.

In spring 2024 we began working with other local churches on a shared mission initiative and did a Good Friday Giveaway with our neighbours at Gateway People's Centre.

We continued to hold monthly Prayer & Praise lunches where the church family gathers to pray for the mission God has given us.

### **Ecumenical Relationships**

We are grateful to the United Benefice of Corringham and Fobbing for all the support shown to us supporting the bereaved. We work with Corringham Evangelical, Corringham Baptist and Proximity through neighbourhood prayer walks.

### **Volunteers**

We would like to thank all volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. In particular we want to mention our churchwardens Mr Peter Goodwin and Richard Allen, who have worked so tirelessly on our behalf to ensure maintenance of the buildings and smooth-running of our Sunday services.

### **Community**

We offer support for local schools through "Open the Book". We support the Community through Mothers' Union and use of our hall.



**St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking  
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council (continued)  
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**Vicar's report**

In last year's vicars report, I indicated how confused and divided The Church of England had become in recent years over the issue of marriage, sexuality, and particularly the blessing of same sex relations. Indeed, 2023 ended with the Church of England's General Synod deciding to allow blessings of same sex relations in public worship, where local clergy and PCCs were in support.

Against this backdrop, our PCC has spent a lot of time in the past year discussing our own position and response. We have been united in our desire to follow the teachings of Scripture on this issue, as in every other matter. This might seem old fashioned or backward to some, but we believe the Bible contains the teaching and truth of Christ himself, and his truth is the key to helping people everywhere live in wholeness, freedom and dignity! (See John 8:31-32) We really appreciate the support and guidance we have received on this issue over the past year from the Church of England Evangelical Council and Chelmsford Diocesan Evangelical Network, and especially the Rev John Dunnett.

In order to signal our commitment to and support for Christian orthodoxy within the diocese, the PCC recently voted to pay our parish share contribution to the diocese through the newly created *Ephesian Fund*, which means the money we pay to the diocese should be spent on parish ministries committed to Christian orthodoxy on this issue of marriage and sexuality. Those wishing for more information about the *Ephesian Fund* can find it at <https://ceec.info/ephesian-fund/>

More recently, we have begun to build links with the new Bishop of Bradwell, Adam Atkinson, who we are pleased is committed to representing those churches in the diocese like St Margaret's that wish to uphold Christian orthodoxy and Biblical teaching in the area of marriage and sexual relations.

We look forward to building stronger links with Bishop Adam and particularly to his visits in the coming weeks to offer confirmation to those in our church ready to signal their Christian faith and membership of God's church.

Many of those seeking confirmation are our young people. We are encouraged that *God Squad* continues to meet and the young people are growing in faith with the help of leaders Denise Wenn and Teresa Briley.

The work of Tuesday Tots continues to draw in a great number of parents (and grandparents) with young children. The leaders Anita Nuss and Kathleen Bienvenu recognise this is a real mission opportunity, and we have begun exploring ways to help these young families take meaningful steps to faith and worship.



**St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking**  
**Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council (continued)**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2023**

In between Tuesday Tots and God Squad lies the primary school age group, for whom our church currently offers very little. A small group of those who feel passionate about starting a group aimed at Primary School aged children has begun meeting to plan and pray... watch this space!

In terms of outreach and making connections with adults, Thursday Coffee offers a welcoming space for people to come in for a drink and a chat. Numbers at the lunchtime communion service that follows Thursday Coffee are regularly between 15-20.

In July 2023 we held a Car Boot sale in the car park, as a trial. This was so well received that we decided to hold monthly car boot sales from May-October 2024. This is not primarily about making money, but is mainly a way of making connections with our local community.

While our Sunday services remain the focal point of our church life, we are increasingly aware that the Christian life is more than just 'an hour on a Sunday'. Over recent months we have worked to grow the network of fellowship groups meeting midweek. We now offer fellowship Groups on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We encourage everyone to join a group, and if there aren't enough groups for everyone... then we'll start more groups!

At the end of August 2023 we held a Parish Weekend, an encouraging time of teaching and fellowship. The guest speaker, Rev Mike Walker, from St John's Southend, brought us teaching on what it means to be Peacemakers, in the likeness of Christ himself. It was great to see so many people of different ages involved in the weekend.

There are many many people at St Margaret's who work hard for God through their service in the church. None of them will want a mention by name, but our church wardens Peter Goodwin and Richard Allen have done a great job and the PCC members all deserve thanks for playing their part in the decision making and direction of the church.

I find the encouragement, creativity and imagination of the ministry leaders team (who help lead services) a great help, and thank God for blessing St Margaret's with this group of people.



**St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking  
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council (continued)  
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

I would also like to thank Mike Coakley, who has responsibility for overseeing maintenance of our buildings, and Simon Wilson, who works with Mike and David Reynolds to maintain the grounds. These people give up a huge amount of their time, as do our team of volunteer cleaners, Lily Mitchell, Jean Davies, Angela Hall and Kathleen Bienvenu.

Thank you to every single person who plays their part to help God's work grow at St Margaret's. We are particularly grateful to everyone who responded to the financial updates given in April 2023 by reviewing their giving or moving their giving over to an automated service (standing order or through the Parish Giving Scheme.) Your generosity has allowed us to steadily increase our parish share payments, which funds the ministry here and across Chelmsford diocese.

We value and appreciate everyone in the church. That is why it was with much sadness that we said farewell to George Donovan, Maurice Gibbons, George Bentley, Keith Swain, Margaret Wright, Gillian Hewer and Bernard Tatham, long-standing members of the church family. We look forward to seeing them again one day, at the resurrection and renewal of all things that God has promised.

That is how we must live the Christian life together at St Margaret's, looking forward, with hope, eagerness and expectation. Not looking back to how things were, or used to be, but looking ahead to what God can do with us and through us now, spurred on by the thought of what He will surely do when it is 'mission accomplished'.

We give thanks to God for all that he has done in the last year, and all he will graciously continue to do as we look to another year ahead.

Rev Tom Rout  
*Priest in Charge*

**St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking  
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council (continued)  
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**Safeguarding**

As reported last year, in 2023 St Margaret's completed a safeguarding audit process overseen by the Chelmsford diocesan safeguarding team.

The PCC are committed to following the safer recruitment process for leaders and volunteers, and we will continue to emphasise the importance of our safeguarding policy, which is the national House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and practice guidance. Our Safeguarding team consists of Rev Tom Rout, lead safeguarding officer, Denise Wenn DBS applications checker, and Lyn Fry, who continues to offer her support, advice and liason with the Diocesan safeguarding Team.

All volunteers are required to complete safeguarding training appropriate to their role, and a confidential declaration if required for that role.

Leaders in some areas may require DBS checks and certificates, Denise Wenn is able to assist with the application process.

Safeguarding training and DBS certificates must be refreshed every 3 years, and several of our volunteers are due this renewal in 2024. They will be contacted individually, where this is the case.

**St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking  
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council (continued)  
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**Financial review**


Total receipts on ordinary unrestricted funds were £92,388 and are detailed in the financial statements. In 2022 this figure was £93,441 and is a decrease of 1%. Voluntary income on ordinary unrestricted funds during the year excluding tax recoverable was £49,713 and in 2022 was £46,144. A further £8,433 was received from Gift Aid (£8,107 in 2022).

£97,671 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from St. Margaret's Church, including the contribution to the diocesan parish share, which largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy. The PCC paid a part Parish Share of £50,000. In 2022 this figure was £36,000.

The result for the year was a net movement in funds of (£7,291). After transfers to other funds the balance carried forward at 31 December 2023 for unrestricted funds was £33,157.

It is our policy to invest our funds balances with the COIF Charities Investment Fund.

**Approved by the PCC on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 and signed on their behalf by Tom Rout (Priest in Charge) and Peter Goodwin (Church Warden).**

Signed   
Tom Rout

Signed   
Peter Goodwin



**Independent examiner's report to the PCC of  
St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking  
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011);
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the members of the PCC 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:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
  - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
  - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act.or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Accounting Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005), issued in March 2005, UK Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 2011.

Alastair Taylor FCCA  
33 Prospect Avenue  
Stanford-le-Hope  
SS17 0NH





**St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking**  
**Statement of financial activities**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023 Total Funds	2022 Total Funds
		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Incoming Resources</b>						
Voluntary income	2(a)	58,146			58,146	54,545
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	29,380	339		29,719	30,051
Income from investments	2(c)	154		192	346	99
Church activities	2(d)	4,708	100		4,808	9,041
Other incoming resources	2(e)					
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>92,388</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>93,019</b>	<b>93,736</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>						
Fundraising trading costs	3(b)	455			455	3,821
Church activities	3(a)	97,216	2,639		99,855	75,985
Governance costs	3(c)					
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>97,671</b>	<b>2,639</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100,310</b>	<b>79,806</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers</b>		<b>(5,283)</b>	<b>(2,200)</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>(7,291)</b>	<b>13,930</b>
Gross transfers between funds		-			-	
<b>Net incoming/outgoing resources before other recognised gains &amp; losses</b>		<b>(5,283)</b>	<b>(2,200)</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>(7,291)</b>	<b>13,930</b>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>						
Gain on investment asset						
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(5,283)</b>	<b>(2,200)</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>(7,291)</b>	<b>13,930</b>
Total funds brought forward 1 January		38,440	3,566	2,052	44,058	30,128
<b>Total funds carried forward 31 December</b>		<b>33,157</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>2,244</b>	<b>36,767</b>	<b>44,058</b>

**St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking**  
**Balance sheet**  
**as at 31 December 2023**

	Note	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Investments		<u>2,244</u>		<u>2,052</u>	
			2,244		2,052
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	5	6,234		6,782	
Bank and cash		<u>29,458</u>		<u>39,158</u>	
		35,692		45,940	
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	<u>1,169</u>		<u>3,934</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>34,523</u>		<u>42,006</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			36,767		44,058
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	7		-		-
<b>Total net assets</b>			<u><b>36,767</b></u>		<u><b>44,058</b></u>
<b>Parish funds</b>					
Unrestricted	8		33,157		38,440
Restricted	8		1,366		3,566
Endowment	8		<u>2,244</u>		<u>2,052</u>
			<u><b>36,767</b></u>		<u><b>44,058</b></u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 and signed on its behalf by  
Tom Rout (Priest in Charge) and Peter Goodwin (Church Warden)

Signed   
Tom Rout – Priest in Charge

Signed   
Peter Goodwin – Church Warden

The notes on pages 19 to 27 form part of these accounts.

**St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**1. Accounting policies**

**a) Basis of preparation**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2005.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention; investment assets are shown at cost. 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.

**b) Funds**

**Endowment funds** are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established. St Margaret's has one such fund – The Elizabeth Davidson Fund, managed by COIF, the interest of which is paid into the General Fund.

**Restricted funds** represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund.

**Unrestricted funds** are general funds as well as unrestricted funds designated for a particular use by the PCC, which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

**c) Incoming resources**

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received, on an annual basis, usually at the end of the year. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.



**St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking**  
**Notes to the accounts (continued)**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**d) Resources expended**

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that created a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

**e) Fixed assets**

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2010 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £5,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £5,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.



**St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking**  
**Notes to the accounts (continued)**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**2. Incoming resources**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Funds 2022 £
<b>2(a) Voluntary income</b>					
Planned giving	35,999	-	-	<b>35,999</b>	35,692
Tax recoverable	8,433	-	-	<b>8,433</b>	8,107
Collections	5,884	-	-	<b>5,884</b>	5,866
Gift days	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	950	-	-	<b>950</b>	-
Donations, appeals etc.	6,880	-	-	<b>6,880</b>	4,880
Other voluntary income	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>58,146</b>	-	-	<b>58,146</b>	54,545
<b>2(b) Activities for generating funds</b>					
Fetes & other general fundraising	808	339	-	<b>1,147</b>	6,158
Magazine & bookstall income	-	-	-	-	-
Hall/Car Park rental income	28,572	-	-	<b>28,572</b>	23,893
	<b>29,380</b>	<b>339</b>	-	<b>29,719</b>	30,051
<b>2(c) Income from investments</b>					
Dividends and interest including tax recoverable	154	-	192	<b>346</b>	99
<b>2(d) Income from church activities</b>					
Weddings & funerals	4,708	100	-	<b>4,808</b>	9,041
	<b>4,708</b>	<b>100</b>	-	<b>4,808</b>	9,041
<b>2(e) Other incoming resources</b>					
Insurance claim	0	-	-	<b>0</b>	0
Refund	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>0</b>	-	-	<b>0</b>	0
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>92,388</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>93,019</b>	<b>93,736</b>

**St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking**  
**Notes to the accounts (continued)**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**3. Resources expended**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Funds 2022 £
<b>3(a) Church activities</b>					
<u>Missionary and charitable giving</u>					
Planned donations / Tithe grants	331	0	0	<b>331</b>	137
	331	0	0	<b>331</b>	137
<u>Ministry</u>					
Parish share costs	50,000	0	0	<b>50,000</b>	36,000
Clergy expenses	135			<b>135</b>	498
	50,135	0	0	<b>50,135</b>	36,498
<u>Establishment costs</u>					
Rectory cost	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	(413)
<i>Church building</i>					
Running costs	11,506			<b>11,506</b>	11,226
Maintenance costs	3,306	1,092		<b>4,398</b>	2,706
Service upkeep	1,570			<b>1,570</b>	1,492
<i>Hall building</i>					
Running costs	7,606			<b>7,606</b>	10,059
Maintenance costs	8,036	1,547		<b>9,583</b>	328
	32,024	2,639		<b>34,663</b>	25,398



**St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking**  
**Notes to the accounts (continued)**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**3. Resources expended (continued)**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Funds 2022 £
3(a) <u>Miscellaneous costs</u>					
Administration	4,621		-	4,621	3,908
Training			-		135
Young People	272		-	272	114
	<u>4,893</u>		-	<u>4,893</u>	<u>4,157</u>
<u>Other costs</u>					
Wages	9,600		-	9,600	9,600
Other people costs	233	-	-	233	102
Sundry costs			-		-
	<u>9,833</u>		-	<u>9,833</u>	<u>9,702</u>
	<u>97,216</u>	<u>2,639</u>	-	<u>99,855</u>	<u>75,892</u>
3(b) <b>Fund-raising trading costs</b>					
Fundraising & advertising	455			455	3,551
Magazine & bookstall					
	<u>455</u>		-	<u>455</u>	<u>3,551</u>
3(c) <b>Governance costs</b>					
Independent examiner's fees		0		0	0
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>					
Weddings & Funerals					-
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<u>97,671</u>	<u>2,639</u>		<u>100,310</u>	<u>79,443</u>

**St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking**  
**Notes to the accounts (continued)**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**4. (a) Staff costs**

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Salaries	9,600	9,600
Social Security Costs	0	0
Payroll Processing Costs	484	466
Wages & NI	<u>10,084</u>	<u>10,066</u>

The average number of employees was 1.  
 No employee received emoluments of £60,000 or above.

**(b) Payments to PCC members**

A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the incumbent may have related to their services as a member of the PCC.

**5. Debtors**

	2023 £	2022 £
Hall Rental income	140	0
Tax Recoverable	5,034	5,184
Voluntary income	1,060	1,598
	<u>6,234</u>	<u>6,782</u>

**Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2023 £	2022 £
Weddings & Funerals	1,169	3,122
Other creditors		812
	<u>1,169</u>	<u>3,934</u>



**St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking**  
**Notes to the accounts (continued)**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**6. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year**

<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
£Nil	£Nil

**7. Funds**

The restricted funds comprise the following:

- a) *Flower Fund. This relates to funds specifically for the purchase of Flowers for decoration of the church building.*
- b) *Buildings Maintenance Fund. This fund relates to funds specifically for improvements and maintenance of the Buildings and Grounds.*

The endowment funds comprise the following:

- c) *The Elizabeth Davidson Fund. This is managed by COIF; the interest from the endowment is used for Children's work.*

**St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking**  
**Notes to the accounts (continued)**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**8. Funds (continued)**

There are also three designated funds as detailed below, in addition to the General Fund, that are part of unrestricted funds. The designated funds have been designated for a particular use by the PCC. All unrestricted funds can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Fund movements

	Balance at 01/01/2023 £	Incoming resources £	(Resources expended) £	Transfers £	Balance at 31/12/2023 £
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
Buildings Maintenance	6,380	1,132	(6,476)	0	1,036
Rector's Discretionary	861	-			861
General Fund	31,199	91,256	(91,195)		31,260
	<b>38,440</b>	<b>92,388</b>	<b>(97,671)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,157</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Buildings Maintenance Fund	2,398	339	(2,639)	-	98
Flower Fund	1,168	100			1,268
	<b>3,566</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>(2,639)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,366</b>
<b>Endowment Funds</b>					
The Elizabeth Davidson Fund	2,052	192			2,244
	<b>2,052</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,244</b>



**St. Margaret's Parish Church Stanford-le-Hope with Mucking**  
**Notes to the accounts (continued)**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**8. Analysis of net assets by fund**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-
Investment fixed assets	-	-	2,244	2,244	2,052
Current assets	34,326	1,366	-	35,692	45,940
Liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
-falling due within one year	(1,169)	-	-	(1,169)	(3,934)
-falling after one year	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>33,157</u>	<u>1,366</u>	<u>2,244</u>	<u>36,767</u>	<u>44,058</u>

