THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY'S WATFORD

England & Wales · Charity number 1132880

Details

Other names	ST MARY'S WATFORD PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-11-21
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Marys Church Church Street Watford WD18 0EG
Phone	01923225189
Email	office@stmaryswatford.org.uk
Website	www.stmaryswatford.org

Activities

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

Activities: A place of regular worship in the heart of Watford

Classification

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

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Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£481,940	£330,312	-	-
2024-12-31	£557,348	£297,721	£951,923	7
2023-12-31	£332,614	£360,698	-	-
2022-12-31	£319,663	£308,822	-	-
2021-12-31	£276,500	£319,556	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Anthony Robert Wilson		2023-11-27
Bryan Gaha		2025-04-27
CATHERINE ANN HONEYMAN		
Eileen Roby		2023-05-21
Elizabeth Freeman		2025-04-27
Gillian Margaret Watson		2023-05-21
Irene Hillary Elliot		2023-03-21
Margaret Jane Greenstreet		2018-04-22
Martin David John Whittick		2023-05-21
PETER JOHN DEAN		
ROGER GRAHAM COURTNEY		
Rev Richard Mark Banham		2025-07-28

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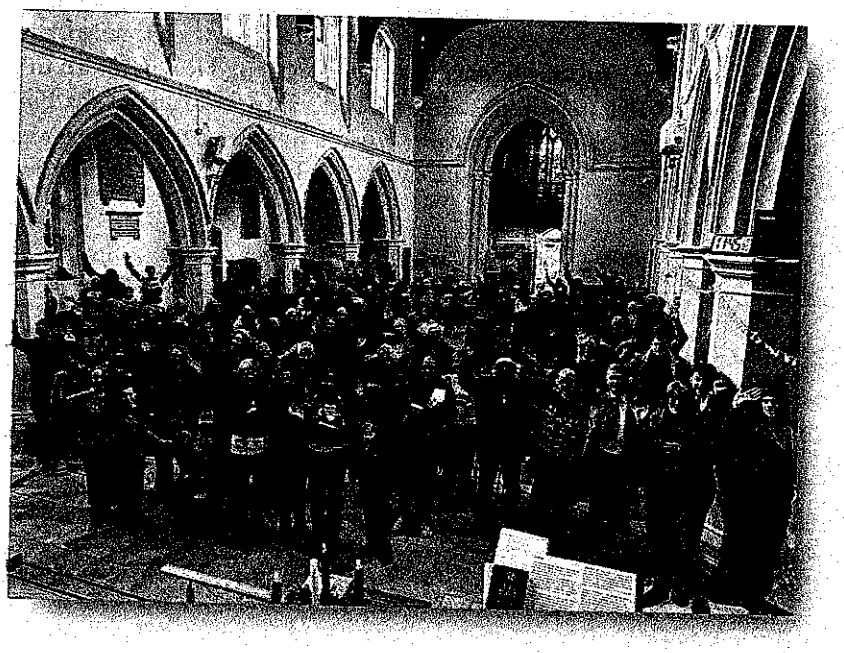
England & Wales - Charity number 1132880

Accounts

St Mary's, Watford

Church Street, Watford, WD18 0EG
Registered Charity Number: 1132880

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL for the year ended 31st December 2025



Vicar:
The Revd Richard Banham, The Vicarage
14 Cassiobury Drive, Watford, WD17 3AB
from 28th July 2025

Vacancy to 27th July 2025

Bankers:
Barclays Bank plc, PO Box 104, St Albans, AL1 3AN
Lloyds Bank plc, Intu Shopping Centre, Watford, WD17 2UB

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS
Living God's Love

Introduction

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The primary objective of the PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC's (Powers) Measure 1956 states that the PCC "is to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical". The PCC is responsible for the upkeep of the church building and the adjoining Church Centre and also for an office (The Cloisters). St Mary's Church is located in the town centre of Watford, with only approximately 10,000 people living within its parish, but with many commercial and shopping premises that bring a daily influx of workers and shoppers into the area.

Purpose of the Church

As a church, we believe that God the Father created the world. Because humans have disobeyed God's law, Jesus, God's own Son, came to earth, was born of a virgin, lived without sin, was crucified, died and rose again from the dead. Through His sacrifice, our wrongdoings are forgiven. He will return in glory to the earth. We believe in the Holy Spirit, sent to help us to live to God's glory. We accept the Bible as God's Word and rejoice in our ability to talk with God in prayer. We aim to share our beliefs by worshipping together, by carrying them into our work, our leisure and our family life and by sharing our faith with others.

Our Vision Statement

"We believe that God is calling St Mary's to be a growing Town Centre Evangelical Anglican Church."

Public Benefit

The PCC has paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in all aspects of the activities undertaken by the church.

Vicar's Report

What a year it has been for St Mary's and for me personally!

Paul writes, *"whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."* (Colossians 3:17). I've never been so grateful to God or so fulfilled in my ministry as I have this year. So I want to **begin this report by giving thanks to God for calling me to serve here in St Mary's, Watford.** There is so much more to give thanks for, so please do read on!

When we visited St Mary's anonymously, we received a warm welcome which set the tone: You have been amazing in the lengths you've gone to, so we feel at home. We are especially grateful for the work you did on the vicarage and garden. Our first family Christmas in our new home is one of the best we've ever had.

The Induction service on 28th July was the culmination of a lot of hard work during the vacancy, so thank you to everyone who made the service so special, but also to everyone who worked so hard during the vacancy. It makes a real difference to arrive in a parish where the load has been well shared by so many gifted individuals. **I want to pay special tribute to Marcus and Eileen as Churchwardens for leading the parish so diligently** – their different skills and gifts complemented one another beautifully. Since the induction they have been the most amazing source of wisdom and support in helping me understand the "St Mary's way of doing things".

The financial results for the year reflect the generosity of our congregation and the wise stewardship of the Finance Committee. The team have worked hard in recent years to return the parish to a financial stable position. **We are grateful for all the financial support we receive** by regular giving direct from your bank, one-off special gifts and Sunday offerings. Our finances have benefitted from generous legacy gifts which make a huge difference. (Please do consider leaving a gift to St Mary's in your Will). I understand it has been several years since we held a "Generous Giving Review" – we have had some good support from the Diocese and are planning a review for later in 2026. Thank you to Anthony Wilson and Richard Watson for leading the Finance Committee.

My thanks to all the members of the PCC who, as trustees of the charity, are leaders of our church. Special thanks to those who come to the end of their term of office – including Hilary Elliott, Cathy Honeyman and Peter Dean (as Deanery Synod Representatives), Margaret Greenstreet (after an additional year being Co-opted), Martin Whittick (who has agreed to stand for Deanery Synod), Lesley Grey (who will be Ordained this summer), and most of all to Roger Courtney who has been on PCC in one role or another for fifty years – most recently as PCC secretary!

In addition to finances our two main resources for God's mission are you – the people of God without whom we couldn't do anything, and the fabulous building God has entrusted to us. In my first few months in St Mary's it has been wonderful to begin the lengthy process of getting to know people. I'm so glad I asked you to bring your diaries to church so we could arrange to meet for tea or coffee (or a glass of wine!). It has been wonderful to spend time with you and hear your stories. In case we've not yet met properly, I have my diary with me almost all the time – so just ask and I'd be delighted get together.

St Mary's Church family is blessed with a wonderful diversity of people from all sorts of backgrounds. Our church will thrive when each individual is contributing to its life, mission and ministry in a way which matches their gifts, skills and passions. I am excited to **help each one of us discover our God given calling.** The bible lists many different gifts and roles in Christian communities (see Rom 12:6-8 and Eph 4:11) and in 1 Corinthians 12 Paul uses the metaphor of every member of the church playing a part in the healthy function of the whole body. Perhaps our biggest challenge is releasing those gifts within us into service for God, His church and the local community.

In a few years we will celebrate the 800th anniversary of the current church building. It is both a wonderful gift from God and a testimony to the faithful care of previous generations. We benefit from a **fabulous strategic location in the heart of Watford** and thanks to the buildings committee and their tireless good work the building is generally in excellent condition. I am very grateful to them for all they do

under the guidance and leadership of Phil Hunter. Although it is a few years since the reordering, I want to note what a tremendous, warm, welcoming, flexible space it gives us for our mission and ministry. In addition, the well-resourced Church Centre – including the lounge, kitchen, pre-school, upper rooms and flat give us a resource which would be the envy of most churches. All our buildings require continual investment and maintenance, and we are investigating modernising the toilets and kitchen in the church centre. The building is an asset for mission and speaks of God's faithfulness and love. It's been amazing to see how many people just pop in for a quiet five minutes of prayer each day.

The church is the people of God and arguably **we have two main priorities: the worship of God and joining in the mission of God to the world.** I have loved becoming part of our worshipping community. There are a good variety of worship opportunities: Lay Leaders of Worship leading Worship for All, the Choir and Music Group leading us in joyful song, regular celebration of Holy Communion, the Wednesday midday service (actually at 12:30!) and the small group of us who gather for prayer Mon-Thurs at 9:30am. Thank you to everyone who helps in leading these – including our Lay Leaders of Worship. At all our services we come expecting to encounter and be transformed by the Living God. I have been moved to hear feedback on how God has touched you in Word, Sacrament and Spirit through our worship. More Lord!

The choir, organist and music group deserve special mention for their dedication: **I have been blown away and moved to tears by our talented musicians.** Our worship is made possible thanks to the work of many behind the scenes as well as those who play, sing, read, pray and preach. Thank you to everyone who plays their part. I hope in the future I will share the leadership and preaching with a wider group of people who reflect the diversity of our community and congregation. There is scope to introduce another Sunday Service in the afternoon or evening – but only once we have developed our vision and have the right resources in place. This may require some patience!

I have repeatedly said that St Mary's is a church bursting with potential, and I am incredibly excited about all that I sense God may be preparing us for. In recent years the attitude towards the Gospel has shifted so there are literally **limitless opportunities to take the Good News of Jesus to the people who live, work and spend time in our parish.** We have always engaged with these opportunities and Christmas highlights the variety of ways we can do so. The Fayre and Live Nativity, the Missing You at Christmas Tree, singing in the Harlequin Centre and our new Christmas lights & decorations were great additions to our Christmas services. The Green Heart of Watford group is another great example of creativity in outreach and mission – working in partnership with a wide range of groups to encourage all to steward creation in a Godly way.

To better harness the opportunities it is important to **acknowledge the challenges we face** and areas we need to invest in and focus on. (I presented most of these to the PCC and I am crystal clear that we cannot address them all at once!)

- We have lots of exciting ideas, they need to be pulled together into a compelling vision.
- We are good at welcoming. We need to get better at integrating and involving newcomers.
- We have a handful of Connect Groups. More leaders are needed for new groups, and a focus on encouraging people in their discipleship journey.
- We have a faithful team running Junior Church, we need to reinvigorate this and engage families and children not currently coming to church, (through schools' work?).
- We have a good history of evangelism and outreach; we need to reimagine this and refresh it.
- We have a strong admin team in the office, (thanks Pam and Liz) but more admin support is needed to release me from admin into more frontline ministry.
- We have a wonderful diverse congregation, but it is not reflected in the leadership of the church.

The challenges outlined above may seem daunting – but we have a great and glorious God who has supplied the needs of St Mary's for 800 years and we can be confident He **"is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20).**

I have tried not to indulge myself with a list of personal highlights from my first few months at St Mary's – partly because there are too many to mention. So, if I have not mentioned the area of church life you are involved with (for example flower arrangers and bell ringers) it's not because I'm not grateful – I really am! – it is simply a matter of space. However, I couldn't end without mentioning the newly formed Young Adults Group who meet twice a month on Sunday evenings. It is a joy to see what God is doing in you and through you – I am especially excited to see how this ministry develops. Thank you for being part of St Mary's and for the way you inspire me.

Well done for reading this far! I began by thanking God. I'd like to end by thanking Claire, Lauren and Sam. The Vicar's family goes where the Vicar is called by God. They have been a huge support to me and have embraced this new adventure.

I've never been more excited about all that God is doing in us, around us, through us, and in spite of us! Please join me in praying for the adventure that God is leading St Mary's on.

With best wishes and prayers

Richard

The Revd Canon Richard Banham
Vicar of Watford

Parochial Church Council

The appointment of PCC members is governed by the Church Representation Rules. Most members of the PCC are elected, generally for a three-year term, at an Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) but some (see below) are *ex officio*. Elected PCC members may stand for re-election for a second three-year term but then cannot be a candidate for election to the PCC for at least a year. PCC members are Trustees of the St Mary's charity. New members of the PCC elected at an APCM are required to complete a Trustee registration form and to undertake on-line safeguarding training.

Members

The following served for all or part of 2025:

***Ex officio* members**

Vicar
The Revd Canon Richard Banham (from July 2025)

Churchwardens
Eileen Roby (Chair until July 2025, then Vice-Chair)
Marcus Jones (Vice-Chair until July 2025)

Deanery Synod Representatives (Period of service APCM 2023 to APCM 2026)
Peter Dean
Tilly Elliott

Elected members

Elected APCM 2022
Lesley Gray, Margaret Greenstreet, Gill Watson (Re-elected APCM 2025)

Elected APCM 2023
Daniella Clinton (resigned July 2025), Roger Courtney, Martin Whittick

Elected APCM 2024
Cathy Honeyman, Anthony Wilson

Elected APCM 2025
Liz Freeman, Bryan Gaha

Co-opted Members (*from May 2025)*
Lesley Gray (to October 2025), Margaret Greenstreet

The PCC held nine meetings during the year. The minutes of meetings, once approved, are available on St Mary's website. At one meeting, a local police officer provided advice on security and safety in and around the church. Other subjects which featured prominently during the year included safeguarding policies and practice, arrangements for welcoming a new Vicar and his family and, since September, the Vicar's perceptions of St Mary's and proposed initiatives.

Attendance was as follows: Rev Richard Banham (from August) – 3; Eileen Roby – 8; Marcus Jones – 9; Daniella Clinton – 0; Roger Courtney – 9, Peter Dean – 8; Tilly Elliott – 9; Liz Freeman (from May) – 6; Bryan Gaha (from May) – 5; Lesley Gray (to October) – 3; Margaret Greenstreet – 8; Cathy Honeyman – 7; Gill Watson – 6; Martin Whittick – 5; Anthony Wilson – 6.

Officers

The PCC appointed the following officers following the 2025 APCM:

Secretary:	Roger Courtney
Joint Treasurers:	Anthony Wilson, Richard Watson
Parish Safeguarding Officer:	Lesley Gray (until October 2025), Helen Hunter (from October 2025)
Health & Safety Officer:	Martin Whittick
Electoral Roll Officer:	Pam Rastall

Anthony Wilson covers Data Protection issues.

Appointed at the 2025 APCM – representatives to Churches Together in Watford: Brian and Jacky Mee

Policies

The PCC has formal policies which govern its practices and those of PCC employees. These relate, for example, to conflicts of interest, financial procedures, safeguarding and staff management. In general, these are reviewed at two-year intervals, but shorter review periods are set when circumstances seem likely to change (eg because of imminent changes in legislation).

Standing Committee

Every PCC is required to have a Standing Committee which can be called at short notice to handle urgent business. Since the 2025 APCM, its membership has been: the Vicar (after August 2025), the Churchwardens, the PCC Secretary and one other member of the PCC (Margaret Greenstreet). It met twice during 2025.

Other Committees

Much of the PCC's detailed work is undertaken by its committees which meet between PCC meetings; not all members of committees are PCC members. They report regularly to the PCC – in the case of Finance, every month - and request guidance and decisions on significant issues from the PCC. The committees are:

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee monitors St Mary's income and expenditure, proposes and implements financial policies and presents draft accounts and an annual budget to the PCC. In 2025, a significant action was to recommended investment policies for receipts from the sale of a house owned by the PCC and substantial legacies.

Buildings Committee

The Buildings Committee oversees the inspection, maintenance, improvements and repairs of the fabric and plant in the church, the Church Centre and the Cloisters Office. Each year, it submits a forward plan of works and a budget to the PCC.

Pre-School Committee

This manages the Pre-School, handling finance, staff and other matters under delegated powers from the PCC.

Climate Emergency Committee

This oversees the activities undertaken by the Climate Action Group created in 2022, notably the events that take place at Creationtide, the progress towards Ecochurch Gold Standard and the 'Green Heart of Watford' initiatives taken in the churchyard in collaboration with the Borough Council and local schools and environmental groups.

Roger Courtney
PCC Secretary

Linked Trust Funds

There are two trust funds which, for historic reasons, are linked to St Mary's Church, but report independently:

- Both Churchwardens, two members of the St. Mary's congregation and the Vicar serve on the Board of the Dorothy Longland Trust. This trust provides financial support for ordained ministers at St. Mary's – but it excludes the incumbent.
- Both Churchwardens and three members of the St. Mary's congregation serve on the board of The Church Lands Trust. This trust provides grants to assist the repair and enhancement of church buildings within the ancient Parish of Watford.

Electoral Roll, Church Attendance and Life Events

The Electoral Roll stands at 82 (76 at the APCM in 2025). The worshipping community at the end of 2025 was estimated to be 123 (122 in 2024). There were 3 baptism in 2025 (3 in 2024). 2 funerals were taken in 2025 by clergy from or on behalf of St Mary's either in church or at the crematorium (5 in 2024). There were no confirmation candidates in St Mary's in 2025 (none in 2024). There was no marriages in St Mary's in 2025 (none in 2024).

Finance

The General Fund had a slight surplus for the year. This was supplemented as we were once again gifted with two legacies, one of which had no restrictions whilst the other will contribute for the next four or five years to the upkeep of the church buildings. Rental income increased marginally over the year. However, planned giving fell again this year (and is now less than 80% of what it was in 2022 (around £86,000 in 2022 compared to around £67,000 this year).

We continue to receive income from our investments of both the Knibbs legacy from last year and the proceeds from the sale of the Brightwell Road house, although these now attract a slightly lower level of interest owing to changes in the overall financial climate. In addition, the value of the Brightwell Road investment fell by over £20,000 in the year.

The Finance Committee has been looking at ways to maximise church income, including QR links on service sheets to allow for donations and making the card reader more visible in church. The drive to continue to increase church income continues.

My thanks go to Richard Watson, who is the church book-keeper and Co-Treasurer with me, and who provides a consistently up-to-date and clear state of the church finances to the Finance Committee and the PCC. I am also indebted to members of the Finance Committee for the work that they do in ensuring that we have as much funding available as is possible via Gift Aid, VAT reclaim etc.

Anthony Wilson
Treasurer and Chair, Finance Committee

Buildings

The Buildings Committee is responsible to the PCC for keeping the fabric of the Church and Church Centre in good order. In 2025, annual planned routine maintenance of our installations, including servicing and inspections, has been carried out to meet legal requirements and good practice.

Unplanned maintenance caused by faults and failures has been carried out as these arose or were identified during the routine maintenance. This included works to the boilers, electrical circuits and external and cleaning in preparation for the installation of a new Vicar.

Planned projects completed in the year included the installation of the digital noticeboard outside the Church Office (the first in the diocese, we understand) and improvements to anti-pigeon measures over the west door.

The Committee is grateful for the work of church members and working parties who have assisted during the year which has helped keep costs within approved budgets.

Phil Hunter
Chair, Buildings Committee

Missions

Many members of the church support Christian missionary and relief organisations directly but some choose to donate to St Mary's with the money then being passed to their chosen recipients. The organisations and individuals supported in this way in 2025 included:

- *Watford Schools Trust*, which takes the Christian faith into schools, helping with assemblies and RE lessons.
- *New Hope*, which supports people who are, or are in danger of being, homeless in Watford.
- *Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy (WTCC)*, which offers Christian ministry to businesses and other bodies in the town centre and maintains a visible Christian presence there.
- *Mano Emmanuel*, a former member of St Mary's who is Head of Academic Advancement at Colombo Theological Seminary in Sri Lanka.
- *S&K* support work in the Middle East, writing study guides in the local language and promoting development projects. (Link person: Caroline Jones)
- *Tearfund*, a Christian Relief Agency operating internationally.
- *Meninadanca*, a charity rescuing and supporting girls who are being exploited in Brazil.
- *Andrew Leake*, a former curate at St Mary's, who works with Compassion International supporting children in Argentina.
- *Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS)*, which supports St Mary's as Patron particularly during a vacancy and also provide courses, teaching materials and holidays for young people.

Caroline Jones

Music

Music continues to be a strength at St Mary's. The choir continues to provide music for communion services on the second, fourth (and occasionally, where relevant, fifth) Sundays of the month, as well as at all the major festivals and events that come over the church year. Both the Easter services and the Festival of Lessons and Carols were very well-received by the congregation. We were also delighted to welcome Rev Richard Banham and family at his Institution service with our normal enthusiasm and sound. The choir's work behind the scenes in learning harmonies and practising at home allows a wide range of anthems to be performed to a very high standard.

On the third Sunday of each month, the music group has been leading the musical part of the worship. They bring a different style of music to the congregation, delighting in their close-knit harmonies and improvisatory style, which has been much appreciated. They have been expanding their repertoire this year and the congregation are learning the new songs and the new style for these services.

Although there have been no St Mary's lunchtime concerts this year, the church is still regularly used by music groups for practice and performance, especially the Phoenix Choir who have made the church their new home.

My thanks go to everyone who participates in the musical life of the church, and especially to the wonderful Richard Watson who plays for the services every week and supports all the music in the church so marvellously.

Anthony Wilson
Choir Director

Visits & Concerts

Watford Girls Grammar School and Watford Boys Grammar School both came to St Marys for their Founders Day Services. St John's Primary School have also visited.

St Johns Eco Ambassadors had lots of fun during their bug hunt with the Green Heart of Watford – a fantastic group of extremely knowledgeable individuals who are helping to create some wonderful green spaces around the Church. The wildflower meadows were a huge success for our local pollinators! In May the former Sensory Garden reopened as a play and sitting space after a major revamp and St Mary's opened the Church Centre Lounge to provide refreshments for the crowds as we celebrated the new space. To add to all things Green – we have welcomed Watford Repair Café who meet in the Lounge every month.

WTCC, New Hope, Samaritans, Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership (WTRRP) and the Bellringers have all had meetings at St Mary's this year and Proud Watford, Watford International Piano Competition, Watford Phoenix Choir, The Bedford, Morison and Cordery Almshouses, South Oxhey Community Choir, Ashleigh Fleming, Lumos Live, Watford Philharmonic Voices and both local Grammar Schools held events in the church. We held two fundraising concerts in aid of our organ repair and hosted a quiz night. Other events include a piano recital, organ lessons, Heritage Open Day, Christmas Fun Fayre and Live Animal Nativity, a flute recital, VE Day 80 celebration and many artists throughout July for Watford Fringe.

We have regular bookings with WTRRP, Watford Rotary, Sunflower Social Club and Phoenix Choir.

The Lounge has been used this year as a Polling Station and also a place for market research and we expect this to be the case in 2026.

This year we have introduced the use of the Lounge for children's birthday parties which has been a success and something we will continue doing.

Liz Allan
Facilities Manager

Children and Young People

The year began with two groups meeting regularly on Sunday mornings: Scramblers for ages 3–10 years and Pathfinders for 10–14-year-olds. During the summer term the number of children attending dropped and a shortage of adult helpers meant that the groups were combined, and this continued into the autumn. Twenty different children attended over the course of the year, nine regularly. Despite the small numbers, the children have been active and visible members of the congregation, being in church each Sunday at the start of the 10.30 service. Several children have participated in Worship for All services and have been involved with leading prayers. Some children contributed to the Green Heart of Watford by planting bulbs in the churchyard. A shortage of leaders and helpers is still a concern.

Margaret Greenstreet

Weekday Activities

The church offers several regular activities encourage participation and foster connections within the church and local community. Five 'Connect' Groups meet in homes or online, either weekly, fortnightly, or monthly, organised by area or interest. All are invited to a monthly prayer meeting on the first Wednesday evening. Wednesday Fellowship, led by Val Bordley, meets fortnightly and includes trips and guest speakers, often attended by visitors. A Thursday coffee morning welcomes church members and the wider community. St Mary's Runners and Walkers meet weekly. The Bellringers practise weekly and play before most Sunday services.

Eileen Roby

Local Outreach and Co-operation with Other Local Churches

St. Mary's works **with a number of local charities and community groups**, most noticeably Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy, and Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership (WTRRP), both of which rent space within the church building, including for a regular weekly drop-in for WTRRP. Many of our congregation have links with local charities, including New Hope, One YMCA, Watford Schools Trust, Citizens Advice, The Sunflower Social Club, The Samaritans, Watford Credit Union and the local Fairtrade Group.

The latter is important because our Climate Change group seeks to link up with Fairtrade and other churches and community groups that share a common concern for the environment. Over the past year our partnership with Proud Watford has continued to develop.

St Mary's Church is a member of **Christians Across Watford**. Breakfast meetings are organised regularly for church and charity leaders, and a Day of Worship was held in Beechen Grove Baptist Church in May attended by 180 people. St. Mary's also takes an active part in **Churches Together in Watford** (CTW); John Simpson is interim Chair. Jackie and Brian Mee are our appointed CTW representatives with support from Rosemary and David Clemas. St Mary's continued to be active in the **Watford Interfaith Association** (WIFA) with Rev Richard Banham hosting the Annual Interfaith Pilgrimage's visit to the church.

I hope it will be possible to build partnerships with local churches for different events and projects and there are some plans in place for this in early 2026.

The **Deanery Synod** met on 3 occasions; meetings often cover subjects of general interest and our open to all. A good example was the February meeting which involved a presentation from the diocesan net zero advisor Tom Abrahans. The May meeting covered diocesan finance and a review of the deanery parish shares. Many from St. Mary's also attended the licensing of Dave Scourfield at Langleybury. In October the meeting related to developing a new diocesan mission strategy.

Climate Emergency

St Mary's climate work continued at pace during 2025, notably and most visibly through the Green Heart of Watford partnership. We established two wildflower meadows by the Church Car Park, aided by children from Central and St John's Primary schools. These meadows produced a magnificent wildflower display in May for the official opening of the new play/seating area in what was the "Sensory Garden" next to the Church Centre, opening up this area for more interaction between church and town. To make this space more family-friendly we negotiated lowering hedges and then celebrated the opening with the Mayor/Deputy Mayor, members of the public and some very grateful wildlife friends.

Green Heart of Watford forms an important part of our response to the nature crisis under A Rocha's Ecochurch Award Scheme. Much of the year was focused on addressing outstanding items in our "Going for Gold" plan. This included a Lifestyle-focused Creationtide seminar and Sunday service in September led by Rev Margot and Dr Martin Hodson, and a series of articles and ecotips in our publications.

We also attended several community events jointly with the Butterfly Conservation Trust - a good excuse for some to dress up as bees, butterflies and ladybirds and engage with the public.

With the PCC decision to opt for 'green gas' to heat the church, our planning for investment in solar panels and, in due course, renewable heating, St Mary's is playing its part in meeting the Church of England's Net Zero By 2030 commitment. We anticipate being able to submit an application for Ecochurch Gold Award in spring 2026.

With many thanks for strong church leadership and support from the 25 or so church members in the climate action group St Mary's has now established itself as a leader amongst churches in the Watford area on green issues, and in so doing showing our love for God and his creation, and for each other.

Andy Roby, Climate Coordinator
and Bryan Gaha, Ecochurch Coordinator

Safeguarding

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

Lesley Gray was Parish Safeguarding Officer until October when Helen Hunter took over the role. The church would like to thank Lesley for all her work. Since October, Pam Rastall has been the main Safeguarding Administrator, managing DBS checks, training, and references, with assistance from Jenny Whittick. Regular meetings of the team are held with Revd Richard Banham. All those in leadership positions have completed the relevant checks and training.

All the policies relevant to safeguarding have been updated and safeguarding is a standing item on all PCC agendas. The PCC discussed the safeguarding culture in the church and made some helpful suggestions.

Some safeguarding referrals were made to the diocese, with other concerns being kept internally on record. The Parish Dashboard is being updated.

Helen Hunter
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Pre-School

2025 was another successful year for the Pre-School with a full cohort of children and a waiting list. At the start of the year, the fence around the external play area was replaced by a taller one, providing a more secure outdoor space. At the end of the summer term a Food Hygiene inspection resulted in a 5 out of 5 rating. In September, afternoon sessions were introduced, allowing some children to attend 30 hours per week. Staff training and professional development continued throughout the year, and all DBS checks were reviewed or updated. Bianca Rusu left the staff team at the end of December and Sandy Mann was appointed. The Pre-School Committee, which consists of members of St Mary's Church, the Manager and the Deputy Manager, met termly with an AGM in February.

Margaret Greenstreet

Independent Examiner's Report to The Parochial Church Council, St Mary's Watford

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Mary's Church Watford (charity no. 1132880) for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 14 to 25.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the trustees have prepared accounts in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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 charity 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 requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of the 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.

Gary Howard FCA
Howard Wilson Chartered Accountants
36 Crown Rise
Watford Hertfordshire WD25 0NE

Date: 10 April 2026

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2(a)	168,066	5,000	96,308	-	269,374	390,190
Income from charitable activities	2(b)	1,276	121,419	-	-	122,695	92,280
Other trading activities	2(c)	54,447	-	-	-	54,447	48,598
Investments	2(d)	33,808	-	1,140	476	35,424	26,280
TOTAL Income		**257,597**	**126,419**	**97,448**	**476**	**481,940**	**557,348**
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	3(a)	4,892	-	-	-	4,892	4,307
Expenditure on charitable activities	3(b)	178,497	117,919	29,004	-	325,420	290,456
Other expenditure	3(c)	-	-	-	-	-	2,958
TOTAL Expenditure		**183,389**	**117,919**	**29,004**	**-**	**330,312**	**297,721**
Net income/expenditure before transfers		**74,208**	**8,500**	**68,444**	**476**	**151,628**	**259,627**
Transfers							
Gross transfers between funds - in		167	-	-	-	167	-
Gross transfers between funds - out		-	-	(167)	-	(167)	-
Net income/expenditure before other gains/losses		74,375	8,500	68,277	476	151,628	259,627
Gains/(losses) on Fixed Assets		-				-	9,846
Gains/(losses) on investment assets		(20,864)	(221)		(525)	(21,610)	1,855
Net movement in funds		53,511	8,279	68,277	(49)	130,018	271,328
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2025		**860,381**	**58,640**	**14,332**	**18,570**	**951,923**	**680,595**
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2025		**913,892**	**66,919**	**82,609**	**18,521**	**1,081,941**	**951,923**

BALANCE SHEET

	Note	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets	5		110,386		110,718
Investments					
Church Board of Finance share accounts	6		383,124		404,734
Current Assets					
Debtors	7	13,751		22,221	
Investments		5,923		5,447	
Short term deposits		564,071		417,198	
Cash at bank and in hand		34,455		14,873	
		618,200		459,739	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(9,150)		(2,649)	
Net Current Assets			609,050		457,090
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			1,102,560		972,542
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	8		(20,619)		(20,619)
Net Assets			**1,081,941**		**951,923**
Funds					
Unrestricted & Designated	9		980,811		919,021
Restricted	10		82,609		14,332
Endowment	11		18,521		18,570
			1,081,941		**951,923**

These accounts were approved by the PCC on 23 March 2026 and signed on their behalf by

R.M. Banham

Rev Richard Banham

Chair

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 1 January 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption not to prepare a cash flow statement.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

1.2 Accounting Conventions

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts.

1.3 Funds structure

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application in the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted Funds represent monies given by a donor with a specific restriction on their future use. The purpose of any restricted fund is noted in the accounts.

It is the policy of the PCC that no fund should be in deficit and that if this seems likely to occur then expenditure will be reduced as necessary.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

1.4 Income Recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty or receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

i) Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC

Income tax recoverable under Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Funds raised by other fund raising events are accounted for gross.

ii) Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

iii) Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable

iv) Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

1.5 Expenditure Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as an expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis.

i) Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

ii) Activities directly relating to the work of the church

The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when payable. Any amount unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (although not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet except where donors have indicated otherwise.

1.6 Fixed Assets

i) Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficial property is excluded from the accounts by s.102(2)(c) of the Charities Act 2011.

No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a Faculty for disposal since the PCC considers these to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficial buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure I the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

ii) Other land and buildings

Other land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC for its own purposes are included at market value. The PCC has established that there is a correlation between the market value of the property held and the insured value. The property will be revalued in line with the insured value at least every five years and sooner in the event that the insured value materially differs to the carrying value at any insurance renewal date. No depreciation is charged against such properties because the net realisable value is similar to the re-valued amount and therefore any depreciation would be immaterial. Expenditure on maintenance is written off as incurred, impairment reviews are performed on an annual basis.

iii) Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off in the period in which the asset is acquired.

iv) Motor Vehicles

The minibus (and any other vehicle owned by the PCC) is depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years and is currently assessed at having zero value.

v) Grand Piano

The grand piano is depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years and is currently assessed at having zero value.

1.7 Stock

No value is attached to any stocks of consumables held e.g. stationery, office supplies, cleaning materials.

1.8 Investments
Investments are valued at market value at 31 December
1.9 Current Assets
Amounts owning to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.
Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

1.10 Risk Management
The PCC guards against risks through:

a) Taking out adequate insurance cover against fire, theft, and other insurable risks;
b) Seeking out professional guidance on church security and other matters;
c) Having and following a clear policy on child protection;
d) Having and following clear procedures for authorising expenditure and making payments.

1.11 Related Parties
Under SORP FRS102 (effective 1 January 2019) related party transactions are required to be reported. Related Parties for St. Marys include the members of the PCC and their immediate family plus those with management responsibility within the church organisation, the Vicar and church wardens. At present there are no related parties by virtue of land donations or, interest bearing loans. There are two organisations (The Church Lands Trust and the Dorothy Longland Bequest) that are considered to be related parties through association with related parties.

Donations from Related Parties are reported in aggregate form unless there are conditions attached to the use of that donation subject to SORP 2015 reporting requirements. Reimbursement of expenses to an unrelated third party are excluded from the reporting.

2. Income and endowments from:

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2(a) Donations and legacies						
Planned giving	67,543	-	5,985	-	73,528	81,771
Income tax recoverable on giving	17,825	-	1,579	-	19,404	20,175
Collections at services	12,836	-	-	-	12,836	12,104
Sundry donations	4,189	5,000	4,762	-	13,951	5,825
Restricted donations	-	-	110	-	110	535
Grants	-	-	13,872	-	13,872	2,400
Legacies	65,673	-	70,000	-	135,673	267,380
	168,066	5,000	96,308	-	269,374	390,190
2(b) Income from charitable activities						
Coffee & lunches served	308	-	-	-	308	42
Income from social/outreach events	290	-	-	-	290	404
Literature sales & concerts receipts	349	-	-	-	349	675
Fees	329	-	-	-	329	554
Pre-School fees/funding/donations	-	121,419	-	-	121,419	90,605
	1,276	121,419	-	-	122,695	92,280
2(c) Other trading activities						
Church Centre lettings	54,447	-	-	-	54,447	48,598
	54,447	-	-	-	54,447	48,598
2(d) Investments						
Interest & dividends	27,808	-	1,140	476	29,424	20,280
Cloisters Office occupancy	6,000	-	-	-	6,000	6,000
	33,808	-	1,140	476	35,424	26,280
TOTAL Income and Endowments	**257,597**	**126,419**	**97,448**	**476**	**481,940**	**557,348**

3. Expenditure on:

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
3(a) Raising funds						
Salary cost (admin)	1,821	-	-	-	1,821	1,598
Salary cost (Caretaker)	2,971	-	-	-	2,971	2,709
Costs of fundraising events	100	-	-	-	100	-
	4,892	-	-	-	4,892	4,307
3(b) Expenditure on charitable activities						
Giving to overseas missions	-	-	4,570	-	4,570	6,887
Giving to UK missions	-	-	2,937	-	2,937	4,639
PCC giving to Mission	297	-	1,404	-	1,701	-
Parish Share	83,613	-	-	-	83,613	85,444
Clergy expenses	7,095	-	-	-	7,095	1,814
Other ministry costs	2,691	-	159	-	2,850	1,592
Music	4,743	-	-	-	4,743	4,477
Staff training	-	-	-	-	-	55
Youth Club and Sunday School	-	-	-	-	-	136
Pre-School	-	117,919	-	-	117,919	81,837
Church and Church Centre:						
Running expenses	57,580	-	-	-	57,580	55,729
Routine inspections and maintenance	4,452	-	-	-	4,452	2,288
Planned Maintenance	2,526	-	3,398	-	5,924	520
Unplanned maintenance and repairs	2,224	-	10,806	-	13,030	19,394
Furniture, fixtures & fittings purchased	-	-	-	-	-	6,797
Houses: maintenance, insurance, etc	256	-	-	-	256	1,368
Administration and office costs	3,658	-	7	-	3,665	4,995
Salary costs re Governance (admin & fm)	5,462	-	-	-	5,462	4,793
Advertising	1,143	-	-	-	1,143	90
Literature & concerts expenditure	451	-	-	-	451	539
Mission and evangelism activities	1,106	-	2,138	-	3,244	-
Minibus running costs	-	-	2,301	-	2,301	4,145
Coffee & lunches, provisions purchased	-	-	-	-	-	328
Miscellaneous expenditure	-	-	952	-	952	38
Asset depreciation	-	-	332	-	332	331
Accountancy fees & related costs	1,200	-	-	-	1,200	2,220
	178,497	117,919	29,004	-	325,420	290,456

3. Expenditure on: (Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
3(c) Other expenditure						
Legal costs	-	-	-	-	-	2,958
	-	-	-	-	-	2,958
TOTAL Expenditure	**183,389**	**117,919**	**29,004**	-	**330,312**	**297,721**

4. STAFF COSTS	**2025**	**2024**
	£	£
Wages & Salaries	104,877	89,633
National Insurance - Employer	-	-
Pensions - Employer	4,720	2,538
	109,597	**92,171**

The PCC employed a part time Administrator (part 1/2 funded by WTCC), Facilities Manager, and Pre-School staff; none earned £60,000 p.a. or more in 2025.

5. FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

	Leasehold	Cooker	TOTAL
	£	£	£
Gross Book Value			
At 1 January 2025	110,386	1,656	112,042
Movement in market value	-	-	-
At 31 December 2025	110,386	1,656	112,042
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2025	-	1,324	1,324
Charge for 2025	-	332	332
At 31 December 2025	-	1,656	1,656
Net Book Value			
At 31 December 2024	110,386	332	110,718
At 31 December 2025	**110,386**	-	**110,386**

The cooker was purchased in 2021 and has been depreciated in accordance with Accounting Policy 1.6

The leasehold property at The Cloisters was revalued as at 31 December 2024 by reference to the latest insurance cover document.

6. INVESTMENTS

	CCLA Global Equity Fund	Chancel Fund	Church Hall Site Old Free School (see Note 13)	Old Free School Recoupment Loan (see Note 13)	Old Free School Recoupment Loan (see Note 13)	Ian Youngman Prize Fund	Total
Brought forward at 1 January 2025	373,739	8,185	2,672	4,347	13,525	2,266	404,734
Movement in value	(20,864)	(327)	(107)	(51)	(170)	(91)	(21,610)
Carried forward at 31 December 2025	**352,875**	**7,858**	**2,565**	**4,296**	**13,355**	**2,175**	**383,124**

7. DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income tax recoverable (Gift Aid)	4,595	7,567
Rent	1,141	1,317
Prepayments	1,256	5,037
Accrued Interest	5,461	4,614
Other	1,298	3,686
	13,751	**22,221**

8. CREDITORS

	2025	2024
Amounts falling due within one year	£	£
Accrual for independent examination fee	1,200	1,200
Agency Collections	-	-
Other accruals and creditors [16]	7,950	1,449
	9,150	**2,649**
Amounts falling due after one year	£	£
Old Free School loans (repayable in 2041 and 2053) (See Note 13)	20,619	20,619
	20,619	**20,619**

[16] Rent received in advance, Staff Costs (PAYE and pension), sundry creditors

9. UNRESTRICTED AND DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Balance at	Movements in Resources			Balance at
	01/01/2025	Incoming	Transfers	Outgoing	**31/12/2025**
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	860,381	236,733	167	(183,389)	913,892
Pre-School Fund	40,767	121,419	-	(117,919)	44,267
Vicar's Fund	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
OFS Recoupment Fund	17,873	(221)	-	-	17,652
	919,021	**362,931**	**167**	**(301,308)**	**980,811**

The Pre-School Fund represents funds generated by the Pre-School which are being accumulated to cover any potential capital expenditure or operating losses in the future. The PCC reviews this periodically and any funds considered to be in excess of requirements are transferred to the General Fund.

The Vicar's Fund relates to a donation received which is to be used at the Vicar's discretion.

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at	Movements in Resources			Balance at
	01/01/2025	Incoming	Transfers	Outgoing	**31/12/2025**
	£	£	£	£	£
External Giving Fund [18]	1,937	8,602		(8,731)	1,808
Legacies Funds [19]	1,638	1,165	(665)	(2,138)	-
Restricted donations and grants [20]	6,664	1,967	498	(2,460)	6,669
Fabric of the Church and Bells	-	71,031	-	(10,806)	60,225
Youth Fund	750	-	-	-	750
Sunday School Fund	500	63	-	(180)	383
Kitchen Fund (cooker)	443	-	-	(332)	111
External Lighting	-	11,552			11,552
Green Heart of Watford	-	2,070		(959)	1,111
Organ Repair Fund	2,400	998	-	(3,398)	-
	14,332	**97,448**	**(167)**	**(29,004)**	**82,609**

[18] External Giving Fund receives monies specifically donated for support of the worldwide mission of the Church; these are distributed in accordance with the donors' wishes or, if these are not specified, they are distributed to missions in line with a formula approved by the PCC.

[19] Legacies Funds contain monies donated or bequeathed for specific purposes; the balance is restricted to the purposes shown below:

	Balance at	Transfers	Other	Use of funds	Balance at
	01/01/2025		Income		**31/12/2025**
Purposes	£	£	£	£	£
The Poor	448	(448)	-	-	-
Outreach	843	-	1,165	(2,008)	-
Vicar's Discretionary	317	(317)	-	-	-
Church lending library	30	100	-	(130)	-
	1,638	**(665)**	**1,165**	**(2,138)**	-

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS (Continued)

[20] Restricted donations and grants contain monies donated or bequeathed for specific purposes; the balance is restricted to the purposes shown below:

	Balance at 01/01/2025	Transfers	Other income	Use of funds	Balance at 31/12/2025
Purposes	£	£	£	£	£
Hardship	2,095	2,360	46	-	4,501
Minibus	1,114	56	1,811	(2,301)	680
Flowers	49	-	110	(159)	-
Other small donations	3,406	(1,918)	-	-	1,488
	6,664	**498**	**1,967**	**(2,460)**	**6,669**

During the year, the PCC took the decision to rationalise some of the smaller restricted funds above.

Funds held for similar purposes ("The Poor", "Hardship" and "Vicar's Discretionary") were merged into the "Hardship" fund.

The "Other small donations" were re-analysed, and some amounts were transferred to other funds where appropriate. In some instances, where donations had been received for specific projects which have now been completed, the donors were contacted and their consent received to transfer these amounts to the General Fund. For the remainder of these donations, where no information was held, an application has been made to the Charities Commission to transfer these monies to the "Outreach Fund", and this will be done (hopefully in 2026) once a response is received from them.

11. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Balance at 01/01/2025	Movements in Resources Incoming	Net Gain / (Loss)	Balance at 31/12/2025
	£	£	£	£
Chancel Fund				
CBF Investment Account (354 shares)	8,185		(327)	7,858
CBF Deposit Account	5,447	476		5,923
Old Free School Fund				
CBF Investment Account (115.56 shares)[21]	2,672		(107)	2,565
Ian Youngman Prize Fund (98 shares)[22]	2,266		(91)	2,175
	18,570	**476**	**(525)**	**18,521**

[21] Dividend for general use £74.24 (£72.51 in 2024).

[22] Dividend for Sunday School prize £62.96 (£61.50 in 2024).

12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	110,386	-	-	110,386	100,872
Investments (Shares)	370,526	-	12,598	383,124	406,589
Cash at Bank	516,393	82,609	5,447	604,449	438,006
Other Net Current Assets	4,601	-	-	4,601	19,572
Liabilities over one year	(20,619)	-	-	(20,619)	(20,619)
	981,287	82,609	18,045	**1,081,941**	**944,420**

13. OLD FREE SCHOOL RECOUPMENT LOANS

In 1981 the Charity Commission approved a loan to the PCC of £4,500 out of the residual proceeds from the sale of the lease of the Old Free School and an associated right of way; this loan was to meet the cost of repairs to the church roof; and in order to achieve recoupment over the agreed term of 60 years an investment was made in the CBF Investment Fund, the value of which at 31 December 2025 was £4,296.17 (2024: £4,346.91).
A similar loan to the PCC of £16,119 over 60 years was agreed in 1993 in order to meet the cost of repairs to the church centre; at 31 December 2025 the value of this recoupment investment in the CBF Investment Fund was £13,355.20 (2024: £13,525.26).
Following drawdown of the 1981 loan detailed above, a small residue from the available sale proceeds created an endowment fund, the use of which is restricted to capital projects within the church; this is invested in the CBF Investment Fund and the value at 31 December 2025 was £2,565.24 (2024: £2,672.06).

14. INCOME RECEIVED FROM AND AMOUNTS PAID TO TRUSTEES (and their related parties)

	2025	2024
Donations without restrictions 23	26,161	28,130
Reportable payments	131	148

Peter Dean and Eileen Roby, Trustees of the Charity, and Caroline Jones, the wife of a Trustee of the Charity, are also Trustees of the Church Lands Trust. The Charity received no grants (2024: Nil) from this entity during the year.

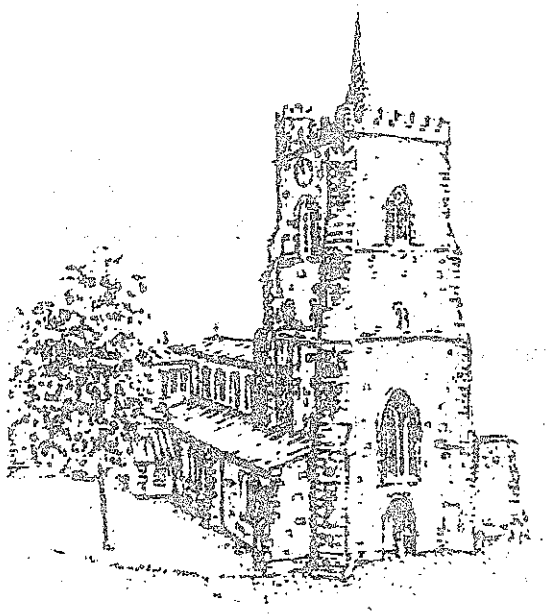
Eileen Roby, a Trustee of the Charity, and Caroline Jones and Rosemary Courtney, the wives of Trustees of the Charity, are also Trustees of the Dorothy Longland Trust. The Charity received no grants (2024: Nil) from this entity during the year.

Anthony Wilson is a member of the PCC. During the year he received a total of £2,160 (2024: £2,160) in respect of his services as Music Director whilst being a member of the PCC.

23 Trustees include serving members of the PCC and those in positions of management of the charity and their families.

15. PLANNED MAJOR WORK

As at 31 December 2025, the PCC had authorised expenditure (estimated at £11,552) in respect of the repair of the external floodlighting of the church. These costs will be covered by a grant received from Watford Council (see note 10).



Retaining our rich evangelical heritage, we want to be a church community which is rooted in the scriptures, filled with the Spirit and one which lives out a credible Christian faith. The church building needs to continue to be a sacred space and place of sanctuary in the heart of Watford. As a church community we naturally long to see spiritual and numerical growth in line with the diocesan initiative, Living God's Love, and to be a vibrant community attractive to others, and in partnership with other churches serve our local community well.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY'S WATFORD

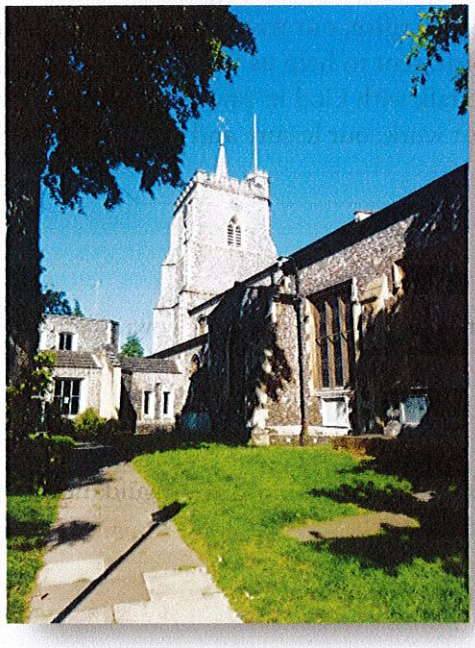
England & Wales - Charity number 1132880

Accounts

St Mary's, Watford

Church Street, Watford, WD18 0EG
Registered Charity Number: 1132880

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL for the year ended 31st December 2024



Vicar to 14th July 2024:
The Revd Tony Rindl, The Vicarage
14 Cassiobury Drive, Watford, WD17 3AB

Vacancy from 15th July 2024

Bankers:
Barclays Bank plc, PO Box 104, St Albans, AL1 3AN
Lloyds Bank plc, Intu Shopping Centre, Watford, WD17 2UB

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS
Living God's Love

Introduction

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The primary objective of the PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC's (Powers) Measure 1956 states that the PCC "is to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical". The PCC is responsible for the upkeep of the church building and the adjoining Church Centre and also for assets including a house (Brightwell Road, sold in March 2024) and an office (The Cloisters). St Mary's Church is located in the town centre of Watford, with only approximately 8,000 people living within its parish, but with many commercial and shopping premises that bring in a daily influx of workers and shoppers to the area.

Purpose of the Church

As a church we believe that God the Father created the world. Because humans have disobeyed God's law, Jesus, God's own Son, came to earth, was born of a virgin, lived without sin, was crucified, died and rose again from the dead. Through His sacrifice, our wrongdoings are forgiven. He will return in glory to the earth. We believe in the Holy Spirit, sent to help us to live to God's glory. We accept the Bible as God's Word and rejoice in our ability to talk with God in prayer. We aim to share our beliefs by worshipping together, by carrying them into our work, our leisure and our family life and by sharing our faith with others.

Our Vision Statement

"We believe that God is calling St Mary's to be a growing Town Centre Evangelical Anglican Church."

Public Benefit

The PCC has paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in all aspects of the activities undertaken by the church.

Churchwardens' Report

The year 2024 has been marked by a period of consolidation and forward-looking planning for St. Mary's. A significant transition occurred in June with the departure of our esteemed Vicar, the Reverend Tony Rindl, who accepted a new appointment in Birmingham. We extend our warmest wishes to him in his new calling. This move necessitated a shift in the leadership of St. Mary's, creating a vacancy that the congregation has navigated with remarkable resilience and adaptability. In the interim, members of our community have demonstrated exceptional dedication, stepping forward to maintain the continuity of our services and activities.

Recognizing the need for structured support during this period of transition, four members of our congregation were approved as Lay Leaders of Worship by Bishop Alan after completing the Diocesan training course. This was largely a formal recognition of the role they had undertaken for decades in St Mary's. Nevertheless, this initiative has empowered them to take on greater responsibilities in leading worship, ensuring the smooth continuation of our weekly services. Furthermore, we are profoundly grateful for the unwavering support of numerous clergy members from across the Diocese, who have generously offered their assistance during this vacancy, reinforcing the strong sense of community that binds us together. We have particularly benefitted from the ministry of some very able women, including Rev Helen Neville, Rev Verity Harvey (retired) and Jayne Fish. The congregation has welcomed the rich diversity in clergy robing traditions with the wearing of albs, chasubles etc. The Worship For All Team has continued to put together high quality, imaginative and memorable services each month. Our two ordinands continue their path to ministry. St Mary's remains Clinton Dan Jumbo's sending church although his training continues primarily in St Luke's owing to the vacancy. We are grateful to the Diocese for arranging for Lesley Gray to remain with us under the supervision of Rev Lizzie Hood (retired) and have been greatly blessed by her preaching and leading of services, as well as her support and advice on the PCC.

Preparing for a new Vicar has occupied a considerable amount of our time and energy. We acknowledge the invaluable support of the team that compiled a comprehensive parish profile, distributed to all applicants for the role of Vicar. This document, the result of many hours of work, incorporated the congregation's views gathered through a lunchtime discussion following a service and a questionnaire completed by over seventy members. The final parish profile provides an honest and clear reflection of who we are as a community and our vision for the future.

The leadership of St. Mary's has seen changes in its Churchwardens. Peter Dean, who served with distinction, stepped down from his role but continues to lend his support to the church in numerous ways. We are deeply indebted to his ongoing commitment. Marcus Jones was elected as Churchwarden, and we have found that our characters and skills are complementary and work together effectively.

The musical aspect of our worship, a vital element in our spiritual expression, is skilfully managed by Anthony Wilson, our part-time Director of Music. He dedicates his expertise to training the choir for specific services, particularly those central to our liturgical calendar, and leads the musical component of our Communion Services. To complement our traditional worship, a small worship group provides a contemporary service once a month, offering a different avenue for spiritual engagement. We also extend our sincere appreciation to those who diligently prepare for our Communion Services and to the dedicated bell ringers who contribute to the rich tradition of our church.

The safeguarding of our community remains a paramount concern, and Lesley Gray continues to serve as our Parish Safeguarding Officer, ably supported by Jenny Whittick. Their diligent work ensures that our church remains a safe and welcoming environment for all. Pam Rastall, our sole Administrator, manages the day-to-day operations of the church with efficiency and dedication. Liz Allan, as Facilities Manager, continues to play a crucial role in maintaining and enhancing our church facilities, ensuring they are well-utilized and contribute positively to our mission. Many people do not see the hard work that goes on behind the scenes to maintain the life of St. Mary's, but as Churchwardens, we are truly grateful for the dedication of all those who contribute.

Beyond our regular services, St. Mary's continues to play an active role in the wider community of Watford. Our lunchtime concert series, a beloved tradition, was paused in December due to staffing constraints. The significant time commitment required from Pam Rastall and Liz Allan, who were already heavily involved in their core duties, proved unsustainable. We remain hopeful that additional volunteers will come forward to help revitalize this important ministry. However, the church facilities remain vibrant throughout the week, hosting a variety of community activities such as the Wednesday Fellowship, Tuesday Toddlers, and the Preschool, demonstrating our commitment to serving diverse needs.

As the main town centre and civic church for Watford, St. Mary's continues to be the venue for significant religious services and events. For the third consecutive year, we hosted the beginning of the Remembrance Sunday parade, a poignant and well-attended occasion. Also of note was the Carols by Candlelight service attended by some 160 people, quadrupling 2023's attendance. Exceptionally, we had more visitors than church members, including children. This was due to a combination of better publicity, the earlier time of 5.30pm and to the invitations extended to local organisations, including the Elected Mayor and the Chair of Proud Watford who read lessons. We look forward to building further on this in 2025.

St. Mary's also serves as an attractive venue for numerous concerts and community events throughout the year, fostering cultural enrichment within Watford. We continue to welcome school visits, finding immense joy in engaging with enthusiastic and inquisitive young visitors.

St. Mary's has continued to demonstrate a strong commitment to addressing the climate emergency. In the autumn, we hosted a Climate Change conference in the church, attracting over a hundred attendees. This event brought together NGOs, the local council, and churches, facilitating important discussions and the development of future initiatives. Furthermore, a dedicated group continues to work with a local primary school, exploring the green space surrounding the church through activities like bug hunts and the planting of bee-friendly flora. Collaborating with the local council, plans are being developed to enhance the green space to the south of the church, creating a delightful area for community enjoyment, a valuable addition to Watford's limited green spaces. Additionally, the council is in the process of developing two wildflower areas on our land near the Church Car Park.

Despite the challenges presented by the current vacancy, the dedication and commitment of our lay members, staff, and volunteers ensure that our mission of spiritual nourishment and community service remains strong. We are especially grateful to our Area Dean, Peter Waddell, and to Archdeacon Charles Hudson for their advice and support at this time. We are confident that with the continued support of our Diocese and the unwavering dedication of our congregation, St. Mary's will continue to thrive and serve as a beacon of faith and community in Watford.

Eileen Roby and Marcus Jones
Churchwardens

Parochial Church Council

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. Most members of the PCC are elected, but Churchwardens, Deanery and Diocesan Synod members are *ex officio*. All elected PCC members are volunteers. New members of the PCC appointed at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) are required to complete a Trustee registration form. All members of the PCC are required to undergo on-line safeguarding training.

The following served for all or part of 2024:

Vicar
The Revd Tony Rindl to May 2024

Churchwardens (Ex Officio)

Eileen Roby	Vice-Chair to 2024 APCM, Chair from June 2024
Peter Dean	to 2024 APCM
Marcus Jones	from 2024 APCM, Vice-Chair from June 2024

Deanery Synod (2023-2026) (Ex Officio)

Cathy Honeyman	to 2024 APCM
Peter Dean	to 2026 APCM
Tilly Elliott	to 2026 APCM

Elected Members

Margaret Greenstreet	to 2024 APCM
Lesley Gray	to 2025 APCM
Gill Watson	to 2025 APCM
Daniella Clinton	to 2026 APCM
Roger Courtney	to 2026 APCM
Martin Whittick	to 2026 APCM
Cathy Honeyman	to 2027 APCM
Anthony Wilson	to 2027 APCM

Co-opted Members

Anthony Wilson	to 2024 APCM
Margaret Greenstreet	from June 2024

Roger Courtney was appointed as PCC Secretary with Pam Rastall providing support, Anthony Wilson and Richard Watson continued as Joint Treasurers. The PCC held 11 meetings during the year, its normal meetings being supplemented by a special meeting to approve the 2003 Accounts and a 'Section 11' meeting to approve the Parish Profile and appoint Parish Representatives. The minutes of meetings are posted to St Mary's website, once approved. Sub-committees met between PCC meetings and presented information for consideration and decision by the full PCC.

Attendance was as follows: Rev Tony Rindl (to May) - 5; Peter Dean - 11; Eileen Roby - 11; Daniella Clinton - 3; Roger Courtney - 6; Tilly Elliott - 10; Lesley Gray - 4; Margaret Greenstreet - 11; Cathy Honeyman - 9; Marcus Jones - 11; Gill Watson - 9; Martin Whittick - 8; Anthony Wilson - 9.

Policies

The PCC has developed policies covering areas of Health &; Safety, Safeguarding, Bullying and Harassment, Lone Working, Conflict of Interest, Financial Procedures, Grievance & Disciplinary, Equal Opportunities, Data Protection and Video Conferencing. The Safeguarding Policy is updated annually; most other policies are updated bi-annually.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the church to hold reserves the equivalent to 2 months' general running costs and an additional one month's salary costs. It is also our policy to hold the amount for anticipated major expenses (including likely building work). The policy will be reviewed annually at the October PCC meeting or whenever financial circumstances change significantly.

PCC Committees
A significant proportion of the PCC's work is delegated to the sub-committees listed below. They meet regularly and report back to the PCC at its monthly meetings.

Standing Committee
Met to discuss the handling of PCC agendas; and to deal with urgent PCC business between meetings of the PCC. There were seven meetings during the year which focussed mainly on finance, staff matters and policies.

Finance Committee
Monitored St Mary's income and expenditure, proposed financial policies and presented draft accounts and budgets for PCC examination and approval. Recommended investment policies for receipts from the sale of the Brightwell Rd house and significant legacies.

Buildings Committee
Oversaw and managed the inspection, maintenance, changes, improvements and repairs of the fabric and plant in the church, the Church Centre and the Cloisters Office.

Pre-School Committee
Managed the Pre-School, handling finance and staff matters under delegated powers.

Climate Emergency Committee
Oversaw the work of the Climate Action Group created in 2022, notably arrangements for the conference held in September 2024 and the interactions with the Borough Council over changes to the churchyard that would improve both attractiveness and biodiversity.

Roger Courtney
PCC Secretary

Church Management

Governance and Leadership:

- St. Mary's Church operates under the authority of the Synods of the Church of England and is accountable to its appointed Bishops and their officers.
- The previous Vicar, Reverend Tony Rindl, departed in June to take a position in Birmingham. The church is currently in a period of vacancy.
- In the absence of a Vicar, lay members of the congregation are actively involved in leading services and supporting the Sunday School programme.
- Eight individuals from the congregation completed the Diocese-led "Lay Leaders of Worship" training.
- The church has received support from various clergy across the diocese during the vacancy.

Worship and Music:

- Anthony Wilson serves as the part-time Director of Music, responsible for choir training for specific services and leading music for Communion Services.
- A small worship group leads a monthly service in a contemporary style.
- Volunteers assist with the preparation for Communion Services, and the bell ringers contribute to the church's services.

Church Leadership and Administration:

- Peter Dean stepped down as Churchwarden but continues to support the church in various capacities.
- Eileen Roby was re-elected as Churchwarden in May, and Marcus Jones was newly elected as Churchwarden.
- Lesley Gray serves as the Parish Safeguarding Officer, with support from Jenny Whittick.
- Pam Rastall is the church's sole Administrator.
- Liz Allan continues to serve as the Facilities Manager, overseeing the effective use of church facilities.

Financial and Property Management:

- Two Churchwardens and two members of the St. Mary's congregation serve as Trustees of the Longland Trust, which provides financial support for ordained ministry at St. Mary's.
- The Church Lands Trust makes discretionary grants to assist the repair and enhancement of church buildings within the ancient Parish of Watford. Its Board of Trustees consists of the Churchwardens and the elected Wardens of the Hamlets, who are members of St. Mary's.

Eileen Roby
Churchwarden

Electoral Roll, Church Attendance and Life Events

The Electoral Roll stands at 761 (142 at the APCM in 2024). The worshipping community at the end of 2024 was estimated to be 122 (156 in 2023). There were 3 baptisms in 2024 (1 in 2023). 5 funerals were taken in 2024 by clergy from or on behalf of St Mary's either in church or at the West Herts Crematorium (4 in 2023). There were no confirmation candidates in St Mary's in 2024 (14 in 2023). There were no marriages in St Mary's in 2024 (as in 2023).

Finance

The General Fund had a significant surplus for the year. We were blessed with a substantial legacy from the Estate of Olive Knibbs – without this, there would have been a small deficit. Rental income during the year increased, although this was offset by a reduction in planned giving. During the year, the PCC's Brightwell Road property was sold, and the proceeds (together with the legacy mentioned above) have been invested in order to generate an income which, it is hoped, will help to enable the church to produce balanced budgets going forward. My thanks go to Richard Watson, who is the church bookkeeper and co-treasurer with me, and who provides a consistently up-to-date and clear statement of the church finances to the Finance Committee and the PCC. The speed at which he generates the monthly reports is, quite honestly, something to be astonished at! I am also indebted to the Finance Committee for the work that they do in ensuring that we maximise the funds available through Gift Aid, VAT reclaim etc. I should note that, despite the Knibbs legacy, which has been greatly appreciated, we still need to look at increasing revenue as much as we can (through lettings, donations etc.) to provide maximum support for the church's mission.

Anthony Wilson
Co-Treasurer and Chair, Finance Committee

Buildings

The Buildings Committee is responsible to the PCC for keeping the fabric of the Church and Church Centre in good order. In 2024 annual planned routine maintenance of our installations, including servicing and inspections, has been carried out to meet legal requirements and good practice.

Unplanned maintenance caused by faults and failures has been carried out as these arose or were identified during the routine maintenance. This included upgrading the emergency lighting, buttress render repair, and fire extinguisher replacement.

Planned projects in the year included repainting the upper rooms, an external digital sign board (to be completed early 2025), repainting of the tower clock faces, and initial anti-pigeon roosting measures over the west door (further measures to be installed early 2025). The Buildings Committee has also assisted the Pre-school external fence and the WBC external landscaping works obtain diocesan approval.

The Committee is grateful for the work of church members and working parties who have assisted during the year which has helped keep costs within approved budgets.

Phil Hunter
Chair, Buildings Committee

Missions

St Mary's has a number of missions which it supports:
Watford Schools Trust takes the Christian faith into schools, helping with assemblies and RE lessons. Last year Church members knitted woollen hearts to be distributed in local Primary Schools.
New Hope supports the homeless in Watford. St Mary's has provided Severe Weather Emergency Provision (SWEP) in the past so that people have shelter in the worst winter weather.
Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy (WTCC) ministers to businesses and organisations based in the town centre.
Mano Emmanuel is a former member of St Mary's who works at Colombo Theological Seminary in Sri Lanka.
S&K are a couple based in the Middle East sharing the Good News and supporting development projects.
Tearfund is a Christian Relief Agency operating internationally.
Meninadanca is a charity rescuing and supporting girls who are being exploited in Brazil.
Andrew Leake works with Compassion International in Argentina.
Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS) supports St Mary's as Patron particularly during a vacancy by assisting with the appointment process. They also provide training and courses as well as running holidays for 11–18 year-olds.

Traditionally St Mary's has held a Gift Day once a year to encourage the congregation to support a mission organisation financially, in prayer or by joining in with the organisation's activities. The Gift Day was suspended during the Pandemic and for various reasons has not resumed.

Caroline Jones

Music

Music continues to be a strength at St Mary's. The choir continues to provide music for all communion services on the second, fourth (and occasionally, where relevant, fifth) Sundays of the month, as well as at all the major festivals and events that come over the church year. Again, both the Easter services and the Festival of Lessons and Carols were very well received by the congregation, but the choir are a much valued part of the worship at St Mary's on ferial days as much as festival days. Their work behind the scenes in learning harmonies and practising at home allows a wide range of anthems to be performed at a very high standard.

On the third Sunday of each month, the music group has been leading the musical part of the worship. They bring a different style of music to the congregation, delighting in their close-knit harmonies and improvisatory style, which has been much appreciated. They have kept to a small number of pieces this year, to allow the congregation to learn them and begin to join in but will undoubtedly expand their repertoire as time goes on.

Lunchtime concerts also took place during the year, although these have stopped for the moment. These featured some very talented performances, often from Ukrainian refugees who have relocated to Watford. These have been much appreciated, although greater attendance at them would always be welcome as and when they restart.

My thanks go to everyone who participates in the musical life of the church, but especially to the wonderful Richard Watson who plays for the services every week and supports all the music in the church so marvelously.

Anthony Wilson
Choir Director

Visits & Concerts

Both Watford Girls Grammar and Watford Boys Grammar Schools made visits to the church again this year for their Founders Day Services. Watford Phoenix Choir performed three concerts in the church as well as holding their rehearsals on a regular basis. Sunflower Social Club, South Oxhey Community Choir, Lumos Live, Watford Girls Grammar School & Janine Carnac also held concerts here. Watford International Piano Competition ran an all-day event in the church/centre. The Lunchtime Concerts continued over the year until November when they were sadly cancelled. The Purcell School performed at one of the Lunchtime Concerts to which we invited Chater Junior School and St Johns Junior School. We have also had visits from Field Junior School and Watford Girls Grammar School. Other events in the church included Heritage Open Days, Samaritans AGM, Green Hustings, Open Space Q&A and our Christmas Fayre.

Liz Allan
Facilities Manager

Children and Young People

The year began with only one group meeting regularly on Sunday mornings for ages 3–12 years, However thanks to the willingness of Jenny Whittick, a second group, began in April taking the older children from the existing group but also some newer, older children from the congregation who had not previously attended a group. Now, Scramblers welcomes children aged 3-10 years and Pathfinders 10-14 year olds. Ten children from seven families attended regularly throughout the year with several others attending more sporadically. This is a small increase on the previous year. Despite the small numbers, the children have been active and visible members of the congregation, beginning each service in church. The Pathfinder group have led the prayers during Worship for All services several times. A shortage of leaders and helpers is still a concern meaning that it is not possible to offer two separate groups every week and there is no provision for the older teenagers.

Margaret Greenstreet

Weekday Activities

Five *Connect Groups* met weekly, fortnightly, or monthly, interest-based or area-based, in homes or via Zoom. All members and church members are invited to *CAKE* (Come And Know Everything) on the first Wednesday evening of each month for prayer.
Wednesday Fellowship met fortnightly under Val Bordley, who organizes trips and talks throughout the year, bringing in many outsiders.
St Mary's Runners and Walkers meet weekly.
There is a monthly at *Meet@TheMoon*, which is open to all.
Bell Ringers meet weekly for practice under Luke.

Eileen Roby

Local Outreach and Co-operation with Other Local Churches

St. Mary's seeks to work in **with a number of local charities and community groups**, most noticeably Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy, and Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership (WTRRP), both of which rent space within the church building, including for a regular weekly drop-in for WTRRP. The Revd Tony Rindl had links with local charities, and many of our congregation do also, including New Hope, One YMCA, Watford Schools Trust, Citizens Advice, The Sunflower Social Club, The Samaritans, Watford Credit Union and the local Fairtrade Group. The latter is important because our Climate Change group seeks to link up with Fairtrade and other churches and community groups that share a common concern for the environment. St Mary's has begun a fruitful new partnership with Proud Watford following a recommendation from the Revd Tony Rindl to hold its *Proud Portrait* art exhibition in the church.

St Mary's Church continues to be a member of **Christians Across Watford**. Breakfast meetings are organised regularly for church and charity leaders and a Day of Worship was held in Beechen Grove Baptist Church in May attended by 180 people. St. Mary's also takes an active part in **Churches Together in Watford** (CTW) which met five times throughout the year, including an AGM when the Revd Ian Pankhurst stood down as Chair and the Revd Geoff Calvert stood down as Vice-Chair; there is an interim Chair until a permanent Chair steps forward. They also arranged social gatherings at the Southern Cross throughout the year and an annual meal at the Blue Check in Bushey in October. Jackie and Brian Mee are our appointed CTW representatives. St Mary's continued to be active in the **Watford Interfaith Association** (WIFA) with Dr Lesley Gray hosting the Annual Interfaith Pilgrimage's visit to the church.

Peter Dean, one of St Mary's Deanery Synod representatives, writes: **Deanery Synod** met twice during the year. Meetings generally cover matters of general interest and are open to all. The meeting in February had presentations on *Living and Love and Faith* and the work of *Watford Schools Trust*. In October there was a presentation on the funding bid for the *Growing Younger and More Diverse* initiative.

Marcus Jones

Climate Emergency

It has been another busy year for St Mary's climate group. We successfully delivered Watford's first ever climate conference enjoyed by a hundred participants determined to fix the planet through practical action.

We have also been busy with our own degraded green patch by forming the Green Heart of Watford initiative with Watford Borough Council, the Butterfly Conservation Trust, Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, Friends of the Earth and St John's Primary School.

So far, this partnership has resulted in two nature surveys of the graveyard with St John's School Eco-Ambassadors, wildflower plantings and a no-mow agreement in said churchyard with the council. Let's see how nature responds.

We also jointly hosted a public information event in November with the council, to shape their plans for the family-friendly redevelopment of the Sensory Garden as well as consulting on our own plans.

So, the Green Heart partnership is creating two wildflower meadows next to the multi-storey carpark, with seed bombing and a wildflower growing competition with local schools. Site preparation is underway, and a prize-giving is planned for Great Big Green Week in June.

And what about going for the Ecochurch Gold? Well, we decided to focus last year on the conference and Green Heart initiative. Just as well as A Rocha were busy revising the award scheme which has just been relaunched so we will be examining the new survey to see what we need to do. Watch this space and why not get involved?

As part of Ecochurch Gold we will have an energy audit of the church, centre and offices in order to develop an investment plan to reduce our emissions and our energy bill (currently >£40k pa). The diocese had offered to pay for this but teething problems with the scheme have delayed this work.

In the meantime, we continue to build St Mary's green profile in Watford by convening and attending meetings (hustings, green network, sustainability forums, conference), pushing for more action, developing partnerships and demonstrating our love for God and each other by caring for His creation.

Andy Roby

Safeguarding

The PCC can report that it has complied with its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Lesley Gray continues in her role as Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and Jenny Whittick as Safeguarding Administrator, managing DBS checks, training, and references, as a volunteer. All in leadership positions having completed all the relevant paperwork, the changes to training made by the Church of England are now being followed up to ensure everyone is up to date.

All the policies relevant to safeguarding have been updated and safeguarding remains a standing item on all PCC agendas. The PCC have discussed safeguarding culture in our church and have made some helpful suggestions.

Some safeguarding referrals were made this year, to the diocese, with other concerns being kept internally on record. The Parish Dashboard is being updated.

Helen Hunter is currently undertaking a period of training, in order that she will become PSO once a new vicar is in place.

Lesley Gray
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Pre-School

2024 was a successful year for the Pre-school, led by Adriana Aitkaci Komarova (Manager) and Anita Wenham (Deputy Manager) with a full cohort of children. A second apprentice, Bianca Francisca Rusu started in January which helped when Ahlam Algburi took maternity leave between April and October. Bianca Ungurianu completed her apprenticeship in July and now has a permanent contract. Lucy Potter left for a full-time position in July. Much of the year was spent making arrangements for a higher, safer fence around the garden to be installed. Members of the church Eco Council worked with the Pre-school children in June as part of the Green Week of Action, helping them to make bug hotels. The Pre-school Committee, made up of members of St Mary's Church, the manager and deputy, continued to meet regularly. The AGM in February was well attended by parents who spoke very positively about the Pre-school.

Margaret Greenstreet

Independent Examiner's Report to
The Parochial Church Council, St Mary's Watford

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Mary's Church Watford (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

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

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

Independent examiner's statement
Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the trustees have prepared accounts in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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 charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 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 requirement 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.

Gary Howard FCA
Howard Wilson Chartered Accountants
36 Crown Rise
Watford Hertfordshire WD25 0NE

dated: 1st April 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2(a)	377,977	-	12,213	-	390,190	183,360
Income from charitable activities	2(b)	1,675	90,605	-	-	92,280	82,879
Other trading activities	2(c)	48,598	-	-	-	48,598	42,734
Investments	2(d)	25,658	-	134	488	26,280	23,641
TOTAL Income		**453,908**	**90,605**	**12,347**	**488**	**557,348**	**332,614**
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	3(a)	4,307	-	-	-	4,307	6,541
Expenditure on charitable activities	3(b)	191,951	81,837	16,668	-	290,456	354,157
Other expenditure	3(c)	2,958	-	-	-	2,958	-
TOTAL Expenditure		**199,216**	**81,837**	**16,668**	**-**	**297,721**	**360,698**
Net income/expenditure before transfers		**254,692**	**8,768**	**(4,321)**	**488**	**259,627**	**(28,084)**
Transfers							
Gross transfers between funds - in		-	-	-	-	-	-
Gross transfers between funds - out		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net income/expenditure before other gains/losses		254,692	8,768	(4,321)	488	259,627	(28,084)
Gains/losses on Fixed Assets		9,846				9,846	-
Gains/losses on investment assets		697	864		294	1,855	3,023
Net movement in funds		265,235	9,632	(4,321)	782	271,328	(25,061)
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2024		**595,146**	**49,008**	**18,653**	**17,788**	**680,595**	**705,656**
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2024		**860,381**	**58,640**	**14,332**	**18,570**	**951,923**	**680,595**

BALANCE SHEET

	Note	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets	5		110,718		101,203
Investments					
Church Board of Finance share accounts	6		404,734		29,837
63 Brightwell Road	6		-		376,000
Current Assets					
Debtors	7	22,221		10,997	
Investments		5,447		4,959	
Short term deposits		417,198		113,707	
Cash at bank and in hand		14,873		73,773	
		459,739		203,436	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(2,649)		(9,262)	
Net Current Assets			457,090		194,174
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			972,542		701,214
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	8		(20,619)		(20,619)
Net Assets			**951,923**		**680,595**
Funds					
Unrestricted & Designated	9		919,021		644,154
Restricted	10		14,332		18,653
Endowment	11		18,570		17,788
			951,923		**680,595**

These accounts were approved by the PCC on 25 March 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Eileen Roby
Chair

Marcus Jones
Church Warden

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 1 January 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption not to prepare a cash flow statement.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

1.2 Accounting Conventions

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts.

1.3 Funds structure

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application in the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted Funds represent monies given by a donor with a specific restriction on their future use. The purpose of any restricted fund is noted in the accounts.

It is the policy of the PCC that no fund should be in deficit and that if this seems likely to occur then expenditure will be reduced as necessary.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

1.4 Income Recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty or receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

i) Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC

Income tax recoverable under Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Fund raised by other fund raising events are accounted for gross.

ii) Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

iii) Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable

iv) Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

1.5 Expenditure Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as an expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis.

i) Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

ii) Activities directly relating to the work of the church

The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when payable. Any amount unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (although not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet except where donors have indicated otherwise.

1.6 Fixed Assets

i) Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficial property is excluded from the accounts by s.102(2)(c) of the Charities Act 2011.

No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a Faculty for disposal since the PCC considers these to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficial buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure I the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

ii) Other land and buildings

Other land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC for its own purposes are included at market value. The PCC has established that there is a correlation between the market value of the property held and the insured value. The property will be revalued in line with the insured value at least every five years and sooner in the event that the insured value materially differs to the carrying value at any insurance renewal date. No depreciation is charged against such properties because the net realisable value is similar to the re-valued amount and therefore any depreciation would be immaterial. Expenditure on maintenance is written off as incurred, impairment reviews are performed on an annual basis.

iii) Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off in the period in which the asset is acquired.

iv) Motor Vehicles

The minibus (and any other vehicle owned by the PCC) is depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years and is currently assessed at having zero value.

v) Grand Piano

The grand piano is depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years and is currently assessed at having zero value.

1.7 Stock

No value is attached to any stocks of consumables held e.g. stationery, office supplies, cleaning materials.

1.8 Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December

1.9 Current Assets

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

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

1.10 Risk Management

The PCC guards against risks through:

a) Taking out adequate insurance cover against fire, theft, and other insurable risks;
b) Seeking out professional guidance on church security and other matters;
c) Having and following a clear policy on child protection;
d) Having and following clear procedures for authorising expenditure and making payments.

1.11 Related Parties

Under SORP FRS102 (effective 1 January 2019) related party transactions are required to be reported. Related Parties for St. Marys include the members of the PCC and their immediate family plus those with management responsibility within the church organisation, the Vicar and church wardens. At present there are no related parties by virtue of land donations or, interest bearing loans., There are two organisations (The Church Lands Trust and the Dorothy Longland Bequest) that are considered to be related parties through association with related parties.

Donations from Related Parties are reported in aggregate form unless there are conditions attached to the use of that donation subject to SORP 2015 reporting requirements. Reimbursement of expenses to an unrelated third party are excluded from the reporting.

2. Income and endowments from:

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2(a) Donations and legacies						
Planned giving	75,408	-	6,363	-	81,771	91,268
Income tax recoverable on giving	18,701	-	1,474	-	20,175	22,857
Collections at services	12,104	-	-	-	12,104	12,811
Sundry donations	4,384	-	1,441	-	5,825	13,474
Restricted donations	-	-	535	-	535	150
Grants	-	-	2,400	-	2,400	42,500
Legacies	267,380	-	-	-	267,380	300
	377,977	-	12,213	-	390,190	183,360
2(b) Income from charitable activities						
Coffee & lunches served	42	-	-	-	42	-
Income from social/outreach events	404	-	-	-	404	-
Literature sales & concerts receipts	675	-	-	-	675	-
Fees	554	-	-	-	554	2,154
Pre-School fees/funding/donations	-	90,605	-	-	90,605	80,725
	1,675	90,605	-	-	92,280	82,879
2(c) Other trading activities						
Church Centre lettings	48,598	-	-	-	48,598	42,734
	48,598	-	-	-	48,598	42,734
2(d) Investments						
Interest & dividends	19,658	-	134	488	20,280	6,011
63 Brightwell Road rental	-	-	-	-	-	11,630
Cloisters Office occupancy	6,000	-	-	-	6,000	6,000
	25,658	-	134	488	26,280	23,641
TOTAL Income and Endowments	**453,908**	**90,605**	**12,347**	**488**	**557,348**	**332,614**

3. Expenditure on:	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
3(a) Raising funds						
Salary cost (admin)	1,598	-	-	-	1,598	2,985
Salary cost (Caretaker)	2,709	-	-	-	2,709	2,308
Card Reader	-	-	-	-	-	409
Letting Agency	-	-	-	-	-	839
	4,307	-	-	-	4,307	6,541
3(b) Expenditure on charitable activities						
Giving to overseas missions	-	-	6,887	-	6,887	18,206
Giving to UK missions	-	-	4,639	-	4,639	20,597
Parish Share	85,444	-	-	-	85,444	88,490
Clergy expenses	1,529	-	285	-	1,814	1,571
Other ministry costs	1,211	-	381	-	1,592	3,336
Music	4,477	-	-	-	4,477	3,416
Staff training	55	-	-	-	55	36
Youth Club and Sunday School	136	-	-	-	136	116
Pre-School	-	81,837	-	-	81,837	70,262
Church and Church Centre:						
Running expenses	55,729	-	-	-	55,729	60,775
Routine inspections and maintenance	2,288	-	-	-	2,288	5,461
Major maintenance and planned improvements:		-		-	-	46,381
Planned Maintenance	520	-	-	-	520	-
Unplanned maintenance and repairs	19,394	-		-	19,394	9,646
Furniture, fixtures & fittings purchased	6,797	-	-	-	6,797	18
Houses: maintenance, insurance, etc	1,368	-	-	-	1,368	3,733
Administration and office costs	4,995	-	-	-	4,995	5,810
Salary costs re Governance (admin & fm)	4,793	-	-	-	4,793	8,954
Advertising	90	-	-	-	90	-
Literature & concerts expenditure	539	-	-	-	539	274
Minibus running costs	-	-	4,145	-	4,145	2,455
Coffee & lunches, provisions purchased	328	-	-	-	328	59
Miscellaneous expenditure	38	-	-	-	38	510
Asset depreciation	-	-	331	-	331	331
Accountancy fees & related costs	2,220	-	-	-	2,220	3,720
	191,951	81,837	16,668	-	290,456	354,157

3. Expenditure on: (Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
3(c) Other expenditure						
Legal costs	2,958	-	-	-	2,958	-
	2,958	-	-	-	2,958	-
TOTAL Expenditure	**199,216**	**81,837**	**16,668**	-	**297,721**	**360,698**

4. STAFF COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages & Salaries	89,633	76,886
National Insurance - Employer	-	-
Pensions - Employer	2,538	2,023
	92,171	**78,909**

The PCC employed two part time Administrators (one Administrator 1/2 funded by WTCC), Facilities Manager, and Pre-School staff; none earned £60,000 p.a. or more in 2024.

5. FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

	Leasehold	Cooker	TOTAL
	£	£	£
Gross Book Value			
At 1 January 2024	100,540	1,656	102,196
Movement in market value	9,846	-	9,846
At 31 December 2024	110,386	1,656	112,042
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2024	-	993	993
Charge for 2024	-	331	331
At 31 December 2024	-	1,324	1,324
Net Book Value			
At 31 December 2023	100,540	663	101,203
At 31 December 2024	**110,386**	**332**	**110,718**

The cooker was purchased in 2021 and is being depreciated in accordance with Accounting Policy 1.6

The leasehold property at The Cloisters was revalued as at 31 December 2024 by reference to the latest insurance cover document.

6. INVESTMENTS

	63 Brightwell Road / CCLA Global Equity Fund	Chancel Fund	Church Hall Site Old Free School[see Note 13]	Old Free School Recoupment Loan[see Note 13]	Old Free School Recoupment Loan[see Note 13]	Ian Youngman Prize Fund	Total
Brought forward at 1 January 2024	376,000	8,002	2,612	4,136	12,872	2,215	405,837
Costs of Sale	(2,958)	-	-	-	-	-	(2,958)
Movement in value	697	183	60	211	653	51	1,855
Carried forward at 31 December 2024	**373,739**	**8,185**	**2,672**	**4,347**	**13,525**	**2,266**	**404,734**

During the year, the charity sold the property at 63 Brightwell Road, Watford, which was held as an investment property within investments, for the gross amount of £376,000. The net proceeds (after deducting costs of sale) were invested with the Diocese in the CCLA Global Equity Fund.

7. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income tax recoverable (Gift Aid)	7,567	7,003
Rent	1,317	2,469
Prepayments	5,037	-
Accrued Interest	4,614	1,525
Other	3,686	-
	22,221	**10,997**

8. CREDITORS

	2024	2023
Amounts falling due within one year	£	£
Accrual for independent examination fee	1,200	7,560
Agency Collections	-	1,258
Other accruals and creditors [16]	1,449	444
	2,649	**9,262**
Amounts falling due after one year	£	£
Old Free School loans (repayable in 2041 and 2053)[see Note 13]	20,619	20,619
	20,619	**20,619**

[16] Rent received in advance, Staff Costs (pension), sundry creditors

9. UNRESTRICTED AND DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Balance at	Movements in Resources			Balance at
	01/01/2024	Incoming	Transfers	Outgoing	**31/12/2024**
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	595,146	464,451	-	(199,216)	860,381
Pre-School Fund	31,999	90,605	-	(81,837)	40,767
OFS Recoupment Fund	17,009	864	-	-	17,873
	644,154	**555,920**	**-**	**(281,053)**	**919,021**

The Pre-School Fund represents funds generated by the Pre-School which are being accumulated to cover any potentail capital expenditure or operating losses in the future. The PCC reviews this periodically and any funds considered to be in excess of requirements are transferred to the General Fund.

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at	Movements in Resources			Balance at
	01/01/2024	Incoming	Transfers	Outgoing	**31/12/2024**
	£	£	£	£	£
External Giving Fund [18]	5,651	7,812	(120)	(11,406)	1,937
Legacies Funds [19]	1,577	61	-	-	1,638
Restricted donations and grants [20]	9,354	1,716	120	(4,526)	6,664
Youth Fund	750	-	-	-	750
Sunday School Fund	547	73	-	(120)	500
Kitchen Fund (cooker)	774	-	-	(331)	443
Organ Repair Fund	-	2,400	-	-	2,400
	18,653	**12,062**	**-**	**(16,383)**	**14,332**

[18] External Giving Fund receives monies specifically donated for support of the worldwide mission of the Church; these are distributed in accordance with the donors' wishes or, if these are not specified, they are distributed to missions in line with a formula approved by the PCC.

[19] Legacies Funds contain monies donated or bequeathed for specific purposes; the balance is restricted to the purposes shown below:

	Balance at	Interest	Other income	Use of funds	Balance at
	01/01/2024				**31/12/2024**
Purposes	£	£	£	£	£
The Poor	431	17	-	-	448
Outreach	812	31	-	-	843
Vicar's Discretionary	305	12	-	-	317
Church lending library	29	1	-	-	30
	1,577	**61**	**-**	**-**	**1,638**

[20] Restricted donations and grants contain monies donated or bequeathed for specific purposes; the balance is restricted to the purposes shown below:

	Balance at	Transfers	Other income	Use of funds	Balance at
	01/01/2024				**31/12/2024**
Purposes	£	£	£	£	£
Hardship	2,095	-	-	-	2,095
Minibus	3,673	120	1,466	- 4,145	1,114
Flowers	180	-	250	- 381	49
Other small donations	3,406	-	-	-	3,406

11. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Balance at 01/01/2024	Movements in Resources Incoming	Outgoing	Balance at 31/12/2024
	£	£	£	£
Chancel Fund				
CBF Investment Account (354 shares)	8,002	183	-	8,185
CBF Deposit Account	4,959	488	-	5,447
Old Free School Fund				
CBF Investment Account (115.56 shares)[21]	2,612	60	-	2,672
Ian Youngman Prize Fund (98 shares)[22]	2,215	51	-	2,266
	17,788	**782**	-	**18,570**

[21]Dividend for general use £72.51 (£71.41 in 2023).

[22]Dividend for Sunday School prize £61.50 (£60.55 in 2023).

12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	100,540	332	-	100,872	101,203
Investments (Shares)	391,611	-	13,123	404,734	405,837
Cash at Bank	418,071	14,000	5,447	437,518	192,439
Other Net Current Assets	19,572	-	-	19,572	1,735
Liabilities over one year	(20,619)	-	-	(20,619)	(20,619)
	919,021	14,332	18,570	**942,077**	**680,595**

13. OLD FREE SCHOOL RECOUPMENT LOANS

In 1981 the Charity Commission approved a loan to the PCC of £4,500 out of the residual proceeds from the sale of the lease of the Old Free School and an associated right of way; this loan was to meet the cost of repairs to the church roof; and in order to achieve recoupment over the agreed term of 60 years an investment was made in the CBF Investment Fund, the value of which at 31 December 2024 was £4,346.91 (2023: £4,135.78).

A similar loan to the PCC of £16,119 over 60 years was agreed in 1993 in order to meet the cost of repairs to the church centre; at 31 December 2024 the value of this recoupment investment in the CBF Investment Fund was £13,525.26 (2023: £12,870.79).

Following drawdown of the 1981 loan detailed above, a small residue from the available sale proceeds created an endowment fund, the use of which is restricted to capital projects within the church; this is invested in the CBF Investment Fund and the value at 31 December 2024 was £2,672.06 (2023: £2,612.27).

14. INCOME RECEIVED FROM AND AMOUNTS PAID TO TRUSTEES (and their related parties)

	2024	2023
Donations without restrictions 23	28,130	32,681
Reportable payments	148	151

The Revd Tony Rindl, a Trustee of the Charity until July 2024, was also a Trustee of Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy during that period. The Charity received rental income totalling £525 (2023: £1,012) from this entity during the period to July 2024.

The Revd Tony Rindl, a Trustee of the Charity until July 2024, was also a Trustee of Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership during that period. The Charity received rental income totalling £5,888 (2023: £7,546) from this entity during the period to July 2024.

Peter Dean and Eileen Roby, Trustees of the Charity, and Caroline Jones, the wife of a Trustee of the Charity, are also Trustees of the Church Lands Trust. The Charity received no grants (2023: £40,000) from this entity during the year.

The Revd Tony Rindl (to July 2024) and Eileen Roby, Trustees of the Charity, and Caroline Jones and Rosemary Courtney, the wives of Trustees of the Charity, are also Trustees of the Dorothy Longland Trust. The Charity received no grants (2023: £1,500) from this entity during the year.

Anthony Wilson is a member of the PCC. During the year he received a total of £2,160 (2023: £180 since his appointment to the PCC in December 2023) in respect of his services as Music Director whilst being a member of the PCC.

23 Trustees include serving members of the PCC and those in positions of management of the charity and their families.

15. PLANNED MAJOR WORK

As at 31 December 2024, the PCC had authorised expenditure (estimated at £8,000) in respect of the installation of new fencing for the Pre-School.



Retaining our rich evangelical heritage, we want to be a church community which is rooted in the scriptures, filled with the Spirit and one which lives out a credible Christian faith. The church building needs to continue to be a sacred space and place of sanctuary in the heart of Watford. As a church community we naturally long to see spiritual and numerical growth in line with the diocesan initiative, Living God's Love, and to be a vibrant community attractive to others, and in partnership with other churches serve our local community well.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY'S WATFORD

England & Wales - Charity number 1132880

Accounts

St Mary's, Watford

Church Street, Watford, WD18 0EG
Registered Charity Number: 1132880

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL for the year ended 31st December 2023

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Vicar:
The Revd Tony Rindl, The Vicarage
14 Cassiobury Drive, Watford, WD17 3AB

DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS
Living God's Love

Bankers:
Barclays Bank plc, PO Box 104, St Albans, AL1 3AN
Lloyds Bank plc, Intu Shopping Centre, Watford, WD17 2UB

Introduction

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The primary objective of the PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC's (Powers) Measure 1956 states that the PCC "is to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical". The PCC is responsible for the upkeep of the church building and the adjoining Church Centre and also for assets including a house and an office. St Mary's Church is located in the town centre of Watford, with only about 8,000 people living within its parish, but with many commercial and shopping premises that bring in a daily influx of workers and shoppers to the area.

Purpose of the Church

As a church we believe that God the Father created the world. Because humans have disobeyed God's law, Jesus, God's own Son, came to earth, was born of a virgin, lived without sin, was crucified, died and rose again from the dead. Through His sacrifice, our wrongdoings are forgiven. He will return in glory to the earth. We believe in the Holy Spirit, sent to help us to live to God's glory. We accept the Bible as God's Word and rejoice in our ability to talk with God in prayer. We aim to share our beliefs by worshipping together, by carrying them into our work, our leisure and our family life and by sharing our faith with others.

Our Vision Statement

"We believe that God is calling St Mary's to be a growing Town Centre Evangelical Anglican Church."

Public Benefit

The PCC has paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in all aspects of the activities undertaken by the church.

Vicar's Report

In presenting the annual report for 2023 it has been very much a year of consolidation. Priority has been given to reinforcing areas of leadership and governance which will increase the church's potential to offer effective mission and ministry in the future with the resources that are available. Like many other churches, community groups and businesses St. Mary's continues to be affected by the aftermath of the pandemic and the subsequent economic downturn. That said St. Mary's continues to offer a high standard of worship week by week and provides a strong presence in the centre of Watford.

Our high standard of worship is not only attributed to our excellent choir, musical director and organist, but to those who volunteer to lead both our Worship For All and Encounter services providing much imagination and creativity to be attractive to people of all ages and backgrounds. I am also grateful to those who preach and to all others who participate in the worship including the those who act as stewards and those who operate the AV system. The new AV system offers greater flexibility and more scope for the more creative elements of worship.

Post pandemic it is very pleasing to see St. Mary's firmly established as a community hub, which is very much in keeping with what was envisaged during the development of the major refurbishment of the church. It is good to see the church building combining with the church centre in offering numerous activities during the week, but especially the Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership Drop-in and Social Hub, and the Sunflower Club that supports specifically Ukrainian refugees.

It is also good to see the reintroduction of lunchtime concerts, and for the Hayden Chapel to be used as a community warm space for people to drop in during the week with 'Knit and Natter' on Fridays. Wednesday Fellowship, Tuesday Toddlers and the Preschool are other examples of how the church facilities are being used throughout the week. We are extremely grateful to Liz Allen our facilities manager.

As the main town centre and civic church for Watford St. Mary's continues to be the venue important religious services and events. For the second year there has been a parade on Remembrance Sunday which begins at St. Mary's. In the autumn there was a special anniversary celebration service for One YMCA. St. Mary's also continues to be an attractive venue for various concerts and community events throughout the year.

As St. Mary's builds for the future a significant amount of time and thought has been given to the church's response to the climate emergency. In the autumn a Sunday was devoted to this subject with the MP and other significant community leaders in attendance. The evening Encounter service also drew in members of other churches as we listened to various expert views on this subject. It was also very pleasing to celebrate the church being awarded the Eco Church silver award, which is a notable achievement. Another notable Encounter service was devoted to the subject of Artificial Intelligence, which undoubtedly impact on the future development of the church.

As we look to the future, I am very grateful to all those who serve on the PCC but especially Peter Dean and Eileen Roby our churchwardens. Eileen was elected at the APCM and has contributed significantly filling the gap created by previously only having the one churchwarden. Similarly, it was very pleasing to see both Anthony Wilson and Richard Watson taking on new roles in overseeing the finances and adding significantly to the finance committee. As Peter Dean steps down as churchwarden at the APCM his tremendous contribution to many aspects of church life is worthy of special mention and our enormous gratitude.

Marcus Jones as PCC secretary, together with Lesley Gray as Parish Safeguarding Officer and Jenny Whittick as Safeguarding Administrator have been diligent in updating policies and ensuring the church is compliant with DBS checks and all other Safeguarding requirements. There are many more who contribute significantly to the inner workings of the church and a special thank you to Pam Rastall for all the administrative support she provides.

Whilst the financial situation remains a concern, I trust with measures that have been taken to address this and with a wonderful team of dedicated volunteers all bodes well for the future.

The Revd Tony Rindl

Parochial Church Council

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. Most members of the PCC are elected, but Churchwardens, Deanery and Diocesan Synod members are ex officio. All elected PCC members are volunteers. New members of the PCC appointed at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) are required to complete a Trustee registration form. All members of the PCC are required to undergo on-line safeguarding training.

The following people served for all or part of 2023:

Vicar
The Revd Tony Rindl

Churchwardens (Ex Officio)

Eileen Roby (Vice-Chair)	to 2024 APCM
Peter Dean	to 2024 APCM

Deanery Synod (2023-2026) (Ex Officio)

Peter Dean	to 2026 APCM
Tilly Elliott	to 2026 APCM

Diocesan Synod (2021-24) (Ex Officio)

Cathy Honeyman	to 2024 APCM

Elected Members

Abieuwa Idris	to 2023 APCM
Clinton Dan Jumbo	to 2023 APCM
Joanna Cooper	to 2024 APCM
Margaret Greenstreet	to 2024 APCM
Anniefrida Kadzura	to 2024 APCM
Dave King	to 2025 APCM
Lesley Gray	to 2025 APCM
Gill Watson	to 2025 APCM
Marcus Jones	to 2025 APCM
Daniella Clinton	to 2026 APCM
Roger Courtney	to 2026 APCM
Martin Whittick	to 2026 APCM

Co-opted Member

Anthony Wilson	from November 2023

Marcus Jones was appointed as PCC Secretary with Pam Rastall providing support. With effect from 1st December, Anthony Wilson and Richard Watson were appointed as Joint Treasurers. The PCC met monthly, except in August, with some members attending by Zoom. The full minutes of meetings are posted to St Mary's website, once approved. Summaries are also written following each meeting for

inclusion in St Mary's News. Sub-committees met between PCC meetings and presented information for consideration and decision by the full PCC.

During the year, Dave King, Anniefrida Kadzura and Joanna Cooper resigned.

Attendance was as follows: the Revd Tony Rindl – 10; Peter Dean – 11; Eileen Roby – 11; Daniella Clinton (from June) – 2; Joanna Cooper (to November) – 0; Roger Courtney – 9; Clinton Dan Jumbo (to May APCM) – 0; Tilly Elliott – 10; Lesley Gray – 7; Margaret Greenstreet – 11; Cathy Honeyman – 10; Abie Idris (to May APCM) – 3; Marcus Jones – 11; Anniefrida Kadzura (to May APCM) – 0; Dave King (to May APCM) – 5; Gill Watson – 9; Martin Whittick (from June) – 5; Anthony Wilson (from November) – 1

Policies

The PCC has developed policies covering areas of Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Bullying and Harassment, Lone Working, Conflict of Interest, Financial Procedures, Grievance & Disciplinary, Equal Opportunities, Data Protection and Video Conferencing. The Safeguarding Policy is updated annually; most other policies are updated bi-annually.

PCC Committees

A significant proportion of the PCC's work is delegated to the sub-committees listed below. They meet regularly and report back to the PCC at its monthly meetings.

Standing Committee

Met monthly from June, in line with best practice, to discuss the handling of PCC agendas; and also dealt with PCC business between meetings of the PCC as necessary. There were seven meetings during the year which focussed mainly on finance, staff matters and policies.

Finance Committee

Monitored St Mary's income and expenditure, proposed financial policies and presented draft accounts and budgets for PCC examination and approval.

Buildings Committee

Oversaw and managed the inspection, maintenance, changes, improvements and repairs of the fabric and plant in the church, the Church Centre, the house for which the PCC is responsible and the Cloisters Office.

Pre-School Committee

Managed the Pre-School, handling finance and staff matters under delegated powers.

Climate Emergency Committee

Oversaw the work of the Climate Action Group created in 2022, especially in achieving the A Rocha Eco Church Bronze and Silver awards; and embedding awareness of and good practice in climate change in St Mary's worship and teaching, its buildings and in individual lifestyles.

Marcus Jones
PCC Secretary

Church Management

St. Mary's is guided by and responsible to the Synods of the Church of England and to its appointed Bishops and their officers.

The Vicar of St. Mary's is the Revd Tony Rindl. Lay members of the congregation take an active part in our services and assist with the Sunday School activities for children. There is also a part-time Director of Music, Anthony Wilson, who is responsible for training the choir for specific services. A small team form a worship group who lead us in a more contemporary style. We are grateful to those who assist in preparation for Communion Services and also to the bell ringers.

Peter Dean was re-elected as Churchwarden in May. Eileen Roby was elected as Churchwarden.

St Mary's takes safeguarding very seriously. Lesley Gray is Parish Safeguarding Officer, ably supported by Jenny Whittick.

Jacky Faria retired as Administrator in June leaving Pam Rastall as our sole Administrator. Liz Allan, our Facilities Manager, worked throughout the year.

The Vicar, a Churchwarden and two members of the St. Mary's congregation sit on the Board of the Longland Trust, which provides financial support for the ordained ministry at St. Mary's. The Church Lands Trust, which supports the repair and enhancement of church buildings within the ancient Parish of Watford, is also made up of both Churchwardens and three members of St. Mary's congregation.

Peter Dean & Eileen Roby
Churchwardens

Electoral Roll, Church Attendance and Life Events

The Electoral Roll stands at 142 (137 at the APCM in 2023). The worshipping community at the end of 2023 was estimated to be 156 (187 in 2022). There was 1 baptism in 2023 (7 in 2022). 4 funerals were taken in 2023 by clergy from or on behalf of St Mary's either in church or at the crematorium (6 in 2022). There were 14 confirmation candidates in St Mary's in 2023 (0 in 2022). There was 0 marriages in St Mary's in 2023 (1 in 2022).

Finance

The General fund shortfall for the year was slightly less than expected largely due to a one-off donation. Rental income during the year increased considerably. Expenditure on our buildings and energy was, however, above forecast. At the end of the year, with its property in Brightwell Road vacated by tenants, the PCC resolved to sell it and invest the proceeds to generate an income to replace the rental income. High costs to bring the property up to modern standards resulted in the decision to sell 'as is'.

Peter Dean
Chair, Finance Committee

Buildings

The Quinquennial Inspection of the church, conducted in early 2023, found that it was overall in good order. Some matters relating to gutters and roofing maintenance were subsequently addressed.

A detailed study of means of access to the flat roofs of the church office and Church Centre made recommendations for improving safety which are being implemented.

The ground-level floodlights on the north side of the nave were renewed with the aid of a grant from Watford Borough Council.

The church's AV system was upgraded, the cost being met by funds from the reordering of the church that had been set aside for the purpose.

Towards the end of the year, the PCC decided to sell the house on Brightwell Rd that had been tenanted for many years. The sale process was instigated.

Routine maintenance and servicing tasks were undertaken.

Roger Courtney
Chair, Buildings Committee

Missions

St. Mary's Church has a strong tradition of supporting mission both locally and overseas. The congregation is given the opportunity to pledge donations to any of the organisations or individuals on our list. Distribution of funds is the responsibility of the church Finance Committee. Prayers for our mission partners are included during church services. Individuals we support overseas visit us whenever they are in the UK and are invited to up-date us about their work during church services. We also receive regular newsletters. Currently the church supports nine missions: 3 in Watford (New Hope, Town Centre Chaplaincy, Schools Trust); 4 international partners (Middle East, Sri Lanka, Argentina, Brazil); 2 organisations (Tear Fund, Church Pastoral Aid Society). This list is reviewed regularly and submitted for approval to the PCC.

Alison Saunders

Music

Music continues to be a strength at St Mary's, and has expanded quite dramatically over the course of 2023. In a new pattern of services, the choir continues to provide music for all communion services on the second, fourth (and occasionally, where relevant, fifth) Sundays of the month, as well as at all the major festivals and events that come over the church year. Again, both the Easter services and the Festival of Lessons and Carols were very well-received by the congregation, but the choir are a much-valued part of the worship at St Mary's on ferial days as much as festival days. Their work behind the scenes in learning harmonies and practicing at home allows a wide range of anthems to be performed at a very high standard.

On the third Sunday of each month, the new venture that is the music group has been leading the musical part of the worship. They bring a different style of music to the congregation, delighting in their close-knit harmonies and improvisatory style, which has been much appreciated. They have kept to a small number of pieces this year, to allow the congregation to learn them and begin to join in but will undoubtedly expand their repertoire as time goes on.

Lunchtime concerts have also recommenced, with some very talented performances, often from Ukrainian refugees who have relocated to Watford. These have been much appreciated, although greater attendance at them would always be welcome.

My thanks go to everyone who participates in the musical life of the church, but especially to the wonderful Richard Watson who plays for the services every week and supports all the music in the church so marvelously.

Anthony Wilson
Choir Director

Visits & Concerts

Both Watford Girls Grammar and Watford Boys Grammar Schools made visits to the church with the Girls Grammar also performing a concert in the church. School visits were made including Holywell Primary. The Purcell School performed two concerts in the church; Chorleywood Choir performed, as did the Phoenix Choir and South Oxhey Community Choir. The Lunchtime Concerts continued over the year.

Children and Young People

The year began with three small groups meeting regularly on Sunday mornings for ages 3–18 years, however a shortage of suitably qualified leaders who had completed their safeguarding training and had the time to commit to leading groups meant that this was reduced to one group in September (for ages 3–12-year-olds). Nine children from five families have regularly attended groups throughout the year, with other children visiting occasionally or for a few weeks before moving on. Despite the small numbers the children have been active and visible members of our congregation, beginning each service in church and often sharing what they have been doing at other times. One highlight for the children was participating in the Eco Church Creationtide service in September, following work done in their group thinking about our responsibility as Christians to care for the world created by God. Christmas was also a busy time as the children learnt a song to sing at the Christmas Worship for All service and ran a stall at the Christmas fair, selling crafts they had made in advance.

Margaret Greenstreet

Weekday Activities

Six Connect Groups continued to meet throughout the year, weekly, fortnightly or monthly, either interest-based or area-based; some in homes, some still occasionally by Zoom and one in the church. All members, plus other church members, are invited to come together on the first Wednesday evening of each month for CAKE (Come And Know Everything).

Wednesday Fellowship continued to meet fortnightly under the leadership of Val Bordley She has organised many trips over the year as well as interesting talks.

St Mary's Runners and Walkers

Meet@TheMoon is a monthly event after the Sunday Evening worship.

Bell Ringers, although small in numbers, they continued to meet weekly for practice sessions.

Local Outreach and Co-operation with Other Local Churches

St. Mary's seeks to work in **partnership with a number of local charities and community groups**. Most noticeably Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy, and Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership, where St. Mary's is happy to host the drop in and a number of church members volunteer and some clients regularly attend church services. Other key partnerships include New Hope, One YMCA, Watford Schools Trust, Shaw Trust, Citizens Advice, The Sunflower Social club, The Samaritans, and the local Fairtrade Group. The latter is important not only through personal links with members of our congregation, but because our emerging Climate Change group seeks to link up with Fairtrade and other churches and community groups that share a common concern for the environment.

St Mary's Church continues to be an active member of **Christians Across Watford**. St. Mary's also takes an active part in **Churches Together in Watford** which met seven times throughout the year. Jackie and Brain Mee are our appointed representatives.

Deanery Synod met twice during the year and a new deanery plan is currently being developed as part of the response to the Growing Younger and More Diverse initiative. At the February meeting Johnny Stevens from Soul Survivor spoke about Living in Love and Faith. In October Canon Tim Bull and Mrs Hilary Knight from the Abbey spoke and led discussion on the Cathedral's re-imagination of its mission.

The Revd Tony Rindl

Climate Emergency

It has been a busy year as St Mary's successfully completed all the actions necessary to reach the Ecochurch Bronze and Silver standards by August. The awards were presented by the St Albans Environment Officer Rachel Johnston and the Deputy Mayor of Watford Aga Dychton at a special Creationtide Service in September, followed by lunch with our MP Dean Russell and an Encounter service with experts, NGOs and local politicians devoted to climate action which was attended by 65 people.

To get the awards we have:

- included climate in our worship, prayers and teaching;
- offered advice, info and tips to encourage each other to take action;
- lobbied and engaged with politicians and government;
- started building a programme to assess and reduce individual climate footprints under the CreationCare scheme;
- saved energy where we can;
- started swapping things and sharing surplus garden produce;
- reduced paper use and sourced recycled photocopying paper and installed bike racks.

We are now planning to reach the more demanding Ecochurch Gold. We have also formed a Green Heart of Watford group with four NGOs and the council to restore nature around St Mary's. We have started the Watford Green Christian email group and established links with other local green groups.

Andy Roby

Safeguarding

The PCC is able to report that it has complied with the its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Lesley Gray continues in her role as Parish Safeguarding Officer and Jenny Whittick has taken on the role of managing DBS checks, training and references, as a volunteer. She has worked tirelessly to get the church up to date with all the admin and we are now in a good position, most people in leadership positions having completed all the relevant paperwork by the end of the year. All the policies relevant to safeguarding have been updated and safeguarding remains a standing item on all PCC agendas. Some safeguarding referrals were made this year, to the diocese, with other concerns being kept internally on record. The Parish Dashboard is being updated and all previously outstanding risk assessments are now completed.

Lesley Gray
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Pre-School

2023 was a successful year for the Pre-school. Anita Wenham joined the staff team in January and took on the role of Deputy Manager by Easter. This created a strong, more qualified team who were able to offer more places. There are now 24 places for children aged 2 - 4 years. Adriana Aitkaci Komarova continued as manager and completed her Special Educational Needs training, enabling children with additional needs to be better supported. The hard work and commitment of all the staff was recognised by OFSTED who carried out an inspection in April and graded the pre-school 'Good' in all areas. In May, the 21st birthday of the pre-school was celebrated with parents and committee members when the children sang songs and food was shared. The pre-school committee made up of members of St Mary's Church continued to meet regularly and play an active role in supporting the staff team.

Margaret Greenstreet

Independent Examiner's Report to
The Parochial Church Council, St Mary's Watford

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Mary's Church Watford (charity no. 1132880) for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 11 to 23.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Paul Windmill FCA dated: 14 May 2024

Myers Clark
Statutory Auditor and Chartered Accountants
Egale 1, 80 St Albans Road
Watford
Hertfordshire
WD17 1DL

SOFA 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2(a)	124,964	-	58,396	-	183,360	210,013
Income from charitable activities	2(b)	2,154	80,725	-	-	82,879	50,005
Other trading activities	2(c)	42,734	-	-	-	42,734	37,603
Investments	2(d)	23,186	-	87	368	23,641	22,022
Other income	2(e)	-	-	-	-	-	20
TOTAL Income		**193,038**	**80,725**	**58,483**	**368**	**332,614**	**319,663**
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	3(a)	6,541	-	-	-	6,541	8,512
Expenditure on charitable activities	3(b)	194,233	70,262	89,662	-	354,157	294,600
Other expenditure	3(c)	-	-	-	-	-	5,710
TOTAL Expenditure		**200,774**	**70,262**	**89,662**	**-**	**360,698**	**308,822**
Net income/expenditure before transfers		**(7,736)**	**10,463**	**(31,179)**	**368**	**(28,084)**	**10,841**
Transfers							
Gross transfers between funds - in		-	-	-	-	-	4,991
Gross transfers between funds - out		-	-	-	-	-	(4,991)
Net income/expenditure before other gains/losses		(7,736)	10,463	(31,179)	368	(28,084)	10,841
Gains/losses on investment assets		-	1,912		1,111	3,023	(57,209)
Net movement in funds		(7,736)	12,375	(31,179)	1,479	(25,061)	(46,368)
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2023		**602,882**	**36,633**	**49,832**	**16,309**	**705,656**	**752,024**
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2023		**595,146**	**49,008**	**18,653**	**17,788**	**680,595**	**705,656**

BALANCE SHEET

	Note	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets	5		101,203		101,534
Investments					
Church Board of Finance share accounts	6		29,837		26,814
63 Brightwell Road	6		376,000		376,000
Current Assets					
Debtors	7	10,997		11,860	
Investments		4,959		4,591	
Short term deposits		113,707		110,175	
Cash at bank and in hand		73,773		105,524	
		203,436		232,150	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	- 9,262		(10,223)	
Net Current Assets			194,174		221,927
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			701,214		726,275
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	8		(20,619)		(20,619)
Net Assets			**680,595**		**705,656**
Funds					
Unrestricted & Designated	9		644,154		639,515
Restricted	10		18,653		49,832
Endowment	11		17,788		16,309
			680,595		**705,656**

These accounts were approved by the PCC on 12th May 24 and signed on their behalf by

P. J. Dean.

Rev Tony Rindl
Chair

Peter Dean
Church Warden

Notes to the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2023

Accounting Policies

1.1 ***Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern***

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 1 January 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption not to prepare a cash flow statement.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

1.2 ***Accounting Conventions***

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts.

1.3 ***Funds structure***

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application in the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted Funds represent monies given by a donor with a specific restriction on their future use. The purpose of any restricted fund is noted in the accounts.

It is the policy of the PCC that no fund should be in deficit and that if this seems likely to occur then expenditure will be reduced as necessary.

It is the policy of the church to hold reserves the equivalent to 2 months' general running costs and additional one month's salary costs/ It is also our policy to hold the amount for anticipated major expenses (including likely building work).

The policy will be reviewed annually at the October PCC meeting or whenever financial circumstances change significantly.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

1.4 ***Income Recognition***

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty or receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

i) *Voluntary income and capital sources*

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC

Planned giving receivables under covenant is only recognised when received

Income tax and transitional relief recoverable under Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Fund raised by serving of coffee and lunches and other fund raising events are accounted for gross.

Sales of books, magazines and other publication form the church bookstall/shop are accounted for gross.

ii) *Other ordinary income*
Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

iii) *Income from investments*
Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is in the same accounting year.

iv) *Gains and losses on investments*
Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

1.5 ***Expenditure Recognition***
Liabilities are recognised as an expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.
All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis.

i) *Grants*
Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

ii) *Activities directly relating to the work of the church*
The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when payable. Any amount unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (although not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet except where donors have indicated otherwise.

1.6 ***Fixed Assets***

i) *Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings*
Consecrated and beneficial property is excluded from the accounts by s.102(2)© of the Charities Act 2011.
No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a Faculty for disposal since the PCC considers these to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficial buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure I the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

ii) *Other land and buildings*
Other land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC for its own purposes are included at market value assessed on an annual basis. No depreciation is charged against such properties because the net realisable value is similar to the re-valued amount and therefore any depreciation would be immaterial. Expenditure on maintenance is written off as incurred, impairment reviews are performed on an annual basis.

iii) *Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment*
Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off in the period in which the asset is acquired.

iv) *Motor Vehicles*
The minibus (and any other vehicle owned by the PCC) is depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years and is currently assessed at having zero value.

v) *Grand Piano*
The grand piano is depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years and is currently assessed at having zero value.

1.7 ***Stock***

The cost of goods purchased for resale in the shop/bookstall is written off as incurred. No value is attached to any stocks of consumables held e.g. stationary, office supplies, cleaning materials.

1.8 ***Investments***

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December

1.9 ***Current Assets***

Amounts owning to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown ass debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.
Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

1.10 ***Risk Management***

The PCC guards against risks through:

a) Taking out adequate insurance cover against fire, theft, and other insurable risks;
b) Seeking out professional guidance on church security and other matters;
c) Having and following a clear policy on child protection;
d) Having and following clear procedures for authorising expenditure and making payments.

1.11 ***Related Parties***

Under the SORP FRS102 (effective 1 January 2019), related party transactions are required to be reported. Related parties for St. Mary's include the members of the PCC and their immediate family plus those with management responsibility within the Church organisation, the Vicar and Church wardens. At present there are no related parties by virtue of land donations, interest bearing loans, or organisations that are related parties through association with related parties.

Donations from Related Parties are reported in aggregate form, unless there are conditions attached to the use of that donation subject to SORP 2019 reporting requirements. Reimbursement of expenses to an unrelated third party are excluded from the reporting.

2. Income and endowments from:

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2(a) Donations and legacies						
Planned giving	82,203	-	9,065	-	91,268	96,447
Income tax recoverable on giving	21,247	-	1,610	-	22,857	20,109
Collections at services	12,811	-	-	-	12,811	7,405
Gift days	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income tax recoverable on gift days	-	-	-	-	-	2,626
Sundry donations	6,903	-	6,571	-	13,474	7,775
Restricted donations	-	-	150	-	150	-
Income tax recoverable on restricted donations	-	-	-	-	-	651
Grants	1,500	-	41,000	-	42,500	15,000
Donations to development fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income tax recoverable on devpt fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donations to Church Centre refurbishment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income tax recoverable on Church Centre refurbishment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Legacies	300	-	-	-	300	60,000
	124,964	-	58,396	-	183,360	210,013
2(b) Income from charitable activities						
Coffee & lunches served	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income from Youth Group activities	-	-	-	-	-	188
Income from social/outreach events	-	-	-	-	-	695
Literature sales & concerts receipts	-	-	-	-	-	36
Fees	2,154	-	-	-	2,154	1,278
Vacancy income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pre-School fees/funding/donations	-	80,725	-	-	80,725	47,808
	2,154	80,725	-	-	82,879	50,005
2(c) Other trading activities						
Church Centre lettings	42,734	-	-	-	42,734	37,603
Fundraising for development fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
	42,734	-	-	-	42,734	37,603
2(d) Investments						
Interest & dividends	5,556	-	87	368	6,011	2,042
63 Brightwell Road rental	11,630	-	-	-	11,630	13,980
Cloisters Office occupancy	6,000	-	-	-	6,000	6,000
	23,186	-	87	368	23,641	22,022
2(e) Other income						
Government JRS grant income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments for personal photocopying	-	-	-	-	-	20
Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contra Account	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	20
TOTAL Income and Endowments	**193,038**	**80,725**	**58,483**	**368**	**332,614**	**319,663**

3. Expenditure on:

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
3(a) Raising funds						
Salary cost (admin)	2,985	-	-	-	2,985	5,128
Salary cost (Caretaker)	2,308	-	-	-	2,308	2,105
Card Reader	409	-	-	-	409	-
Printing, stationery, postage, etc	-	-	-	-	-	-
Costs of fundraising events	-	-	-	-	-	-
Letting Agency	839	-	-	-	839	1,279
	6,541	-	-	-	6,541	8,512
3(b) Expenditure on charitable activities						
Giving to overseas missions	-	-	18,206	-	18,206	3,560
Giving to relief/development agencies	-	-	-	-	-	-
Giving to UK missions	-	-	20,597	-	20,597	2,058
PCC Tithe from rental income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parish Share	88,490	-	-	-	88,490	100,566
Clergy expenses	1,571	-	-	-	1,571	1,475
Other ministry costs	1,303	-	2,033	-	3,336	1,275
Music	3,416	-	-	-	3,416	3,561
Staff training	36	-	-	-	36	-
Youth Club and Sunday School	116	-	-	-	116	60
Pre-School	-	70,262	-	-	70,262	42,848
Church and Church Centre:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Running expenses	60,775	-	-	-	60,775	46,759
Routine inspections and maintenance	5,461	-	-	-	5,461	366
Major maintenance and planned improvements:	381	-	46,000	-	46,381	-
Church Centre Roof / Refurbishment Project		-	-	-	-	32,285
Unplanned maintenance and repairs	9,606	-	40	-	9,646	3,339
Quinquennial inspection fee	-	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture, fixtures & fittings purchased	18	-	-	-	18	1,310
Houses: maintenance, insurance, etc	3,733	-	-	-	3,733	5,598
Administration and office costs	5,810	-	-	-	5,810	16,888
Salary costs re Governance (admin & fm)	8,954	-	-	-	8,954	-
Printing, stationery, postage, etc	-	-	-	-	-	2,640
Advertising	-	-	-	-	-	380
Children & Youth Work	-	-	-	-	-	11,288
Lead Chaplain	-	-	-	-	-	6,059
Literature & concerts expenditure	274	-	-	-	274	60
Mission and evangelism activities		-	-	-	-	-
Minibus running costs	-	-	2,455	-	2,455	4,259
Coffee & lunches, provisions purchased	59	-	-	-	59	31
Miscellaneous expenditure	510	-	-	-	510	44
Asset depreciation	-	-	331	-	331	331
PCC training	-	-	-	-	-	-
Audit fees & related costs	3,720	-	-	-	3,720	7,560
Contra Account	-	-	-	-	-	-
	194,233	70,262	89,662	-	354,157	294,600

3. Expenditure on: (Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
3(c) Other expenditure						
Legal advice	-	-	-	-	-	-
Development Project	-	-	-	-	-	5,710
	-	-	-	-	-	5,710
TOTAL Expenditure	**200,774**	**70,262**	**89,662**	**-**	**360,698**	**308,822**

4. STAFF COSTS	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages & Salaries	76,886	76,531
National Insurance - Employer	0	4,970
Pensions - Employer	2,023	2,247
	78,909	**83,748**

The PCC employed two part time Administrators (one Administrator 1/2 funded by WTCC), Facilities Manager, and Pre-School staff; none earned £40,000 p.a. or more in 2023.

5. FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

	Leasehold	Cooker	TOTAL
	£	£	£
Gross Book Value			
At 1 January 2023	100,540	1,656	102,196
Additions	-	-	0
Transfer to investment			0
At 31 December 2023	100,540	1,656	102,196
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2023		662	662
Charge for 2023		331	331
At 31 December 2023	0	993	993
Net Book Value			
At 31 December 2022	100,540	994	101,534
Disposals			
At 31 December 2023	**100,540**	**663**	**101,203**

The cooker was purchased in 2021 and is being depreciated in accordance with Accounting Policy 1.6

The last full valuation of the leasehold property at The Cloisters was carried out in 2017. The next valuation is expected to be carried out as at 31 December 2024.

6. INVESTMENTS

	63 Brightwell Road	Chancel Fund	Church Hall Site Old Free School (see Note 12)	Old Free School Recoupment Loan (see Note 12)	Old Free School Recoupment Loan (see Note 12)	Ian Youngman Prize Fund	Total
Brought forward at 1 January 2023	376,000	7,309	2,386	3,671	11,425	2,023	402,814
Transfer from fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Movement in value	-	693	226	465	1,447	192	3,023
Carried forward at 31 December 2023	**376,000**	**8,002**	**2,612**	**4,136**	**12,872**	**2,215**	**405,837**

Post balance sheet events

Following the end of the charity's financial year, the charity sold the property at 63 Brightwell Road, Watford, which is held as an investment property within investments, for the gross amount of £376,000.

7. DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income tax recoverable (Gift Aid)	7,003	11,860
Dorothy Longland Trust for curate	-	-
The Lawton Trust	-	-
Church Centre lettings fees due	-	-
Pre-School fees due	-	-
Rent	2,469	-
Prepayments	-	-
Accrued Interest	1,525	-
Other	-	-
	10,997	**11,860**

8. CREDITORS

	2023	2022
Amounts falling due within one year	£	£
Accrual for independent examination fee	7,560	7,560
Agency Collections [16]	1,258	1,966
Other accruals and creditors [17]	444	697
	9,262	**10,223**
Amounts falling due after one year	£	£
Old Free School loans (repayable in 2041 and 2053) (see Note 13)	20,619	20,619
	20,619	**20,619**

[16] Overpayment of room lettings, Legal Fees, Holy Land Trip payments, St Albans Fees

[17] CMF(O) funds & PCC Tithe not yet distributed, HMRC PAYE, VAT Reclaim, Energy Bills, Cleaning contract, Staff Costs (pension) WTRRP Donation

9. UNRESTRICTED AND DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Balance at 01/01/2023	Movements in Resources			Balance at 31/12/2023
		Incoming	Transfers	Outgoing	
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	602,882	193,038	-	(200,774)	595,146
Children and Youth Worker	-	-	-	-	-
Pre-School Fund	21,536	80,725	-	(70,262)	31,999
Development Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Church Centre Refurbishment (incl. roof)	-	-	-	-	-
Kitchen Fund	-	-	-	-	-
OFS Recoupment Fund	15,097	1,912	-	-	17,009
	639,515	**275,675**	**-**	**(271,036)**	**644,154**

The Pre-School Fund represents funds generated by the Pre-School which are being accumulated to cover any potentail capital expenditure or operating losses in the future. The PCC reviews this periodically and any funds considered to be in excess of requirements will be transferred to the General Fund.

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at 01/01/2023	Movements in Resources			Balance at 31/12/2023
		Incoming	Transfers	Outgoing	
	£	£	£	£	£
External Giving Fund [18]	33,779	10,675	-	(38,803)	5,651
Legacies Funds [19]	1,490	87	-	-	1,577
Restricted donations and grants	12,121	7,721	-	(10,488)	9,354
Youth Fund	750	-	-	-	750
Sunday School Fund	547	-	-	-	547
Kitchen Fund (cooker)	1,145	-	-	(371)	774
Development Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Church Centre Refurbishment (incl. roof)	-	40,000	-	(40,000)	-
	49,832	**58,483**	**-**	**(89,662)**	**18,653**

[18] External Giving Fund receives monies specifically donated for support of the worldwide mission of the Church; these are distributed in accordance with the donors' wishes or, if these are not specified, they are distributed to missions in line with a formula approved by the PCC.

[19] Legacies Funds contain monies donated or bequeathed for specific purposes; the balance is restricted to the purposes shown below:

	Balance at 01/01/2023	Interest	Other income	Use of funds	Balance at 31/12/2023
Purposes	£	£	£	£	£
The Poor	407	24	-	-	431
Outreach	767	45	-	-	812
Vicar's Discretionary	289	16	-	-	305
Church lending library	27	2	-	-	29
	1,490	**87**	**-**	**-**	**1,577**

11. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Balance at 31/12/2022	Movements in Resources		Balance at 31/12/2023
		Incoming	Outgoing	
	£	£	£	£
Chancel Fund				
CBF Investment Account (354 shares)	7,309	693	-	8,002
CBF Deposit Account	4,591	368	-	4,959
Old Free School Fund				
CBF Investment Account (115.56 shares)[21]	2,386	226	-	2,612
Ian Youngman Prize Fund (98 shares)[22]	2,023	192	-	2,215
	16,309	**1,479**	-	**17,788**

[21]Dividend for general use £71.41 (£71.02 in 2022).
[22]Dividend for Sunday School prize £60.55 (£60.21 in 2022).

12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	100,540	663	-	101,203	101,534
Investments (Shares)	393,008	-	12,829	405,837	402,814
Cash at Bank	169,490	17,990	4,959	192,439	220,290
Other Net Current Assets	1,735	-	-	1,735	1,637
Liabilities over one year	(20,619)	-	-	(20,619)	(20,619)
	644,154	18,653	17,788	**680,595**	**705,656**

13. OLD FREE SCHOOL RECOUPMENT LOANS

In 1981 the Charity Commission approved a loan to the PCC of £4,500 out of the residual proceeds from the sale of the lease of the Old Free School and an associated right of way; this loan was to meet the cost of repairs to the church roof; and in order to achieve recoupment over the agreed term of 60 years an investment was made in the CBF Investment Fund, the value of which at 31 December 2023 was £4,135.78 (2022: £3,671.35).

A similar loan to the PCC of £16,119 over 60 years was agreed in 1993 in order to meet the cost of repairs to the church centre; at 31 December 2023 the value of this recoupment investment in the CBF Investment Fund was £12,870.79 (2022: £11,425.23).

Following drawdown of the 1981 loan detailed above, a small residue from the available sale proceeds created an endowment fund, the use of which is restricted to capital projects within the church; this is invested in the CBF Investment Fund and the value at 31 December 2023 was £2,612.27 (2021: £2,385.84).

14. INCOME RECEIVED FROM AND AMOUNTS PAID TO TRUSTEES (and their related parties)

	2023	2022
Donations without restrictions 23	32,681	30,261
Reportable payments	151	353

The Revd Tony Rindl, a Trustee of the Charity, is also a Trustee of Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy. The Charity received rental income totalling £1,012 from this entity during the year.

The Revd Tony Rindl, a Trustee of the Charity, is also a Trustee of Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership. The Charity received rental income totalling £7,546 from this entity during the year.

Peter Dean and Eileen Roby, Trustees of the Charity, and Caroline Jones, the wife of a Trustee of the Charity, are also Trustees of the Church Lands Trust. The Charity received a grant of £40,000 from this entity during the year.

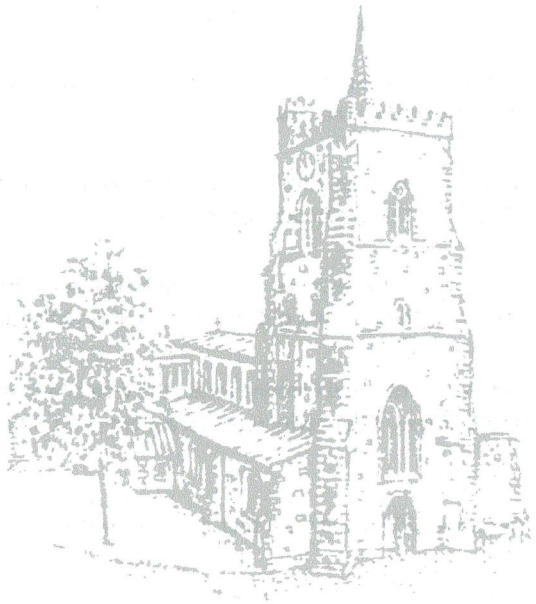
The Revd Tony Rindl and Eileen Roby, Trustees of the Charity, and Caroline Jones, the wife of a Trustee of the Charity, are also Trustees of the Dorothy Longland Bequest. The Charity received a grant of £1,500 from this entity during the year.

Anthony Wilson was appointed to the PCC in December 2023, and from that date received a total of £180 in respect of his services as Music Director.

23 Trustees include serving members of the PCC and those in positions of management of the charity and their families.

15. PLANNED MAJOR WORK

There was no authorised capital expenditure as at 31 December 2023.



Retaining our rich evangelical heritage, we want to be a church community which is rooted in the scriptures, filled with the Spirit and one which lives out a credible Christian faith. The church building needs to continue to be a sacred space and place of sanctuary in the heart of Watford. As a church community we naturally long to see spiritual and numerical growth in line with the diocesan initiative, Living God's Love, and to be a vibrant community attractive to others, and in partnership with other churches serve our local community well.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY'S WATFORD

England & Wales - Charity number 1132880

Accounts

St Mary's, Watford

Church Street, Watford, WD18 0EG
Registered Charity Number: 1132880

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
for the year ended 31st December 2022



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Vicar:
The Revd Tony Rindl, The Vicarage
14 Cassiobury Drive, Watford, WD17 3AB

Bankers:
Barclays Bank plc, PO Box 104, St Albans, AL1 3AN
Lloyds Bank plc, Intu Shopping Centre, Watford, WD17 2UB

DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS
Living God's Love

Introduction

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

The primary objective of the PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC's (Powers) Measure 1956 states that the PCC "is to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical".

The PCC is responsible for the upkeep of the church building and the adjoining Church Centre and also for assets including a house and an office.

St Mary's Church is located in the town centre of Watford, with only about 8,000 people living within its parish, but with many commercial and shopping premises that bring in a daily influx of workers and shoppers to the area.

Purpose of the Church

As a church we believe that God the Father created the world. Because humans have disobeyed God's law, Jesus, God's own Son, came to earth, was born of a virgin, lived without sin, was crucified, died and rose again from the dead. Through His sacrifice, our wrongdoings are forgiven. He will return in glory to the earth. We believe in the Holy Spirit, sent to help us to live to God's glory. We accept the Bible as God's Word and rejoice in our ability to talk with God in prayer.

We aim to share our beliefs by worshipping together, by carrying them into our work, our leisure and our family life and by sharing our faith with others.

Our Vision Statement

"We believe that God is calling St Mary's to be a growing Town Centre Evangelical Anglican Church."

Public Benefit

The PCC has paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in all aspects of the activities undertaken by the church.

Vicar's Report

In presenting the annual report for 2022 I am mindful of just how challenging the past few years have been due to the pandemic and the various lockdown restrictions that have been imposed on us from time to time. This year was therefore particularly important in the recovery process and by the end of the year we could boast attendance in church approaching pre-pandemic numbers. I think the speed of recovery can be attributed to the dedication of a number of individuals working to keep the congregation together throughout this period of considerable disruption.

It was good to see creative services resume, including led by members of the Worship For All team, and those responsible for putting together the monthly Encounter evening service.

Increasingly St. Mary's is becoming the community hub often envisaged during the development of the major refurbishment of the church. It is good to see the church building combining with the church centre in offering numerous activities during the week, but especially the Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership Drop-in and Social Hub, and the Sunflower Club that supports specifically Ukrainian refugees. I think Liz Allen, our Facilities Manager, has been outstanding in developing this partnership working.

As St. Mary's re-establishes itself as the main town centre and civic church for Watford it was good to host key services in the year including a memorial service on the eve of Queen Elizabeth II funeral, and also a civic service led by Christians Across Watford to mark the centenary of Watford becoming a borough and a bereavement service in conjunction with the Hospital Chaplaincy.

It has been good to see the resumption of Sunday School, Wednesday Fellowship, Lunchtime Concerts, Centre Club and other weekly activities and at Christmas to offer a full range of services including our flagship Carols by Candlelight service with our magnificent choir.

St. Mary's continues to produce a number of candidates for ordination, and in July we said farewell to Cath Da Costa, our Families and Children's Worker as she was ordained deacon at St. Albans Abbey and become a curate in Harpenden. We also said farewell to our own curate Joshua Brocklesby as he was appointed university chaplain at Trinity College Oxford in the autumn.

There are many people who give much time to St. Mary's, and whilst there is not space to do so in this report, I am very grateful to all including Cath, Josh and Peter Dean our churchwarden, members of the PCC and the dedicated staff working in the parish office.

The Revd Tony Rindl

PCC Membership

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. Most members of the PCC are elected, but Churchwardens, Deanery and Diocesan Synod members are ex officio. All elected PCC members are volunteers. New members of the PCC appointed at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) are required to complete a Trustee registration form. All members of the PCC are required to undergo on-line safeguarding training.

The following people served for all or part of 2022:

Vicar	The Revd Tony Rindl	
Curate	The Revd Josh Brocklesby	to September 2022
Churchwardens (Ex Officio)		
	Miss Alison Saunders (Vice-Chair)	to 2022 APCM
	Mr Peter Dean (Vice Chair)	to 2023 APCM

Deanery Synod (2021-2023) (Ex Officio)

Mr Peter Dean	to 2023 APCM
Mrs Tilly Elliott	to 2023 APCM

Diocesan Synod (2021-24) (Ex Officio)

Miss Cathy Honeyman	to 2024 APCM

Elected Members

Mr Roger Courtney	to 2022 APCM
Mrs Jane Carter	to 2022 APCM
Mr David Scourfield	to 2022 APCM
Mrs Abieuwa Idris	to 2023 APCM
Mr Clinton Dan Jumbo	to 2023 APCM
Ms Joanna Cooper	to 2024 APCM
Mrs Margaret Greenstreet	to 2024 APCM
Ms Anniefrida Kadzura	to 2024 APCM
Mr Dave King	to 2025 APCM
Mrs Lesley Gray	to 2025 APCM
Mrs Gill Watson	to 2025 APCM
Mr Marcus Jones (PCC Secretary)	to 2025 APCM

Co-opted Members

Mr Roger Courtney	to 2023 APCM (from July 2022)
Mrs Eileen Roby	to 2023 APCM (from November 2022)

Ms Jacky Faria provided secretarial support to the PCC for part of this period. Mrs Pam Rastall took the minutes at alternate meetings up to June 2022 after which Mr Marcus Jones was appointed as PCC Secretary with Mrs Pam Rastall providing support.

The PCC held monthly meetings in the Church Centre (no meetings in August and December), with some members attending by Zoom. Summaries are written following each meeting for inclusion in St Mary's News.

Sub-committees met between PCC meetings and presented information for consideration and decision by the full PCC.

Policies

The PCC has developed policies covering areas of Health &; Safety, Safeguarding, Bullying and Harassment, Lone Working, Conflict of Interest, Financial Procedures, Grievance & Disciplinary, and Equal Opportunities, Data Protection and Video Conferencing. The Safeguarding Policy is updated annually; most other policies are updated bi-annually.

PCC Committees

A significant proportion of the PCC's work is delegated to the sub-committees listed below. They meet regularly and report back to the PCC at its monthly meetings.

Standing Committee

Dealt with PCC business between meetings of the PCC as necessary. There were meetings in July, August and September which focussed primarily on finance.

Finance Committee
Monitored St Mary's income and expenditure, proposed financial policies and presented draft accounts and budgets for PCC examination and approval. This had not meet formally for some while following the pandemic and was re-constituted with effect from 1st December.

Buildings Committee
Oversaw and managed the inspection, maintenance, changes, improvements and repairs of the fabric and plant in the church, the Church Centre, the house for which the PCC is responsible and the Cloisters Office.

Pre-School Committee
Managed the Pre-School, handling finance and staff matters under delegated powers.

Missions Group
Promoted support for our mission partners in the UK and elsewhere in the world.

Climate Emergency Committee
Oversaw the work of the Climate Action Group created in 2022.

Marcus Jones
PCC Secretary

Church Management

St. Mary's is guided by and responsible to the Synods of the Church of England and to its appointed Bishops and their officers.

The Vicar of St. Mary's, the Revd Tony Rindl, was ably supported in worship by the curate, the Revd Joshua Brocklesby until he moved on in September 2022. The Children and Families Worker, Cath da Costa left in June 2022, to be ordained. Lay members of the congregation take an active part in our services and assist with the Sunday School activities for children. There is also a part-time Director of Music, Anthony Wilson, who is responsible for training the choir for specific services. We are grateful to those who assist in preparation for Communion Services and also to the bell ringers.

Peter Dean was re-elected as Churchwarden in April, with one vacancy.

St Mary's takes safeguarding very seriously. During the year, Lesley Gray was appointed as Parish Safeguarding Officer, undertaking the role with the help of Jacky Faria.

Jacky Faria and Pam Rastall shared the Administrator role during the year. Liz Allan, our Facilities Manager, worked throughout the year.

The Vicar, a Churchwarden and two members of the St. Mary's congregation sat on the Board of the Longland Trust, which provides financial support for the ordained ministry at St. Mary's. The Church Lands Trust, which supports the repair and enhancement of church buildings within the ancient Parish of Watford, is also made up of the Churchwarden and three members of St. Mary's congregation.

Electoral Roll, Church Attendance and Life Events

The Electoral Roll stands at 137 (140 at the APCM in 2021). The worshipping community at the end of 2022 was estimated to be 187 (181 in 2021). There were 7 baptisms in 2022 (3 in 2021). 6 funerals were taken in 2022 by clergy from St Mary's either in church or at the crematorium (8 in 2021). There were 0 confirmations in St Mary's in 2022 (0 in 2021). There was 1 marriage in St Mary's in 2022 (1 in 2021).

Buildings

The main items of building work undertaken in the year were the conversion of the cleaner's cupboard in the Church Centre to provide children's toilets and the erection of a platform in the bell chamber to facilitate access to the clock gearboxes. The church office was also redecorated. A generous grant from the Lawton Trust covered most of the cost of the children's toilets.

Otherwise, the works in 2022 were largely concerned with regular inspections and maintenance. Amongst these was the five-yearly inspection of electrical services in the Church Centre which revealed a number of issues which were subsequently addressed. A similar inspection took place in the Cloisters Office and again this led to remedial works. The Buildings Committee was re-formed in the course of the year and has maintained an overview of buildings needs and works.

Roger Courtney
Chair, Buildings Committee

Missions

St. Mary's Church is committed to supporting mission interests in the local community, within the UK and overseas. Each year the congregation are invited to pledge their support for organisations and/or individuals both financially and with prayer. Currently the church supports nine missions: 3 are Watford based (New Hope, Town Centre Chaplaincy, Schools Trust); 4 international partners (Middle East, Sri Lanka, Argentina, Brazil); 2 organisations (Tear Fund, Church Pastoral Aid Society). Information is shared through newsletters and occasional visits from individuals or their representatives during church services. The list of supported missions is reviewed annually by a small group and submitted for approval to the PCC.

Alison Saunders
Missions Committee Member

Music

We officially emerged from Coronavirus restrictions on 24th February last year (I know; seems like a lot longer than that!) and thus have had the joy of once again being able to sing in full voice in church. The choir continues to support the worship of the whole church community, both in leading the hymns and performing anthems to open the services and during communion. The choir has also sung at the numerous special occasions in the church year, including Easter services and a very well-received Festival of Lessons and Carols at Christmas. This year, they also provided a full choral Evensong as part of the Encounter services. We are very grateful to the commitment shown by all the members, who spend a lot of time working on the harmonies at home, thus ensuring that we can maintain a wide and varied repertoire. We are also very grateful to Richard Watson for his stalwart organ playing, week in, week out, and to Graham Bateman, who is always willing to cover if Richard and Anthony are unavailable.

As a final note, 2022 also saw the passing of Cecelia Harper, a long-time member of the choir and very dedicated performer and singer. The choir were able to sing at her funeral and were also delighted to be able to perform one of her favourite choral pieces – *How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place* from Brahms' *Requiem* – at the Easter service this year.

Anthony Wilson
Choir Director

Children, Families and Youth + Centre Club and KidsClub

From January to July 2022 regular weekly activities included two Sunday School groups; one for primary and one for secondary school aged children (Scramblers and Pathfinders). An after school 'Kids Club' met on Mondays, Centre Club on Tuesdays mornings for pre-school aged children and their parents or carers and a monthly youth group following the Sunday evening service. When the Children and Families worker left in July, the Kids Club ended but other groups continued. In September, with a small increase in numbers of children and the support of an additional leader, the Sunday morning group for primary school aged children was split into two. The Pathfinders group (for teenagers) was reduced to meeting only twice a month due to a shortage of leaders and stopped meeting after the evening service.

Margaret Greenstreet

Weekday Activities

Six **Connect Groups** continued to meet throughout the year, weekly, fortnightly or monthly, either interest-based or area-based; some in homes, some still occasionally by Zoom and one in the church. All members, plus other church members, are invited to come together on the first Wednesday evening of each month for Connect Together (renamed CAKE during the year (Come And Know Everything).
Wednesday Fellowship continued to meet fortnightly under the leadership of Val Bordley She organised a very successful Tea Party in June to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's 70th Jubilee to which members of the congregation were also invited.
St Mary's Runners and Walkers
Meet@TheMoon
Bell Ringers, although small in numbers, they continued to meet weekly for practice sessions.

Local Outreach and Co-operation with Other Local Churches

St. Mary's seeks to work in **partnership with a number of local charities and community groups**. Most noticeably Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy, where David Scourfield, the Lead Chaplain, is a member of the church. Also, Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership, where St. Mary's is happy to host the drop in and a number of church members volunteer and some clients regularly attend church services. Other key partnerships include New Hope, One YMCA, Watford Schools Trust, Shaw Trust, Citizens Advice, The Sunflower Social club, The Samaritans, and the local Fairtrade Group. The latter is important not only through personal links with members of our congregation, but because our emerging Climate Change group seeks to link up with Fairtrade and other churches and community groups that share a common concern for the environment.

St Mary's Church continues to be an active member of **Christians Across Watford**, where the Vicar is a trustee. St. Mary's also takes an active part in **Churches Together in Watford** which met seven times throughout the year. This is of particular importance as the two regional Churches Together groups in Watford merged formally at the AGM on 4th July 2022 to form one unit that covers the entire borough. Jackie and Brain Mee are our appointed representatives.

Cath Da Costa continued her work with local **schools**, and with Watford Schools Trust, until she left.

Watford Deanery Synod - the Deanery year started with a meeting at which the speaker was the newly appointed Diocesan Secretary, David White, giving the Deanery insight into the Diocesan Office and the central support it can offer. The year also saw a Deanery Review of Parish Share contributions which gave St. Mary's some £3,000 reduction in contribution.

Visits and Concerts

Both Watford Girls Grammar and Watford Boys Grammar Schools made visits to the church with the Girls Grammar also performing a concert in the church. Visits were made by Chessbrook School and Chater School. The Purcell School performed two concerts in the church; Chorleywood Choir performed, as did the Phoenix Choir and South Oxhey Community Choir. The Lunchtime Concerts resumed with four concerts on Thursdays in November and December.

Climate Emergency

The PCC created a Climate Emergency Committee (CEC) in July 2022 to be a link with the church's Climate Action Group. Through the Eco-church Assessment procedure, the Group identified actions relating to four themes; Worship and Teaching; Building and Land; Outreach and Engagement; and Lifestyle. St Mary's reached Eco-Church Bronze level in November and is likely to reach Silver in 2023 with measures including the temporary installation of a bicycle rack. Some Connect Groups completed a course on the Christian basis of climate change action. Links were made with community groups and with a 'green network' of Christians in Watford.

Andy Roby
coordinator of the Climate Action Group

Pre-School

From January to July 2022 Natalia Leiva-Berger continued as manager of the pre-school and following the pandemic numbers of children were built up again. There were several changes of staff over the course of the year and Natalia herself left in July. Adriana Aitkaci Komarova who had trained as an apprentice with St Mary's took over as manager in September. Staff retention and recruitment proved a challenge but by the end of the year a total of five members of staff were employed and ready to increase the numbers of children attending in the new year. The committee was strengthened with the addition of Anthony Gray in September after the departure of Cath Da Costa in July.

Margaret Greenstreet
Pre-School Committee Member

Safeguarding

The PCC is able to report that it has complied with the its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Lesley Gray was appointed as Parish Safeguarding Officer; Jacky Faria remained the lead recruiter managing DBS checks, training and references. All the policies relevant to safeguarding have been updated and safeguarding remains a standing item on all PCC agendas. Safeguarding information around the church has been updated and the relevant policies are available on the website. No safeguarding referrals were made this year, but one concern has been kept as a record. The Parish Dashboard is being updated and there are still some actions to be taken around Safeguarding training and risk assessments, which will be the PSOs focus in the coming year.

Lesley Gray
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Financial details to follow at a date yet to be arranged, with permission from the Bishop of St Albans.

Independent Examiner's Report to The Parochial Church Council, St Mary's Watford

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Mary's Church Watford (charity no. 1132880) for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 10 to 22.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Paul Windmill FCA dated: 2 May 2024

Myers Clark
Statutory Auditor and Chartered Accountants
Egale 1, 80 St Albans Road
Watford
Hertfordshire
WD17 1DL

ST MARY'S WATFORD

SOFA 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2(a)	176,321	-	33,692	-	210,013	162,923
Income from charitable activities	2(b)	1,502	47,808	695	-	50,005	52,716
Other trading activities	2(c)	37,603	-	-	-	37,603	27,037
Investments	2(d)	21,531	-	84	407	22,022	21,500
Other income	2(e)	20	-	-	-	20	12,324
TOTAL Income		**236,977**	**47,808**	**34,471**	**407**	**319,663**	**276,500**
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	3(a)	8,512	-	-	-	8,512	9,021
Expenditure on charitable activities	3(b)	217,750	60,728	16,122	-	294,600	299,820
Other expenditure	3(c)	-	5,710	-	-	5,710	10,715
TOTAL Expenditure		**226,262**	**66,438**	**16,122**	**-**	**308,822**	**319,556**
Net income/expenditure before transfers		**10,715**	**(18,630)**	**18,349**	**407**	**10,841**	**(43,056)**
Transfers							
Gross transfers between funds - in		3,400	1,591	-	-	4,991	54,159
Gross transfers between funds - out		(1,591)	(3,400)	-	-	(4,991)	(54,159)
Net income/expenditure before other gains/losses		12,524	(20,439)	18,349	407	10,841	(43,056)
Gains/losses on investment assets		(54,000)	(1,522)	-	(1,687)	(57,209)	4,146
Net movement in funds		(41,476)	(21,961)	18,349	(1,280)	(46,368)	(38,910)
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2022		**644,358**	**58,594**	**31,483**	**17,588**	**752,024**	**790,934**
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2022		**602,882**	**36,633**	**49,832**	**16,308**	**705,656**	**752,024**

ST MARY'S WATFORD

BALANCE SHEET

	Note	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets	5		101,534		101,865
Investments					
Church Board of Finance share accounts	6		26,814		29,892
63 Brightwell Road			376,000		430,000
Current Assets					
Debtors	7	11,860		16,712	
Investments		4,591		4,315	
Short term deposits		110,175		108,746	
Cash at bank and in hand		105,524		100,565	
		232,150		230,338	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(10,223)		(19,452)	
Net Current Assets			221,927		210,886
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			726,275		772,643
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	8		(20,619)		(20,619)
Net Assets			**705,656**		**752,024**
Funds					
Unrestricted & Designated	9		639,515		702,952
Restricted	10		49,832		31,483
Endowment	11		16,308		17,588
			705,656		**752,024**

These accounts were approved by the PCC on 29 Apr 24 and signed on their behalf by

Rev Tony Rindl
Chair

P. J. Dean.

Peter Dean
Churchwarden

Notes to the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2022

Accounting Policies

1.1 *Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern*

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 1 January 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption not to prepare a cash flow statement.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

1.2 *Accounting Conventions*

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts.

1.3 *Funds structure*

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application in the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted Funds represent monies given by a donor with a specific restriction on their future use. The purpose of any restricted fund is noted in the accounts.

It is the policy of the PCC that no fund should be in deficit and that if this seems likely to occur then expenditure will be reduced as necessary.

It is the policy of the church to hold reserves the equivalent to 2 months' general running costs and additional one month's salary costs/ It is also our policy to hold the amount for anticipated major expenses (including likely building work).

The policy will be reviewed annually at the October PCC meeting or whenever financial circumstances change significantly.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

1.4 *Income Recognition*

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty or receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

i) *Voluntary income and capital sources*

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC

Planned giving receivables under covenant is only recognised when received

Income tax and transitional relief recoverable under Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Fund raised by serving of coffee and lunches and other fund raising events are accounted for gross.

Sales of books, magazines and other publication form the church bookstall/shop are accounted for gross.

ii) *Other ordinary income*
Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

iii) *Income from investments*
Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is in the same accounting year.

iv) *Gains and losses on investments*
Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

1.5 ***Expenditure Recognition***
Liabilities are recognised as an expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.
All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis.

i) *Grants*
Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

ii) *Activities directly relating to the work of the church*
The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when payable. Any amount unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (although not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet except where donors have indicated otherwise.

1.6 ***Fixed Assets***

i) *Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings*
Consecrated and beneficial property is excluded from the accounts by s.102(2)© of the Charities Act 2011.
No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a Faculty for disposal since the PCC considers these to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficial buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure I the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

ii) *Other land and buildings*
Other land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC for its own purposes are included at market value assessed on an annual basis. No depreciation is charged against such properties because the net realisable value is similar to the re-valued amount and therefore any depreciation would be immaterial. Expenditure on maintenance is written off as incurred, impairment reviews are performed on an annual basis.

iii) *Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment*
Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off in the period in which the asset is acquired.

iv) *Motor Vehicles*
The minibus (and any other vehicle owned by the PCC) is depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years and is currently assessed at having zero value.

v) *Grand Piano*
The grand piano is depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years and is currently assessed at having zero value.

1.7 *Stock*

The cost of goods purchased for resale in the shop/bookstall is written off as incurred. No value is attached to any stocks of consumables held e.g. stationary, office supplies, cleaning materials.

1.8 *Investments*

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December

1.9 *Current Assets*

Amounts owning to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown ass debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.
Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

1.10 *Risk Management*

The PCC guards against risks through:

a) Taking out adequate insurance cover against fire, theft, and other insurable risks;
b) Seeking out professional guidance on church security and other matters;
c) Having and following a clear policy on child protection;
d) Having and following clear procedures for authorising expenditure and making payments.

1.11 *Related Parties*

Under the SORP FRS102 (effective 1 January 2019), related party transactions are required to be reported. Related parties for St. Mary's include the members of the PCC and their immediate family plus those with management responsibility within the Church organisation, the Vicar and Church wardens. At present there are no related parties by virtue of land donations, interest bearing loans, or organisations that are related parties through association with related parties.

Donations from Related Parties are reported in aggregate form, unless there are conditions attached to the use of that donation subject to SORP 2019 reporting requirements. Reimbursement of expenses to an unrelated third party are excluded from the reporting.

ST MARY'S WATFORD

2. Income and endowments from:

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2(a) Donations and legacies						
Planned giving	86,087	-	10,360	-	96,447	109,408
Income tax recoverable on giving	20,109	-	-	-	20,109	22,612
Collections at services	7,405	-	-	-	7,405	3,402
Gift days	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income tax recoverable on gift days	-	-	2,626	-	2,626	-
Sundry donations	2,720	-	5,055	-	7,775	2,806
Restricted donations	-	-	-	-	-	8,496
Income tax recoverable on restricted donations	-	-	651	-	651	400
Grants	-	-	15,000	-	15,000	12,750
Donations to development fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income tax recoverable on devpt fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donations to Church Centre refurbishment	-	-	-	-	-	2,400
Income tax recoverable on Church Centre refurbishment	-	-	-	-	-	550
Legacies	60,000	-	-	-	60,000	100
	176,321	-	33,692	-	210,013	162,923
2(b) Income from charitable activities						
Coffee & lunches served	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income from Youth Group activities	188	-	-	-	188	30
Income from social/outreach events	-	-	695	-	695	-
Literature sales & concerts receipts	36	-	-	-	36	38
Fees	1,278	-	-	-	1,278	1,363
Vacancy income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pre-School fees/funding/donations	-	47,808	-	-	47,808	51,285
	1,502	47,808	695	-	50,005	52,716
2(c) Other trading activities						
Church Centre lettings	37,603	-	-	-	37,603	27,037
Fundraising for development fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
	37,603	-	-	-	37,603	27,037
2(d) Investments						
Interest & dividends	1,551	-	84	407	2,042	1,520
63 Brightwell Road rental	13,980	-	-	-	13,980	13,980
Cloisters Office occupancy	6,000	-	-	-	6,000	6,000
	21,531	-	84	407	22,022	21,500
2(e) Other income						
Government JRS grant income	-	-	-	-	-	12,324
Payments for personal photocopying	20	-	-	-	20	-
Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contra Account	-	-	-	-	-	-
	20	-	-	-	20	12,324
TOTAL Income and Endowments	**236,977**	**47,808**	**34,471**	**407**	**319,663**	**276,500**

ST MARY'S WATFORD

3. Expenditure on:	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
3(a) Raising funds						
Salary cost (admin)	5,128	-	-	-	5,128	4,433
Salary cost (Caretaker)	2,105	-	-	-	2,105	2,974
Stewardship envelopes	-	-	-	-	-	230
Printing, stationery, postage, etc	-	-	-	-	-	-
Costs of fundraising events	-	-	-	-	-	-
Letting Agency	1,279	-	-	-	1,279	1,385
	8,512	-	-	-	8,512	9,021
3(b) Expenditure on charitable activities						
Giving to overseas missions	-	-	3,560	-	3,560	7,472
Giving to relief/development agencies	-	-	-	-	-	-
Giving to UK missions	-	-	2,058	-	2,058	9,694
PCC Tithe from rental income	-	-	-	-	-	3,165
Parish Share	100,566	-	-	-	100,566	98,463
Clergy expenses	1,475	-	-	-	1,475	2,112
Other ministry costs	1,102	-	173	-	1,275	480
Music	3,561	-	-	-	3,561	4,330
Staff training	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Club and Sunday School	60	-	-	-	60	151
Pre-School	-	42,848	-	-	42,848	38,274
Church and Church Centre:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Running expenses	46,759	-	-	-	46,759	33,773
Routine inspections and maintenance	366	-	-	-	366	7,739
Major maintenance and planned improvements:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Church Centre Roof / Refurbishment Project	4,405	17,880	10,000	-	32,285	32,973
Unplanned maintenance and repairs	3,339	-	-	-	3,339	2,984
Quinquennial inspection fee	-	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture, fixtures & fittings purchased	1,310	-	-	-	1,310	1,683
Houses: maintenance, insurance, etc	5,598	-	-	-	5,598	2,939
Administration and office costs	16,888	-	-	-	16,888	11,777
Salary costs re Governance (admin & fm)	-	-	-	-	-	6,041
Printing, stationery, postage, etc	2,640	-	-	-	2,640	2,716
Advertising	380	-	-	-	380	302
Children & Youth Work	11,288	-	-	-	11,288	21,143
Lead Chaplain	6,059	-	-	-	6,059	4,415
Literature & concerts expenditure	60	-	-	-	60	38
Mission and evangelism activities		-	-	-	-	-
Minibus running costs	4,259	-	-	-	4,259	2,675
Coffee & lunches, provisions purchased	31	-	-	-	31	-
Miscellaneous expenditure	44	-	-	-	44	69
Asset depreciation	-	-	331	-	331	331
PCC training	-	-	-	-	-	-
Audit fees & related costs	7,560	-	-	-	7,560	4,080
Contra Account	-	-	-	-	-	-
	217,750	60,728	16,122	-	294,600	299,820

ST MARY'S WATFORD

3. Expenditure on: (Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
3(c) Other expenditure						
Legal advice	-	-	-	-	-	-
Development Project	-	5,710	-	-	5,710	10,715
	-	5,710	-	-	5,710	10,715
TOTAL Expenditure	**226,262**	**66,438**	**16,122**	-	**308,822**	**319,556**

4. STAFF COSTS	**2022**	**2021**
	£	£
Wages & Salaries	76,531	89,751
National Insurance - Employer	4,970	1,053
Pensions - Employer	2,247	1,744
	83,748	**92,548**

The PCC employed two part time Administrators (one Administrator 1/2 funded by WTCC), Facilities Manager, Caretaker, Lead Chaplain (January 2022 to June 2022) (75% funded by WTCC), Children and Youth worker and Pre-School staff; none earned £40,000 p.a. or more in 2022.

One PCC member of the Charity received remuneration totallling £17,500 from the Charity during the year. Funding was received from WTCC to fund 75% of these costs.

One related party of a Trustee received remuneration totallling £1,895 during the year.

ST MARY'S WATFORD

5. FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

	Leasehold	Cooker	TOTAL
	£	£	£
Gross Book Value			
At 1 January 2022	100,540	1,656	102,196
Additions	-	-	-
Transfer to investment	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	100,540	1,656	102,196
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2022	-	331	331
Charge for 2022	-	331	331
At 31 December 2022	-	662	662
Net Book Value			
At 31 December 2021	100,540	1,325	101,865
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	**100,540**	**994**	**101,534**

The cooker was purchased in 2021 and is being depreciated in accordance with Accounting Policy 1.6

ST MARY'S WATFORD

6. INVESTMENTS

	63 Brightwell Road	Chancel Fund	Church Hall Site Old Free School (see Note 12)	Old Free School Recoupment Loan (see Note 12)	Old Free School Recoupment Loan (see Note 12)	Ian Youngman Prize Fund	Total
Brought forward at 1 January 2022	430,000	8,279	2,703	4,039	12,579	2,292	459,892
Transfer from fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Movement in value	(54,000)	(970)	(317)	(368)	(1,154)	(269)	(57,078)
Carried forward at 31 December 2022	**376,000**	**7,309**	**2,386**	**3,671**	**11,425**	**2,023**	**402,814**

The investment property comprises the house located at 63 Brightwell Road, Watford. This was revalued in March 2021 by LP and M on a current market basis in the sum of £430,000. The property at 63 Brightwell Road was purchased in 1985 at a cost of £54,000 and let from April 2003. This was transferred to Investment in 2019 as not used by the church.

Post balance sheet events
Following the end of the charity's financial year end, the charity sold the property at 63 Brightwell Road, Watford, which is held as an investment property within investments, at market value, for the gross amount of £376,000.

7. DEBTORS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Income tax recoverable (Gift Aid)	11,860	7,031
Dorothy Longland Trust for curate	-	-
The Lawton Trust	-	-
Church Centre lettings fees due	-	150
Pre-School fees due	-	-
Rent (Old Creche Room) WTRRP	-	3,000
Prepayments	-	-
Rent paid in advance	-	-
Other	-	6,531
	11,860	**16,713**

8. CREDITORS

	2022	2021
Amounts falling due within one year	£	£
Accrual for independent examination fee	7,560	4,080
Agency Collections [16]	1,966	2,620
Other accruals and creditors [17]	697	12,752
	10,223	**19,452**
Amounts falling due after one year	£	£
Old Free School loans (repayable in 2041 and 2053) (see Note 13)	20,619	20,619
	20,619	**20,619**

[16] Overpayment of room lettings, Legal Fees, Holy Land Trip payments, St Albans Fees
[17] CMF(O) funds & PCC Tithe not yet distributed, HMRC PAYE, VAT Reclaim, Energy Bills, Cleaning contract, Staff Costs (pension) WTRRP Donation

ST MARY'S WATFORD

9. UNRESTRICTED AND DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Balance at 01/01/2022	Movements in Resources			Balance at 31/12/2022
		Incoming	Transfers	Outgoing	
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	644,358	236,977	1,809	(280,262)	602,882
Children and Youth Worker	-	-	-	-	-
Pre-School Fund	19,975	47,808	(3,400)	(42,847)	21,536
Development Fund	22,000	-	1,591	(23,591)	-
Major maintenance and planned improvements	-	-	-	-	-
Kitchen Fund	-	-	-	-	-
OFS Recoupment Fund	16,619	-	-	(1,522)	15,097
	702,952	**284,785**	-	**(348,222)**	**639,515**

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at 01/01/2022	Movements in Resources			Balance at 31/12/2022
		Incoming	Transfers	Outgoing	
	£	£	£	£	£
External Giving Fund [18]	26,411	12,986	-	(5,618)	33,779
Legacies Funds [19]	1,466	24	-	-	1,490
Restricted donations and grants	1,588	20,706	-	(10,173)	12,121
Youth Fund	55	695	-	-	750
Sunday School Fund	487	60	-	-	547
Kitchen Fund (cooker)	1,477	-	-	(331)	1,146
Development Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Major maintenance and planned improvements	-	-	-	-	-
	31,483	**34,471**	-	**(16,122)**	**49,832**

[18] External Giving Fund receives monies specifically donated for support of the worldwide mission of the Church; these are distributed in accordance with the donors' wishes or, if these are not specified, they are distributed to missions in line with a formula approved by the PCC.

[19] Legacies Funds contain monies donated or bequeathed for specific purposes; the balance is restricted to the purposes shown below:

	Balance at 01/01/2022	Interest	Other income	Use of funds	Balance at 31/12/2022
Purposes	£	£	£	£	£
The Poor	400	7	-	-	407
Outreach	755	12	-	-	767
Vicar's Discretionary	284	5	-	-	289
Church lending library	27	0	-	-	27
	1,466	**24**	-	-	**1,490**

ST MARY'S WATFORD

11. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Balance at 31/12/2021	Movements in Resources Incoming	Outgoing	Balance at 31/12/2022
	£	£	£	£
Chancel Fund				
CBF Investment Account (354 shares)	8,279	-	(970)	7,309
CBF Deposit Account	4,315	276	-	4,591
Old Free School Fund				
CBF Investment Account (115.56 shares)[21]	2,703	71	(388)	2,386
Ian Youngman Prize Fund (98 shares)[22]	2,292	60	(329)	2,023
	17,588	**407**	(1,687)	**16,308**

[21] Dividend for general use £71.02 (£68.68 in 2021).

[22] Dividend for Sunday School prize £60.21 (£58.25 in 2021).

12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	100,540	994	-	101,534	101,865
Investments (Shares)	391,097	-	11,717	402,814	459,892
Cash at Bank	167,958	47,741	4,591	220,290	213,625
Other Net Current Assets	1,681	(44)	-	1,637	(2,739)
Liabilities over one year	(20,619)	-	-	(20,619)	(20,619)
	639,515	49,832	16,308	**705,656**	**752,024**

13. OLD FREE SCHOOL RECOUPMENT LOANS

In 1981 the Charity Commission approved a loan to the PCC of £4,500 out of the residual proceeds from the sale of the lease of the Old Free School and an associated right of way; this loan was to meet the cost of repairs to the church roof; and in order to achieve recoupment over the agreed term of 60 years an investment was made in the CBF Investment Fund, the value of which at 31 December 2022 was £3,671.35 (2021: £4,039.47).

A similar loan to the PCC of £16,119 over 60 years was agreed in 1993 in order to meet the cost of repairs to the church centre; at 31 December 2022 the value of this recoupment investment in the CBF Investment Fund was £11,425.23 (2021: £12,579.24).

Following drawdown of the 1981 loan detailed above, a small residue from the available sale proceeds created an endowment fund, the use of which is restricted to capital projects within the church; this is invested in the CBF Investment Fund and the value at 31 December 2022 was £2,385.84 (2021: £2,702.57).

14. Transactions with Trustees (and their related parties)

	2022	2021
Donations received without restrictions 23	30,261	30,322
Reportable payments	353	25

The Revd Tony Rindl, a Trustee of the Charity, is also a Trustee of Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy. The Charity received rental income totalling £4,050 from this entity during the year.

The Revd Tony Rindl, a Trustee of the Charity, is also a Trustee of Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership. The Charity received rental income totalling £5,240 from this entity during the year.

23 Trustees include serving members of the PCC and those in positions of management of the charity and their families.

ST MARY'S WATFORD

15. PLANNED MAJOR WORK

Authorised Capital Expenditure at 31 December 2022:

	£
AV System Upgrade	36,012
Bell Chamber	2,720
	38,732

Of which, contracted Capital Expenditure at 31 December 2022 is:

	£
AV System Upgrade	36,012
	36,012



Retaining our rich evangelical heritage, we want to be a church community which is rooted in the scriptures, filled with the Spirit and one which lives out a credible Christian faith. The church building needs to continue to be a sacred space and place of sanctuary in the heart of Watford. As a church community we naturally long to see spiritual and numerical growth in line with the diocesan initiative, Living God's Love, and to be a vibrant community attractive to others, and in partnership with other churches serve our local community well.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY'S WATFORD

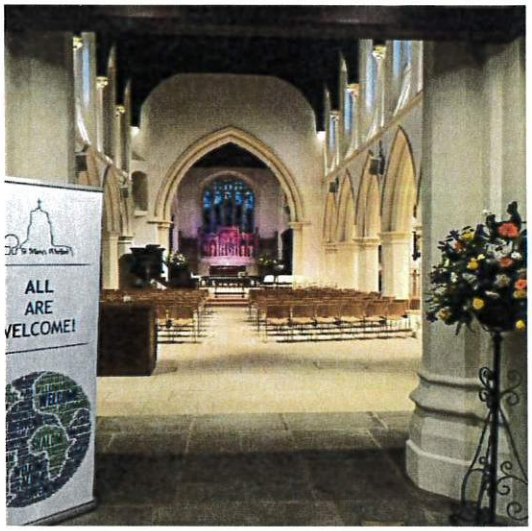
England & Wales - Charity number 1132880

Accounts

St Mary's, Watford

Church Street, Watford, WD18 0EG
Registered Charity Number: 1132880

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL for the year ended 31 December 2021



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Vicar:
The Revd Tony Rindl, The Vicarage
14 Cassiobury Drive, Watford, WD17 3AB

Bankers:
Barclays Bank plc, PO Box 104, St Albans, AL1 3AN
Lloyds Bank plc, Intu Shopping Centre, Watford, WD17 2UB

DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS
Living God's Love

Introduction

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

The primary objective of the PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC's (Powers) Measure 1956 states that the PCC "is to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical".

The PCC is responsible for the upkeep of the church building and the adjoining Church Centre and also for assets including a house and an office.

St Mary's Church is located in the town centre of Watford, with only about 8,000 people living within its parish, but with many commercial and shopping premises that bring in a daily influx of workers and shoppers to the area.

Purpose of the Church

As a church we believe that God the Father created the world. Because humans have disobeyed God's law, Jesus, God's own Son, came to earth, was born of a virgin, lived without sin, was crucified, died and rose again from the dead. Through His sacrifice, our wrongdoings are forgiven. He will return in glory to the earth. We believe in the Holy Spirit, sent to help us to live to God's glory. We accept the Bible as God's Word and rejoice in our ability to talk with God in prayer.

We aim to share our beliefs by worshipping together, by carrying them into our work, our leisure and our family life and by sharing our faith with others.

Our Vision Statement

"We believe that God is calling St Mary's to be a growing Town Centre Evangelical Anglican Church."

Public Benefit

The PCC has paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in all aspects of the activities undertaken by the church.

Vicar's Report

In the absence of the Vicar due to ill health at the time this report was written, the Churchwardens contributed the following:

2021 started much as 2020 had ended with tight Covid-19 restrictions still very much in place, but with an air of optimism that it would not be too long before we could resume some form of normality. A Lent Course, 'Getting Ready for the Great Return' written by our Vicar Tony, Curate Josh Brocklesby and Children and Families Worker Cath da Costa helped us to prepare for new opportunities as we looked forward to returning to our church building. Many new people joined one of the Connect Groups for this online course. It was not until mid-March that we resumed services in church – socially distanced and without any singing - for a restricted number who were unable to access services via Zoom. At the beginning of May it was a particular joy to welcome back a select choir so that we could enjoy live music in church once again. Throughout the summer months the majority chose to continue to join services on Zoom, but by September we were pleased to see more of our congregation returning to join us in person. It was also at this time that a new pattern of services emerged with an evening service in church on the first Sunday of every month starting at the new time of 5.30pm with refreshments from 5.00pm. We are so grateful to those who gave up time to supervise the church building while it was open for private prayer and to the small, dedicated group of stewards who welcomed people safely into the church building for services on Wednesdays and Sundays.

One highlight of 2021 was the ordination of Ash David and Phil Macaulay at St. Albans Abbey on 26th June. It was lovely to be able to use the church building to host a post-ordination party for Ash's family and friends in a safe socially distanced setting. We were also pleased to learn of the appointment of David Scourfield as Lead Chaplain of the Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy and that he had also been recommended for training for ordination.

We have been pleased to see our church building used by the Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership for its Food Bank distribution throughout the year. It was also used in July as a walk-in vaccination clinic. Both are examples of how our refurbished interior can be used to provide a large flexible space for different purposes.

One of the benefits of the extended lock-down was that it gave us an opportunity to arrange for much needed extensive repairs to the Church Centre roof. We are grateful to Roger Courtney as Chair of the Buildings Committee, for all his work in securing the necessary funding for this essential work and making all the necessary arrangements for its successful completion. It is lovely to have the Church Centre watertight and freshly decorated.

We are grateful to the staff team and all our volunteers for their continued efforts in continuing the mission of St. Mary's for our church family and the wider Watford community throughout another challenging year, which has required both creativity and stamina. It has been encouraging to welcome new people into our congregation, to resume many regular activities and to engage with community groups requesting the use of our facilities.

Alison Saunders and Peter Dean
Churchwardens

Review of 2021

St. Mary's is a town centre Evangelical Anglican Church, with worship and preaching to suit a wide range of needs. The congregation continues to take an active interest in and supports missions both overseas where we have personal links, and within our local community including New Hope and the Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy. The Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership now rents facilities in the church building and uses the church as a Food Bank distribution area. As restrictions imposed due to Covid-19 began to ease we were pleased to resume some of the activities that had been suspended during the pandemic in 2020. However, it was not until the autumn that face-to-face meetings resumed and often these were held with the option of joining via Zoom. By Easter we were able to welcome our congregation back to church for services on Sunday mornings and for midweek Holy Communion, although many chose to continue joining the Sunday morning service on Zoom. Sunday evening services were livestreamed weekly until September when they were replaced by a monthly 'Encounter' service in church at 5.30pm. The numbers attending church services were small at first, but by the end of the year a good number were attending the Advent and Christmas services including the Candlelit Carol Service and the service on Christmas Day. Activities for the children and youth also resumed in person led by our Children and Families Worker, or on Zoom according to government advice, at various times throughout the year. The clergy and members of the congregation continued to keep in regular contact with the wider congregation throughout another challenging year. The Vicar circulated emails twice-a-week and information was updated on the church website. For those without access to the internet contact was maintained through telephone calls and information such as monthly newsletters sent through the post. Connect Groups continued to meet on Zoom where appropriate until face to face meetings could resume and social events such as a quiz were also organised on Zoom. By the end of the year, we were gradually able to extend the times when the church was open for private prayer during the week.

Alison Saunders

PCC Membership

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. Most members of the PCC are elected, but Churchwardens, Deanery and Diocesan Synod members are *ex officio*. All elected PCC members are volunteers. New members of the PCC appointed at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) are required to complete a Trustee registration form. All members of the PCC are required to undergo on-line safeguarding training.

The following people served for all or part of 2021:

Vicar	The Revd Tony Rindl	
Curate	The Revd Josh Brocklesby	
Churchwardens	Miss Alison Saunders (Vice-Chair)	to 2022 APCM
(Ex Officio)	Mr Peter Dean	to 2022 APCM
Deanery Synod (2021-2023)	Mr Peter Dean	to 2023 APCM
(Ex Officio)	Ms Tilly Elliott	to 2023 APCM
Diocesan Synod (2021-24)	Miss Cathy Honeyman	to 2024 APCM
(Ex Officio)		
Elected Members	Mr Ivor Jones	to 2021 APCM

Mr Victor Kitange	to 2021 APCM
Mr Roger Courtney	to 2022 APCM
Mrs Pat Moore	moved away during 2021
Mrs Jane Carter	to 2022 APCM
Mrs Abieuwa Idris	to 2023 APCM
Mr Clinton Dan Jumbo	to 2023 APCM
Mr David Scourfield	to 2023 APCM
Ms Joanna Cooper	to 2024 APCM
Mrs Margaret Greenstreet	to 2024 APCM
Ms Anniefrida Kadzura	to 2024 APCM

Ms Jacky Faria provides secretarial support to the PCC. From November 2021, Mrs Pam Rastall began to take minutes at alternative meetings.

The PCC held monthly meetings via Zoom from January to September (no meeting in August), and in person in October and November in the Church Centre (no meeting in December) – summaries are written following each meeting, to be included in St Mary's News. Permission for Zoom meetings during lockdowns had been given by the Bishop of the Diocese.

Committees met between PCC meetings and presented information for consideration and decision by the full PCC.

Risk Management
We have identified the major risks to which the PCC is exposed and these are reviewed on a regular basis and a register is kept.

Policies
The PCC has developed policies covering areas of Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Bullying and Harassment, Lone Working, Conflict of Interest, Financial Procedures, Grievance & Disciplinary and Equal Opportunities. The Safeguarding Policy is updated annually; most other policies are updated bi-annually.

PCC Committees
A large proportion of the PCC's work is delegated to the committees listed below. They meet regularly and report back to the PCC at its monthly meetings.

Standing Committee
Dealt with PCC business between meetings of the PCC as necessary.

Finance Committee
Monitored St Mary's income and expenditure, proposed financial policies and presented draft accounts and budgets for PCC examination and approval.

Buildings Committee
Oversaw and managed the inspection, maintenance, changes, improvements and repairs of the fabric and plant in the church, the church centre, the house for which the PCC is responsible and the Cloisters office.

Pre-School Committee
Managed the Pre-School, handling finance and staff matters under delegated powers.

Staffing Committee
Managed staff matters.

Pastoral Group
Identified and reviewed needs for the care and welfare of church members and non-members, visited and provided practical support as required.

Missions Group
Promoted support for our mission partners in the UK and elsewhere in the world.

Church Management

St. Mary's is guided by and responsible to the Synods of the Church of England and to its appointed Bishops and their officers.

The Vicar of St. Mary's, the Revd Tony Rindl, continues to be ably supported in worship by our curate, the Revd Joshua Brocklesby and our Children and Families Worker, Cath da Costa. Many lay members of the congregation also take an active part in our services and assist with the Sunday School activities for children. There is also a part-time Director of Music, Anthony Wilson, who is responsible for training the choir for specific services.

Alison Saunders and Peter Dean were re-elected as Churchwardens in April.

Mrs Pam Rastall our Joint Office Administrator has continued working for the church and for the Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy throughout the year, chiefly from home until Covid-19 restrictions eased. Mrs Jacky Faria resumed her role as Church Administrator having been on furlough during part of 2020. Mrs Liz Allan, our Facilities Manager, also resumed her role following a period on furlough during the Covid-19 lockdown, ensuring that the church was ready for the congregation to return to services safely and also to be in attendance to prepare for and deal with external bookings. Ray Northcott's employment as caretaker was terminated at the end of 2021.

St. Mary's takes safeguarding very seriously Claire Edwards was Parish Safeguarding Officer until her resignation during 2021. As a temporary measure the responsibilities of the Parish Safeguarding Officer have been undertaken by Jacky Faria and Cath Da Costa whilst a more permanent replacement is sought.

The Vicar, a Churchwarden and two members of the St. Mary's congregation sit on the Board of the Longland Trust, which provides financial support for the ordained ministry at St. Mary's. The Church Lands Trust, which supports the repair and enhancement of church buildings within the ancient parish of Watford, is also made up of both Churchwardens and three members of St. Mary's congregation.

Alison Saunders

Electoral Roll, Church Attendance and Life Events

The Electoral Roll stands at 140 (138 at the APCM in 2021). The worshipping community at the end of 2021 was estimated to be 181 (206 in 2020). There were 3 baptisms in 2021 (0 in 2020). 8 funerals were taken by clergy from St Mary's either in church or at the crematorium (5 in 2020). There were 0 confirmations in St Mary's in 2021 (0 in 2020). There was 1 marriage in St Mary's in 2021 (1 in 2020 with 2 in the Peace Hospice)

Finance

General fund income for the year slightly exceeded our forecast at the beginning of the year mainly as a result of generous congregational giving. Replacement of the Church Centre curtains and blinds was funded from congregational donations. COVID continued to restrict us from developing lettings income.

We did however achieve our conservative forecast for such income by the end of the year. COVID was also a factor in keeping expenditures below forecast. Despite this there was an overall reduction in our funds. There is more to be done to ensure our income rises to meet the aspirations of our mission

Designated development funds and promised grants remain to support further work to the church IT and audio-visual systems and the completion of work in the bell chamber to ensure safe access for maintenance of the clock gearboxes.

Reserves Policy
The PCC policy is to hold in general fund reserves the equivalent of two months' running costs and an additional one month's salary costs. Funds available satisfied this policy throughout 2021.

We are very grateful to:

- Helen Baldwin for her professional management of our finances as our Treasurer
- Richard Watson for his work running the payroll, administering our Church Membership Fund and reclaiming Gift Aid.

Peter Dean
Chair of Finance Committee

Buildings

The internal refurbishment of the Church Centre, which commenced in 2020, was the main focus of attention during the year. Renewal of the ceilings and lighting in the ground-floor meeting areas, together with modernisation of the fire alarm system, took place in February. These works were followed by redecoration of the lounge, corridors and stairway and the ground- floor window frames. A new cooker was installed and new curtains and blinds, fitted in December, completed the improvements. These works were funded through a combination of grants and generous support from the congregation. Covid-19 restrictions meant that the Centre was less heavily used than normal which facilitated the works.

Plans for the conversion of the cleaner's cupboard into children's toilets were drawn up. These have been approved by the relevant authorities and it is hoped that grant funding can be secured to enable this improvement to be made in 2022.

Within the church building, a 'manifestation' (ie safety design) was applied to the sliding door in the West porch, thus completing the building works planned in connection with refurbishment of the church.

No significant repair works were required to the church itself but as reported previously, the need to provide safe means of access from the bell chamber to the clock gearboxes had been identified in the 2017 Quinquennial report and to provide the basis for developing a proposal a laser scan of the chamber was commissioned in late 2020. During the year this received approval from the Diocesan Advisory Committee, and it is intended that the work will be carried out in 2022.

The ground-level floodlights on the north side of the church failed irreparably in the summer owing to repeated water ingress. Altering electrical connections enabled the cross on the north transept to continue to be lit. Grant support has been sought for replacement of the failed floodlights.

At the Cloisters Office, wooden fascia boards which had deteriorated beyond the point of repair were renewed and other woodwork and gutters repainted.

Roger Courtney
Chair of Buildings Committee

Missions

The Missions Group consists of three members who help to create a mission focus within St Mary's and support our mission partners in the UK and abroad. We said farewell to Frances Collins as she and her husband, Rod, moved away to Southampton, immensely grateful for all the support they have given to Mission at St Marys over many years, including spending time in Paraguay to help the churches there in practical projects and outreach.

The meetings during the year involve ways of promoting awareness and support of Missions by praying, giving, or going, and organising Missions Sunday, which is a particular Sunday when the focus is on Mission in both services and one mission partner is highlighted. It is a time for learning about opportunities for mission, to donate to missions and to support missions through prayer. Mission Prayer is now included in Connect Together on the first Wednesday of each month.

Mission work has continued in this last year with travel from the UK to the Middle East to support the churches and the projects which support literacy and disabled children which are ongoing there even in these difficult times. Mano Emmanuel is now back in Sri Lanka at Colombo Theological College continuing with lecturing, writing courses and working on a new book.

The current list of our mission partners includes: Tearfund; Serving in Mission (SIM) in the Middle East; Mano Emmanuel at Colombo Theological Seminary in Sri Lanka; New Hope; Watford Schools Trust; CMS/Meninadanca in South America and Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy.

We look forward to setting a date for the next Missions Sunday.

Caroline Jones

Music

At the beginning of 2021, the country once again went into lockdown, thus necessitating the closing of the church and services run at a distance. Nonetheless, the music continued as families sang anthems together, which were recorded and then played during the service at communion, or at opening. So, Daniel and Daniella Dan Jumbo were frequently features, as was Vikki Wilson, and Waleska and Efrain Herrera. Similarly, in what must have been a deeply dedicated task, the Watson family recorded four hymns a week for every service, with Leah Watson providing the slides with the words on so that everyone could sing along at home. For the major festivals, a small group of the choir gathered in Anthony's back garden to record music, much to the delight – it transpires – of his neighbours and the local community.

After the lockdown, as restrictions were eased, and the church was re-opened for services, music made its way back into the building itself. As of May, the choir, on a rota of six per week, socially distanced and masked when not singing, led the music in church, which was also broadcast live to those who were attending on Zoom. Despite some initial teething problems, and a variety of different approaches to microphoning the singers, the technical knowhow of Peter, Josh and the sound team has now reached a point where they are positively BBC quality in their sound engineering standards!

From May then, and for the first time in many years, there was a choir in church every week, rather than just one focussed Sunday in the month and, as such, as restrictions were further lifted, we have continued much in this vein. As of September, the first Sunday of each month is Worship For All, where the music is provided by Daniel and Daniella Dan Jumbo, by Jenny Luckhurst and by Thomas Jones. On the third Sunday of each month, the full choir has made its joyful return after over 18 months of neither rehearsing nor performing together. On the other Sundays, the rota of six continues, thus providing music, one way or another, on every Sunday.

At Christmas, the choir performed a very successful Service of Lessons and Carols with no less than five new anthems including the very challenging *Children, Go Where I Tell Thee* and the very beautiful *O Watch the Stars*. As we move into the new year, the choir continues to go from strength to strength, as joyful and fun as ever.

Thanks should go to all of those who provide music in the church, often – as mentioned – in ingenious ways given the circumstances of the last two years. Particular thanks, though, should go to Richard Watson, for his stalwart organ and piano playing throughout.

Anthony Wilson

Events

While we did not manage many events this year due to lockdowns, we did have a few which were very memorable:

On 16th January Valeria King lead us on a Zoom prayer morning for the pandemic across the world, those affected by it and all those medical and other staff who were working hard during this time.

14th February we celebrated a 'Valentines and Pancakes' Zoom event which included a pancake competition and other fun activities.

During the week leading up to Easter, we used prayer stations set up around the church to help us safely engage with the Easter story and to reflect on Jesus's last week before his crucifixion – these prayer stations were then replicated on the website so people could engage with them in their own homes if they preferred.

Despite all of its challenges, 2021 was a year to return to the things we once loved and has been busy despite the lockdowns. Thank you to everyone who made it happen.

Cath Da Costa
Children and Family Worker

Children, Families and Youth

At the beginning of the year **Sunday School** and **Pathfinders** continued via Zoom – Sunday School, renamed KidsChurch for this season, met for a short half hour service on Sunday afternoons and Pathfinders met on Thursday evenings. With time the children and youth became Zoom weary and eventually these sessions tailed off. Jenny Luckhurst worked hard during this time to teach children worship songs and worked with Waleska Herrera to create some fantastic videos of the children singing such as the one they produced at Easter with the children singing 'Jesus is Alive'. Jenny has continued with this vision and not only has this seen the children knowing a growing repertoire of songs, but we have been blessed during many a Worship for All service by Jenny and her small team leading us all in action filled worship songs.

In response to the children's gradual disengagement with the Zoom services, we started Forest Church in an attempt to safely meet face to face. This sadly had to come to an end due to yet another lockdown, but while they continued, the sessions were an enjoyable, active and unique way to gather and learn about God and our faith using the woods and nature as resources to do this. For example, one session we looked at God the creator and did a nature hunt looking for signs of new life and the children enjoyed drawing some very beautiful nature pictures and making instruments from natural resources which we then used in our sung worship.

On 4th July people were invited to meet and discuss how best to go forward with Sunday School and Pathfinders and this led to our first face-to-face post lockdown Sunday school session on 25th July. There was much that we needed to learn about how to teach and care for our children safely but through trial and error we managed this and the Sunday School and soon after Pathfinders started meeting regularly and both groups saw a steady increased attendance towards the end of the year as families gain the confidence to return. Having said this many, especially initial sessions, saw very low numbers attending Sunday School – often between 0 and 5 per session, but it was a great way of engaging with the number of new families who walked into church on a Sunday morning. Pathfinders has seen up to 9 youth attend fairly regularly. It was with great sadness that over the summer we saw Frances and Rod Collins move away to be closer to their

family and they and particularly Frances have been greatly missed in many areas not least Sunday School and Pathfinders. Our team of leaders and helpers is now very small, and I want to thank Caroline Jones, Margaret Greenstreet, Daniella Dan Jumbo and Adam Greenstreet for leading each week, meaning that they rarely attend church services themselves, and to Jenny Luckhurst and Jenny Whittick for all their support and keeping us going. We have also started a game-based Youth session on the first Sunday of the month in the evening after the Encounter service.

Worship for All services continued throughout the pandemic but as we started back in church it became more interactive as we figured out ways of doing things safely. Thank you to the team – Gill Watson, Phil Hunter, Dave King and Leah Watson - for all that they do to put together and lead the services and to Jenny Luckhurst for coordinating the music. Thank you too to all the children and adults who have come forward to read, do prayers, help lead action songs, do roles in plays, etc. There were many memorable moments: Gill and Leah Watson's Mothering Sunday service, the service led by the Young Adults. This year we celebrated Christingle as part of a W4A service – this was a change from its usual afternoon slot but worked very well and meant the whole church family could participate – well done to Gill Watson for organising the service and Jenny Whittick for putting the Covid safe Christingle making kits together. Well done too to everyone who supported and contributed to the retelling of the Christmas story at the service on 19th December, expertly coordinated by Leah Watson.

Cath Da Costa
Children & Family Worker

Centre Club and KidsClub

From September with the opening up of schools we decided to restart the Tuesday morning toddler group / Centre Club. We hugely missed Frances Collins after all the years she has led this group and for her organisation skills, but a huge thank you to Liz Allen and Gill Muggeridge with whose help we were able to offer this much needed social connection for young families. The group has been well received and has gone from strength to strength with those attending enjoying having a safe space for their young children to explore, the offer of toast and a hot drink if they would like and a nursery rhyme session at the end. After a couple of weeks, we were asked if we could restart KidsClub which we run on Monday afternoons, and which has seen some quiet growth. We had hoped to celebrate the end of the year by throwing Christmas parties in each group, but sadly we had to cancel these plans due to Covid cases within the groups and the high number of Covid cases within Watford at that time.

Cath Da Costa
Children & Family Worker

Connect Groups

Connect Groups meet all over Watford, at different times, all with the purpose of connecting to God, connecting to one another and connecting to the wider community. Some, for example the Current Affairs Connect Group, cater for particular interests, whilst others have particular groups in mind – eg young adults, women, children. On the first Wednesday evening of the month Connect Together brings all the groups together, with some additional people who are not members of a particular group. Prior to the Covid-19 lockdown Connect Together met for food, worship, a talk, some testimony and prayer. During lockdown Connect Together continued on Zoom for as many as can access it. Each group creates a safe space to study and apply the Bible, question our faith, pray and also support, challenge and learn from each other.

Alpha 2 & 3 2021

More great discussion and sharing of personal experiences in two well attended Alpha@StMaryswatford courses last year. Alpha was "hosted" by Eileen, Andy, Jacky, Owen, David B, and Clinton and a total of 15 "guests" of all ages and ethnicities.

Only one participant didn't finish, which is amazing, and although not everyone came every week, each session was lively and insightful, strengthening our relationship with God and each other, discovering gifts and giving confidence to use those gifts for God's glory.

We always end with encouragement to get more involved in church, and community, using St Mary's as an example of the many ways to do so, and noting you will likely get out more than you put in!!!!

Huge thanks to St Mary's for all the prayer and encouragement throughout - it really did matter and could not have happened without your invitations and prayers.

If you want to do the course yourself, or know someone that does, let us know on andyroby2001@yahoo.com or 07414 832983. The Alpha team will gladly set up and run more in 2022.

Andy Roby

Wednesday Fellowship

Due to the pandemic, restrictions and the priority of people's safety Wednesday Fellowship was on pause for much of the year. However we were able to restart in the autumn/winter for several weeks. The established pattern was resumed with a talk (from a church member, an organisation in the town or a visiting speaker from another church) or some other entertainment and a short devotional time, followed by fellowship over tea and cake. When restarting the decision was made to continue to meet fortnightly. Among the sessions held we had talks given by Val Bordley and myself and we were also able to hold the popular Christmas lunch with a Carol sing-along. Unfortunately during this time we had to say goodbye to group leaders Frances and Rod Collins as they moved away. We thank them so much for all their service to this group over the years! In their absence Val Bordley has done a great job in stepping into the main organising role. Much thanks should also be given to Dave Hedges who drives the minibus each week and allows many to come who might struggle without this service. With signs that perhaps the pandemic might be easing we hope to be able to run Wednesday Fellowship regularly again and look forward to hosting returning and new members in the future!

The Revd Joshua Brocklesby

St Mary's Runners and Walkers

What a God-send this group has been during lock-down. Even when restricted we met in pairs or groups of 6, as permitted, to walk or run, in nature and open air, and as soon as possible we got back to the Saturday walk/run breakfast@Alison's routine, with mid-week runs for some, new friendships and birthday/high day celebrations.

Last year's highlights included the Pilgrimage to St Albans along the River ls Colne then Ver, ending at The Fighting Cocks and Abbey and a ride home. Then there are the races; Chichester 10 and 15k, Watford Half Marathon, Kew 10k, etc....

Why not come along and shed some Covid-kilos and build your immunity and friendships. Check out our Facebook Page; https://www.facebook.com/StMarysRunners. We meet to walk/run and breakfast on Saturdays at 8.30am at the Ricky Road entrance to Cassio Park.

Andy Roby

Meet@TheMoon

Weekly online meetings continued, almost without fail, during the year until, joy, we could meet once again in a real pub from September. We timed these 3d sessions to coincide with the Encounter services to offer a bit of after-service service! It works well, with 8-12 people building friendships and engaging deeper in the life of St Mary's. Maybe the next step is, as Dave Scourfield puts it, to turn the chairs round and actually face the pub-goers, and with a more visible presence...food for prayer!

The Zoom meetings continued in between Encounter Sundays, gathering 8 to 15 people for chat, news, advice, and good humour. In September all that chat led to an Action Day when 15 of us cleared Brian Basil's back garden and produced six huge bags of shreddings to spread on his garden.

Want to get on the Moon mailing list? andyroby2001@yahoo.com or 07414 832983

Andy Roby

Local Outreach and Co-operation with Other Local Churches

Churches Together: in 2021 Churches Together was struggling to recover from the pandemic. Churches were mostly worshipping on Zoom. It was hoped that a slow return to "normality" would enable Church Fellowships to re-open for face-to-face worship on Sundays and for other week-day meetings to resume. Zoom still offers many vulnerable members of churches the choice to attend on-line and together with services in person, this hybrid system has proved to be successful.

We attended our first meeting of the Churches Together in Central, South &West Watford committee, on Zoom, in May 2021. News of how Fellowships were coping with the effects of the pandemic was shared and much discussion took place. The AGM took place online in July and the Committee were all voted back in position. In August 2021, under the chairmanship of the Revd Ian Pankhurst, face-to-face meetings resumed in St Andrew's. The Revd Tony Rindl outlined how he and others were helping to support Afghan refugees living in hotels in Watford.

The first in-person events in January 2022 were the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity services. These took place in Central Watford, at Holy Rood and at St Mary's.

Churches Together in Central, South and West Watford, together with Churches Together in North Watford and Garston, plan to confirm an agreed merger to form 'Churches Together in Watford' at the AGM in July 2022.

Jackie & Brian Mee

Afghan Youth Club: following the crisis in Afghanistan, we were called as Christians to support in various ways - on 24th August for example we held an Urgent Call to Prayer - and as Afghani families were moved into hotels around Watford many of us felt compelled to do something active to help. This saw Christians from many churches come together to befriend the families and to put on activities such as coffee toddler mornings, Saturday play sessions and football games. Since October, Cath and a few others from St Mary's have been supporting a weekly youth club at one of the hotels.

Connections with local charities: St Mary's has continued its close involvement with, and support for, the work of the Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy, both financially and practically. The Vicar is chair of the Trustees. We are also pleased to make our facilities available to New Hope, who rent the offices in The Cloisters, and to the Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership (which has an office within church premises) and used the church for its foodbank throughout most of 2021.

Watford Deanery Synod

Peter Dean, Tilly Elliott and Cathy Honeyman are St. Mary's lay representatives on the Watford Deanery Synod which includes churches from St. Lawrence, Abbots Langley and St. Paul's Langleybury down to All Saints Oxhey, fourteen parishes in all. Cathy Honeyman is also a deanery lay representative on the Diocesan Synod. As clergy Tony and Joshua are also Deanery Synod members.

The first meeting in January, held on Zoom, was attended by Archdeacon Jane and included the swearing in of the Revd Peter Waddell as Rural Dean, replacing the Revd Tony Rindl. This and the meeting in May also on Zoom gave us the chance to share the challenges COVID has faced us with. In July Fr Sam Frampton was instituted and installed as the Vicar of St. Matthews, Oxhey. The October meeting held at All Saints Oxhey was the first post COVID chance for the Deanery Synod to meet in person. It provided the Synod with a chance to hear of the work of the Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership. Unfortunately, as a result of a clash with our PCC meeting, St. Mary's representatives were unable to attend.

It was a year of elections for the Deanery Synod with its members voting on the appointments to the Diocesan and General Synods.

Peter Dean

Pre-School

The Pre-School Manager, Natalia Leiva-Berger, and her staff are supported by a management committee representing staff and congregation from St. Mary's Church. This helps to strengthen its links with the church and to maintain its Christian ethos. The Pre-School opens every week-day morning from 9.30 - 12.30 and takes children from 2 years of age. There are staff with qualifications to cater for children during their nursery year if they have found it difficult to find a place in a nursery school or choose to stay at Pre-School. Following the temporary closures during 2020 due to Covid-19, the numbers attending recovered well during 2021 with a full roll by the end of the year. This also restored its income so that Pre-School ended the year in a healthy financial position. There have been some staff changes including an apprentice who has been working towards a level 3 qualification. The children represent wide diversity of culture and religion with several different languages spoken, although most have a good grasp of English. The most recent Ofsted inspection rated them "Good" and they retained their 5 star rating from an Environmental Health inspector. Children with special needs are given individual support by a trained member of staff given responsibility as the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator. During 2021 the Pre-School staff and management committee developed a three-year business plan to give a more strategic view of planning, to include staffing, recruitment, advertising and budget etc.

Alison Saunders

School Work

Sadly, due to Covid, our local schools have been understandably hesitant to have visitors and so there was not much direct contact with schools during the year. Having said this, we did have a visit to St Mary's from two Year 5 classes from Holywell Primary School.

Much of the school support which we did do was through supporting Watford Schools Trust as they initially recorded RE lessons and assemblies for teachers to use in their classes and via home school systems and more recently started to return to do these lessons face to face.

Cath Da Costa
Children and Family Worker

Independent Examiner's Report to
The Parochial Church Council, St Mary's Watford

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Mary's Church Watford (charity no. 1132880) for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 15 to 26.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the 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.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Paul Windmill FCA dated: 28 September 2022

Myers Clark
Statutory Auditor and Chartered Accountants
Egale 1, 80 St Albans Road
Watford
Hertfordshire
WD17 1DL

ST MARY'S WATFORD

SOFA 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2(a)	139,481		23,443		162,923	236,455
Income from charitable activities	2(b)	1,431	51,285			52,716	58,547
Other trading activities	2(c)	27,037				27,037	26,213
Investments	2(d)	20,108	1,120	59	213	21,500	22,440
Other income	2(e)	8,359	3,964			12,324	10,574
TOTAL Income		**196,416**	**56,369**	**23,502**	**213**	**276,500**	**354,228**
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	3(a)	9,021				9,021	6,203
Expenditure on charitable activities	3(b)	215,131	39,806	44,884		299,820	414,839
Other expenditure	3(c)		10,715			10,715	12,599
TOTAL Expenditure		**224,152**	**50,521**	**44,884**	**0**	**319,556**	**433,641**
Net income/expenditure before transfers		**-27,736**	**5,849**	**-21,382**	**213**	**-43,056**	**-79,413**
Transfers							
Gross transfers between funds - in		54,159	0			54,159	60,000
Gross transfers between funds - out		0	-54,159			-54,159	-60,000
Net income/expenditure before other gains/losses		26,423	-48,310	-21,382	213	-43,056	-79,413
Gains/losses on investment assets			2,477		1,669	4,146	2,051
Net movement in funds		26,423	-45,833	-21,382	1,881	-38,910	-77,362
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2021		**617,935**	**104,427**	**52,865**	**15,707**	**790,934**	**868,296**
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2021		**644,358**	**58,594**	**31,483**	**17,588**	**752,024**	**790,934**

ST MARY'S WATFORD

BALANCE SHEET

	Note	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets	5		101,865		100,540
Investments					
Church Board of Finance share accounts	6		29,892		25,746
63 Brightwell Road			430,000		430,000
Current Assets					
Debtors	7	16713		25,040	
Investments		4,315		4,102	
Short term deposits		108,746		177,803	
Cash at bank and in hand		100,565		82,087	
		230,338		289,032	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(19,452)		(33,765)	
Net Current Assets			210,886		255,267
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			772,643		811,553
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	8		(20,619)		(20,619)
Net Assets			752,024		790,934
Funds					
Unrestricted & Designated	9		702,952		722,363
Restricted	10		31,483		52,865
Endowment	11		17,588		15,707
			752,024		790,934

These accounts were approved by the PCC on 24 May 2022 and signed on their behalf by

Rev Tony Rindl
Chair

Peter Dean
Chair of Finance

Notes to the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2021

Accounting Policies

1.1 *Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern*

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) - SORP FRS 102 effective 1 January 2019, and the Charities Act 2011.
The charity has taken advantage of the exemption not to prepare a cash flow statement.
The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

1.2 *Accounting Conventions*

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts.

1.3 *Funds structure*

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application in the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.
Restricted Funds represent monies given by a donor with a specific restriction on their future use. The purpose of any restricted fund is noted in the accounts.
It is the policy of the PCC that no fund should be in deficit and that if this seems likely to occur then expenditure will be reduced as necessary.
It is the policy of the church to hold reserves the equivalent to 2 months' general running costs and additional one month's salary costs/ It is also our policy to hold the amount for anticipated major expenses (including likely building work).
The policy will be reviewed annually at the October PCC meeting or whenever financial circumstances change significantly.
The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

1.4 *Income Recognition*

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty or receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

i) *Voluntary income and capital sources*

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC
Planned giving receivables under covenant is only recognised when received
Income tax and transitional relief recoverable under Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.
Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.
Fund raised by serving of coffee and lunches and other fund raising events are accounted for gross.

Sales of books, magazines and other publication form the church bookstall/shop are accounted for gross.

ii) *Other ordinary income*
Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

iii) *Income from investments*
Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is in the same accounting year.

iv) *Gains and losses on investments*
Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

1.5 ***Expenditure Recognition***

Liabilities are recognised as an expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.
All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis.

i) *Grants*
Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

ii) *Activities directly relating to the work of the church*
The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when payable. Any amount unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (although not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet except where donors have indicated otherwise.

1.6 ***Fixed Assets***

i) *Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings*
Consecrated and beneficial property is excluded from the accounts by s.102(2)© of the Charities Act 2011.
No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a Faculty for disposal since the PCC considers these to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficial buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure I the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

ii) *Other land and buildings*
Other land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC for its own purposes are included at market value assessed on an annual basis. No depreciation is charged against such properties because the net realisable value is similar to the re-valued amount and therefore any depreciation would be immaterial. Expenditure on maintenance is written off as incurred, impairment reviews are performed on an annual basis.

iii) *Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment*
Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off in the period in which the asset is acquired.

iv) *Motor Vehicles*
The minibus (and any other vehicle owned by the PCC) is depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years and is currently assessed at having zero value.

v) *Grand Piano*
The grand piano is depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years and is currently assessed at having zero value.

1.7 *Stock*

The cost of goods purchased for resale in the shop/bookstall is written off as incurred. No value is attached to any stocks of consumables held e.g. stationary, office supplies, cleaning materials.

1.8 *Investments*

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December

1.9 *Current Assets*

Amounts owning to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown ass debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.
Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

1.10 *Risk Management*

The PCC guards against risks through:

a) Taking out adequate insurance cover against fire, theft, and other insurable risks;
b) Seeking out professional guidance on church security and other matters;
c) Having and following a clear policy on child protection;
d) Having and following clear procedures for authorising expenditure and making payments.

1.11 *Related Parties*

Under SORP FRS102 (effective 1 January 2019) related party transactions are required to be reported. Related Parties for St Mary's include the members of the PCC and their immediate family plus those with management responsibility within the church organisation, the Vicar and churchwardens. At present there are no related parties by virtue of land donations, interest bearing loans, or organisations that are considered to be related parties through association with related parties.
Donation from Related Parties are reported in aggregate form unless there are conditions attached to the use of the donation subject to SORP 2019 reporting requirements. Reimbursement of expenses to an unrelated third party are excluded from the reporting.

ST MARY'S WATFORD

2. Income and endowments from:

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2(a) Donations and legacies						
Planned giving	99,865		9,543		109,408	108,415
Income tax recoverable on giving	20,658		1954		22,612	35,408
Collections at services	3,402				3,402	3,421
Gift days					0	
Income tax recoverable on gift days					0	
Sundry donations	2,806				2,806	38,865
Restricted donations			8,496		8,496	
Income tax recoverable on restricted donations			400		400	
Grants	12,750				12,750	40,000
Donations to development fund					0	346
Income tax recoverable on devpt fund					0	
Donations to Church Centre refurbishment			2,400		2,400	
Income tax recoverable on Church Centre refurbishment			550		550	
Legacies			100		100	10,000
	139,481	0	23,443	0	162,923	236,455
2(b) Income from charitable activities						
Coffee & lunches served					0	201
Income from Youth Group activities	30				30	102
Income from social/outreach events					0	
Literature sales & concerts receipts	38				38	476
Fees	1,363				1,363	826
Vacancy income					0	
Pre-School fees/funding/donations		51,285			51,285	56,942
	1,431	51,285	0	0	52,716	58,547
2(c) Other trading activities						
Church Centre lettings	27,037				27,037	26,213
Fundraising for development fund					0	
	27,037	0	0	0	27,037	26,213
2(d) Investments						
Interest & dividends	128	1,120	59	213	1,520	2,460
63 Brightwell Road rental	13,980				13,980	13,980
Cloisters Office occupancy	6,000				6,000	6,000
	20,108	1,120	59	213	21,500	22,440
2(e) Other income						
Government JRS grant income	8359	3964.43			12,324	10574
Payments for personal photocopying					0	
Insurance claims					0	
Contra Account					0	
	8,359	3,964	0	0	12,324	10,574
TOTAL Income and Endowments	**196,416**	**56,369**	**23,502**	**213**	**276,500**	**354,228**

ST MARY'S WATFORD

3. Expenditure on:	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds **2021**	**2020**
	£	£	£	£	£	£
3(a) Raising funds						
Salary cost (admin)	4,433				4,433	2,227
Salary cost (Caretaker)	2,974				2,974	1,505
Stewardship envelopes	230				230	302
Printing, stationery, postage, etc					0	
Costs of fundraising events					0	
Letting Agency	1,385				1,385	2,168
	9,021	0	0	0	9,021	6,203
3(b) Expenditure on charitable activities						
Giving to overseas missions			7,472		7,472	13,184
Giving to relief/development agencies					0	
Giving to UK missions	5,670		4,024		9,694	11,187
PCC Tithe from rental income	3,165				3,165	3099
Parish Share	98,463				98,463	101,379
Clergy expenses	2,112				2,112	1,853
Other ministry costs	480				480	388
Music	4,330				4,330	3,321
Staff training					0	
Youth Club and Sunday School	5		146		151	27
Pre-School		38,274			38,274	41,253
Church and Church Centre:					0	
Running expenses	33,773				33,773	30697
Routine inspections and maintenance	7,739				7,739	4,823
Major maintenance and planned improvements:						
Church Centre Roof / Refurbishment Project		1,532	31,441		32,973	127,693
Unplanned maintenance and repairs	2,984				2,984	5,903
Quinquennial inspection fee					0	
Furniture, fixtures & fittings purchased	214		1,469		1,683	250
Houses: maintenance, insurance, etc	2,939				2,939	6,122
Administration and office costs	11,777				11,777	12,858
Salary costs re Governance (admin & fm)	6,041				6,041	7369
Printing, stationery, postage, etc	2,716				2,716	2698
Advertising	302				302	556
Children & Youth Work	21,143				21,143	24,795
Lead Chaplain	4,415				4,415	7,117
Literature & concerts expenditure	38				38	516
Mission and evangelism activities					0	
Minibus running costs	2,675				2,675	2,589
Coffee & lunches, provisions purchased					0	264
Miscellaneous expenditure	69				69	698
Asset depreciation			331		331	
PCC training					0	
Audit fees & related costs	4,080				4,080	4,200
Contra Account					0	
	215,131	39,806	44,884	0	299,820	414,839

ST MARY'S WATFORD

3. Expenditure on: (Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
3(c) Other expenditure						
Legal advice					0	
Development Project		10,715			10,715	12,599
	0	10,715	0	0	10,715	12,599
TOTAL Expenditure	**224,152**	**50,521**	**44,884**	**0**	**319,556**	**433,641**

4. STAFF COSTS	**2021**	**2020**
	£	£
Wages & Salaries	89,751	95,938
National Insurance - Employer	1,053	1,733
Pensions - Employer	1,744	2,181
	92,548	**99,852**

The PCC employed two part time Administrators (one Administrator 1/2 funded by WTCC), Facilities Manager, Caretaker, Lead Chaplain started July 2021 (75% funded by WTCC). Children and Youth worker and Pre-School staff; none earned £40,000 p.a. or more in 2021.

HMRC CJRS (furlough) was clamed for one Admin staff January - August, Facilities Manager January to August and Pre-School January to July.

ST MARY'S WATFORD

5. FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

	Freehold	Leasehold	Cooker	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Gross Book Value				
At 1 January 2021		100,540		100,540
Additions			1,656	1,656
Transfer to investment				0
At 31 December 2021	0	100,540	1,656	102,196
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2021				
Charge for 2021			331	331
At 31 December 2021	0	0	331	331
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2020		100,540		100,540
Disposals				
At 31 December 2021	**0**	**100,540**	**1,325**	**101,865**

The freehold land and buildings comprise the house located at 63 Brightwell Road, Watford. This was revalued in March 2021 by LP and M on a current market basis in the sum of £430,000. The property at 63 Brightwell Road was purchased in 1985 at a cost of £54,000 and let from April 2003. This was transferred to Investment in 2019 as not used by the church.

The cooker was purchased in 2021 and is being depreciated in accordance with Accounting Policy 1.6

The grand piano was acquired in 2013 and has been depreciated to nil value

The minibus and projection equipment still used by the church have been depreciated to nil value, in accordance with Accounting Policy 1.6

ST MARY'S WATFORD

6. INVESTMENTS

	63 Brightwell Road	Chancel Fund	Church Hall Site Old Free School (see Note 12)	Old Free School Recoupment Loan (see Note 12)	Old Free School Recoupment Loan (see Note 12)	Ian Youngman Prize Fund	Total
Brought forward at 1 January 2021	430000	7238	2363	3437	10705	2004	455746
Transfer from fixed assets							0
Movement in value		1041	340	603	1874	288	4146
Carried forward at 31 December 2021	**430,000**	**8,279**	**2,703**	**4,039**	**12,579**	**2,292**	**459,892**

7. DEBTORS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Income tax recoverable (Gift Aid)	7,031	10,775
Dorothy Longland Trust for curate		6,000
The Lawton Trust		5,000
Church Centre lettings fees due	150	90
Pre-School fees due		
Rent (Old Creche Room) WTRRP	3,000	3,000
Prepayments		230
Rent paid in advance		- 695
Other	6,531	640
	16,713	**25,040**

8. CREDITORS

	2021	2020
Amounts falling due within one year	£	£
Accrual for independent examination fee	4,080	3,960
Agency Collections [16]	2,620	2,413
Other accruals and creditors [17]	12,752	27,393
	19,452	**33,765**
Amounts falling due after one year	£	£
Old Free School loans (repayable in 2041 and 2053) (see Note 13)	20,619	20,619
	20,619	**20,619**

[16] Overpayment of room lettings, Legal Fees, Holy Land Trip payments, St Albans Fees

[17] CMF(O) funds & PCC Tithe not yet distributed, HMRC PAYE, VAT Reclaim, Energy Bills, Cleaning contract, Staff Costs (pension) WTRRP Donation

ST MARY'S WATFORD

9. UNRESTRICTED AND DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Balance at 01/01/2021	Movements in Resources			Balance at 31/12/2021
		Incoming	Transfers	Outgoing	
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	617,935	196,416	54,159	(224,152)	644,358
Children and Youth Worker	0				0
Pre-School Fund	3,000	55250		(38,274)	19,975
Development Fund	71,796	1120	(40,201)	(10,715)	22,000
Church Centre Refurbishment (incl. roof)	15,489		(13,958)	(1,532)	0
Kitchen Fund	0				0
OFS Recoupment Fund	14,142	2,477			16,619
	722,363	255,262	0	-274,673	702,952

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at 01/01/2021	Movements in Resources			Balance at 31/12/2021
		Incoming	Transfers	Outgoing	
	£	£	£	£	£
External Giving Fund [18]	26,411	11,496		(11,496)	26,411
Legacies Funds [19]	1,465	1			1,466
Restricted donations	1,488	8,996		(8,896)	1,588
Youth Fund	55				55
Sunday School Fund	575	58.25		(146)	487
Kitchen Fund (cooker)	3,277			(1,800)	1,477
Development Fund	0				0
Church Centre Refurbishment (incl. roof)	19,595	2,950		(22,545)	0
	52,865	23,502	0	-44,884	31,483

[18] External Giving Fund receives monies specifically donated for support of the worldwide mission of the Church; these are distributed in accordance with the donors' wishes or, if these are not specified, they are distributed to missions in line with a formula approved by the PCC.

[19] Legacies Funds contain monies donated or bequeathed for specific purposes; the balance is restricted to the purposes shown below:

	Balance at 01/01/2021	Interest	Other income	Use of funds	Balance at 31/12/2021
Purposes	£	£	£	£	£
The Poor	400	0	0	0	400
Outreach	754	0	0	0	755
Vicar's Discretionary	284	0	0	0	284
Church lending library	27	0	0	0	27
	1,465	**1**	0	0	**1,466**

ST MARY'S WATFORD

11. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Balance at 31/12/2020	Movements in Resources Incoming	Outgoing	Balance at 31/12/2021
	£	£	£	£
Chancel Fund				
CBF Investment Account (354 shares)	7,238	1,041		8,279
CBF Deposit Account	4,102	213		4,315
Old Free School Fund				
CBF Investment Account (115.56 shares)[21]	2,363	340		2,703
Ian Youngman Prize Fund (98 shares)[22]	2,004	288		2,292
	15,707	**1,881**	0	**17,588**

[21] Dividend for general use £68.68 (£66.32 in 2020).
[22] Dividend for Sunday School prize £58.25 (£56.24 in 2020).

12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	100,540	1324.74		101,865	100,540
Investments (Shares)	446,619		13,273	459,892	455,746
Cash at Bank	181,018	28,292	4,315	213,625	263,992
Other Net Current Assets	(4,605)	1,866		(2,739)	(8,726)
Liabilities over one year	(20,619)			(20,619)	(20,619)
	702,952	31,483	17,588	**752,024**	**790,934**

13. OLD FREE SCHOOL RECOUPMENT LOANS

In 1981 the Charity Commission approved a loan to the PCC of £4,500 out of the residual proceeds from the sale of the lease of the Old Free School and an associated right of way; this loan was to meet the cost of repairs to the church roof; and in order to achieve recoupment over the agreed term of 60 years an investment was made in the CBF Investment Fund, the value of which at 31 December 2021 was £4039.47 (2020: £3436.67).

A similar loan to the PCC of £16,119 over 60 years was agreed in 1993 in order to meet the cost of repairs to the church centre; at 31 December 2021 the value of this recoupment investment in the CBF Investment Fund was £12,579.24 (2020: £10,705.07).

Following drawdown of the 1981 loan detailed above, a small residue from the available sale proceeds created an endowment fund, the use of which is restricted to capital projects within the church; this is invested in the CBF Investment Fund and the value at 31 December 2021 was £2702.57 (2020: £2362.82).

14. INCOME RECEIVED FROM TRUSTEES (and their related parties)

	2021	2020
Donations without restrictions [23]	30322	36236
Reportable payments	25	None

[23] Trustees include serving members of the PCC and those in positions of management of the charity and their families.

15. PLANNED MAJOR WORK

Authorised Capital Expenditure at 31 December 2021:

Bell Chamber	10000
AV Upgrade (£50k less £40K grant promised)	10000
Church WiFi	3,000
	23,000

Of which, contracted Capital Expenditure at 31 December 2021 is:

0
0



Retaining our rich evangelical heritage, we want to be a church community which is rooted in the scriptures, filled with the Spirit and one which lives out a credible Christian faith. The church building needs to continue to be a sacred space and place of sanctuary in the heart of Watford. As a church community we naturally long to see spiritual and numerical growth in line with the diocesan initiative, Living God's Love, and to be a vibrant community attractive to others, and in partnership with other churches serve our local community well.