

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, LINTON, DIOCESE OF ELY

England & Wales · Charity number 1138508

Details

Other names	ST MARY'S PCC, LINTON
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-10-21
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Marys Church Church Lane Linton Cambridge CB21 4JX
Phone	01223893687
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Website	https://stmarylinton.churchinsight.com/Groups/281430/St_Marys_Linton.aspx

Activities

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

Activities: Conducting church services, voluntary activities within the community, mission, fundraising.

Classification

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

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£128,305	£138,745	-	-
2023-12-31	£224,248	£231,013	-	-
2022-12-31	£140,758	£163,111	-	-
2021-12-31	£134,381	£124,726	-	-
2020-12-31	£114,986	£113,929	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Paul Simon Seaton-Burn	Chair	2023-02-14
ANDREW ROGER GORE		2023-05-14
Andrew Edward Cornell-Webb		2022-05-08
Ann Patricia Macer		2025-05-11
Anne Sarah Thorne		2021-05-23
Catherine Jane Watts		2021-05-23
David Simon Watts		2017-04-27
Dr David John Parry-Smith		2015-04-16
Jacqueline Burge		2019-04-28
Mahamalage James Claude Suranga Perera		2025-05-11
Rev Michael Leslie Wilcockson		2023-05-14
SUSAN MARY ELLIS		2017-04-27
Sarah Helen King		2021-05-23
Susan Jane Mudge		2025-05-11

Accounts



St Mary's LINTON

Rooted in God. Rooted in Community

**ANNUAL REPORT
& ACCOUNTS
for the year ended
31st December 2024**

"May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith, that we
may be rooted and grounded in love."

Annual Parish Vestry Meeting
followed by the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
and a short meeting of
the new Parochial Church Council

Sunday 11th May 2025 at 11.30am
in Church

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Agenda for 11th May 2025

Part A - Vestry Meeting 11.30am

1. Prayer
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Vestry Meeting held on 19th May 2024
3. Thank you
4. Election of Churchwardens

Part B - Annual Parochial Church Meeting following the Vestry Meeting

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 19th May 2024
3. Matters Arising
4. Team Rector's Report
5. Parochial Church Council Report for the year ended 31st December 2024
6. Electoral Roll Report
7. Financial Report followed by appointment of Independent Examiner
8. Fabric Report
9. Deanery Synod Report
10. Election of PCC Members
11. Reports from Groups and Activities
12. Matters for discussion
13. Closing Prayer

Part C – A short Parochial Church Council following the APCM (separate agenda)

1. OPENING PRAYER

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING, SUNDAY 19TH MAY 2024

The meeting, held in the church, began with prayers at 11.36am and was chaired by Revd Paul Seaton-Burn, Team Rector. Thirty-six parishioners were present.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parishioners' Vestry Meeting of Sunday 14th May 2023 were accepted as a correct record. Proposed by: Tom Dodd and Seconded: David Parry Smith. Adopted unanimously.

Election of Churchwardens

2 Nominations had been received from David Watts and Charlotte Dodd.

The Rector thanked David and Charlotte for their tireless work on behalf of the church family through another busy year.

David Watts had served for 7 years as a Churchwarden. Due to rules in Churchwardens Measure 2001 Section 3, a vote needed to be held to disregard the rule *"a person shall be disqualified from being chosen for the office of churchwarden when that person has served as a churchwarden of the same parish for six successive periods of office until the annual meeting of the parishioners to elect churchwardens in the next year but one following the date on which that person vacated office at the end of the last such period"*

Following discussion regarding the importance of our joint care for our Wardens, It was proposed that the meeting waive the requirement of The Churchwardens Measure 2001 Section 3. This was agreed by 34 votes in favour, 2 Against, and there were no Abstentions.

It was agreed at the meeting that the proposed appointment of David Watts and Charlotte Dodd as Churchwardens would be considered together in one vote. This was passed unanimously.

The Vestry Meeting closed at 11.43am.

3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 19TH MAY 2024 IN ST MARY'S, LINTON FOLLOWING THE VESTRY MEETING

1. Apologies

Margaret Cox, Charlotte Hayes, Mark Hayes, Cathy Watts, Dianne Morse.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of Sunday 14th May 2023 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed by David Watts and Seconded by the Rector. Passed unanimously.

3. Matters arising

It was noted that John Organ was appointed as Stewardship Officer during first meeting in 2023 – 2024 PCC year.

4. Parochial Church Council Report for the year ended 31st December 2024

This report, and others prepared for the year under review and referred to below, had been circulated and made available on the church website.

Proposed by Brian Grey and Seconded by Patricia Schofield, it was adopted unanimously.

5. Electoral Roll Report

The Electoral Roll is our register of electors, who are eligible to attend and vote at the Annual Parochial Church Council, not least for membership of PCC and Deanery Synod representatives.

Jo George, Electoral Roll Officer, had reported that at the end of the church year there were 132 people on the Roll.

It was noted that the Electoral Roll will need to be revised in 2025.

6. Financial Review for the year to 31st December 2024

The Rector thanked Sue Ellis for her work throughout the year and for preparing the annual financial statements to a high standard. The work of the Finance Committee was much appreciated, too.

In response to a question asking who had financed the lighting project completed in 2023, Sue confirmed that it had been paid for by the invaluable support of the Friends of St Mary's.

Proposed by Sue Ellis and Seconded by Tom Dodd, the Review was approved unanimously.

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Kate Sergeant was willing to stand as independent examiner for another year. The meeting expressed its gratitude to Kate for her assistance in recent years. Proposed by Sue Ellis and Seconded by the Rector. It was passed unanimously.

8. Fabric Report

The report was considered and adopted. The Rector thanked members of the Fabric Committee for the time they had given during the year, not least regarding maintaining and repairing the boilers.

9. Deanery Synod Report

The report prepared by Revd Michael Wilcockson was considered.

Andrew Gore gave thanks for the church's contribution to the YouthInc project.

10. Election of Parochial Church Council members

Continuing members on the PCC were confirmed as:

Elected in 2022: Jacqui Burge, Andrew Cornell-Webb, Sarah Nickolls

Elected in 2023: Sue Ellis, Tom Dodd, Ann Slaymaker, John Thorne.

Helene Evans, Sarah King, John Organ, Richard Tonry, Molly Warrington had served their three-year term of office and before the meeting Tom Dodd handed in his resignation giving 5 lay member vacancies of the PCC.

The electoral roll number allows for up to 12 elected lay members of the PCC.

The Rector proposed, on the grounds of simplification and more likelihood of recruiting PCC members, that election of all lay representatives on PCC be for one year instead of the 3 as laid out in M16 1, 1(b) and 2 in the Church Representation Rules 2022 " (1) A person who is a member of the PCC under Rule M15(1)(j) (representatives of laity) holds office as such for a period which (1b) ends with the conclusion of the third subsequent annual meeting.(2) But the annual meeting may, despite paragraph (1)(b), decide that the members under Rule M15(1)(j) are to retire at the conclusion of the annual meeting following their election ."

The proposal was discussed, with one parishioner being concerned that this would require more work for the PCC Secretary as more nomination forms would need to be signed. A wider discussion followed, around why the role of PCC Member is not more desirable, and the inability or unwillingness of people to serve in this way. It was noted that PCC meetings now ended around 9pm and were more positive. The Rector emphasised that it was not always a matter that 'bigger is better'; the quality of PCC decisions and members' contributions mattered. Following discussion, it was proposed that this motion would be adopted and reviewed in 3 years' time (2027 APCM).

Proposed by David Parry-Smith and Seconded by Michael Younger, this was agreed by 30 votes in favour, 4 against, and 2 abstentions.

Nomination forms had been for Sarah King (proposed by Tom Dodd and Seconded by Sue Ellis) and for John Organ (proposed by Jacqui Burge and Seconded Sue Mudge).

It was agreed that the vote for the election of Sarah King and John Organ would be taken together. It was Proposed by Tom Dodd, Seconded by Sue Filby, and approved unanimously.

Reports from Committees and Organisations

Reports from the following groups were included in the Annual Report & Accounts and had been made available in paper form and on the church website.

The 2023 report for the Pastoral Group was included by mistake in the 2024 report. The correct Pastoral Group report was distributed to those present and was read out by the Rector at the meeting.

David Parry-Smith added to his report much gratitude to the late Janet Conochie and that singing carols at Symonds house had been very positively received.

Thanks were expressed by the Rector on behalf of the church family to David and Anne Parry-Smith for their service in the work they do for the life of St Mary's.

Rector's Review

The year under review has been a busy one, in which many people have been blessed by the prayers, hospitality and hard work of friends here at St Mary's.

On a personal note, since I arrived in February 2023, most of this year has been a learning and listening process, to both church and non-church folk in Linton. Our church contains people across a spectrum of traditions, likes and dislikes, and our community also encompasses many different groups and sub-groups. Many of these 5,000 souls have little or no contact with St Mary's, reflecting the times in which we live, and this is a significant challenge for us as we seek to be 'rooted in God and rooted in community'. It is easy for us to underestimate the gap between many people's lives and the churchgoing habits we grew up with and so it is especially important that we continue to work on our welcome, offer a diverse range of worship and support community projects like 'Make Lunch' in the future. It has been encouraging to see the bedding in of our monthly quiet time – The Well – and the number of people attending who are not regular churchgoers. Café Church, too, has developed very well and the team are learning together what it is to lead worship informally, complementing our Sung Eucharists on 1st and 3rd Sundays.

It is good to be learning together, and to see friends exploring their gifting. Congratulations to both Sue and Tom as they look to begin training for LLM ministry in the Autumn.

Over the coming year I look forward to deepening the roots of new initiatives such as the RnB groups (which were launched in the Autumn) and our monthly Chalklands service, as well as securing the continued flourishing of established outreach, such as Friday Church, Tots in Tow and Messy Church (to name just a few). It remains a challenge (for all of us) to balance the needs of our church family and welcoming all those who do not yet have faith in or experience of the Risen Christ. During the year, numerous conversations were started with our ministry team, PCC and others as to how we might nurture faith and belonging, encourage prayer (in numerous forms) and serve our community. This is, of course, work-in-progress (as is the tidying up of our church interior).

Thank you to so many of you for your time and energy given to the life of St Mary's and supporting the wider community and visitors. From our PCC members, bell-ringers to our Verger and Deputy Verger, to David (Lay Chair) and the choir and church cleaners and all. Several friends from the former are retiring after giving much time and counsel as PCC members over a number of years – thank you to Helene, Molly and Richard (not least for steering the Fabric Committee). The members of the Events Committee, too, have made a significant contribution in helping us to raise funds and bring people together through organising a variety of happy events through the year.

On behalf of you all, I must thank our dedicated team of ordained and lay colleagues who have done so much this year. Their thoughtful care, support and curating of worship has been invaluable. Our representation in the Granta Deanery by Michael, Andrew and David has also been important, as the new Deanery Plan was collated and approved.

Finally, a special note of thanks must be given to our churchwardens, Charlotte and David, who between them have made such an important contribution to the well-being of our church family and visitors alike. It is very good news for us that they have agreed to serve for one more year and our challenge will be to support and find successors for them as we look to the future.

Revd Paul, Team Rector

Questions and discussion

Gill Powell raised the need for more welcome being needed both on the door at the beginning and ending of services. She had observed one occasion when she did not see anyone else speaking to one family who were new. Gill spoke about how daunting it is for some visitors and young families coming to church for the first time.

Sarah Thorne asked the church to wake up to the need to welcome and support people from all parts of our community. She spoke about families who have come to some services and

have said they don't think the church is for them - there had been 'tuts and unwelcoming looks' – when children had made noises on some occasions.

Michael Younger believed that the APCM process does not allow us to thank people enough. Michael gave thanks to Nicola Collard who is chair of governor who is stepping down at the end of the school year. Michael Younger says that inclusive church needs to be shown in the church. He also commented that the Rector's name was not yet on the blue noticeboard and hoped that this would be addressed soon.

Sue Filby encouraged people to see that being an inclusive church included catering for those people with 'hidden disabilities'. She offered the example of one member of the congregation who is deaf, who had been very pleased that prayers were led from the front of the church because they used lip-reading.

Sue Mudge spoke about the need for more giving by the congregation and that we need to work to avoid being in a budget deficit again.

Andrew Cornell-Webb thanked Sue Mudge and the congregation for their support during his year as PCC Secretary, and he continues to learn the many aspects of the role.

David Parry-Smith spoke of the need to celebrate the good that goes on in the church and the need to smile and to be happy in the Spirit. A lot of positive things had been achieved during the year, and he urged us to be guided by the Holy Spirit and not to be weighed down too much in details and maintenance issues.

David Watts thanked the Rector for his service and leadership to the church during the year. We needed to be of one heart, like the disciples at Pentecost. Without the Holy Spirit we are nothing. The monthly prayer meeting has stopped recently, and he felt that there is a need for this meeting to resume (but not on a Saturday Morning as that had proven difficult for some). More prayer together will build more trust that God will continue to guide us in the things we do in the wider community and to make people feel welcome.

The meeting ended with prayer at 12.43pm.

4. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Administrative information

St Mary's Church is situated in Church Lane, Linton. It is part of the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England. The correspondence address is 4, Bakers Lane, Linton, Cambridge, CB21 4NF. The registered charity number is 1138508.

PCC members who have served from the APCM in May 2024 until this report are:

<i>Incumbent</i>	Team Rector - The Revd Paul Seaton-Burn	
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Charlotte Dodd (nee, Ellis) David Watts	
<i>Associate Priest</i>	The Revd Michael Wilcockson	
<i>Priest with PTO</i>	The Revd Lesley Gore	
<i>Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs)</i>	Sarah Thorne Cathy Watts	Children and Families Minister Also Safeguarding Officer
<i>Authorised Lay Minister (ALM)</i>	Gill Powell	retired December 2024
<i>Representatives to the Deanery Synod</i>	Andrew Gore David Parry-Smith	from 14.05.2023 - 31.05.26 from 14.05.2023 - 31.05.26
<i>Elected members</i>	Jacqui Burge Andrew Cornell-Webb Sarah Nickolls Sue Ellis Ann Slaymaker John Thorne Sarah King John Organ	from APCM 2022 from APCM 2022 - Secretary from APCM 2022 from APCM 2023 – Treasurer from APCM 2023 from APCM 2023 from APCM 2024 from APCM 2024
<i>Lay-Chair</i>	David Parry-Smith	

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules, updated in 2025. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

The PCC of St Mary the Virgin ('St Mary's, Linton') has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Mary's Church and the Pavilion adjacent to the Church.

Review of the year to 31st December 2024

This year has been a busy and a fruitful one. We have continued to offer a broad range of worship; from Sung Eucharist twice a month, to Café Church to The Well – a monthly hour of quiet meditation and music, which continues to attract those around the village who don't usually attend our Sunday services. The three Root and Branch (RnB) groups have continued to meet in homes across Linton to reflect on and discuss Scripture and deepen friendships and faith. At the Rector's invitation, two RnB groups have prepared and led our main 10am Sunday morning services.

Friday Church has continued to be a joy and has nurtured our relationship with pupils (and their parents) and staff at Linton Church of England Infant School. Nicola Collard stepped back after many years' service as Chair of Governors – and helping to lead Friday Church – and her position was assumed by Revd Michael Wilcockson.

Outside our church building, community services have continued to be held at Symonds House and Nichols Court, and in the Chalklands community room which has led to a number of new relationships and attended by c20 people (all non-churchgoers) once a month.

Since the year end, our wonderful children and families minister Sarah Thorne retired at Easter 2025 after many years' service and inspirational ministry. The teams led by Sarah – enabling Messy Church, Baby Steps, Tots in Tow, Make Lunch and more - have brought the Gospel to many young children and their carers.

A special thanks to those who have ensured that St Mary's has been open every day of the year, those who have cleaned our well-used building, and those who have made it beautiful with flowers, especially at Easter and Christmas. Your time and commitment have been much appreciated by parishioners and visitors alike.

During the year under review there were 9 Baptisms, 2 Thanksgivings for the Birth of a Child, 1 Wedding, 15 Funerals, 4 Memorial Services, 5 Interments of Ashes in the Garden of Remembrance and 5 Confirmations (at Ely Cathedral on 30th November 2024).

Andrew Cornell-Webb, PCC Secretary

5. SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is at the heart of our faith, as we as part of the Church of England, welcome all people and want to care for the vulnerable, adults as well as young people.

The care and protection of people in our parish is a responsibility we all share, and my contact details – as primary contact for all safeguarding concerns - are contained in our Safeguarding Policy (published on www.stmaryslinton.org.uk).

Safeguarding posters with these contact details are displayed in church and also in the Pavilion. If you have any concerns about the welfare of anyone in our church, please contact me as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Everyone who holds a position of parish responsibility at St Mary's has been appropriately vetted and has undergone safeguarding training relevant to their role, including those who make up our Pastoral Group who visit parishioners in their own homes or at Symonds House and Nichols Court. We also have procedures in place to ensure that all users and hirers of our Pavilion adhere to the same principles regarding safeguarding. Safeguarding is an agenda item at each of our PCC meetings and is reviewed regularly by the PCC.

Cathy Watts, Parish Safeguarding Officer
safeguarding@stmaryslinton.org.uk

6. TEAM RECTOR'S REVIEW

A copy will be available at the Meeting.

7. ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

At the end of the previous church year there were 132 people on the Electoral Roll. Following a complete revision of the Roll (required every 6 years) there are 25 new people on the roll, and with 27 people either not responding or moving away, the total now stands at 130.

If you would like to be added to the Electoral Roll or have any questions, please do contact me – jo.george@stmaryslinton.org.uk

Josephine George - Electoral Roll Officer

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's, Linton

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, SORP 2005 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements – to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and – to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Independent Examiner

24th February 2025

8. Financial Review 2024

In 2024 a total of £128,305 was received by St Mary's. This compared with expenditure of £138,745 leaving a deficit of £10,439. We have been running a deficit since 2017 except for 2020 when a legacy gave us a small surplus of £1,000.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving weekend in October encouraged our congregations to review their financial support to our Church. Regular giving has increased by £620 per month. This source of income, particularly through the Parish Giving Scheme¹, is particularly important as it is fairly predictable from year to year and allows us to budget. Tax recovered through Gift Aid is also a significant part of our regular income. We are grateful to all those who have reviewed their giving, but are mindful that we are still in a deficit budget so it is important to keep your giving under review. If you have not yet joined the parish giving scheme, Sue Ellis is willing to discuss it.

Grants are another important part of income. The Anderson Trust made a further grant to enable the Pavilion Kitchen to be upgraded. The Friends of St Mary's have given us grants for the upkeep of our Church.

Fundraising and social events are extremely important as our regular giving with gift aid barely covers our Ministry Share which is our largest item of expenditure. This is the sum sent to the Diocese, to enable us to have a full-time Rector, as well as contributing to some central administrative and mission costs. The PCC has committed to paying the Ministry Share in full; even though the sum is not covered by regular giving.

Though the PCC has continued to trim general running expenses, the church must be maintained in good repair, and we aim to provide a welcoming and well-maintained space for everyone. Other priorities include supporting the valuable work of the Beacon Youth Trust, which took most of the PCC's allocation to charitable giving.

The Balance Sheet summarises the funds of the church. Some sums within this figure are 'Restricted', in that they have been given for a specific purpose only. Other sums are 'Designated'; these have been set aside by the PCC for specific purposes. The 'unrestricted' General Fund, at the end of 2024, amounted to £24,275 (£3,017 less than last year).

Reserves Policy

In 2024, the PCC continued with a reserves policy; retaining a sum of £22,500 for contingency cover.

¹ Please ask the Treasurer for more information.

Financial Statements

The financial statements which follow comprise:

A statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year, showing all resources made available to the PCC and all expenditure incurred by it, and reconciling changes to funds.

A return of Parish Finance which shows the same information but gives a breakdown of income and expenditure.

A Balance Sheet showing assets, liabilities and funds.

Accounting Policies

These accounts have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and in accordance with the Charities SORP (2005) and applicable standards. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission under the name of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Linton, Diocese of Ely, charity registration number 1138508.

St Mary's Linton
Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	107,181	150	—	107,331	202,190
Activities for generating funds	6,692	—	—	6,692	7,500
Investment income	999	157	—	1,156	1,390
Incoming resources from charitable activities	11,418	—	—	11,418	13,166
Other incoming resources	1,705	—	—	1,705	—
Total incoming resources	127,997	307	—	128,305	224,248
Resources used					
Cost of generating funds	228	—	—	228	350
Cost of generating voluntary income	—	—	—	—	—
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs	1,861	—	—	1,861	772
Charitable activities	130,095	6,560	—	136,655	229,890
Governance costs	—	—	—	—	—
Total resources used	132,184	6,560	—	138,745	231,013
Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer	(4,186)	(6,253)	—	(10,439)	(6,765)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	1,147	4,696	—	5,844	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	(5,844)	—	—	(5,844)	—
Net incoming / outgoing before other gains / losses	(8,883)	(1,556)	—	(10,439)	(6,765)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	1,659	—	—	1,659	3,618
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	(7,224)	(1,556)	—	(8,780)	(3,146)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	61,682	7,128	—	68,810	71,957
Total funds carried forward	54,457	5,572	—	60,030	68,810

St Mary's Linton Return of Parish Finance for year ending 31 December 2024

Incoming Resources	2023	2024
Voluntary Income		
Tax efficient planned giving		
Gift Aid - Bank & Parish Giving Scheme	49,899.93	50,693.60
Gift Aid - Envelopes	469.00	251.00
Total tax efficient planned giving	50,368.93	50,944.60
Other planned giving	3,410.00	2,700.00
Gift Day (note 1)		3,404.50
Loose plate collections	3,217.43	2,477.69
Giving through church boxes	287.51	271.63
One off Gift Aid gifts	1,895.00	3,781.68
Donations, appeals, etc (note 2)	8,057.16	10,303.00
Tax recovered through Gift Aid	15,171.62	15,732.59
Legacies	2,966.68	507.98
Non-recurring one off grants (note 3)	116,816.02	17,208.22
Total for voluntary income	202,190.35	107,331.89
Activities for Generating Funds		
Other funds generated (note 4)	971.45	592.06
Christmas Events	2,042.85	
Social Events (note 5)	4,486.46	6,100.53
Total for Activities for Generating Funds	7,500.76	6,692.59
Bank and building society interest	1,390.25	1,156.56
Church Activities		
Fees for weddings and funerals	11,710.00	8,788.00
Pavilion lettings	1,456.90	2,630.50
Total for Church Activities	13,166.90	11,418.50
Granta Deanery Refund		1,705.55
Total for Incoming Resources	224,248.26	128,305.09

Resources Expended	2023	2024
Costs of Generating Funds		
Christmas Event Costs	350.00	228.13
Costs of Social Events (note 5)	772.89	1,861.38
Total for costs of Generating Funds	1,122.89	2,089.51
All Mission Giving and Charitable Grants & Donations (note 6)		
Giving to missionary societies	920.69	500.00
Secular Charities	1,145.26	1,989.00
Youthinc	300.00	300.00
The Beacon Youth Trust	6,500.04	6500.04
Total for All Charitable Giving	8,865.99	9,289.04
Church Activities		
Ministry Share	68,221.95	65,944.45
Salaries (note 7)	10,181.16	11,014.80
Expenses (clergy, pastoral staff, etc)		
Working expenses of Incumbent	480.00	959.50
Rector's telephone		484.26
Children's and family's ministry (note 8)	4,538.61	5,257.94
Total for Expenses	5,018.61	6,701.70
Parish Training and mission		22.04
Regular Church running expenses (insurance, cleaning, admin)		
Church running - insurance	3,806.82	4,037.42
Organ / piano tuning	510.00	450.00
Church telephone/Wi-Fi	406.62	53.94
Church maintenance	5,010.71	4,121.97
Cleaning	73.98	66.98
Upkeep of services (note 9)	10,642.93	8,474.96
Upkeep of churchyard	171.69	
Administration	2,256.30	2,109.51
Flowers (note 10)	173.15	
Total for Regular Church running expenses	23,052.20	19,314.78
Church utility bills (gas, electricity, water)		
Church running - electric	1,696.06	1,664.65
Church running - gas	2,366.00	6,297.19
Church running - water	58.34	27.11
Total for Church utility bills	4,120.40	7,988.95

	2023 £	2024 £
Costs of trading - Pavilion		
Pavilion running – electricity	628.51	344.44
Pavilion running – maintenance	1,106.39	1,440.61
Pavilion running – water	58.35	27.11
Total for Costs of trading	1,793.25	1,812.16
Total for Church Activities	112,387.57	112,798.88
Total for Resources Expended	122,376.45	124,177.43
 Major Capital Expenditure		
Church major repairs	108,201.58	7,419.63
Peace Garden	435.45	
Pavilion		7,147.98
Total for Major Capital Expenditure	108,637.03	14,567.61
Total Expenditure	231,013.48	138,745.04
 Total Income	224,248.26	128,305.09
 Total Expenditure	231,013.48	138,745.04
 Balance	-6,765.22	-10439.95

St Mary's, Linton
Balance Sheet
as of 31st December 2024

	2023 £	2024 £
Fixed assets		
Pavilion (note 11)	500	500
Investments (note 12)	32,438	34,097
	<u>32,938</u>	<u>34,597</u>
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	40,659	28,826
	<u>40,659</u>	<u>28,826</u>
Liabilities (note 13)		
LCHT	1,293	
Linton Parish Charities	3,494	
	<u>3,394</u>	
Net current assets less current liabilities	<u>35,872</u>	<u>25,432</u>
Total net assets less liabilities	<u>68,810</u>	<u>60,030</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	27,292	24,275
Designated		
Designated - Contingency	22,500	22,500
Designated - Pavilion (note 11)	500	500
Designated - Children and family ministry (note 14)	11,389	7,181
Restricted		
Restricted - Anderson Trust (note 15)	1,664	216
Restricted - Bells	1,450	1,563
Restricted - Churchyard (note 16)	144	144
Restricted - Music	1,320	1,036
Restricted - Organ Fund	2,511	2,511
Restricted - Peace Garden	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Funds of the church	<u>68,810</u>	<u>60,030</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

Return of Parish Finance

In addition to donations made on the harvest thanksgiving gift weekend, regular giving was increased by individuals reviewing their existing giving and new members joining the Parish giving Scheme.

1. Donations include income from the good box and Payaz as well as personal donations.
2. Grants received this year: £3,716 from the Anderson Trust for the Pavilion Kitchen and Godly Play, £9,925 from the Friends of St Mary's, and £1,242 from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. For Make Lunch - £688 from Transforming Lives for Good and £1,385 HAF grant (government funded Holiday Activities and Food program). £252 was received from CHCT Ride and Stride.

The income from other funds generated includes £7 from the book stall and £158.06 from 'Give as you Live'. It also includes £413 collected for WaterAid at the Lent lunches.

3. Social events include refreshments after services, our regular coffee mornings and other organised events such as a jigsaw challenge, Globe vintage tea, concerts from the New Cambridge Singers and Tapestry, wreath making, and a New Years Eve party. In addition, there was a Ceilidh as part of our Harvest Thanksgiving weekend. Overall, a profit of £4,239 was made from these events which does not include income received by card payments.
4. Charitable giving this year includes £500 to USPG, £500 to Haverhill Foodbank, £125 to Friends of the Holy Land, £125 to Cambridge Churches Homeless Project, £117 to the Poppy Appeal and £117 to Combat Stress. Also £300 to Youthinc (Deanery Youthwork scheme) and £6,500.04 to support the work of the Beacon Youth Trust. The Lent lunches raised £413 for WaterAid and a collection at the Vigil for Ukraine raised £528 for We Help Ukrainians (Mangalakara Foundation). In addition, £64 from the card reader was given to Christian Aid which was included in £1,877 sent to Christian Aid by Pam following the May coffee morning, the Christian Aid Quiz and Christmas Quiz which she organised.

5. Salaries relate to payments made to our organists and parish administrator and includes an honorarium for the enormous amount of work carried out by our Children and Families Minister.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued

6. Children and Families Ministry covers all expenses relating to young people including Make Lunch, Café Church, Messy Church, Baptism resources and books for Year 6 leavers.

Upkeep of services includes fees paid to Ely and Non-Stipendiary priests.

7. The cost of flowers has been covered by separate collections and the generosity of the flower arrangers.

Balance Sheet

8. Pavilion at cost £77,031. This has been depreciated and is shown at a nominal value of £500.

9. Investments: The CBF Church of England Investment Fund - Accumulation Shares.

10. Liabilities are funds held for the Linton Parish Charities.

11. The Children & Families Ministry fund is money donated specifically for Children and Families Ministry.

The Anderson Trust fund represents money held over for the purchase of Godly Play materials which have now been bought.

The Parish Council gave us £500 in 2020 to cover the ongoing expenses of the Monday Gang.

9. FABRIC COMMITTEE REPORT

Our Church building

The Quinquennial Inspection took place in March this year. The building structure is in good shape. The larger items requiring attention are stonework conservation (mainly on the tower), replacement bird mesh within the belfry, and some roof maintenance and redecoration. In all, the costs could be in the region of £10,000. The gutters and downpipes were all cleared in March.

Church interior

The possibility of replacing the concrete paving slabs in the Resurrection Chapel with stone has been researched and priced, as has providing a slope in the south aisle floor to improve access by removing the barrier formed by the step. The existing ramp provided many years ago is not in accordance with present recommendations and itself forms a hazard to other users.

Members of the Diocesan Advisory Committee visited the church in October and supported in principle the above proposals for the chapel; they also favoured the removal of most of the redundant pews and the provision of a purpose-made welcome desk

Heating

The existing boilers have become unreliable to the extent that only one has functioned through the winter and the level of heat has been inadequate. Research has been carried out into forms of heating which would be more environmentally friendly but none of these would be viable, so prices have been sought for replacement with more efficient gas boilers in the same location as the existing.

Replacement boilers will require a Faculty but it is hoped that a new heating system will be installed for the next heating season.

Electrics

Work has been carried out to provide additional sockets and visitor lighting activated by sensors. A full electrical inspection was carried out in October 2024

Other services:

The roof alarm has been serviced and no issues reported and the fire-fighting equipment has also been inspected/replaced as necessary.

Churchyard

The headstones have been checked and some precautionary work may be needed.

The issue of the puddle forming at the church entrance is unresolved – responsibility for this rests with the Parish Council, but the Inspecting Architect has indicated a cost for remedial work in the sum of £2,500.

The Pavilion

Last year saw the replacement of the kitchen with new equipment, which has been much appreciated by those who loyally help. Many thanks to Cathy Watts for all her energy in achieving this. The outer face of the pavilion has been re-stained to maintain the cladding but some tidying up in the Peace Garden and area behind the pavilion is needed, for which volunteers would be welcome.

Volunteers

As ever we are grateful to all those who contribute to the maintenance of the fabric in so many ways, especially the 'Monday gang' for keeping the vegetation in check. Again, volunteers are needed.

Barry Roberts
Fabric Committee Chair

10. GRANTA DEANERY SYNOD ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction

Over the past year, the Granta Deanery Synod has continued to serve as a collaborative platform for parishes within the deanery, working together in fellowship, mission, and shared resourcing. This report summarises the key discussions, developments, and decisions made at Synod meetings held on 16 July 2024, 29 October 2024, and 1 April 2025.

Meeting 1: Tuesday 16 July 2024 – St Mary's Church, Linton

Finance and Deanery Reserves

A discussion was held about how to distribute the current Diocesan rebate (received as a result of all parishes in the Deanery meeting their parish share in full during 2023). It was agreed that the rebate should be paid over to the parishes in proportion to their actual payment towards the Deanery share.

The Deanery's reserves, mainly accumulated from the proceeds of deanery fairs held prior to the Covid pandemic, were also discussed. Three Options were considered: (1) that they be paid out to the parishes in proportion to their actual payment towards the Deanery share in 2023, (2) that they be paid equally to each parish, or (3) adopting a needs-based approach to include support for Deanery projects. Total reserves stood at £33,304, plus the additional £11,033

representing the 2024 rebate. Proposals for applying a needs based approach included long-term support for YouthInc and initiating a science chaplaincy.

David Brock proposed that Deanery funds (after covering the Rural Deans expenses) be returned to parishes pro rata. A wide-ranging discussion appeared to favour the creative use of funds to further mission and outreach. PCCs were asked to discuss and report back by 1 October.

Synod Reports

Lizzie Taylor reported on the Diocesan Synod, raising concerns about attendance and follow-up on family/youth funding. Felicity Cooke was unable to report from General Synod due to illness; future updates were expected.

Deanery Matters

A proposed “Come and Sing” event was discussed for spring 2025. Hannah Elphick was announced as the new Deanery Youth Worker, to start in September 2024.

Meeting 2: Tuesday 29 October 2024 – St Mary and St Andrew, Whittlesford

Scripture and Reflection

Members reflected in groups on Luke 10:1–17, discussing themes of mission and outreach.

Synod Reports

Written reports from Diocesan and General Synod were received and noted without further comment.

Deanery Updates

The Synod reflected on the Deanery’s purpose as a unifying and mission-focused body. A Deanery celebration event was suggested but received limited support.

YouthInc

Hannah Elphick was introduced through a Q&A session. Members were encouraged to read more in the forthcoming Youthinc Newsletter.

Science Parks Chaplaincy project

Kathryn Waite presented a proposal to develop chaplaincy at Babraham and other local campuses. The approach will include a listening/support service with multi-faith sensitivity. Initial steps will focus on Babraham due to existing relationships and proximity to the church.

Finance and Deanery Reserves

The 2023 rebate cheques were being distributed. After considering PCC feedback in relation to the three options for the use of its, Synod resolved to adopt Option 3: To retain £8,500 for

administration and for discretionary short term loans to parishes facing temporary financial problems, and to retain the remaining sum of approximately £25,000 to support mission projects in the Deanery via grant applications. The Synod affirmed pro rata distribution as the default policy for future rebates.

SINCE THE YEAR END - Meeting 3: Tuesday 1 April 2025 – St Mary’s Church, Linton

Opening and Reflection

The Archdeacon, Ven. Alex Hughes, chose Isaiah 43:1–7 for Dwelling in the Word, and members shared reflections in small groups.

Archdeacon’s Introduction

Ven. Alex Hughes introduced himself and affirmed that the Church is growing overall. He responded to pre-submitted and live questions from Synod members.

Synod Reports

Reports from Diocesan Synod (8 March 2025) and General Synod (10–14 February 2025) were circulated. Safeguarding was a key topic at General Synod.

Deanery Matters

Julie Norris reported renewed interest in lay vocations post-pandemic. Synod was encouraged to promote upcoming vocation events, including the Ely vocations fair on 7 June. Plans were made for the Ascension Day service on 29 May at Balsham Church, with Revd Lydia Smith preaching.

Finance

Suzanne Darkins’ report acknowledged that all Granta parishes had fully paid their ministry share for 2024. Suzanne remains available to support parishes with advice.

Vacancies

Jon Smith proposed a motion to Diocesan Synod to allow vacancy advertising upon notice of departure from incumbents. The motion passed with 21 in favour and one abstention.

Additional Updates

Synod was reminded to submit APCM results promptly. A Youthinc newsletter and fundraising request were distributed. The National Churches Trust’s “House of Good Report” was shared.

Looking Ahead

Upcoming Meetings in 2025:

- Deanery Synod: 1 July and 6 November 2025
- Diocesan Synod: 18 June, 11 October 2025
- General Synod: 11–15 July (York) and 17–19 November 2025 (London)

Conclusion

The past year has seen robust engagement in discussions around finance, mission, and new initiatives such as youth work and chaplaincy. The Deanery continues to balance faithful stewardship with a desire to invest in collaborative ministry, spiritual growth, and community outreach.

11. REPORTS FROM GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

The following are reports regarding many Church activities.

11.1 BELL RINGERS

Ringling has continued over the past year with regular ringing for the 10am Sunday service and on Wednesday evenings for the weekly practice. We have benefitted from ringers moving into the village as well as encouraging steps being taken by two new learners in recent months meaning we have a good number of ringers at all levels. Ringing has progressed well with more complex methods being rung. The standard of our ringing is still high as evidenced by our recent triumph in the Gipson Trophy for 2024, a friendly striking competition involving other villages in the area, the trophy is proudly hanging in the tower.

We are always on the lookout for new learners, or on new ways to share what we do with the wider community. If you are interested in finding out more please contact our secretary Sue Ellis on sue.ellis@stmaryslinton.org.uk.

Stephen Croxall
Tower Captain

11.2 EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Events Committee has had a busy year and we would like to thank those who have supported our events. Our monthly coffee mornings have continued and are well supported. We have also had many events including: a concert from the Tapestry Singers, afternoon tea with a talk by David Watts on the Globe Theatre, a harvest ceilidh, songs for the season concert, a Christmas wreath workshop, a New Year's Eve party, a Burns Night ceilidh, the Hadstock Silver Band, afternoon tea for Convoy4Ukraine, a concert from The Kitchen Choir and a successful Come and Sing event. We have also provided refreshments at special services such as the carol service.

The aim of the Events Committee is to enhance the social life of the church and to cover its costs. We are very pleased to let you know that since the last APCM we have managed to make a surplus of over £6,800 for church funds, which is £1,800 more than the previous year. This does not include money also raised for Christian Aid, Convoy4Ukraine, Anabelle's Challenge and Parkinsons UK.

Charlotte Dodd, Chair

11.3 LINTON C E INFANT SCHOOL

School life

The School continues to offer a strong and varied curriculum, reviewing and improving regularly, which we keep parents clearly informed about with tips on how they can support their children at home.

There have been many additional activities that have taken place this academic year, here are some of the highlights:

- **'Angels and Messengers'** was the theme of the Winter term's RE Day when children explored the theme by spotting angels in St Mary's (... how many angels are there?)
- **Christingle Trail** - lit by thousands of festive lights and each station had a beautiful and atmosphere led by Year 2 children and attended by EYFS and Year 1 along with their families.
- Year 2 visited Braintree Museum finding out about life in **Victorian times**.
- A whole school **Rudolph Ramble** round Linton to raise money (over £1000) for the Arthur Rank Foundation
- Dressing up as a favourite character on **World Book Day** in March.
- Over the Spring Term half term children were encouraged to send in pictures of **acts of kindness** (which we also featured in Friday Church).

Budget and Finance

This is a worrying time financially for many schools locally and nationally. Cost of living, increase in national insurance and falling birth rates are just some of the factors which mean that most schools are running a deficit budget. Linton Infants C of E School is no exception.

The School has worked very hard off-setting the deficit by running before/after school activities which has brought in a considerable amount of money. (A happy side-effect of this is that it has also involved local sixth formers in afterschool activities.)

The financial team have managed the budget exceptionally well. A deficit plan has been supported by our Local Authority Financial Advisor and agreed by Governors. We have a

realistic, long-term plan over which to achieve a balanced budget. Reducing capacity by one class in two years is also part of this plan. Bucking predictions on numbers we are yet again looking at a healthy intake for September (but not sufficient to maintain the two class per year model as at present).

We are grateful for the work of the **Parent Teacher Friends Association** for raising funds and buying much needed equipment for the school as well as the **Anderson Trust** who have generously supported several projects. Next year we will need to focus on funds to replace aging classroom computers and tablets.

SIAMS and Religious Life

Work has continued on the new framework for SIAMS of Anglican and Methodist Schools) Statutory Inspection and revision of the Religious Education curriculum, with its emphasis on the study of Christianity and implementation of the three RE skills ('inwards, outwards, upwards').

One requirement of the new SIAMS framework is that in addition to the School's core values (based on the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5) is that there should be a single **theological vision** or 'strapline'. We have one in mind, but this has yet to be approved by Governors.

We were hoping for a **SIAMS inspection** this year, it didn't happen; so we anticipate it will take place in the next academic year.

Friday Church continues to be one of the highlights of the children's week. We have worked closely with the Head Teacher to tie Friday worship in with school events and to draw out their spiritual and moral values. Every week we also welcome around 50 parents and carers to these services. The feedback from them (as well as the children) is always very positive.

Governing body

The Governing Body remains very stable, enthusiastic and committed. We welcomed James Lake onto the Governing Body in January but still have one Foundation Governor post to fill.

Governors are assigned to specific areas of school life and try and visit their 'link' member of staff at least twice a year. Each visit is reported back to the Governors.

The '**Parish-School Covenant**' is an important document which ensures that both School and St Mary's support each other in their 'shared missional ambitions, values and practical commitments' (Ely Diocese). The Diocese encourage the Covenant to be presented annually at the APCM so that congregation and church are aware of their duties and responsibilities to

each other. Governors and school are hoping in the future to invite more members of the congregation to attend school activities.

Finally, we must thank the Head Teacher, Kelly Harris, and her staff for the considerable care and dedication they give to running this small, vibrant and happy school.

Revd Michael Wilcockson
Chair of Governors
11 April 2025

11.4 CHILDREN & FAMILIES' MINISTRY

Ministry with children and their families is a bit like a ball pool. Lots of happy laughter, full of colour and you never know what direction the next ball will come from! And it's terrific FUN!!



There is so much to celebrate as we review the past year of ministry amongst the children of Linton and their families. Here are a few of the highlights!

May 24 – Baby Steps at Chalklands Community room – five babies and their parents. All five went on to christening services. Since the covid restrictions, we have encouraged 24 families to explore how we nurture baby's spiritual growth through games, songs and stories.

June 24 – Co-Op share scheme resulted in a huge donation of £1,979

July 24 – End of term. Friday school service celebrated year 2 children's time with us. Messy Church barbeque in the garden of Michael and Alison was very popular



August 24 – ‘Small But Mighty’ trail in the churchyard. We encouraged wonder at the tiny creatures we live alongside. Make Lunch Club ran through the school holidays, supporting a total of 15 families with a team of 19 people from across the community. The summer programme ended with our annual School Bag Blessing.



Sept 24 – New school year – New group started called Next Steps following on from Baby Steps. Run by the parents.

October 24 – Thanks to a generous donation we could offer a Make Lunch Djembe drumming workshop. Churches Together Light Party – thanks to all who helped Sarah in the kitchen.

November 24 – Make Lunch forum concentrated on being the best we can be. We have received fantastic support from TLG throughout our partnership. Their new strap line reflects Make Lunch Linton perfectly: ‘Community, Belonging and Meals that Matter’

December 24 – A busy month! Nativity trail, visit to Chestnut playgroup, Messy Christingle, 21 Make Lunch Boxes of Hope and the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

January 25 – Messy Church asked big questions: What is God like? Who is Jesus? And Why Did God Make Wasps?



March 25 – Holiday Activity and Food funding will be continued by the new government. Application made for Easter holidays. 2-hour network meeting.

April 25 – Messy Good Friday. Paint, baking, and hot cross buns from Jigsaw bakery!

I have included a photo of one of the most popular of the activities at Tots in Tow – the sensory tray. It may look like a pile of junk, but to a child it is fascinating and wonderful. I pray that the children who play with the sensory materials will grow but keep their sense of wonder and discover more of the amazing God who loves them totally and unconditionally.



Sarah Thorne
Children and Families Minister (LLM)

11.5 PASTORAL GROUP

The group is made up of 9 members, all committed to extending the kindness and compassion to our community whilst being an advocate for safer working practices. We usually meet, as a whole group, every two months to discuss the visits/contact we have made, support each other and share the responsibilities of extending the love beyond the boundaries of services at St Mary's. The Pastoral Partners help keep connection with pairs in-between meetings and to offer additional support to each other. We remain committed to being proactive regarding safer working practices. Our risk assessment and role outline documents are regularly reviewed and are used to endorse our commitment to safe practice. We also focus on our own personal development, the most recent area of focus was a discussion about fraud and online safety. We want to broaden our own understanding of the risks to better equip us to support in the most practical way. We have made use of external resources, having recently discovered The Little Book of Big Scams, a free book from financial institutions.

Our community connections are continuing. Referrals have been made from the different groups at the Health Centre. In October we also hosted the first End of Life Matters event in the Village Hall. The pilot event was well attended and well received. The presentations were from a variety of professionals. Each explaining their services available, the feedback from attendees said that they gave useful information, practical help, advice and signposting. This was a great opportunity for St Mary's to show the collaborative working both with other agencies and within the church, the hospitality and refreshments were outstanding.

Pastoral visits continue to be a focus for us. These are made in response to requests from clergy or through family, friends, neighbours or the community. The additional attention our report received at the APCM last year has led to an increase level of referrals from members of the congregation too. Home Communion visits are now to be conducted by members of the Pastoral Group. The nature and frequency of contact is individually tailored to meet the needs of the individual. We know that contacting people by phone or visiting is not only done by members of the Pastoral Group. It is wonderful to extend friendship amongst our community. If you would like to find out more about being a member of the group, would be committed to undertaking the regular DBS checks, complete the appropriate training and uphold the values of the group then please contact me so we can discuss the role and the requirements. It is our desire to safely represent the church in our role, maintaining connections, develop relationships and sharing the love of Christ with those we visit.

Finally, I would like to offer my grateful thanks to the members of the group, my pastoral partner and the church community. I have described the last 8 months as a nightmare that I haven't been able to wake up from! It is a true testament of the care, support, prayer and

encouragement offered that I have been able to continue to lead this group and maintain my studies.

Sue Filby

sue.filby@stmaryslinton.org.uk

11.6 THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S



Chair's Report

'The Friends' is a secular charity, formed to help with the costs of maintaining the church building, its fixtures and fittings. Currently there are fewer than 80 members who pay a membership fee of £20 each year, although many pay more. In addition to a modest programme of social events we also administer the funds bequeathed by Richard Godel and make available any surplus from them in accordance with his wishes.

Historically the Friends have funded all costs associated with maintenance identified at the Quinquennial Inspection (QI) enabling the PCC to use their funds for other purposes. Since May 2024, The Friends have paid for additional Architect's design work and electrical work. Following the Quinquennial Inspection, we hope that further work will be done in 2025, including work on the Resurrection Chapel floor and assistance with the replacement of the existing heading boilers.

During the year we published our revised "History of St Mary's", which is already selling well. Further copies are on sale in the Church or via our Secretary.

The Friends are grateful to the church for allowing us to run the October coffee morning. Our new year coffee and savouries morning was, as always, a happy social event but the highlight of the year for us was our quiz, held in the church in February where we raised just under £600. Many thanks to David and Cathy Watts for running the quiz itself and the hard-working committee members for providing food, running the raffle and dealing with the organisation of the event.

Our traditional Summer Teas will take place this year on 26th June, 10th July and 7th August 2025 – as with all our events everybody is welcome. The profits for 2024 were just over £700. Looking further ahead we also hope to have coffee mornings on 18th October and 3rd January 2026 and to hold another Quiz Evening on 21st February 2026. Please look out for the posters or check our website at <https://www.friendsofstmaryslinton.org.uk/>

I should like to thank all our committee for their work on behalf of the Friends, particularly our Treasurer, Mr Hugh Paton and our Secretary, Mrs Judith Tonry. We were all pleased to welcome Jacqui Burge to the Committee as the new PCC representative in the Summer of 2024.

We always welcome new members and encourage all who value the church building to join us. This year we are asking all members to complete a new Application Form so that we have up-to-date contact details and comply with data protection regulations regarding holding personal information.

Andrew King, Chair, The Friends of St Mary's, Linton

2023-24 Friends Committee Members

Andrew King, *(Chair and Trustee of the Godel Trust)*

Hugh Paton *(Treasurer and Trustee of the Godel Trust)*

Judith Tonry *(Secretary and Trustee of the Godel Trust)*

Judy Nightingale *(Honorary President)*

Jacqui Burge *(PCC Representative)*

Margaret Cox *(Elected Committee Member)*

Rosemary Read *(Elected Committee Member and Trustee of the Godel Trust)*

Patricia Schofield *(Elected Committee Member)*

Revd Paul Seaton-Burn *(ex officio / Rector)*

Richard Tonry *(Elected Committee Member)*

David Watts *(ex officio / Churchwarden)*

Revd Michael Wilcockson *(PCC Representative)*

11.7 Music Ministry Report

In addition to the Sung Eucharist services on 1st and 3rd Sundays and leading the singing in the simpler Parish Communion on 2nd Sundays, members of the choir have participated in other services and events (see below).

On the 4th Sunday, when Café Church takes place, singing is led by a group in which some choir members take part. Jacqui Burge or Tom Dodd plays the piano to lead the group and there are sometimes other musicians too. We greatly appreciate the contribution made by all the organists who so willingly play for services in addition to David – Jacqui Burge; Tom Dodd; Sue Arden; Simon Godsill and also David Poulter (St Vigor's, Fulbourn) who play for many of the funerals at St Mary's.

2024

11 May - RSCM Choirs Festival at Ely Cathedral. Several choir members took part.

30 June - Rogation Walk & Service for the Linton Parishes at Horseheath. Members of the choir sang Taizé style chants. The service was followed by a shared picnic in church.

5 October - Choral items at the Harvest Thanksgiving Stewardship weekend

19 October - David & Anne and Mia took part in the RSCM Celebration Day at St Albans Abbey.

10 November - Remembrance Service "Linton Remembers" – in church and at the Cemetery.

1 December – Music & Readings for Advent.

22 December – Linton Carol Service. A very large and appreciative congregation.

24 December - Midnight Mass. We welcomed visitors to the choir for this service.

25 December – Family Communion.

Since the end of the year under review, Sung Evensong for Epiphany took place on 5th January. In April, St Mary's hosted a Come & Sing event – Chilcott's "St John Passion". This was the focus of our Friday evening choir practices for several months and we were joined by over 20 singers from other choirs (or none) on the day which culminated in an informal "performance" of the work as a meditation on the Passion of Christ. We purchased copies of the music for the choir from the Music Fund and used the useful Library Interloans Service for copies for singers on the day. We will be returning to some of the items from the work over the next few months.

The choir is also asked to sing at weddings and funerals and were very privileged to be singing at the funeral of Revd Alan Cole at the end of April.

Future plans include participating in a Deanery Choir (directed by David Parry-Smith) for the Deanery Ascension Day Service, this year at Balsham and a Come & Sing Evensong at St Mary's on Saturday, 5 July at the request of the Cambridge & Ely Church Music Group (formerly Ely Royal School of Church Music Group).

James Reveley, Canon Residentiary at Ely Cathedral and Chair of the Cambridge & Ely Church Music Group is very helpful in keeping us informed of choral events in the area and I ensure that these are circulated to the choir.

We are re-establishing links with St Andrew's, Stapleford where there is an active choir and we hope some choir members will join their Come & Sing event later in the year.

We are pleased that Barry Roberts and James Suranga Perera (both basses) have joined the choir, and that Ann Macer (soprano) has returned to the choir after moving back to the area. Pam Richardson has also returned to the choir to sing alto. Gill Lee is able to join us for special services. We are always pleased to welcome new members. Just speak to David Parry-Smith directorofmusic@stmaryslinton.org.uk or come along to a Friday evening choir practice in church 7-8.30pm. Do check the church calendar first though, as we rehearse most but not all Friday evenings!

Anne Parry-Smith

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Annual Parish Vestry Meeting
followed by
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 19th May 2024 at 11.15am in
the Church

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1. AGENDA FOR 14TH MAY 2023

Part A - Vestry Meeting

1. Prayers
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Vestry Meeting held on 14th May 2023
3. Election of Two Churchwardens

Part B - Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 14th May 2023
3. Matters Arising
4. Parochial Church Council Report 2023 - 2024
5. Electoral Roll Report
6. Financial Report followed by appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Fabric Report
8. Deanery Synod Report
9. Election of PCC Members
10. Reports from Groups and Activities
11. Rector's Report
12. Questions from the floor
13. Closing Prayers

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH VESTRY MEETING, SUNDAY 14TH MAY 2023

The meeting held in the church, began with prayers at 11.30 and was chaired by Revd Paul Seaton-Burn. Forty-nine parishioners were present.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parishioners' Vestry Meeting of Sunday 8th May 2022 were accepted as a correct record.

Election of Churchwardens

Revd Paul Seaton Burn explained that the main business of the Vestry meeting was to elect two churchwardens to serve for the forthcoming year. Paul thanked David Watts and Charlotte Ellis for their service during the last year especially since most of the time had been during the Vacancy, with the additional pressure of the recent lighting project in the church.

There were two nominations for Churchwarden: David Watts and Charlotte Ellis. David was first appointed in 2017 and Charlotte in 2021. David had therefore served for 6 years and could not ordinarily stand again due to the note below in italics. However, Paul said that the Church of England is pragmatic and, providing that those present agree, a dispensation could apply to the relevant section. Molly Warrington agreed that continuity would be helpful as Paul was relatively new in post but pointed out that David deserved a break and the same thing should not happen next year. David Parry-Smith said that the PCC would then have a year in which to prepare and encourage someone else to stand.

Paul asked people to vote that David Watts's term could be extended by a further year. No one was against and no one abstained.

The meeting moved to a vote for both David Watts and Charlotte Ellis to be elected for a further year. They were unanimously elected – no one was against and no one abstained.

It was noted that at the March 2017 PCC meeting, members had agreed that the normal term of office for a churchwarden at St Mary's should revert to being 3 years, with the option of extending to a maximum of 6 years if wished; and still to be elected annually in line with the guidelines in the Churchwardens Measure 2001.

3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, SUNDAY 14TH MAY 2023

Apologies

Margaret Cox, Gordon Cummings, Charlotte and Mark Hays, Charles Parker, Revd Janet Parker, Judith and Richard Tonry.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of Sunday 8th May 2022 were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising

There were none.

The reports presented to the 2023 meeting are summarised below and can be found on the church website www.stmaryslinton.org.uk. Look under Resources and APCM reports.

Parochial Church Council Report May 2022 – April 2023

Two particular issues added to the PCC workload. Some aspects from the Covid pandemic restrictions were still present in services and church activities. Each change or relaxation required discussion, risk assessments and due consideration of people's fears and concerns. Secondly, the Vacancy continued for a further nine months, giving a total of eighteen months without a Rector and three rounds of adverts. We were very grateful to David and Charlotte, our Churchwardens, for all that they did during this time and to Revd Michael Wilcockson for being willing to take many of our regular services along with help from other clergy.

We were pleased to welcome Revd Paul Seaton-Burn as Rector in February 2023. Organising Revd Paul's Collation and Induction service was not straight forward as the church was undergoing major work. Scaffolding was erected in January in order to undertake repairs specified in the five-yearly inspection, to completely redesign the lighting system which had been poor for years and to clean and paint the plasterwork. The church was closed during the week to allow the contractors to work without interruption. A great deal of cleaning and furniture moving was carried out by volunteers each weekend to allow Sunday services to take place, as well as coffee mornings and other events. The contractors kept to their schedule and scaffolding was removed by Easter. In addition to maintaining the fabric of the church, the benefits of the decoration and the lighting are obvious for all to see. We were indebted to The Friends of St Mary's for funding the project.

PCC meetings were held in church from March 2022 to take advantage of the extra space but hearing each other speak was difficult and the lighting then was so bad. We reverted to using the pavilion from January 2023. The standard six meetings were held during the year. Regular agenda items included reports from the churchwardens (in lieu of a Rector) and the four main PCC committees: Fabric, Finance & Stewardship, Children & Families and Events. Reports were also received from the Parish Safeguarding Officer, the Ministry Team for worship and spiritual initiatives, the Pastoral group, St Mary's two Deanery Synod representatives and the Chair of Governors at Linton C.E. Infant School.

Financial Review – to 31st December 2022

Income of £140,758 and expenditure of £163,111 resulted in a deficit of £22,352 for the year. Sue Ellis, Treasurer, pointed out that the regular outgoings are kept to a minimum but still exceeded the regular income, including gift aid refunds. The Parish Share, paid to the Diocese, is a significant sum and is beyond our control. Other expenses are closely monitored. The PCC aimed to address the imbalance by deferring some projects and encouraging increased giving by the parish as well as the wider community who appreciate St Mary's Church being in the village. Options for giving are on St Mary's website: look under Church Life and How to Donate.

Sue said that the deficit would be covered by church reserves but that cannot continue indefinitely, although another deficit budget had been set for 2023.

Sue Ellis proposed that Kate Sargeant be reappointed as Independent Examiner; seconded by Sue Filby and agreed by those present.

Michael Younger reiterated that using reserves should not continue as funds would very soon run out. He thanked people for their existing giving; pointed out that the fees and subscriptions for outside organisations and activities increase regularly and our church giving should be viewed in the same light. The Parish Giving Scheme allows for annual increases and is strongly recommended.

Anne Parry-Smith asked whether there was any progress in finding a Stewardship Officer - see later questions.

Sue Ellis was thanked for being treasurer with great efficiency. The accounts were adopted.

Electoral Roll Report

The report from Jo George, Electoral Roll officer, stated that no one had been removed from the Roll but six new names were added so the number was recorded as 132. New lists were displayed on the internal notice board

by the church door. The Electoral Roll was completely revised in March 2019. Jo added that she had since received a further application for the Roll.

Fabric Report

Richard Tonry's report described the extensive work undertaken from November to March, for repairs related to the Quinquennial report and a major re-lighting project for the church. There was also ongoing servicing and repairs in other areas. The Rector commented that he was very pleased that the church could now be open and accessible every day once again.

Deanery Synod Report

Andrew Gore and David Parry-Smith had been elected to represent Linton on the Deanery Synod from the APCM in October 2020 until 31st May 2023. The Synod met three times during the year. Discussions included completing the work on 'Living in Love and Faith', talking to parishes in order to create the Deanery Development Plan for the next 5-10 years, supporting youth work via Youthinc, recording that three clergy vacancies had been filled and monitoring payment of the various Parish Shares.

Election of Deanery Synod representatives

Andrew Gore and David Parry-Smith had been nominated for a further term of three years. There were no other nominations. Andrew and David were duly elected.

Election of Parochial Church Council members

Continuing members on the PCC were confirmed as:

Elected in 2021: Helene Evans, Sarah King, John Organ, Richard Tonry, Molly Warrington.

Elected in 2022: Jacqui Burge, Andrew Cornell-Webb, Sarah Nickolls
Churchwardens (ex-officio): David Watts, Charlotte Ellis.

Sue Ellis, Sue Mudge, Patricia Scofield, Michael Younger had served their three year term of office, giving 4 vacancies.

The electoral roll number allows for up to 12 elected members.

Nomination forms had been completed for Tom Dodd, Sue Ellis to be re-elected, Ann Slaymaker and John Thorne. These four people were elected; with no votes against and one abstention.

The requirement for retiring members to stand down for at least a year had been removed from the updated Church Representation Rules 2020.

Reports from Committees and Organisations

Reports from the following groups were included in the 2023 APCM booklet in paper form and on the website:

Beacon Youth Trust; Bell ringers; Events committee; Flower Ministry; Linton C E Infant School; Church links with Linton Heights Junior School; Children and Families Ministry; Together with God and Space for the Spirit

services; Warm Hub initiative; Mothers Union; Music Ministry; Pastoral Group; The Friends of St. Mary's; The Monday Gang.

The Rector said that he was pleased to note that we had two Governing Body Chairs in our congregation. He thanked Nicola Collard and Gill Powell for their Christian ministry in the Infant School and Linton Heights Junior School, respectively. Paul also thanked the Friends of St Mary's for their financial contribution, the bell ringers, the Events committee for enriching the church fellowship, David Parry-Smith for his commitment and the musicians who enhance the worship at the various services.

Rector's report

The Rector said that the annual meeting provides a time to look back and also a time to look forward to the new season – as in Ecclesiastes chapter 3 – a time for everything. God has been faithful to us and will be faithful. If God is present, he will endure for ever, in Linton and the wider world. No one is more important than any other person; but all are inter-related with God at the heart of everything.

Paul thanked the church family for his welcome in February and also thanked Michael Wilcockson for his tremendous contribution during the Vacancy and David Parry-Smith as Lay-chair of the PCC.

Questions

In answer to Anne Parry-Smith's earlier question - Paul said that one person was considering the Stewardship Officer role.

Andrew Cornell-Webb stated that he felt that 2023 could be a defining year. Andrew has long term family connections in Linton, spanning two world wars and asked what does post-Covid St Mary's look like? He is waiting to make a contribution, as some of his ancestors were unable to do – waiting for a new Rector and no excuse now to be passive. Paul responded, saying that he was grateful for Andrew's personal insight. Paul sensed that different offerings for worship could be helpful – some contemporary reflection as well as more formal worship drawing upon traditional music.

Michael Younger reminded the meeting that the PCC shelved the question of being a member of Inclusive Church during the Vacancy so that a new Rector could be involved. Michael hoped that the PCC would return to the issue.

John Organ said that he had been approached about taking the role of Stewardship Officer and, after prayerful consideration; he was pleased to say that he would do so.

Sue Filby asked for more information about Mental Health First Aid. David Parry-Smith responded that we all have mental health in the same way as physical health. Training was offered after a presentation at Deanery Synod about three years ago. People can be referred across the Deanery and signposted to other organisations, e.g. Samaritans, bereavement counselling. More local training can be arranged if required.

David Watts concluded by hoping that we may be like Paul the apostle and know utter extravagance, inner energy and boundless strength. God has provided a Rector for Linton and has not finished with us yet – and we welcome Paul to our community.

The meeting ended with prayer at 12.35.

4. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2023 - 2024

Administrative Information

St Mary's Church is situated in Church Lane, Linton. It is part of the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England. The correspondence address is 4 Bakers Lane, Linton, Cambridge, CB21 4NF. The registered charity number is 1138508.

PCC members who have served from the APCM in May 2023 until this report are:

Incumbent Rector - The Revd Paul Seaton-Burn installed in February 2023

The Revd Michael Wilcockson, Curate from July 2019, Associate Priest November 2021

Churchwardens Charlotte Dodd (nee, Ellis)
David Watts

Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs) Sarah Thorne Children and Families Minister
Cathy Watts Safeguarding Officer

Representatives to the Deanery Synod Andrew Gore from 14.05.2023 - 31.05.26
David Parry-Smith from 14.05.2023 - 31.05.26

Elected members Helene Evans from APCM 2021
Sarah King from APCM 2021
John Organ from APCM 2021
Richard Tonry from APCM 2021
Molly Warrington from APCM 2021
Jacqui Burge from APCM 2022
Andrew Cornell-Webb from APCM 2022 - Secretary
Sarah Nickolls from APCM 2022
Sue Ellis from APCM 2023 – Treasurer
Tom Dodd from APCM 2023
Ann Slaymaker from APCM 2023
John Thorne. from APCM 2023

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules, updated in 2022. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

The PCC of St Mary the Virgin has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Mary's Church and the Pavilion adjacent to the Church.

Review of the year to April 2024

This has been a year of change and growth at St Mary's Linton.

At the 2023 APCM, our long-serving PCC Secretary Sue Mudge stepped down from her role after 9 years of faithful and hardworking service, I thank her so much for her support and wisdom in my first year of the role. This has also been the first full year that St Mary's has been out of Vacancy since 2020-2021 after Maggie Guite stepped down in July 2021. Our new rector Paul Seaton-Burn has brought with him so many new and positive ideas for the church while improving upon the current services that St Mary's held already. We also have a new Parish Coordinator Elena Beletskaya who has taken permanently over from Anne Parry-Smith we give all our thanks to her for her years of service in the role, and a thank you to Tom Dodd who was Interim Parish Coordinator before Elena took over.

All COVID restrictions are now removed from the church however people in the Church are still allowed to take the sacrament in one kind increasing inclusivity and choice in the Church. It has also been wonderful to see the return to a more physical practice of sharing the peace with handshakes as the norm with also the option of bowing as previously. To me one of the greatest things that have come from this Church in the past year is choice. If you don't feel comfortable sharing the chalice or shaking a person's hand, then you are free not to do this if you want to wear a mask to protect yourself and others you are free to do so as well. Seeing our Easter Service where so many people came up for Communion or Blessings shows that those members of our village and beyond who may not want to come to all services still feel comfortable engaging in what we do.

As a registered social worker who works in a child protection team, I would be remiss to not mention the work of our children and family's ministry led by Sarah Thorne over the past year. It can be easy to not see the work of our children's ministry as it operates mainly out of the usual Sunday hours. However, every month this year at Messy Church I have witnessed God's grace and love work through every child who is present. This is extended during the week at Tots in Tow and Baby Steps and during the holidays at Make Lunch Club. I am a big believer in community groups and the work they do both secular and non-secular. Community groups pick up the slack of support that has been reduced in recent years due to budget cuts, for some mothers and fathers these groups are the only time they can get their little ones to socialise with others as free Nursery hours do not come

in place till a child is 2 or 3 years old and with an offer of one Sunday a month getting an afternoon of activities and some snacks is a real boon of support for the poorest in our society.

Moving on from this it's always important to praise the hard work done by so many in the church this past year, I have mentioned Sarah Thorne already. I would also like to thank our two churchwardens David Watts and Charlotte Dodd (nee Ellis) whose continued hard work in the church has kept things together over the past year. I would again be remiss if I did not mention another great stalwart of the church, and this is Nannette Blackmore who is the church verger. Nannette prepares the church for every Sunday and other additional services such as Ash Wednesday and Remembrance, she makes sure all the silverware is cleaned and prepped, the wine and water decanted among other things and that the church is presented in a way that shows to newcomers that we love our church. I would also like to thank Jacqui Burge who has supported Nannette when Nannette jets off to Portugal or was recovering from her recent operation.

I could spend the entire report listing thanks to people who have served the church so for all those who serve in the church through Music, being a Deacon, being a Sides-Person, being an LLM, reading the Bible in church, leading the prayers and many more roles including all members of our congregation thank you so much for your help, without people there is no church.

Now to move on to the activities of the PCC this year. The PCC met in May 2023, July 2023, September 2023, November 2023, January 2024, and March 2024. During these meetings, a wide range of topics have been discussed including the ongoing discussion around furniture in the church, the progress of the new pavilion kitchen, and much more. The PCC also votes in our wonderful governors over at Linton Infants. Nicola Collard and Jacqui Burge were voted in again after their current terms ended and Luci Neville was voted in for her first term. The PCC receives reports from a wide range of church and community activities such as our child and family's ministry, the events committee, and the deanery synod among others. We also discuss safeguarding in the church, and we discuss the finances of the church in detail. Unfortunately, as mentioned further in this report there is still a disappointing deficit of the budget for the church, this year the PCC elected John Organ to be a stewardship officer in the church who will be in charge of finding ways to raise further funds so hopefully we can cut this deficit and turn it to a surplus before we are forced to have to cut our charitable donations.

Overall this year has been a year of change for both the church and the PCC and I am looking forward to seeing what happens with both as I settle into my role over the next year.

Andrew Cornell-Webb, PCC Secretary

5. ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT- During the year we have sadly lost six members of our congregation, but with a direct approach it has been possible to add six new members, so the total on the Electoral Roll remains at 132.

If you would like to be added to the Electoral Roll or have any questions, please do contact me – jo.george@stmaryslinton.org.uk

Jo George - Electoral Roll Officer

6. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST MARY'S, LINTON

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

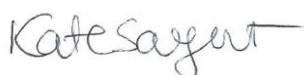
Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, SORP 2005 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements – to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and – to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Signed:
Independent Examiner

26/02/24

St Mary the Virgin, Linton: Financial Review 2023

In 2023 a total of £224,248 was received by St Mary's. This compared with expenditure of £231,013 leaving a deficit of £6,765. We have been running a deficit since 2017 except for 2020 when a legacy gave us a small surplus of £1000. The Church accounts are based receipts and payments rather than accruals. This means some items relating to 2023 have been paid out in 2024 which will affect the 2024 budget.

Regular giving has is slightly lower than 2022. This source of income, particularly through the Parish Giving Scheme¹, is particularly important as it is fairly predictable from year to year. Tax recovered through Gift Aid is also a significant part of our regular income.

Grants are another important part of income. Last year the Friends of St Mary's and the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme have enabled the lighting project to be completed. The Anderson Trust made a grant for appliances for the Pavilion kitchen which is still to be upgraded. These funds are being held in a restrictive fund. All grants, and some donations, are for specific purposes. These include the amount held in Children's and Families Ministry which enables the work Sarah Thorne undertakes as Children and Families Minister.

Fundraising is important and our Christmas Tree festival weekend brought in much needed funds. This year the total received for weddings and funerals increased as did our Pavilion lettings.

The largest item of expenditure was Church Major repairs, consisting of the Lighting Project, funded by the Friends and LPWGS. The next largest item was the Ministry Share. This is the sum sent to the Diocese, to enable us to have a full-time Rector, as well as contributing to some central administrative and mission costs. The PCC has committed to paying the Ministry Share in full; even though the sum is not covered by regular giving.

Though the PCC has continued to trim general running expenses, the church must be maintained in good repair, and we aim to provide a welcoming and well-maintained space for everyone. Other priorities include supporting the valuable work of the Beacon Youth Trust, which took most of the PCC's allocation to charitable giving.

The Balance Sheet summarises the funds of the church. Some sums within this figure are 'Restricted', in that they have been given for a specific purpose only. Other sums are 'Designated'; these have been set aside by the PCC for specific purposes. The 'unrestricted' General Fund, which, at the end of 2023, amounted to £27,992 (£3,122 less than last year).

¹ Please ask the Treasurer for more information.

Summary

Although the deficit is less than the previous year this must not lead to complacency as we cannot continue to deplete the reserves.

Reserves Policy

In 2023, the PCC continues with a reserves policy; continuing to retain a sum of £22,500 for contingency cover.

Financial Statements

The financial statements which follow comprise:

A statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year, showing all resources made available to the PCC and all expenditure incurred by it, and reconciling changes to funds.

A return of Parish Finance which shows the same information but gives a breakdown of income and expenditure.

A Balance Sheet showing assets, liabilities and funds.

Accounting Policies

These accounts have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and in accordance with the Charities SORP (2005) and applicable standards. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission under the name of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Linton, Diocese of Ely, charity registration number 1138508.

St Mary's Linton
Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	200,290	1,900	—	202,190	124,501
Activities for generating funds	7,485	15	—	7,500	5,065
Investment income	1,261	128	—	1,390	493
Incoming resources from charitable activities	13,166	—	—	13,166	10,698
Other incoming resources	—	—	—	—	—
Total incoming resources	222,204	2,043	—	224,248	140,758
Resources used					
Cost of generating funds	350	—	—	350	—
Cost of generating voluntary income	—	—	—	—	—
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs	772	—	—	772	1,044
Charitable activities	229,275	614	—	229,890	162,066
Governance costs	—	—	—	—	—
Total resources used	230,398	614	—	231,013	163,111
Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer	(8,194)	1,429	—	(6,765)	(22,353)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	43	—	—	43	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	(43)	—	(43)	—
Net incoming / outgoing before other gains / losses	(8,151)	1,386	—	(6,765)	(22,353)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	3,618	—	—	3,618	(1,180)
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	(4,533)	1,386	—	(3,146)	(23,533)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	66,215	5,742	—	71,957	95,491
Total funds carried forward	61,682	7,128	—	68,810	71,957

St Mary's Linton Return of Parish Finance for year ending 31 December 2023

Incoming Resources	2023	2022
Voluntary Income		
Tax efficient planned giving		
Gift Aid - Bank & Parish Giving Scheme	49,899.93	49,553.94
Gift Aid - Envelopes	469.00	1,125.00
Total tax efficient planned giving	50,368.93	50,678.94
Other planned giving	3,410.00	4,333.00
Loose plate collections	3,217.43	4,282.43
Giving through church boxes	287.51	557.09
One off Gift Aid gifts	1,895.00	1,210.00
Donations, appeals, etc (note 1)	8,057.16	8,522.74
Tax recovered through Gift Aid	15,171.62	14,405.81
Legacies	2,966.68	
Non-recurring one off grants (note 2)	116,816.02	40,511.29
Total for voluntary income	202,190.35	124,501.30
Activities for Generating Funds		
Other funds generated (note 3)	971.45	795.89
Christmas Events	2,042.85	
Social Events (note 4)	4,486.46	4,269.35
Total for Activities for Generating Funds	7,500.76	5,065.24
Bank and building society interest	1,390.25	493.87
Church Activities		
Fees for weddings and funerals	11,710.00	9,788.00
Pavilion lettings	1,456.90	910.00
Total for Church Activities	13,166.90	10,698.00

Total for Incoming Resources	224,248.2 6	140,758.4 1
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Resources Expended	2023	2022
Costs of Generating Funds		
Christmas Event Costs	350.00	
Costs of Social Events (note 4)	772.89	1,044.86
Total for costs of Generating Funds	1,122.89	1,044.86
All Mission Giving and Charitable Grants & Donations (note 5)		
Giving to missionary societies	920.69	778.50
Secular Charities	1,145.26	1,157.78
Youthinc	300.00	300.00
The Beacon Youth Trust	6,500.04	6500.04
Total for All Mission Giving etc	8,865.99	8,736.32
Church Activities		
Ministry Share	68,221.95	66,322.18 7
Salaries (note 6)	10,181.16	12,268.30
Expenses (clergy, pastoral staff, etc)		
Working expenses of Incumbent	480.00	480.00
Children's and family's ministry (note 7)	4,538.61	4,463.11
Total for Expenses	5,018.61	4,943.11
Parish Training and mission		423.27
Regular Church running expenses (insurance, cleaning, admin)		
Church running - insurance	3,806.82	3,493.34
Organ / piano tuning	510.00	235.00
Church telephone/Wi-Fi	406.62	201.22
Church maintenance	5,010.71	3,273.12
Cleaning	73.98	18.98
Upkeep of services (note 8)	10,642.93	11,957.61
Upkeep of churchyard	171.69	205.91
Administration	2,256.30	2,174.66
Flowers (note 9)	173.15	47.00

Total for Regular Church running expenses	23,052.20	21,606.84
Church utility bills (gas, electricity, water)		
Church running - electric	1,696.06	1,401.90
Church running - gas	2,366.00	2,718.77
Church running - water	58.34	42.96
Total for Church utility bills	4,120.40	4,163.63

	2023 £	2022 £
Costs of trading		
Pavilion		
Pavilion running - electricity	628.51	522.25
Pavilion running – maintenance	1,106.39	440.33
Pavilion running - water	58.35	42.93
Total for Costs of trading	1,793.25	1,005.51
Total for Church Activities	112,387.57	110,309.57
Total for Resources Expended	122,376.45	120,090.75
 Major Capital Expenditure		
Church major repairs	108,201.58	43,021.08
Peace Garden	435.45	
Total for Major Capital Expenditure	108,637.03	43,021.08
Total Expenditure	231,013.48	163,111.83
 Total Income	224,248.26	140,758.41
 Total Expenditure	231,013.48	163,111.83
Balance	-6,765.22	-22,352.42

St Mary's Linton

Balance sheet As of: 31 December 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets		
Pavilion (note 10)	500	
Investments (note 11)	32,438	28,819
	<u>32,938</u>	<u>29,319</u>
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	40,659	48,825
	<u>40,659</u>	<u>48,825</u>
Liabilities (note 12)		
LCHT	1,293	2,693
Linton Parish Charities	3,494	3,494
	<u>4,787</u>	<u>6,187</u>
Net current assets less current liabilities	<u>35,872</u>	<u>42,637</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>68,810</u>	<u>71,957</u>
Total net assets less liabilities	<u>68,810</u>	<u>71,957</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	27,292	30,412
Designated		
Designated - Contingency	22,500	22,500
Designated - Pavilion (note 10)	500	500
Designated - Children and family ministry (note 13)	11,389	12,804
Restricted		
Restricted - Anderson Trust (note 14)	1,664	64
Restricted - Bells	1,450	1,422
Restricted - Churchyard (note 15)	144	238
Restricted - Music	1,320	1,518
Restricted - Organ Fund	2,511	2,496
Funds of the church	<u>68,810</u>	<u>71,957</u>

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Notes to Financial Statements

Return of Parish Finance

1. Donations include monies given through the good box and our new Payaz as well as personal donations.
2. Grants received this year include £1600 from the Anderson Trust for appliances for Pavilion kitchen, £88,126.61 from the Friends of St Mary's, £23,572.42 from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, £1400 from Cambridgeshire ACRE for Warm Hubs. For children and families ministry -£998 from Transforming Lives for Good, £300 from the Anderson Trust and £819 HAF grant (government funded Holiday Activities and Food program).
3. The income from other funds generated includes £11.50 from the book stall and £48.66 from 'Give as you Live'. This year we received £521 from CHCT Ride and Stride and £65 from Church bookings.
4. Social events include refreshments after services, our regular coffee mornings and other organised events such as a singalong, vintage teas, wreath making, Christmas tree festival with Serenata female voices and a New Years Eve party. Overall, £5406.42 profit was made from these events.
5. Charitable giving this year includes £500 to USPG, £500 to Haverhill Foodbank, £350.69 to Friends of the Holy Land, £193.57 to the Poppy Appeal, £350.69 to Cambridge Churches Homeless Project and £101 to Ely 2025 mission fund. Also £300 to Youthinc (Deanery Youthwork scheme) and £6,500.04 to support the work of the Beacon Youth Trust. In addition, £70 from the card reader was given to Christian Aid which was included in £1957 sent to Christian Aid by Pam following the May coffee morning, the Murder mystery evening and Christmas Quiz which she organized.
6. Salaries relates to payments made to our organists and parish administrator, less than in 2022 due to some weeks without a paid administrator. It also includes an honorarium for the enormous amount of work carried out by our Children and Families Minister.
7. Children and Families Ministry covers all expenses relating to young people including Make Lunch, Messy Church, Baptism resources and books for Year 6 leavers.
8. Upkeep of services includes fees paid to Ely and Non-Stipendiary priests for taking weddings and funerals.

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9. The cost of flowers has largely been covered by separate collections and the generosity of the flower arrangers.

Balance Sheet

10. Pavilion at cost £77,031. This has been depreciated and is shown at a nominal value of £500.
11. Investments: The CBF Church of England Investment Fund - Accumulation Shares.
12. Liabilities represents funds held for the Linton Community Help Team and Linton Parish Charities.
13. The Children & Families Ministry fund is money donated specifically for Children and Families Ministry.
14. The Anderson Trust fund represents money held over for purchase of appliances for the Pavilion kitchen.
15. The Parish Council gave us £500 in 2020 to cover on going expenses of the Monday Gang

Sue Ellis – PCC Treasurer.

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7. FABRIC REPORT

The Fabric Committee met in June and December 2023

Works to the fabric of the Church

Following the successful completion of the QI, Lighting and redecoration works last year, there have been no further works to the fabric. The Architect is looking at a scheme for replacing the floor in the Resurrection Chapel, currently concrete paving installed in the mid 1960s, with a stone floor. We are awaiting his specification so that prices can be obtained for the work prior to including this in a Faculty application.

Fixed installations and services

There was a problem with the boilers locking out in the autumn. NG Bailey had difficulty identifying the exact cause of the problem but were finally able to get one boiler running the evening before the start of the Christmas Tree Festival. The second boiler was fixed on 16th December, both have run well since. The Diocese and the CofE drive towards net zero means we can no longer replace boilers like for like without applying for a Faculty. While the boilers can still be maintained, the PCC agreed to look into options for alternative heating systems, although replacement with a more efficient boiler may prove to be the best option.

The roof alarm system continues to work as expected. The only notifications received continue to be because of minor power cuts. The contract for the fire security installations has been maintained.

Church Furnishings

It is still hoped to replace of some of the remaining pews with chairs like those in the nave. The DAC have been approached for advice on whether it is worth pursuing a Faculty to remove the pews, and representatives are due to visit the church in May. This and other elements of the proposed re-ordering, such as the provision of a new oak storage area in the north aisle, will be contingent on finance and Faculty approval. The Friends have donated a mobile and height adjustable oak lectern funded by a legacy from Enid Bald. This is already proving useful for services and events.

The Churchyard

The resurfacing of the paths in the Churchyard, by Parish Council contractors, was finally carried out late in 2022 but there is a tendency for a puddle to form outside the north door after heavy rain. The churchyard liaison committee met to discuss this last year. The PC have decided that the paths will need to be resurfaced from scratch once funds are available.

The revised lettering to the main notice board to include Paul's details has been ordered and we are awaiting the application to the board.

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We are grateful to the Monday Gang for their continuing commitment and care of the churchyard.

Other Land

As reported to the last three APCMs, the land between Church Cottage and the previous Rectory was retained by the Diocesan Board of Finance when the Rectory building was sold. Andrew Gore has obtained quotes for resurfacing the section of Church Lane and works to the parking area. The PCC agreed that Andrew should negotiate with the Diocese on funding of this work but he has had no success.

Richard Tonry.

Chairman, Fabric Committee, on behalf of the Churchwardens, 19th May 2024

St Mary the Virgin, Linton



8. DEANERY SYNOD ANNUAL REPORT

Meetings held: 12th July 2023, 3rd Nov 2023 and 14th March 2024

Talks

12 July 2023

Revd Mandy Flaherty, Development Officer for Schools Mission
Schools as part of our Mission Plan

3rd November 2023

Revd Mark Rodell, Development Officer for Learning
Open Christian Learning

14th March 2024

Rupert Shortt, author and Research Associate at the Von Hugel Institute,
University of Cambridge
Lent Talk and Discussion - The Hardest Problem: God, Evil and Suffering

Finance

2023 Ministry Share was met in full entitling the Deanery to 2.5% rebate which will be shared back to the parishes in proportion with the amount each has paid. The total balance is £31,159.12 which is divided between 3 funds: Deanery Development Fund (£7387.94), Parish Grant Fund (£8479.35) and Parish Loan Fund (£17,064).

YouthInc

In partnership with Cambridge Youth For Christ, Youthinc is continuing to search to recruit someone to work with our parish churches, in particular to enable older primary school children to build upon their experiences in Sunday school. Meanwhile local churches are joining to share resources to plan events.

Deanery Event Come and Sing planned for the 10th February 2024 2-5pm at Ickleton Church/Hall was cancelled due to lack of support and interest. Jenny Duke would like to re-schedule, date tbc

Granta Deanery Development Plan 2024 – what happens next?

The DDP took 18 months to complete. The process itself was very important as it got PCCs and congregations to discuss their immediate local needs and to formulate plans for the future. The DDP also raised common concerns and issues for all parishes in the Deanery. These are outlined in the Plan on pages 10- 12 under the three headings: 'Deanery internal aspirations and concerns',

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'Deanery external aspirations and concerns' and Five-year vision for the Deanery. These three areas are the ones which the Diocese have paid particular attention to.

All DDPs in the Ely Diocese have been read and reviewed by senior Diocesan clergy which includes: the Bishop, both Archdeacons, Director of Mission and Ministry and the Director of Planning.

Drawing together all the Ely DDPs, the Ven Richard Harlow (Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech) and the Revd Iain Osborne (Director of Planning) produced a paper entitled 'Deanery Development Planning: What Happens Next?' which using the five areas of development, based on the five 'levers' of Ely 2025, collated the main issues raised by all Ely's DDPs. The five levers are:

- Nurture a confident people of God
- Develop healthy churches and leaders
- Serve the community
- Re-imagine our buildings
- Target support key areas

Each of these five levers are separated into three areas of responsibility: Diocesan, Deanery and Parish. Clearly the idea that any of action points can be implemented by 2025 is unlikely so realistically the aim is for Ely 2035; progress is already taking place, but of course much will depend on the vision of the new Bishop of Ely once he or she is installed.

What happens next for Granta Deanery depends on the three areas of responsibility.

Firstly, Parishes/benefices need to review their section of the DDP regularly with their incumbent.

Secondly, the Rural Dean, Lay Chair and Deanery Synod need to review the issues raised for the Deanery as a whole, especially internal aspirations/concerns and the Five-year vision. This has already started.

Thirdly, the Diocese need to review the issues raised in the external aspirations/concerns. This is probably the most problematic area as in reality it will depend on the Rural Dean and Lay Chair to prompt review and action. In other words, the Deanery can't just wait for action, we have to be pro-active.

Archdeacon visitations

These will be supported by Rural Deans and will begin in Jan 2025. Purpose of the audit is also to support churches and flag up where there are areas of concern. Clergy and wardens will be involved in these visits.

Ascension Day Service

Deanery Ascension Day Service 9 May 2024, Balsham Church, Preacher Cathy Watts, Warden of Readers, Ely Diocese.

Next Deanery Synod Meeting

Tuesday 16 July 2024 location tbc. Meeting starts at 7.30 and tea/coffee are usually available beforehand.

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9. REPORTS FROM GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

The following are reports from Church activities, including some services. Thanks to all those who have contributed reports. The text has been left in the original style provided by the author. The named individual can provide further information about any aspect.

9.1. BELL RINGERS

Ringling has continued over the past year with regular ringling for the 10am Sunday service and on Wednesday evenings for the weekly practice. We have again benefitted from a ringer moving into the village as well as seeing encouraging steps being taken by our learners in recent months. Ringling has progressed well with the addition of more advanced methods; this has been enabled by a sustained increase in attendance at practice nights. We were able to ring for the Coronation of King Charles III, including the youngest member of the band (aged 3), which was recognised with a thank you card from the King. We also had the delight of ringling for the wedding of Charlotte and Tom, including a peal which was the first in the tower for 11 years. We are always on the lookout for new learners, or for new ways to share what we do with the wider community.

If you are interested in finding out more please contact our secretary Sue Ellis on sue.ellis@stmaryslinton.org.uk

Stephen Croxall

Tower Captain

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

9.2. EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Events committee has had a busy year and we would like to thank those who have supported our events. Our monthly coffee mornings have continued and are well supported. We have also had many events including: sing along to the musicals, a games and picnic morning, a talk on Ely Cathedral with afternoon tea, a harvest bring and share lunch, the Hadstock Silver Band, a Christmas Tree Festival including the Serenata Singers concert, a Christmas wreath workshop, a New Year's Eve party, a Jigsaw challenge, a pilgrimage to Ely and the New Cambridge Singers concert. We have also provided refreshments at special services such as the carol service. The aim of the events committee is to enhance the social life of the church and to cover its costs. We are very pleased to let you know that since the last APCM we have managed to make a surplus of over £5,000 for church funds, which is £1,000 more than the previous year.

Charlotte Dodd, Chair

9.3. FLOWER MINISTRY

There are six flower arrangers who throughout the year take in turns arranging the flowers around the church.

The pedestal and high altar are the most prominent places seen and each arranger will have a turn doing these. They also choose what colour the flowers are for these arrangements, and they use the appropriate colour when there are festivals such as Christmas and Easter when the church is white and gold/yellow.

With Eastertide continuing until Pentecost, the windowsills, along with the pedestal, high altar and porch will be filled with spring-like flowers, new life within the church.

Flowers have always been at the forefront of recovery, joy, birth and in death, and the arrangers will do their best for you all to enjoy them throughout the year.

We have a collection towards the flowers and very much appreciate the donations given by our congregation.

Nanette Blackmore, Verger and one of your flower arrangers
nanette.blackmore@stmaryslinton.org.uk

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9.4. LINTON C E INFANT SCHOOL

School Improvement and Development Plan (SIDP)

We have a very clear and detailed SIDP, with five main areas of foci for 2023/2024: embedding curriculum progression, preparing for SIAMS inspection, strategy for parental engagement, improving outcomes in writing and embedding maths mastery.

Governors and teachers work together to ensure that the objectives are being met and that we are constantly reviewing and developing. I also sit on the Head Teacher Performance Review Committee to help Kelly Harries plan, monitor and achieve the targets which are aligned with the SIDP and track her own personal performance.

What we are achieving is extremely positive. The school should be very proud of what it has managed to achieve this year. The curriculum offer is impressive, we boast a high level of quality teaching and the children are excited and engaged. School trips and other activities help to make learning fun and memorable, while also providing opportunities that some children would otherwise not get the chance to experience.

As part of Governor monitoring, in March we had a 'Full Governor Day of Business', an annual opportunity for Governors to meet parents, join classes, hear pupil voices, meet with teachers and even have lunch with the children! It is always time well spent, it gives us time to observe, report and reflect and to build familiarity and relationships.

Pupils who qualify for Pupil Premium and those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) continue to be very well supported, we now have 17 on the SEND register and 24 Pupil Premium children and those with english as an additional language. Linton Infants provides excellent pastoral care, children benefit from one to one care, targeted therapy sessions and a sensory room with wonderful outdoor spaces too.

Linton Infants is very well supported by the community, parents are extremely supportive and we get a lot of positive feedback from them. The staff team go from strength to strength, working well together, with

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respect and confidence. Well-being is generally in a very good place for both staff and pupils, the school remains to be a place where people feel welcome, safe and happy.

Budget

The budget continues to be a concern for the school, as it is for the majority of schools not only in our local area, but nationally. We still struggle with a deficit. The cost of living crisis has hit us all, including schools. The financial team continues to keep close eyes on budget planning and keeping costs down wherever possible. The school team have all been mindful of saving money while being creative so that the children are not denied educational opportunities and quality of teaching. Before and After School Clubs provide a significant source of income and we have already had more than predicted uptake on our upcoming Summer Holiday Club provision. Money raising events have been successful and we are grateful to the PTFA for their contributions. All of this has gone a long way to keeping the deficit from getting any bigger this year, but long term the deficit will inevitably grow.

In September the Governing Body met with Jonathan Lewis, (Director of Education for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough), to discuss a realistic plan to pay back this deficit. The number of pupil intake has been very low, which has had huge negative impact on the budget and Jonathan pointed out that the next few years were not looking any better, with national birthrates declining. So we agreed to put to consultation that the school would reduce the PAN, (Published Admissions Number), going down to a structure from six to five classes, with effect from September 2025. By resulting staff restructuring this would save enough money to pay back the deficit over a period of time.

Linton Infants FaceBook page has raised the profile of the school and has been an excellent channel to showcase what the school is doing. Despite low forecast figures, we have 51 first choice applications for September, which is hugely positive.

Governing Body

Currently we benefit from full numbers on the Board of Governors, as we have done for the past several years. We have 8 Foundation Governors, 2 Parent Governors, 1 staff Governor, 1 local Authority Governor, 1 Co-opted Governor, 1 Associate governor and the Head Teacher.

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We have welcomed Luci Neville as Foundation Governor after Michael Younger stepped down, Michael now acting as an Associate Governor. Matt McLoughlin stepped down as Parent Governor and delighted to welcome James Swann as his replacement.

Our Clerk Emma Hicks has decided to step down and we are advertising for somebody to take on this position. A huge thank you to Emma who served her role as Clerk for many years with great efficiency, she is a very skilled Clerk and we have all appreciated all she has done.

I have also decided to step down from my role as Chair of Governors for which I have served, for what will be, 5 years and several more prior to Chair on the Governing Body. I am still hopeful that someone will express an interest in taking on this role as I am keen to ensure that there is a good handover.

My time as Chair has been thoroughly rewarding and I will be sorry to leave. I have learned so much and really valued relationships I have made with children, parents and staff, not least Kelly Harries. I started my role as COVID hit, which posed huge challenges which we got through, we had a successful Ofsted and I am confident that we will exceed expectations at our SIAMS Inspection. It is a good time to pass the baton as I believe the school is in a good place, stable and moving forward with a strong team of Governors to support our vision.

Nicola Collard

Chair of Governors

Friday Church

What a joy Friday Church continues to be! We are so happy to be such an important part of the school week with parents attending who often say how much they love it too. The children look forward to coming as much as we look forward to having them. They are fantastic listeners and volunteers. They are confident to read from the front and many hands shoot up when they are questioned, keen to take part and share what they have learned.

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Michael Wilcockson joined myself and Sarah in leading Friday church this year. Over the Autumn Term we unpicked the Lord's Prayer two sentences at a time over 6 weeks, then went told a few parables, which involved the very popular exercise of losing and finding sheep! Then we had Advent and the Christmas story. 'God the Rescuer' was our theme for the Spring term, using Old Testament stories, this led nicely into the Easter Story of how God rescued the world through Jesus. For the Summer Term we plan to tell the stories after the resurrection, then ascension, pentecost and the early church. After half term we will talk about Paul's journey and how we can share God's word.

We are all very much invested in Friday Church, including the staff, parents, Governors and the church community. Friday Church provides a familiar routine, embedding Christian tradition in a church building which is a familiar and happy place to be, with meaningful worship, prayer and contemplation at the heart of what we do.

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9.5. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY



Children and Families Ministry Report: APCM May 2024



Children are like dandelions! Some love them, some think they are a nuisance. They are 'loud' and in your face one day, the next they are blown away by a puff of wind. We can influence and nurture the growth of a child for only a short span – if they



feel bored or unwanted, the damage is huge and we will have lost them – for ever?

We celebrate another year of ministry amongst the children of Linton and their families. This report tries to give a glimpse of where God has been working by focussing on the highlights!

May 23 – Baby Steps in the pavilion – eight babies and their parents explored how we nurture our baby's spiritual growth through games, songs and stories.



June 23 – Picnic in the Park – we joined with our friends at Linton Free Church to offer free children's crafts, celebrating community and loving Linton.



July 23 – Tots in Tow fundraising coffee morning and toddle event. Messy Church barbeque rounded off the term.

August 23 – Make Lunch Club ran through the school holidays. We served a total of 567 meals in through 2023! The summer programme ended with our annual School Bag Blessing.

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Sept 23 – New school year – Friday school service restarts. Ely cathedral celebration and commissioning of those who work with children across the diocese. Playtime toddler groups conference in Milton Keynes where Sarah met a Storm Trooper!

October 23 – visit to Chestnuts Playgroup with a Bible story. Make Lunch forum. Churches Together Light Party November 23 – Make Lunch annual review by TLC – we were rated GOLD! Make Brunch club on school inset day.

December 23 – Tots, Make Lunch and Messy Church all took part in the Christmas Tree Festival. Messy Christingle was very special, led by our amazing Messy volunteers and the Crib Service was led by a team of parents.



January 24 – Thanks to government Holiday Activities and Food 'enrichment experience' funding, Make Lunch were able to visit the pantomime. Oh yes we did!

February 24 – Sarah took some time off! Make Lunch in half term with dinosaur theme!

March 24 – Last Friday school service of the term was led by all three of the leadership team as we travelled with Jesus' friends from Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday. Messy Good Friday in the village hall and Churches Together Easter Trail enabled more than 100 children, and their families, to hear the Easter story.



April 24 – Open The Book assembly at Castle Camps. Another Baby Steps group starting. Registering for Holiday Activities and Food funding for summer holidays.

As we reflect on the fragility and short life of the dandelion, the Children and Families team thank all who have invested in the ministry in so many ways. You will receive your reward!

Sarah is now entering her last year in her role as Children and Families minister.

Maybe children's ministers are a little like dandelions too!

Sarah Thorne Children and Families Minister (LLM)

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

9.6. PASTORAL GROUP

The group is made up of 8 members, all committed to extending the kindness and compassion to our community whilst upholding safe working practices. We usually meet, as a whole group, every two months to discuss the visits/contact we have made, support each other and share the responsibilities of extending the love beyond the boundaries of services at St Mary's. Pastoral partners have been introduced for the group members; the idea is to encourage contact with a named partner for support in addition to that gained from the whole group meetings.

The group discuss our training needs at each meeting. We undertake the safeguarding checks and complete the training required by the Diocese. In the last year we have agreed and reviewed a risk assessment to ensure continuity and safer practice. We also agreed that a signed and dated photo identification card could be made available to anyone who wanted to carry one.

Pastoral visits are made in response to requests from clergy or through family, friends or neighbours. The nature and frequency of contact is individually tailored to meet the needs of the individual. The group has collectively MANY years of experience. We continue to contact some people by phone, arrange face-to-face visits, Home Communion visits are offered too. It is wonderful to see the regular visits and communion happening at both Nichols Court and Symonds House again.

It is our desire to represent the church in our role, maintaining connections, develop relationships and sharing the love of Christ with those we visit.

Sue Filby, sue.filby@stmaryslinton.org.uk

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9.7. THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

Report to APCM from The Friends of St Mary's,
Linton



**Friends of
St. Mary's
Linton**

'The Friends' is a secular charity, formed to help with the costs of maintaining the church building, its fixtures and fittings. Currently there are 80 members who pay a membership fee each year, currently £20 although many give more. In addition to a modest programme of social events we also administer the funds bequeathed by Richard Godel and make available any surplus from them in accordance with his wishes.

Historically the Friends have funded all of the costs associated with maintenance identified at the Quinquennial Inspection (QI) enabling the PCC to use their funds for other purposes. Since April 2023 we have paid an architect's bill of £23,183.66 and £10,339.38 in builder's fees for works associated with the QI and also £395 for protection of the organ during that project. Additionally over the course of the year we have paid £3,678.30 for work on the church boiler comprising repairs and a new Hive thermostat, £88 for window repairs, £1,530.00 for two Bose speakers for the the church public address system and £894.91 (yes, really) for replacement bulbs for the church projector. Including the QI related payments this amounts to a total of over £40,000.

We have also received, with gratitude, a donation for the cost of the adjustable new lectern, received in memory of Mrs Edith Bald.

The Friends are grateful to the church for allowing us to run the October coffee morning. In December we took part in the Christmas Tree Festival. Our new year coffee and mince pies morning was as always a happy social event but the highlight of the year for us was our quiz, held in the church in February. Many thanks to David and Cathy Watts for running the quiz itself and the hard-working committee members for providing food, running the raffle and dealing with the organisation of the event.

Our traditional Summer Teas will take place this year on Thursday, 27th June, Thursday, 11th July and Thursday, 8th August – as with all our events all are welcome . We also hope to have coffee mornings in October and January. Please look out for the posters or check our website at <https://www.friendsofstmaryslinton.org.uk/>

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I should like to thank all our committee for their work on behalf of the Friends, particularly our Treasurer, Mr Hugh Paton and Mrs Judith Tonry our Secretary. We were all very sorry to receive the resignation of Mrs Celia Fisher from the committee last year. Except for the ex-officio members all the committee posts will be confirmed for the following year at our AGM on 15th May in the church pavilion.

We always welcome new members and encourage all who value the church building to join us.

Andrew King, Chair, The Friends of St Mary's, Linton.
April 2024

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

9.8 Music Ministry Report

APCM report on Music Ministry May 2023-April 2024

The Music Ministry at St Mary's, Linton benefits from the musical skills of many people to cover the requirements of our wide variety of services. On this occasion we bid thanks and farewell to Russell Taylor who has contributed so much to the Music Group as keyboard accompanist over many years.

Pam Richardson, after many years singing in the choir, has stepped down and we thank her for her commitment - her voice will be sorely missed.

Our voices change as the years pass, sopranos once high and powerful become lower in range and more mellow. Men's voices may eventually become weaker. We are always keen to welcome new singers in the choir and the music group and I am always happy to discuss what is involved with anyone considering joining us. We are privileged to lead God's people in singing his praises in our worship.

2024 has been a difficult year so far for Anne and me. Following my collapse in mid-January it was a truly blessed relief for me to get well knowing that Tom Dodd, Jacqui Burge, Sue Arden and Simon Godsill were keeping the musical show on the road, as it were.

I am also grateful to David Poulter (previously organist of several large cathedrals) who has made himself available to play for funerals. Our musical relationship with our local undertakers, Paintins, is both professional and cordial.

The choir has expanded its repertoire this year adding, amongst others, Howard Goodall's "Love divine, all loves excelling" and "Lo, star-led chiefs" by William Crotch for an Epiphany choral evensong. More recently we gave our first singing of Debbie Wiseman's "Alleluia. O clap your hands together", which was written for the coronation of the King and Queen last year.

We have also introduced David Thorne's "Mass of St Thomas" for the Sung Parish Communion service – a popular setting in many parishes.

As always, I am grateful to Anne for her administrative support and keeping the choir library in order – a not insignificant task.

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As I reminded an old friend recently all things change but God is always the same – a constant. This is what kept me going through the dark days of January and February. My first service back playing the organ at St Mary's was on Easter Day, and what a joy that was.

Thank you all for your kind prayers and support.

David Parry-Smith
Director of Music

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Annual Parish Vestry Meeting
followed by
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 14th May 2023 at 11.30am
in the Church

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

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9.15. The Monday Gang in the Churchyard	36

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

1. AGENDA FOR 14TH MAY 2023

Part A - Vestry Meeting

1. Prayers
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Vestry Meeting held on 8th May 2022
3. Election of Two Churchwardens

Part B - Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 8th May 2022
3. Matters Arising
4. Parochial Church Council Report 2022 - 2023
5. Electoral Roll Report
6. Financial Report followed by appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Fabric Report
8. Deanery Synod Report
9. Election of Deanery Synod representatives and PCC Members
10. Reports from Groups and Activities
11. Rector's Report
12. Questions from the floor
13. Closing Prayers

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2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISHIONERS' VESTRY MEETING, SUNDAY 8TH MAY 2022

The meeting held in the church, began with prayers at 11.30 and was chaired by Dr David Parry-Smith, Lay-Chair of the PCC. David explained that the Incumbent would usually chair the meeting but as we were in a Vacancy or Interregnum, the role fell to him as the Lay-Chair. Thirty-seven parishioners were present.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parishioners' Vestry Meeting of Sunday 23rd May 2021 were accepted as a correct record.

Election of Churchwardens

There were two nominations for Churchwarden: David Watts and Charlotte Ellis. They were unanimously elected for a year. David was first appointed in 2017 and Charlotte in 2021.

David Parry-Smith thanked both churchwardens and said that we were very grateful for all that they do for the parish, especially during the Vacancy.

It was noted that at the March 2017 PCC meeting, members had agreed that the normal term of office for a churchwarden at St Mary's should revert to being 3 years, with the option of extending to a maximum of 6 years if wished; and still to be elected annually in line with the guidelines in the Churchwardens Measure 2001.

3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, SUNDAY 8TH MAY 2022

Apologies

Nanette Blackmore, Margaret Cox, Helene Evans, Brian and Janice Grey, Charlotte and Mark Hays, Glynis and Michael Younger.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of Sunday 23rd May 2021 were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising

There were none.

The reports presented to the 2022 meeting are summarised below and can be found on the church website www.stmaryslinton.org.uk. Look under Resources and APCM reports.

Parochial Church Council Report May 2021 – April 2022

The pandemic was still part of everyone's lives in spring 2021. The 3rd national lockdown was gradually relaxed from April 2021 and the first service back in church was on Easter Sunday. Covid measures were discussed at each PCC meeting in order to comply with the appropriate guidance. The Sunday 10am service continued to be offered as a Zoom alternative. This was made easier once the phone line to the church had been installed and

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Wi-Fi was available. Paper copies of worship material continued to be delivered weekly to some 20 households unable to access online information.

The Revd. Canon Dr Maggie Guite's last service was at the beginning of July. It was a joyous occasion, held in the churchyard to maximise numbers yet still observe social distancing and singing was also allowed. An evening outdoor picnic with presentation of gifts took place later in July. We wished Maggie and Malcolm a happy retirement but saw them leave with some sadness as we entered the Vacancy.

The PCC set up a sub-group at the July meeting to work on the Parish Profile, prior to advertising for a new Rector. This was a Team document and Molly Warrington generously offered to compile and edit the contributions.

The PCC met via Zoom for four of the five scheduled meetings until March 2022 when we chose to meet in church. Regular agenda items included reports from the churchwardens (in lieu of a Rector) and the four main PCC committees: Finance & Stewardship, Fabric, Children & Families and Events. Reports were also received from the Parish Safeguarding Officer, Ministry Team for worship and spiritual initiatives, St Mary's two Deanery Synod representatives and the Chair of Governors at Linton C.E. Infant School. Aspects from the seven objectives in the Mission Action Plan were included in discussions. Extending Children and Families ministry was a particular focus and saw the start of Linton Make Lunch Club.

Financial Review – to 31st December 2021

Income of £134,381 and expenditure of £124,727 resulted in a surplus for the year. However, Sue Ellis, Treasurer, pointed out that was due to a successful Gift Day and some legacies. The regular outgoings are kept to a minimum but still exceed the regular income, including gift aid refunds. The Parish Share, paid to the Diocese, is a significant sum and is beyond our control. Other expenses are closely monitored. Sue mentioned two additional ways to raise funds – by using Give as you Live or Amazon Smile for online purchases. The church then receives a percentage refund with no cost to the individual – see details on the finance page of St Mary's website. Sue commented that a deficit budget had been set for 2022 and there are ambitious plans for future projects.

Sue Ellis proposed that Kate Sargeant be reappointed as Independent Examiner; seconded by David Watts and agreed by those present.

David Parry-Smith thanked Sue Ellis for being treasurer with calm equanimity and efficiency and added that a stewardship officer is still required. David thanked Suzanne Darkins for chairing the Finance and Stewardship committee. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Sarah Thorne, seconded by Lawrence Powell and agreed by those present with no one against and no abstentions.

Electoral Roll Report

The report from Jo George, Electoral Roll officer, stated that four people had been removed from the Roll and one new name added so the number was recorded as 126. New lists were displayed on the internal notice board by the church door. The Electoral Roll was completely revised in March 2019.

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Fabric Report

Richard Tonry's report listed minor work undertaken and described proposals for future work, such as repairs related to the Quinquennial report and a major re-lighting project for the church. Tenders had been received and the Faculty application submitted.

Deanery Synod Report

Andrew Gore and David Parry-Smith had been elected to represent Linton on the Deanery Synod from the APCM in October 2020 until 31st May 2023. The Synod met three times during the year. Meetings usually start with a one-off presentation, followed by business discussions. Linton involvement remained strong as Michael Younger continued to be Deanery Treasurer, Anne Parry-Smith was Secretary and Andrew Gore was Lay-chair. In addition, the Bishop invited Michael Wilcockson to succeed Simon Talbott as Rural Dean.

Election of Parochial Church Council members

Continuing members on the PCC were confirmed as:

Elected in 2020: Sue Ellis, Sue Mudge, Patricia Scofield, Michael Younger.

Elected in 2021: Helene Evans, Sarah King, John Organ, Richard Tonry, Molly Warrington.

Churchwardens (ex-officio): David Watts, Charlotte Ellis.

Jacqui Burge and Gill Powell, both elected in 2019, had served their three year term of office. Ed Andrade, elected in 2021, had moved from Linton. Thus there were 3 vacancies.

The electoral roll number allows for up to 12 elected members. One nomination had been received for Sarah Nickolls. Jacqui Burge had indicated her willingness to be re-elected and was proposed and seconded at the meeting. Andrew Cornell-Webb also offered to stand and was proposed and seconded. These three people were duly elected.

The requirement for retiring members to stand down for at least a year had been removed from the updated Church Representation Rules 2020.

Reports from Committees and Organisations

Reports from the following groups were included in the 2022 APCM booklet in paper form and on the website:

Beacon Youth Trust; Bell ringers; Events committee; Flower Ministry, Linton C E Infant School; Church links with Linton Heights Junior School; Children and Families Ministry; Together with God and Space for the Spirit services; Mothers Union; Music Ministry; Pastoral Group; The Friends of St. Mary's; The Monday Gang.

Additional comments were made and some questions taken from those present at the meeting.

Beacon Youth Trust – Trustees from St Mary's were very pleased to have Cynthia Mukoko appointed to the youth work role in November and anticipated that the youth work would really grow within the village, especially as Covid restrictions had mostly ended.

Bell ringers – David Parry-Smith thanked Stephen Croxall, Tower Captain, and said that it was wonderful to hear the bells ringing for Wednesday practice and on Sunday mornings.

Events committee – thanks to Charlotte Ellis for her leadership.

Infant School – thanks to Nicola Collard and the Foundation Governors for their time and guidance to help the staff and pupils in all aspects and especially to promote and maintain the Christian ethos.

Linton Heights Junior School – Covid measures had limited the children's visits to the church. However Gill Powell commented that she was currently Chair of Governors and personally had strong links.

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Together with God services, Space for the Spirit by Zoom, the activities of the Mothers' Union and visits from the Pastoral group all enriched the spiritual life of church members.

Music Ministry – David Parry-Smith asked anyone who would like to make a donation to the cost of the new hymn books to speak to him or to Sue Ellis.

Friends of St Mary's – Chris Morse noted that the Friends had agreed to underwrite the cost of £114,000 for the proposed QI works and re-lighting the church, but the PCC had been asked to source some grant funding. Chris asked how that was being approached and recommended that someone be asked to coordinate the task. Two names were mentioned of local people who had success in raising money and who could be a source of information.

Monday Gang – continued to maintain the churchyard but with a dwindling group of volunteers. David Parry-Smith drew attention to the recent damage caused in the Peace Garden and destruction of a bench.

Churchwardens' report

David Watts and Charlotte Ellis had produced a comprehensive report which was read at the meeting and then added to the church website. They wished to thank the many people involved in the life of St Mary's who, by doing their part, also made the role of churchwarden run more smoothly and included the various members of the Ministry Team. David thanked Charlotte for being willing to be elected a year ago and for her refreshing 'can do' attitude. Charlotte in turn thanked David for sharing his knowledge and experience.

There were no further questions.

In conclusion, Gill Powell welcomed the list of reports from groups but also wished to point out that the spiritual side of church life is strong – indicated by the study groups which followed the 'Living in Love and Faith' course, the recent Lent course entitled 'Difference' and the forthcoming 'Thy Kingdom Come' for the period between Ascension Day and Pentecost. Gill was fortunate to have had dinner with the Archbishop of Canterbury recently at Lambeth Palace. She had talked to others present and was startled to find that they had little knowledge of these initiatives. Gill asked a question of the Archbishop and he seemed surprised to hear of these St Mary's activities. In spite of the Vacancy, we continue to grow and develop our faith – in line with one of the aims in the Mission Action Plan.

The meeting ended with prayer at 12.30.

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4. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2022 - 2023

Administrative Information

St Mary's Church is situated in Church Lane, Linton. It is part of the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England. The correspondence address is 4 Bakers Lane, Linton, Cambridge, CB21 4NF. The registered charity number is 1138508.

PCC members who have served from the APCM in May 2022 until this report are:

<i>Incumbent</i>	Rector - Vacancy until Revd Paul Seaton-Burn installed in February 2023 The Revd Michael Wilcockson, Curate from July 2019, Associate Priest November 2021	
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Charlotte Ellis David Watts	
<i>Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs)</i>	Sarah Thorne Cathy Watts	Children and Families Minister Safeguarding Officer
<i>Representatives to the Deanery Synod</i>	Andrew Gore David Parry-Smith	from October 2020 - 31.05.23 from October 2020 - 31.05.23
<i>Elected members</i>	Jacqui Burge Andrew Cornell-Webb Sue Ellis Helene Evans Sarah King Sue Mudge John Organ Sarah Nickolls Patricia Schofield Richard Tonry Molly Warrington Michael Younger	from APCM 2022 from APCM 2022 from APCM 2020 - Treasurer from APCM 2021 from APCM 2021 from APCM 2020 - Secretary from APCM 2021 from APCM 2021 from APCM 2022 from APCM 2020 from APCM 2021 from APCM 2021 from APCM 2020

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules, updated in 2020. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

The PCC of St Mary the Virgin has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Mary's Church and for the Pavilion adjacent to the Church.

Numerical performance in 2022 - 2023

With the continued easing of Covid restrictions throughout 2022, we have seen more people return to the church despite being in vacancy throughout the year. Easter saw the biggest increase with the numbers attending double that of last year. Christmas Eve and Christmas

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Day were 40% up on the previous year. This brings attendance at both services back to pre-pandemic levels.

Our regular attendance during the week has shown some improvement and is back to pre-pandemic levels with the gradual reintroduction of services at Symonds House, Nichols Court and the Friday School Service. The Sunday 8am congregation is back in size to what it was pre-pandemic. The 10am service has seen some growth in numbers with new faces but is still below pre-pandemic levels in size. Behind all this is a hidden worshipping community who are provided with paper copies of the services taking place each Sunday to use in worship at home. Other regular weekly services, Thursday communion and Friday evening prayer, draw a steady number of worshippers.

Review of the year to April 2023

This has been another challenging year after the two previous years which were hugely affected by Covid lockdowns and subsequent restrictions on worship and other aspects of our lives. Covid measures in church generally were enforced immediately when announced, but then were slow to be removed; requiring discussion, risk assessments and due consideration of each other's needs and concerns. Some practices still remain in our worship, such as nodding to each other when giving the Peace rather than shaking hands and some people prefer to accept only a wafer at Communion and not share a chalice. Numbers at Sunday 10am services often seem to be fewer than three years ago and some members may now find it difficult to be physically present. Members of the Pastoral Group visit people regularly on behalf of the church.

Another aspect which took additional time at PCC meetings was the impact of having to continue for a further nine months without a Rector, giving eighteen months in total for the Vacancy. The recruitment process took longer than desired and the position was advertised three times. We were very pleased to welcome Revd Paul Seaton-Burn at his Collation and Induction service in February. It is said that a Vacancy can be a catalyst for change but there have been several items discussed at PCC where it seemed prudent to wait and consult the Rector before making longer term decisions. The Mission Action Plan spanned five years from 2017 – 2022 and is now in need of a thorough review to consider current and future priorities.

The appearance of scaffolding in church from January to March 2023 heralded the major scheme to undertake repairs specified in the five-yearly inspection, to completely re-design the lighting system which had been ineffective for years and to paint the plasterwork. This meant that the church was closed during the week and most of the furniture had to be moved around. The Infants' School had to relocate their Friday assembly service to the school hall and Thursday 10am communion was held in the pavilion. David Watts and helpers spent a great deal of time cleaning and rearranging chairs at the end of each week so that Sunday services could continue along with some of the social events; coffee mornings and two talks accompanied by afternoon tea. We also managed to hold the Collation and Induction service for Revd Paul midweek, after discussing whether the service ought to move to one of the Team churches if we could not accommodate enough people in Linton. Contractors kept to their schedule and the scaffolding was all removed by Easter. A deep clean is required and there is still some sorting out to be done, especially in the Resurrection Chapel, but the improvements should be immediately visible. Fabric projects seem to involve such a lengthy process with potential for many delays before work can start. We are indebted to The Friends of St Mary's for funding the project. It was hoped to acquire some grants to help fund the work but this has not been possible for a variety of reasons.

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Services by Zoom had been developed during Covid times and continued to be offered until the autumn with a break during August. Issues were experienced with connectivity. A trial was run using better equipment but given the overall deficit budget, it was decided that we could not support the expenditure of around £9,000 and therefore Zoom services were suspended. The number of people engaging with the Zoom services was very low, often only one person – unlike the experiences of some churches where Zoom participants had helped the overall congregation to grow.

Since March 2022 the PCC had met in person in the church, rather than by Zoom. The church was preferred as it was more spacious than the pavilion but it was very difficult to hear each other when members were spread out and the lighting was very poor in the evenings. The meetings reverted to the pavilion in January 2023. The PCC had the usual six meetings during the reporting year, with the Standing Committee able to confer on specific items between meetings. The September meeting was on the evening of the 8th, just when the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had been announced. As news unfolded over the following few days, it became apparent that forthcoming events should be cancelled: namely the monthly coffee morning, a talk and afternoon tea, the harvest supper, a Mothers' Union meeting and the open meeting for Linton and Bartlow people to discuss the Deanery Development Plan. It was to have been a busy eleven days. The Linton Book of Condolence was placed in the church for anyone to sign during the period of national mourning.

St Mary's responded to the perceived need for warm hubs to help people cope with higher fuel bills. David Watts registered our interest and attended online meetings. A number of volunteers offered to help and Liz Hunt co-ordinated a rota. Our hub was in the pavilion on Thursday morning after the 10am service and complemented the others in the village, which were held at the Free Church, library and football pavilion. See the summary in section 9.10.

Every PCC meeting includes a report from Cathy Watts, Safeguarding Officer. All PCC members are required to be DBS checked and have taken online training. The PCC upholds the House of Bishops policies of 'Promoting a Safer Church' and 'Protecting all God's Children'. The Ely Diocesan website has an extensive safeguarding section. It includes a Parish Dashboard which gives excellent advice and allows us to ensure that we are compliant with current policies and procedures. There is safeguarding information on the home page of St Mary's website and also displayed in church.

Reports were received at each PCC meeting from various PCC committees and activities within the church community: the Children and Families team, the Pastoral Group, the Ministry Team, the Chair of Governors at Linton C E Infant School, the Events committee, the Fabric committee, the Finance and Stewardship committee, the Deanery Synod, the Beacon Youth Trust. More can be found about all these activities and others later in this document in section 9.

Church finances are not good as can be seen in Section 6. We approved a deficit budget for 2022, had to transfer funds from reserves and we are in a similar position for 2023. This cannot be sustained in the long term and severely restricts further development of projects for mission and other initiatives. Income does not cover the current expenditure; a large proportion of which is the Ministry Share paid to the Diocese and thus out of our control. The PCC has spent time discussing the financial situation and considering how it might be

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improved while also being mindful of the general financial pressures experienced by everyone.

The Events committee was formed to develop the social life within the church and aims to provide a wide range of activities, as well as hospitality after special services. It is a bonus when events make a profit and any surplus generally goes into the church funds. Sometimes an event will be dedicated to a specific charity such as the May coffee morning which is the main village fundraiser for Christian Aid and replaces the previous door to door collections. Lent Lunches were organised again by Celia Fisher at different people's homes and money is raised for a different charity each year. Collections from Christmas services are dedicated to specific charities.

Many residents in the village appreciate having the church available at different times in their lives. People enjoy the churchyard during the changing seasons and the Peace Garden, developed and maintained by volunteers. It was very sad when the benches in the Peace Garden were destroyed by unknown people. Seating has not yet been replaced. A small group of Village College pupils has been witnessed being disruptive in other ways.

We are grateful to all those people who willingly give their time and skills to help with the mission and outreach of the church – for example the Foundation Governors for the Church Aided Infant School, the Trustees representing St Mary's for the Beacon Youth Trust, the volunteers who help with the Children and Families Ministry under the guidance of Sarah, the Pastoral visitors, the various committee members working behind the scenes planning and enabling the activities of our church family and of course members of the Ministry team for their spiritual guidance and leading services. We especially thank David and Charlotte, our two churchwardens, for all that they have done during the Vacancy and Revd Michael Wilcockson for being so willing to take regular services along with help from other clergy.

Sue Mudge
PCC Secretary

5. ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

The Electoral Roll is the Parish Church's register of electors, who are therefore qualified to attend and vote at the Annual Parish Church meeting where the elections take place for membership of the Parochial Church Council, and the Deanery Synod.

Last year the number on the Roll was 126. Six new names have been added giving a total of 132 people.

You can be added to the Electoral Roll if you have been baptised, and are over 16, and either 'live in the parish', 'live outside the parish and have attended St Mary's for six months' or 'are a member in good standing of another church and have attended St Mary's for six months'.

If you would like to be added to the Electoral Roll or have any questions, please do contact me – jo.george@stmaryslinton.org.uk

Jo George - Electoral Roll Officer

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6. FINANCIAL REVIEW TO 31ST DECEMBER 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's, Linton

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, SORP 2005 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements – to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and – to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kate Sargent

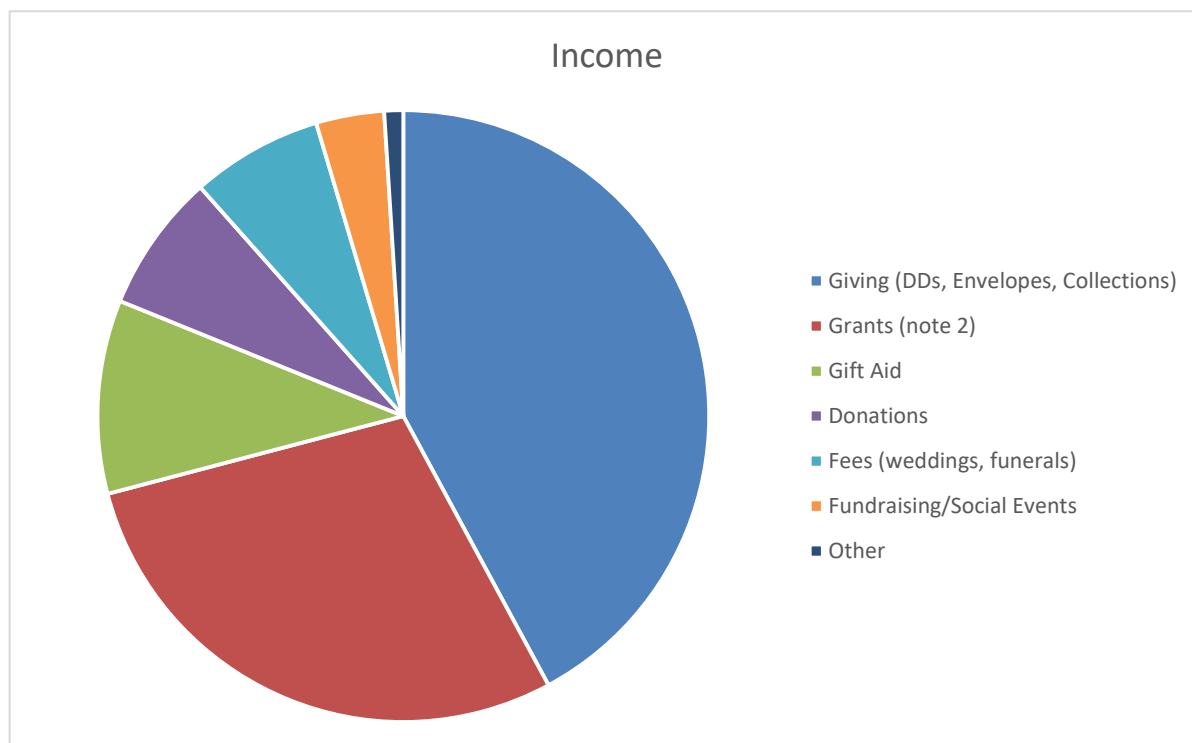
16/3/23

Independent Examiner

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Financial Review 2022

In 2022 an income total of £140,758 was received by St Mary's. This compared with expenditure of £163,111, **leaving a deficit of £22,352.**



Giving (the largest element of income), increased a little, although regular giving through direct debits fell slightly. This source of income, particularly through the Parish Giving Scheme¹, is particularly important as it is fairly predictable from year to year. Tax recovered through Gift Aid is also a significant part of income, and this also fell slightly in line with the reduction in tax-efficient giving.

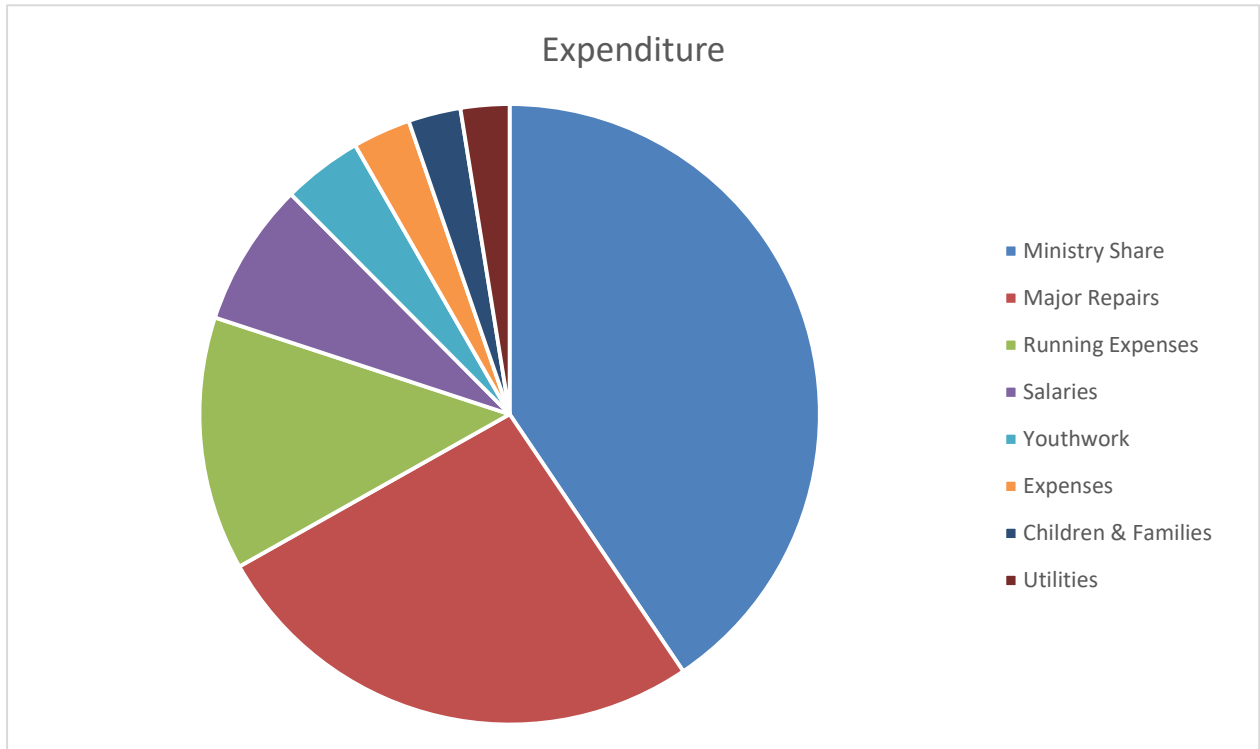
Grants are another important part of income, and we are extremely grateful to the Friends of St Mary's for a grant of £36,389 towards major repairs. The PCC would also like to thank the Anderson Trust and Parish Council for their continuing generous support. All grants, and some donations, are for specific purposes.

It's worth noting, too, that a proportion of fees income from weddings and funerals is sent to the Diocese, and not retained in the parish.

¹ Please ask the Treasurer for more information.

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The largest item of expenditure, as always, was the amount contributed to the Ministry Share. This is the sum sent to the Diocese, to enable us to have a full-time Rector, as well as



contributing to some central administrative and mission costs. The PCC has committed to paying the Ministry Share in full; however, it is unable to cover this from regular giving.

As the graph shows, the second biggest chunk of expenditure was the sum paid for capital expenditure in the form of major repairs. A large proportion of this was covered by grants from the Friends of St Mary's. Similarly, a proportion of expenditure on Children and Families work was supported by grants.

Though the PCC has managed to trim general running expenses, the church must be maintained in good repair, and we aim to provide a welcoming and well-maintained space for everyone. Other priorities include supporting the valuable work of the Beacon Youth Trust, which took most of the PCC's allocation to charitable giving. Other charitable donations, despite being augmented by special collections, represented too small a proportion of expenditure to show on the chart.

Providing some administrative support for clergy, as well as covering their expenses, are other PCC priorities, and a 5% cost of living increase was agreed to the payments covering Administrator, Children and Families Minister, Director of Music and organists.

Other, smaller items of expenditure, including pavilion running costs, outgoings for social events and training costs – though important - are too small to include in the chart above.

The Balance Sheet summarises the funds of the church. Some sums within this figure are 'Restricted', in that they have been given for a specific purpose only. Other sums are

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‘Designated’; these have been set aside by the PCC for specific purposes. The ‘unrestricted’ General Fund amounted to £30,412 at the end of 2022 (£11,060 less than last year).

What is the PCC doing about this?

The PCC had already trimmed its outgoings and sought to increase income, for example through a Gift Day in 2021. Faced with a projected deficit at the end of 2022 and a deficit budget in 2023, the PCC took the decision not to proceed with proposed new equipment for Zoom services at the present time and not to initiate or support fund-raising for any new projects until such a time as income and expenditure were more closely aligned.

In order to address income, the PCC agreed also to try to stimulate increased giving from the parish. In particular, it will encourage membership of the Parish Giving Scheme which prompts participants to agree a giving increase each year linked to inflation. It agreed further to appeal to the wider community, stressing the place of St Mary’s within the community.

Summary

Despite an apparently healthy-looking balance sheet, the funds of the church are precarious, with expenditure in excess of income by around 16%. In 2022 the deficit was financed by reserves. If the current situation continues, the church’s reserves will have run out in less than two years, forcing the PCC to reassess priorities and to take ever more difficult decisions to keep costs down.

Reserves Policy

In 2022, the PCC continued with its reserves policy; to retain a sum of £22,500 for urgent repairs and as contingency cover.

Financial Statements

The financial statements which follow comprise:

A statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year, showing all resources made available to the PCC and all expenditure incurred by it, and reconciling changes to funds.

A return of Parish Finance which shows the same information but gives a breakdown of income and expenditure.

A Balance Sheet showing assets, liabilities and funds.

Accounting Policies

These accounts have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and in accordance with the Charities SORP (2005) and applicable standards. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission under the name of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Linton, Diocese of Ely, charity registration number 1138508.

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St Mary's Linton Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	122,793	1,707	—	124,501	117,435
Activities for generating funds	4,224	841	—	5,065	5,705
Investment income	468	25	—	493	6
Incoming resources from charitable activities	10,698	—	—	10,698	11,233
Other incoming resources	—	—	—	—	—
Total incoming resources	138,184	2,574	—	140,758	134,381
Resources used					
Cost of generating funds	—	—	—	—	91
Cost of generating voluntary income	—	—	—	—	—
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs	1,044	—	—	1,044	232
Charitable activities	160,942	1,124	—	162,066	124,325
Governance costs	—	—	—	—	—
Total resources used	161,987	1,124	—	163,111	124,649
Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer	(23,803)	1,449	—	(22,353)	9,731
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	11,461	191	—	11,653	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	(11,122)	(531)	—	(11,653)	—
Net incoming / outgoing before other gains / losses	(23,464)	1,110	—	(22,353)	9,731
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	(1,180)	—	—	(1,180)	—
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	(24,644)	1,110	—	(23,533)	9,731
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	90,859	4,631	—	95,491	85,759
Total funds carried forward	66,215	5,742	—	71,957	95,491

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St Mary's Linton Return of Parish Finance for year ending 31 December 2022

Incoming Resources	2021 £	2022 £
Voluntary Income		
Tax efficient planned giving:		
Gift Aid - Bank & Parish Giving Scheme	49,793.89	49,553.94
Gift Aid - Envelopes	1,220.00	1,125.00
Total tax efficient planned giving	51,013.89	50,678.94
Other planned giving	4,596.80	4,333.00
Loose plate collections	1,951.83	4,282.43
Regular Gift Days	6,106.00	
Giving through church boxes	518.26	557.09
One off Gift Aid gifts	5,795.00	1,210.00
Donations, appeals, etc (note 1)	5,901.05	8,522.74
Tax recovered through Gift Aid	15,373.56	14,405.81
Legacies	16,000.00	
Non-recurring one off grants (note 2)	10,178.89	40,511.29
Total for voluntary income	117,435.28	124,501.30
Activities for Generating Funds		
Other funds generated (note 3)	2,572.62	795.89
Summer Event		
Christmas Events	885.15	
Social Events (note 4)	2,247.43	4,269.35
Total for Activities for Generating Funds	5,705.20	5,065.24
Bank and building society interest	6.87	493.87
Church Activities		
Fees for weddings and funerals	10,908.00	9,788.00
Pavilion lettings	325.75	910.00
Total for Church Activities	11,233.75	10,698.00
Total for Incoming Resources	134,381.10	140,758.41

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

St Mary's Linton Return of Parish Finance for year ending 31 December 2022

Resources Expended	2021 £	2022 £
Costs of Generating Funds		
Summer Event Costs		
Christmas Event Costs	91.83	
Costs of Social Events (note 4)	232.38	1,044.86
Total for costs of Generating Funds	324.21	1,044.86
All Mission Giving and Charitable Grants & Donations (note 5)		
Giving to missionary societies	718.50	778.50
Secular Charities	1,785.30	1,157.78
Youth Inc	300.00	300.00
The Beacon Youth Trust	6,500.04	6500.04
Total for All Mission Giving etc	9,303.84	8,736.32
Church Activities		
Ministry Share	65,032.83	66,322.187
Salaries (note 6)	11,373.11	12,268.30
Expenses (clergy, pastoral staff, etc)		
Working expenses of Incumbent	480.00	480.00
Rector's telephone	52.50	
Children and Families Ministry (note 7)	3,182.66	4,463.11
Total for Expenses	3,715.16	4,943.11
Parish Training and mission	48.00	423.27
Regular Church running expenses (insurance, cleaning, admin)		
Visiting speakers/ locum	149.20	
Church running - insurance	3,359.76	3,493.34
Organ / piano tuning	0.00	235.00
Church telephone/Wi-Fi	2,394.50	201.22
Church maintenance	5,115.32	3,273.12
Cleaning	0.00	18.98
Upkeep of services (note 8)	10,156.98	11,957.61
Upkeep of churchyard	45.50	205.91
Administration	2,224.37	2,174.66
Flowers (note 9)	257.60	47.00
Total for Regular Church running expenses	23,703.23	21,606.84

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Resources Expended	2021 £	2022 £
Church utility bills (gas, electricity, water)		
Church running - electric	647.28	1,401.90
Church running - gas	2,830.75	2,718.77
Church running - water	41.84	42.96
Total for Church utility bills	3,519.87	4,163.63
	2021	2022
Costs of trading Pavilion		
Pavilion running - electricity	259.67	522.25
Pavilion running - maintenance	358.59	440.33
Pavilion running - water	41.84	42.93
Total for Costs of trading	660.04	1,005.51
Total for Church Activities	92,457.84	110,309.57
Total for Resources Expended	108,052.24	120,090.75
Major Capital Expenditure	2021	2022
Church major repairs	6,752.41	43,021.08
Peace Garden	294.19	
Total for Major Capital Expenditure	7,046.60	43,021.08
Total Expenditure	124,726.89	163,111.83
Total Income	134,381.10	140,758.41
Total Expenditure	124,726.89	163,111.83
Balance	9,654.21	-22,352.42

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Balance Sheet As of: 31 December 2022

	2021 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets		
Pavilion (note 10)	500	500
Investments (note 11)	<u>10,000</u>	<u>28,819</u>
	10,500	29,319
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in-hand	<u>95,672</u>	<u>48,825</u>
	95,672	48,825
Current Liabilities (note 12)		
LCHT	6,510	2,693
Linton Parish Charities	<u>4,250</u>	<u>3,494</u>
	10,760	6,187
Net current assets less current liabilities	84,911	42,637
Total Assets less current liabilities	95,411	71,957
Total net assets less liabilities	95,411	71,957
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted – general fund	41,472	30,412
Designated		
Designated – Contingency	22,500	22,500
Designated – Mission action plan	10,722	
Designated – Pavilion (note 10)	500	500
Designated – Children and Families Ministry (note 13)	15,587	12,804
Restricted		
Restricted – Anderson Trust	757	64
Restricted – bells	1,412	1,422
Restricted – Churchyard (note 14)	344	238
Restricted – music	2,117	1,518
Restricted – Organ fund		2,496
Funds of the Church	<u>95,411</u>	<u>71,957</u>

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Notes to Financial Statements

Return of Parish Finance

1. Donations include monies given through the good box and our new Payaz. It also includes donations made to the organ fund and for the new hymn books.
2. Grants received this year include £460 from the Anderson Trust, £100 from the Parish Council, £36,389 from the Friends of St Mary's, £602 from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, £600 from Ely Diocese to help towards heating bills. For Children and Families Ministry: £650 from Transforming Lives for Good, £370 from the Anderson Trust, £500 from Tesco and £400 from Warburton.
3. The income from other funds generated includes £32 from the book stall, £50.23 from 'Give as you Live' and £38.36 from Amazon Smile. We also received £63 from the Ride and Stride, £150 from Church bookings and reimbursement from the diocese for our visiting priests.
4. Social events include refreshments after services as well as organised events. Costs were higher this year as ticket money was refunded for both the Harvest Supper and Ely Cathedral tea and talk which were both cancelled following the Queen's death.
5. Charitable giving this year includes £500 to USPG, £500 to Haverhill Foodbank, £94.50 to Friends of the Holy Land, £350.93 to the Poppy Appeal, £120 to C M J and £64 to toilet twinning. Also £300 to Youth Inc and £6,500.04 to support the work of the Beacon Youth Trust. In addition to this the May coffee morning and afternoon tea and Quiz organized by Pam Richardson raised over £1,500 which was sent directly to Christian Aid.
6. Salaries relates to payments made to our organists and parish administrator. It also includes an honorarium for the enormous amount of work carried out by our Children and Families Minister.
7. Children and Families covers all expenses relating to young people, including Boxes of Hope and Make Lunch costs.
8. Upkeep of services includes fees paid to Ely and Non-Stipendiary priests for taking weddings and funerals.
9. Flower costs have largely been covered by separate collections and the generosity of the flower arrangers.

Balance Sheet

10. Pavilion at cost £77,031. This has been depreciated and is shown at a nominal value of £500.
11. Investments: The CBF Church of England Investment Fund - Accumulation Shares. The value at 31/12/22 was only £28,819 despite having invested a total of £30,000.
12. Liabilities represents funds held for the Linton Community Help Team and Linton Parish Charities.
13. The Children and Families Ministry category is money donated specifically for Children and Families Ministry.
14. The Parish Council gave us £500 in 2020 to cover on going expenses of the Monday Gang.

Sue Ellis, Treasurer

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

7. FABRIC REPORT

The Fabric Committee met in June and December 2022

Works to the fabric of the church

QI works to the exterior of the Church commenced in November 2022 with installation of scaffolding to access the east belfry light for repairs to the stone tracery, and to the vestry and chancel for roof cleaning and tile replacement. Minor repointing of open stone joints and repainting of window bars was also done, along with lifting and replacement of badly cracked and delaminated pammments to the nave floor. Following lengthy discussions with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) and their Architectural and Environmental advisors, during which they initially suggested the nave roof should not be lit to save the PCC money which then got twisted to be a contribution to the Diocese and C of E drive for Net Zero, the proposals for the relighting were approved in full by the Chancellor on Friday 13th January, just in time for the work to start as programmed on Monday 16th January. The lighting scheme and redecoration of the interior were completed within the original contract end date of 31st March. Extra works included the levelling of the floor in the south aisle, and repairs to the opening lights in the north clerestory windows which were found to be badly distorted. There is outstanding conservation work to the columns and floor at the entry to the Resurrection Chapel which is due to be carried out week commencing 15th May.

Fixed installations and services

NG Bailey has so far proved more responsive and reliable than Kershaws, and the heating system has been running well. The time clock in the old control unit failed before Christmas meaning the boilers had to be controlled manually for a time, but a Hive thermostat was installed on 8th February, and Nanette can now control the system remotely using her phone. A leaking pipe was discovered by the decorators when moving furnishing at the base of the tower, and NG Bailey were able to repair this promptly in time for the Installation of Revd Paul Seaton-Burn.

The roof alarm system continues to work as expected. The only notifications received continue to be because of minor power cuts.

The contract for the fire security installations has been maintained.

Church furnishings

Other than movement of pews and chairs to accommodate the scaffolding, there have been no changes since the last APCM.

It is still hoped to replace of some of the remaining pews with chairs like those in the nave, although the DAC Advisors suggested that we may not get permission to dispose of the pews. This and other elements of the proposed re-ordering, such as the provision of a new oak storage area in the north aisle, will be contingent on finance and DAC approval.

The Churchyard

The resurfacing of the paths in the Churchyard, by Parish Council contractors, was finally carried out late last year, but there is a tendency for a puddle to form outside the north door after heavy rain. The PC contractors are due to return and install a drainage system to rectify this.

We are grateful to the Monday Gang for their continuing commitment and care of the churchyard.

Other land

As reported to the 2021 & 2022 APCM, the land between Church Cottage and the previous Rectory was retained by the Diocesan Board of Finance when the Rectory building was sold. Andrew Gore has obtained quotes for resurfacing the section of Church Lane and works to the parking area. The PCC has agreed that Andrew should negotiate with the Diocese on funding of this work.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Relationship with the Friends

The Friends agreed last year to underwrite the considerable cost of the QI works, redecoration and re-lighting, but expected the PCC to apply for any grant funding that may be available towards the cost; unfortunately no grant applications have been successful so far. To date the Friends have provided funding of £83,000 for the works with a further £23,000 due shortly. Will anyone not already a member of the Friends please consider joining, and, if possible, contribute to the appeal for donations as outlined in recent issues of the Linton News.

Richard Tonry.

Chairman, Fabric Committee, on behalf of the Churchwardens

8. DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The Synod of the Deanery of Granta met on three occasions during the year, at St Mary's Bartlow on 6th July 2022, on 7th November 2022 at St Mary Magdalen Ickleton, and on 14 March at St Mary the Virgin Great Shelford. David Parry-Smith and I have continued to represent St Mary's on Synod.

At the start of the Synod Year, we were completing our work on Living in Love and Faith. From the responses received about opinion in the parishes and from informal conversations it seems that most parishes in the Deanery either welcomed the decision of the Bishops, as approved by the General Synod, to permit the offering of blessings to people who are in a same-sex partnership, or at least feel they can live it, whether they think it a misstep or that the Church should have gone further. One conservative parish in the Deanery deprecates the decision. The officers of the Deanery consider for their part that their responsibility is to acknowledge the differences that exist and to try to maintain amity within the Deanery.

The year has been dominated by work on the Deanery Development Plan. This is intended to be a realistic plan for the life of the church in the Deanery over the next 5-10 years. After presentations to the clergy and laity by Bishop Stephen and Bishop Dagmar, it was decided to establish a lay planning group comprising one member from each benefice. A series of meetings was held with the laity of each parish or groupings of parishes to facilitate the process and we are at a point where the planning group has produced a draft report which is now being discussed between the Rural Dean and members of the clergy. We hope a final proposed plan can be approved by the first meeting of the new Synod on 12th July. We hope to see some new initiatives taken during the plan period, such as chaplaincy work at the various research institutes in the Deanery. It seems possible that a small number of parishes may need to transfer to "festival" status during the plan period. We hope this can be avoided, both so as to maintain a full Christian presence in every parish and because when a church becomes a festival church, a greater financial burden falls on the other parishes in a benefice.

During the year, Revd Paul Seaton-Burn was instituted as Team Rector of the Linton Group of parishes, Revd Dr Julie Norris as half-time Vicar of Great Shelford and Revd Mandy Flaherty as half-time Vicar of the Harston/Hauxton/Newton group of parishes. Whilst Julie's appointment represents a reduction in the Great Shelford role, Mandy's appointment represents an increase in the Harston role, her predecessors having held the post on a House for Duty basis. It is a pleasure to record that at the date of this report, the Deanery has a full complement of clergy in post and we pray that stability will be carried through into the early years of the new Deanery Development Plan.

Youth Inc, which exists to promote work with young people across the Deanery, has continued to flourish under its recently appointed youth worker and its Chair is doing great work developing provision for young people in the many parishes which cannot afford a paid youth worker of their own, but its continuation depends on financial support from all the parishes of the Deanery. The

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proceeds of the Spring Fair in 2022 went to Youth Inc. it is hoped to hold the Fair again in 2024, with the proceeds again going to Youth Inc.

More people have been trained for the Mental Health First Aid Group in the Deanery.

Anne Parry-Smith retired from the post of Deanery secretary at the end of 2022 after 7 years and we are all very grateful to Anne for her dedication and commitment to the Deanery during that time. Michael Younger, who filled the role of Deanery Treasurer for over 5 years, also stood down in December. Michael made the Deanery finances, which had previously been opaque, clear for everyone to understand. He also held the finances together during the difficult period of Covid.

Not all parishes within the Deanery have been able to pay their parish share in full following the Covid outbreak and it seems unlikely we will get back to 100% collection in the foreseeable future. This has consequences for the Deanery. Our only source of income is interest earned on our reserves, which during the period of low interest rates was insufficient to cover our day to day expenses. The Deanery is very grateful to those parishes like Linton which even in hard financial times meet their commitment to the Diocese in full.

Andrew Gore, Deanery Synod representative for Linton and Deanery Lay Chair.

9. REPORTS FROM GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

The following are reports from Church activities, including some services. Thanks to all those who have contributed reports. The text has been left in the original style provided by the author. The named individual can provide further information about any aspect.

9.1. BEACON YOUTH TRUST REPORT

The following is an extract from the BYT end of year report from Cynthia Mukoko, Youth Development Worker:

‘Beacon Youth Trust (BYT) has engaged **315 young people in total** from April 2022 to March 2023 with **172 being regular participants** who have attended BYT Youth clubs and activities in the community or school more than once. This has been achieved through **515 face to face youth hours** including youth clubs, 1:1 mentoring, alternative education provision (art, music and home cooking), holiday activities, and detached in schools and in the community. It has taken a dedicated team of **4 members of staff**, a board of Trustees, **29 volunteers** and support from partners and funders.

We have worked with Creative communities to deliver creative craft sessions which took place during the spring term. In partnership with the Anglia Ruskin University through Romsey Mill, an 8-week self-development programme from May to June engaging 20 young people online and face-to-face was delivered.

Beginning of the summer term young people from Linton nominated by BYT Youth Workers were recognized and acknowledged at the Youth Leadership Awards hosted by Romsey Mill. They received awards in front of an audience of 100+ people including their family and friends.

We also trialed new activities like basketball following the sessions at Linton Heights Junior School. Our Youth Development Worker identified a group of young people who enjoy basketball. This inspired the idea to trial basketball sessions during the summer holidays. There was a lot of interest, even from the older youths. 12 young people participated and we look to develop that once a volunteer basketball coach has been recruited.

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We were involved in the planning and delivery of The Queen's jubilee event in Linton where we were responsible for some of the children and young people's entertainment and activities with the help of 26 volunteers and 2 members of staff. We had 6 face painting stations, served teas and coffees to parents that were waiting and managed zorbing balls activities in the recreational ground.

End of 2022 our lead youth worker suffered from a family bereavement, leading to a period of time of absence for 2 months. The number of hours of delivery was affected but the rest of the youth work team and volunteers stayed committed and flexible to ensure that as many sessions as possible were still able to continue and that young people were able to access youth work support.

Beginning of 2023 Emma Slater, the youth support Worker moved on to lead Youth Work in Cambourne so recruitment for a new youth support worker is in progress.

It has been a year since the joint Churches together project was relaunched. This project is about local Churches in Linton and surrounding areas together with BYT uniting to work together to create a community of young Christians in the village. There is a weekly fellowship, bi-monthly youth church service, a youth band and 23 young people have attended both. They have explored biblical topics, had open discussions, prayed for each other, built strong relationships and they continue grow together in Christ.

The following paragraphs describe how two young people have benefitted from BYT.

** Sarah and James are not the real names of these young people.*

Sarah* has been involved with Beacon Youth Trust (BYT) since she was in Primary school at Linton Heights Junior School. She then, later, became a more regular attendee from April 2022 participating in the afterschool youth clubs and holiday activities. Her school referred her to us for more support, 1:1 mentoring support due to some challenges in school. She said she found school challenging because of the pressures of school work and having to stay concentrated. She also struggles with managing friendship groups and building positive relationships but her favourite times are when she goes on trips with her friends during half term/ holidays with BYT. Our Youth Workers have developed positive relationships with her mother and her head of year. They work together to give her the best support.

Sarah is very good at cooking, baking and cleaning so her 1:1 session has developed over the months. She is now doing a Bronze accredited Home Cooking award and she shares what she makes in those sessions with her family and friends reflecting her growth in confidence and positive progress. She would like to someday start her own baking business to share her passion and skills with the community.

In her own words Sarah said "I like that I can have someone to talk to whenever something happens. I feel safe, comfortable and free when I am here (BYT) and the toast is amazing."

James* has been involved in BYT activities since the summer of 2022. He was not a regular attendee until he was referred to BYT because of a managed move to another school which took 3 months +. The school wanted him to be in an environment he could improve his social skills since he was being educated offsite while waiting to be moved to another school. His first time attending a youth club he was very anxious but after a while we have seen him become very confident in interacting with others and building friendships. He even gets to the youth club very early out of excitement, and he looks forward to the evenings he is able to attend. Being a part of the youth clubs has helped him meet new people and develop his social skills even though he struggles with meeting new people he

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has improved tremendously. James will now be starting to receive 1:1 support with the new Youth Support Worker and we look forward to working with him and seeing him flourish.'

We are grateful for the partnership with Romsey Mill. As the official employer of the Beacon Youth Trust's youth worker, they took the lead in recruitment and also provide valuable management, networking and training support.

The Trustees from St Mary's are Hannah Foote, David Watts, Michael Wilcockson and Hugh Paton (treasurer), along with Stephen Munday (chair/secretary), Daniel Gilbert and Alasdair McBean from Linton Free Church.

9.2. BELL RINGERS

Ringling has continued over the past year with regular ringling for the 10am Sunday service and on Wednesday evenings for the weekly practice. Following a slight dip in numbers after the pandemic, we have benefitted from a ringer moving into the village as well as encouraging steps being taken by two new learners in recent months. Ringling stays at a more basic level, but the standard of this ringling is still high as evidenced by our recent triumph in our first match of the Gipson Trophy, a friendly striking competition involving other villages in the area. The year also saw us mark the death of the Queen with the ringling of fully-muffled bells over the 10 days following the announcement; a huge thank you to all involved.

We are always on the lookout for new learners, or for new ways to share what we do with the wider community. If you are interested in finding out more please contact our secretary Sue Ellis on sue.ellis@stmaryslinton.org.uk

Stephen Croxall
Tower Captain

9.3. EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Events committee has continued to run events across the past year. Our monthly coffee mornings are well supported. We have also had events such as a Seder meal, a play entitled Whiteblade, a harvest supper, the Hadstock Silver Band concert, a diary date raffle, a New Year's Eve party, an afternoon tea with the film Waterlight, an afternoon tea with a talk by Tim Breitmeyer and a games afternoon. We have also provided refreshments at special services such as Remembrance Day, the Carol service and at Paul's Collation service. The aim of the Events committee is to enhance the social life of the church and to cover the costs of running any event. We are very pleased to let you know that this year we have managed to make a surplus of over £4,000 for church funds. Thank you to our supporters and those who willingly offer cakes and other food when required.

Charlotte Ellis, Chair

9.4. FLOWER MINISTRY

This year we have four weddings booked and another yet to be confirmed. I am pleased to say that two of our arrangers have been asked to do the flowers at three of them.

We are blessed to have such talented arrangers within St Mary's and all will be doing a flower arrangement to celebrate the Coronation of Charles III on May 6th.

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I do hope that you enjoy the many floral arrangements that are displayed around the church. Last year I mentioned the cost of flowers and like everything else, these have gone up too. If you would like to give a donation or contribute towards the costs please let Sue Ellis know.

We are always looking for new people to join us so if you feel that you would like to give it a go, please speak to me.

Nanette Blackmore, Verger and one of your flower arrangers
nanette.blackmore@stmaryslinton.org.uk

9.5. LINTON C E INFANT SCHOOL

School life and wellbeing

As most of you will be aware, we were all delighted with the 'Good' judgement we were awarded after the school was inspected last July. We were in a strong position, with teachers feeling secure in their lead subjects/areas enabling them to talk about their practice with confidence and knowledge. This was a fantastic springboard to carry us into a new academic year.

From the start of the Autumn term until now, we have experienced a very high proportion of staff absence, owing to legitimate and varied reasons. For a small school, the impact is significant. This has led to a greater strain on teachers and TAs needing to cover and it has been an exhausting time for many. Despite the situation the school has kept the children safe and flourishing in their learning; a testament to such a strong team of staff.

Children continue to be well supported. Provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), Pupil Premium (PP), and those with English as an Additional Language (EAL), and everyone in between are being well provided for and encouraged to achieve the best of their potential. We have good pastoral one-to-one therapies in place and a new sensory room, all of which support the mental health and wellbeing of our children. With so many children needing additional help, (34 Pupil Premium and 11 on the SEND register), the level of care we are able to provide, is something of which the Infant School is very proud.

Every member of staff was gifted an Easter posy of flowers, presented in decorated jam jars with a personal handwritten Easter Blessing. These were put together by myself, Jacqui Burge and Cathy Watts and were given on behalf of everyone at St Mary's. The staff loved them.

Curriculum

The curriculum continues to be rich and varied.

We have a new School Improvement and Development Plan in place for the year with six areas of foci. We have a Governor version, a parent version and even a children's version of it, so that everyone feels part of being involved in helping the school to achieve our vision.

We continue to see the Mastery in Maths develop further, reading and phonics benefiting from new approaches and a raised profile. The embedding of the new Emmanuel project for RE is going well and we have been presented with the new framework for SIAMS (School Inspection for Anglican and Methodist School) and continue to work closely with our Representative at the Diocese. Assessment has also been a focus across all areas and we have been looking at ways we can further improve our tools for measuring progress.

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Other activities and trips help to enrich the curriculum. The RA Art Competition has been one of the things which the whole school entered again this year. The school has enjoyed book theme days and the return of school trips like the Christmas pantomime in Haverhill, a visit to the Sedgwick Museum in Cambridge, and most recently a most wonderful performance of shadow puppetry and live music enjoyed by the Year 2 children at Stapleford Granary.

Governing Body

We managed to fill the Parent Governor Vacancy very quickly; Sian Payne took up her role in September and has been a valuable addition to the team.

Michael Younger will be stepping down as Foundation Governor in July. Michael has been a member of the Governing Body for many years and has brought so much to his role. He has been heavily involved in many areas of Governor responsibilities, sitting on various committees and panels over the time he has been with the school. Michael is both a professional and supportive friend to many Governors and staff and we will be sorry to see him go...but not completely!...Michael has very kindly agreed with me to sit as an Associate Governor, as his broader experience in Education will be very valuable to us on an as and when basis. I would like to take this opportunity to express huge thanks to Michael.

As a C E Infant School, eight Foundation Governors are nominated by St Mary's PCC out of a total of fourteen governors. The other six are Jacqui Burge, Katherine Croxall, Moire Jarritt, Hannah Foote, Cathy Watts and Michael Wilcockson.

A good level of monitoring has been maintained despite the problem with staff absence. I very much feel we are in good communication with staff and that Governors are very much in touch with how the school is progressing and what their responsibilities are as 'Critical Friends'. Governors have dedicated much time and energy to attending training, Committee meetings, panels and visiting staff; we have much for which to thank them.

Budget

The school has been struggling with a deficit for the last three years, which is not uncommon given the broader picture. However, we have suffered particularly with low intake numbers, which is the biggest thing which has negatively impacted the budget. We have continued to monitor the budget closely and the financial team has done a really good job to do all they can to keep costs down wherever possible. We hope that with new housing in Linton and surrounding areas that this will change and we will see an upward turn in applications for 2024.

We are about to launch a Facebook page to help broaden marketing for the school. There are still people in our locality who believe the school to be at capacity! We are also going to make some additions to the school website, our 'shop window', and headline some of the many positive comments made by parents and quotes from the Ofsted report.

The growing popularity of clubs and the offer of before and after school clubs has been very successful and has been a major contributor of income for the school. The PTFA also continues to raise much needed funds, which go directly towards things like trips for the children.

Nicola Collard
Chair of Governors

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Friday Church

Since the scaffolding went up in church, Sarah Thorne and I have been bringing Friday Church to the school building every week. While it's a shame that the children miss coming to the church building, it has worked well and has been lovely to be celebrating and learning together within their environment. A positive experience. We will be back in church after the Easter break.

Up until December in the Autumn term we told bible stories to demonstrate every one of the Fruits of the Spirit, which are the school values. Over the spring term after the story of creation and new beginnings, we went through the Old Testament and talked about people who were chosen to do special jobs for God, like Noah, Abraham, Samuel, Elijah and Moses. We even had a visit from Brian the Lion, mascot for the Linton Children's Book Festival!

Friday Church continues to be such a joy. We feel that the children are remembering and learning so much. They are given space to wonder and contemplate and to follow up a related challenge for the week. Questioning and discussion are products of some of the seeds sown! As is their nature, the children are wonderfully profound and at the same time beautifully simple in their thinking. We have a lot of fun too, enthusiastic song and prayer and help in telling the stories is something that the children really look forward to every week.

Nicola Collard LLM

9.6. CHURCH LINKS WITH LINTON HEIGHTS JUNIOR SCHOOL

The Heights held their Harvest celebrations at church for the first time in a while, which was lovely, Michael Wilcockson and I welcomed and ended with a prayer and blessing at both services. The school choir often sings at the bigger festivals and services at church as we are still in close contact with Emma Mason who leads music at the Heights.

Assemblies at school have still not been resumed. The head teacher has always been very open and supportive of the idea. However, it has simply been due to a lack of availability and time for those with skills to lead an assembly.

Nicola Collard LLM

9.7. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY

Rooted in God. Rooted in Community; We believe our ministry amongst the children of Linton and their families demonstrates both!

We support families from pre-natal stage to age 13 and aim to encourage families to make the journey of faith together.

Brief highlights from the past year include:

- Baby Steps course - a five-week baby spirituality course was held in November with another planned for May/June
- Tots in Tow - our 'open door' event for anyone caring for babies, toddlers or pre-school children continues to thrive
- Christenings. Rev Michael and Gill Powell have continued to work with families enquiring about christening, with 5 baptisms in the past year.

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- Linton Infants School 'Friday Church' - we have managed a full year without Covid breaks! Refreshments are now served to parents before the children arrive, which has been a very successful move.
- The children's area was well-used until the scaffolding was erected. We have secured funding from the Anderson Benefaction to purchase screens. These will be used to display children's art work and also to promote christenings and appropriate events.
- Messy Church - we celebrated 10 years of Messy Church in January. Sessions held in the village hall have been very well-attended.
- Make Lunch - the team have continued to serve a hot healthy meal during school holidays. We have been approached by Cambridgeshire County Council to register for the Holiday Activities and Food scheme, which will unlock funding for children whose family receives benefits.
- Platinum Jubilee - We were overwhelmed by the response at our activity tent during the Party in the Park, celebrating the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the throne.
- Christmas - we invited the whole Linton community to join our Advent Windows journey through the Christmas story. Books were given to all the children at Linton Infants School and those who attended the crib service or Christmas services.
- Easter - Linton Churches Together Easter trail brought people of all ages together. We also had a visit from a donkey, who appeared to enjoy the attention!

Thank you to all those who have played a part in the ministry with children and their families; to those who have played, baked, glued, washed up, encouraged and prayed for families. Please will you continue to hold the children and families of Linton in prayer, and those who work with them, as we move into the next year.

We seek to see where God is at work and join in!

Sarah Thorne on behalf of Children and Families Team



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9.8. TOGETHER WITH GOD

This more informal, contemporary service continues to add to the rich pattern of services we offer at St Mary's. Many of our congregation appreciate that a great deal of time and effort goes into preparing for this monthly worship, and the services have always been hugely appreciated and enjoyed by those who have attended.

During the year Nicola Collard felt it right to step down and Lindi Kent has taken up the reins in helping to plan and deliver the TWG services. I thank Nicola for all her hard work, creativity and wisdom; she is greatly missed.

Our focus has been on making the services accessible to new families whilst offering biblical teaching on a theme and allowing a good mixture of worship songs and more traditional hymns. Over the year we have continued to build on the good relationships built with our Tots, Messy Church, Make Lunch and baptism families.

We are very grateful to our pianists, to Jacqui, Tom and Russell, and our various singers and musicians who really add to the worship. Together they provide mostly contemporary, reflective and uplifting worship. We enjoy hearing other instruments played from time to time and the number of singers in this group has increased too! Huge thanks to them for helping to make our service what it is.

I'm very grateful to Sue Filby who has joined the team and who is full of creative ideas and so willing to share her expertise and faith during these services.

One feature has become the 'takeaway', a small token to take home as a reminder of the service and its message.

With a new incumbent there are plans afoot to widen the team with a focus on mission and outreach to the village.

Two recent standout moments; as a congregation we were able to wish Leslie a very happy 100th birthday during a service and Bella from the infant school came to celebrate her 'Courageous Advocacy' trophy and certificate which she had



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just been awarded from the diocese. She is the first pupil to gain this award; it was a special moment to have her and her family with us and to strengthen the ties with our church school.

TWG continues to be a service which allows for much creativity, inclusiveness and deep reflection in simple form. We are very much invested in how we shape these services and thankful for God's guidance and blessing each month.

Cathy Watts LLM

9.9. SPACE FOR THE SPIRIT

Space for the Spirit has continued to provide a short monthly space for peace and reflection. We meet by Zoom on the third Tuesday of most months at 7.30 pm for around 40 minutes and usually around 25 people attend.

Space for the Spirit takes the form of a set of Reflections, rather than a standard service. Each set of reflections contains a mix of secular and spiritual ideas, with music, poetry, readings, videos and images to think about. Every month we take a theme, with topics during the previous year including Doors, Stones, Listening, Power, Feet, Rain and Healing.

Space for the Spirit seeks to provide a calm, quiet and reflective time at the end of the day, with anyone of any age welcome to attend. You are not required to actively participate, and there is no chat afterwards. Do get in touch at sfts@stmaryslinton.org.uk for more information or for your name to be added to the monthly circulation list.

Molly Warrington

9.10. WARM HUB

We have run the warm hub in St Mary's Church Pavilion every Thursday from November 2022 to March 2023. It has been open from 10.30 -2pm (officially 11-2). The first hour had good attendance with up to with up to 13 people, many of whom stayed after the 10am service, but there were only 3 people attending for most of the opening hours including 1 person who used it as a flexible working space.

Volunteers and visitors were asked to complete a questionnaire in March in order to assess the impact and value of the initiative. The people who came enjoyed the facility and opinions vary on whether it should continue.

The volunteers enjoyed their roles, made new friends and were always willing to help. Some brought in soup, cakes or toasted sandwiches and this has been really appreciated by all. Everyone enjoyed talking to the attendees and we had 3 or 4 volunteers each session. We played games, did puzzles, some brought their knitting, poems to read, quizzes to solve. There were enough people on the rota so that no-one felt overburdened and there will no doubt be others that would join the team.

Having talked through the logistics we feel that there may be a need for a warm hub but it needs to be more central in the village and in a neutral environment. Some people may have been put off by the church setting and also the name as it could be seen as a comment that some people cannot afford their heating. Community café might be more appropriate and this name has worked well in other villages where there are fewer overall facilities but the café is always busy and very warm.

Advertising the facility would need to be really good to reach the people for whom it was intended and the central locality would also encourage this.

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There does not seem to be a comprehensive list of this type of facility across the village and it would be good to have this and advertise it so that people are aware of all that goes on. For example Nichols Court and Chalklands have coffee mornings; there have been warm hubs at both Churches and the Cricket/football pavilion; the library has different events and there are craft days etc. Once we know how many different things are happening, it might help with a decision as to whether there is an appetite for a “Hub” next year. Perhaps The Linton News could be approached to help?

The volunteers would be happy to continue with a centralised facility which had good uptake.

Liz Hunt

9.11. MOTHERS’ UNION

The Linton Branch of the Mothers’ Union normally meets on the third Monday of the month, at 7.45pm in the Church Pavilion. Everyone is welcome to attend. The programme for the year is on the Church website.

In May 2022 we enjoyed an entertaining talk ‘Make Do and Mend in the War Years’ and heard about the growth and summer travels of the Southend Children’s Choir from Katherine Fisher in June. July was time for our annual picnic in the Churchyard and in August we successfully repeated our MU run coffee morning, now a regular fixture in the church coffee morning schedule. Our September meeting was cancelled as it fell on the same day as the Queen’s funeral. In October we were treated to a fascinating talk about the ‘Female Ancestry of Jesus’. November was the AGM. Our Christmas party was found to clash with a concert in Church and was moved to early January. The current year started well with a return visit by Katherine Fisher to talk about the Choir at Christmas when they give several weekend performances at Claridges. Nanette Blackmore gave us ‘An Alternative History of St Mary’s: a Verger’s Eye View’, then Kathy Bishop shared a Lent mediation focusing on Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem and in April we were privileged to hear the background to Lindi Kent’s decision to train as an LLM.

Members offer each other practical support and prayer at difficult times in our lives and aim to uphold the worldwide Mothers’ Union Vision. Present in 84 countries, our members are not all mothers, or even all women. They are single, married, parents, grandparents, or young adults just beginning to express their social conscience. MU provides a network through which they can serve Christ in their own community. If you would like to know more about the Mothers’ Union, please don’t hesitate to contact Margaret Smith, Denise Thurston or Sue Mudge or check out www.mothersunion.org.

Sue Mudge

9.12. MUSIC MINISTRY

It is always interesting to look back and see what has been achieved over the musical and liturgical year. The choir sings regularly on Sundays for the Parish Eucharist, but also takes part in special services during the year e.g., for Remembrance and Advent and when requested for weddings and funerals. The music group provides for the Together With God service.

Several members of the choir sang (and helped with the administration on the day) in the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) choirs Festival at Ely Cathedral in May. Everyone appreciated the chance to make music together at this Festival after a long interval and it was encouraging to have a large and appreciative congregation. Music for the service was taken from the RSCM publication “God’s church for God’s world.” This contains much useful material which is being put to good use by the choir in services in Linton.

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David was Team Leader for the Ely RSCM during the difficult pandemic period and prior to that chair of the previous RSCM committee. Anne had been Secretary as well. A presentation was made to us both at the cathedral as we have now stepped back from these roles after several years' service.

Being equidistant from Ely and Bury St Edmunds Cathedrals is helpful, and several of us sang in another RSCM Choral Festival this time at St Edmundsbury Cathedral in October.

There was a large and enthusiastic choir for the Deanery Ascension Day Service. It was lovely to welcome singers from other parishes in Granta Deanery. It was good too to sing at the Patronal Evensong in Linton in October. The Carol Service attracted a very large congregation despite the poor weather and the earlier World Cup Final!

Other special occasions during the year have included the Collation Service for our new Rector in February.

We were very sad to report the death of our long serving and faithful choir member, Alan Clarkson at the end of 2022. The choir sang at his funeral and will play a major part at his Thanksgiving Service in April.

The choir has coped with great patience with the many changes in seating arrangements while the lighting works in church have been carried out. Friday rehearsals have been held at our house which has eased the situation and we will be glad to have our music room back! We are already appreciating the enormous improvement in the lighting in the chancel.

We have been pleased to welcome new choir members Anne and Tom, along with Lawrence. Being a fairly small group means being flexible in the music we sing. A couple of the altos have been exploring what it is like to sing the tenor line with Lawrence. If anyone else would like to sing in the choir, do let me know.

We are enjoying exploring the repertoire in the OUP Easy Flexible Anthem Book (surely a misnomer) and the OUP Flexible Anthem Book, the latter a very generous donation from the Clarkson family in Alan's memory.

The Music Group of singers and instrumentalists continues to provide the music for the Together with God Service and is led by Jacqui Burge, Russell Taylor or Tom Dodd.

I want to thank all musicians for their continued support during the year. According to St Augustine, in a very poor paraphrase, those who sing pray twice – and surely this also applies to instrumentalists as well. Preparation for worship takes time, prayer and commitment as well as disciplined practice. Unusually for a parish church, much of the music we use in our services is composed in the 21st Century with a significant representation of women composers, including Farrell, Rizza, McDowell and Forbes le Strange, whose anthem for the King – “The mountains shall bring peace” we shall be singing over the coronation period.

If you would like to donate to support the work of the music ministry do talk to me. Sets of music cost significant sums of money – contemporary music being more expensive.

David Parry-Smith, Director of Music, dom@stmaryslinton.org.uk

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9.13. PASTORAL GROUP

The group is made up of 8 members, all committed to extending the kindness and compassion to our community whilst upholding safe working practices. We usually meet, as a whole group, every two months to discuss the visits/contact we have made, support each other and share the responsibilities of extending the love beyond the boundaries of services at St Mary's. Pastoral partners have been introduced for the group members; the idea is to encourage contact with a named partner for support in addition to that gained from the whole group meetings.

The group discuss our training needs at each meeting. We undertake the safeguarding checks and complete the training required by the Diocese. In the last year we have agreed and reviewed a risk assessment to ensure continuity and safer practice. We also agreed that a signed and dated photo identification card could be made available to anyone who wanted to carry one.

Pastoral visits are made in response to requests from clergy or through family, friends or neighbours. The nature and frequency of contact is individually tailored to meet the needs of the individual. The group has collectively MANY years of experience. We continue to contact some people by phone, arrange face-to-face visits, Home Communion visits are offered too. It is wonderful to see the regular visits and communion happening at both Nichols Court and Symonds House again.

It is our desire to represent the church in our role, maintaining connections, develop relationships and sharing the love of Christ with those we visit.

Sue Filby, sue.filby@stmaryslinton.org.uk

9.14. THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

"The Friends" is a secular charity, formed to help with the expenses associated with maintaining the church building, its fixtures and fittings. Currently there are about 80 members who pay a membership fee each year. In addition to a modest programme of social events we also administer the funds bequeathed by Richard Godel and make available any surplus from them in accordance with his wishes.

Historically the Friends have funded all of the costs associated with maintenance identified at the Quinquennial Inspection (QI) enabling the PCC to use their funds for other purposes.

Since April 2022 we have paid £83,000 for repairs highlighted by the QI, the lighting project and redecoration, and will soon be paying a further £23,000. This breaks down as follows: approximately £25,000 for QI work, £61,000 for lighting and £20,000 for redecoration. It is wonderful to see the improvement these works have brought to the church but it is unlikely that we will be in a position to offer a similar level of support for quite some time without a significant increase in our own resources.

Now that the church events committee is so active it may be that Friends events are less prominent in the life of the church in the future, though we will be hosting our traditional summer garden teas this year. Dates to be announced and listed on our new website at

<https://www.friendsofstmaryslinton.org.uk/> which we hope will help in recruiting more members

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from the church congregation and the wider community and which provides an easy way to donate to us!

We have sadly lost a few members of long standing this year, including the Venerable Alan Clarkson who, together with the late Dr Bruce Conochie, was instrumental in establishing the Friends in its current form as a charity in its own right.

I should like to thank all our committee for their work on behalf of the Friends, particularly our Treasurer, Mr Hugh Paton, who manages our finances so ably and Dr Margaret Cox who has recently stepped down as Secretary after ten years of cheerful commitment and hard work and latterly considerable patience with me. A hard act to follow but I am delighted to report that Mrs Judith Tonry has agreed to take over in that role, to be confirmed along with all our committee positions at our AGM on 17th May in the church pavilion.

We always welcome new members and encourage all who value the church building to join us.

Andrew King, Chair, The Friends of St Mary's Linton.

9.15. THE MONDAY GANG IN THE CHURCHYARD

Despite the weather challenges of the past 12 months – a prolonged drought and high temperatures in the summer and exceptionally low temperatures in the winter – the trees, shrubs and smaller plants in the churchyard seem to have survived. The spring flowers, the aconites, snowdrops, daffodils and wood anemones have done well and the cow parsley or St Anne's lace will shortly take over. It remains to be seen how many summer flowers will reappear and how well the grass will do.

The lime trees, lining the wall along Church Lane, had always been pollarded every other year. However, a tree officer had decided this should be done every three years, so the Monday Gang did not pollard in the winter of 2021/2022. The growth of branches was thus much greater by last autumn/winter and too much for our volunteers to be able to tackle. Furthermore, the branches were found to be fouling the telephone lines to houses in Church Lane – a Health and Safety issue. Fortunately, there was enough money in the Parish Council's churchyard fund to pay for the pollarding to be done and, after much delay it was carried out, just before the trees were due to sprout again.

There are now only four members of the Monday Gang, all enthusiastic and long-standing, but not all able to carry out the all tasks we did 20 years ago. We DESPERATELY need more volunteers. Working in the churchyard on Monday afternoons is enjoyable and would suit anyone who loves nature and has a few hours to spend – the recently retired for instance.

Margaret Cox

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Annual Parish Vestry Meeting
followed by
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 8th May 2022 at 11.30am
in the Church

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

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1. AGENDA FOR 8TH MAY 2022

Part A - Vestry Meeting

1. Prayers
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Vestry Meeting held on 23rd May 2021
3. Election of Churchwardens

Part B - Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 23rd May 2021
3. Matters Arising
4. Parochial Church Council Report 2021 - 2022
5. Financial Report followed by appointment of Independent Examiner
6. Electoral Roll Report
7. Fabric Report
8. Deanery Synod Report
9. Election of PCC Members
10. Reports from Groups and Activities
11. Churchwardens' Report
12. Questions from the floor
13. Closing Prayers

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2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH VESTRY MEETING, SUNDAY 23RD MAY 2021

The meeting held in the church, began with prayers at 11.15 and was chaired by Revd. Canon Dr Maggie Guite, Rector. Twenty-eight parishioners were present.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parishioners' Vestry Meeting of 11th October 2020 were accepted as a correct record. Note that annual meetings were deferred from April until October due to the COVID-19 pandemic and national lockdown.

Election of Churchwardens

Helene Evans, elected in 2018, had indicated her wish to stand down after 3 years. There were two nominations for Churchwarden: David Watts and Charlotte Ellis. They were unanimously elected for a year. David was first appointed in 2017.

David proposed a vote of thanks to Helene on behalf of everyone. He said that it had been a pleasure to work alongside Helene, a caring, faithful and spiritual person; during what had proved to be a difficult year due to the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic. Maggie Guite added that Helene and David had made a good team and had provided welcome support to her.

David Parry-Smith asked what was planned for the Archdeacon visitations in the light of continuing Covid-19 restrictions. Charlotte Ellis replied that she intended to book an online service for 7th June and so would be able to start officially after that date.

It was noted that at the March 2017 PCC meeting, members had agreed that the normal term of office for a churchwarden at St Mary's should revert to being 3 years, with the option of extending to a maximum of 6 years if wished; and still to be elected annually in line with the guidelines in the Churchwardens Measure 2001.

3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, SUNDAY 23RD MAY 2021

Apologies

Jacqui Burge, Sue Filby, Jo George, Charlotte and Mark Hayes, Sarah King, John and Sue Organ, Rachel Organ, John and Sarah Thorne, Richard Tonry.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 11th October 2020 were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising

There were none.

The reports presented to the meeting are summarised below and can be found on the church website www.stmaryslinton.org.uk. Look under Resources and APCM reports.

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Parochial Church Council Report April 2020 - March 2021

The PCC report for the delayed annual meeting held in October 2020 covered the twelve months from April 2019 - March 2020.

The Standing Committee met by Zoom on the scheduled PCC date in May 2020. The meeting was dominated by the effects of the national lockdown. The church was closed completely from late March - June 2020. It was then open only for private prayer which was also allowed during the next two lockdown periods of November 2020 and January - April 2021. The Ministry team put a lot of effort into devising ways of offering virtual worship using YouTube videos, Zoom, Facebook Live etc. Paper worship sheets were delivered to those unable to access online methods. The PCC met via Zoom for the remaining five of the six scheduled meetings during the year to March 2021. Regular agenda items included reports from the Rector and the PCC committees: Finance & Stewardship, Fabric, Children & Families and Events committees. Reports were also received from the Parish Safeguarding Officer, Ministry Team, St Mary's two Deanery Synod representatives and the Chair of Governors at Linton C E Infant School. Aspects from the seven objectives in the Mission Action Plan were included in discussions. Extending children and families ministry was a particular focus. David Parry-Smith, Lay-chair, said that conducting PCC business by Zoom had been a real challenge for members.

Financial Review to 31st December 2020

Income of £114,986 and expenditure of £113,929 resulted in a small surplus for the year. However, Sue Ellis, Treasurer, noted that about £6,000 of income from Gift Aid refunds and grants related to 2019 and if that were removed, the year would have ended with a deficit figure. The largest proportion of expenditure is the parish share, for clergy costs and a contribution to diocesan costs. Church running expenses and repairs were lower than 2019. Some church members had generously made one-off donations, set up standing orders or transferred to the Parish Giving Scheme which allowed regular giving to continue even when services in church were suspended. In spite of this, the income from giving was lower than in 2019. David Parry-Smith, chair of the F&S committee, said that this was not sustainable longer term as income was not covering expenditure. David asked people to consider whether they might afford to donate more to the church in recognition and thanksgiving for God's love.

The accounts were proposed, seconded and accepted by the meeting. Maggie Guite thanked Sue Ellis for her considerable skill as Treasurer. Sue Ellis proposed that Kate Sergeant be re-appointed as the independent examiner. This was seconded and agreed by the meeting.

Electoral Roll Report

The report from Jo George, Electoral Roll officer, stated that three people had been removed from the Roll and three new names added so the number remained 129. The Electoral Roll was completely revised in March 2019.

Fabric Report

Richard Tonry's report listed work undertaken and described a number of projects in progress. It had been difficult to liaise with contractors during lockdown periods, causing delays. Installing broadband in church was crucial to allow services to be streamed, instead of using the Rector's phone and 4G connection. Digging a trench for the phone line had been a tedious saga of missed visits and frustration. It was then expected in May 2021. The delay had also affected the Parish Council plan to resurface the churchyard paths and had caused that to be postponed. Maggie Guite thanked Fabric Committee members.

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Deanery Synod Report

Andrew Gore and David Parry-Smith had been elected to represent Linton on the Deanery Synod from the APCM in October 2020 until 31st May 2023. The Synod met twice via Zoom. In addition to the ongoing business discussions about finance and other deanery matters including vacancies, one-off presentations are included. ‘Getting to know you – Sharing a view of your Deanery’ involved two Diocesan Development officers and allowed parishes to describe how they had adapted to the pandemic and their anticipated challenges for the future. At the second meeting, David Parry-Smith gave an update on Mental Health First Aid with a view to a group of First Aiders being set up in the deanery. Linton involvement is strong as Michael Younger continues to be Deanery Treasurer, Anne Parry-Smith acts as secretary and Andrew Gore is Lay-chair.

Two additional points were mentioned at the APCM. Andrew Gore said that the Deanery Pastoral Plan, involving consultation with each parish and benefice, had been delayed due to the pandemic. David Parry-Smith referred to the ‘Living in Love and Faith’ course, for which discussion groups were about to start in Linton, and said that our views would eventually feed into General Synod discussions.

Election of Parochial Church Council members

Continuing members on the PCC were confirmed as:

Elected in 2019: Jacqui Burge, Gill Powell.

Elected in 2020: Sue Ellis, Sue Mudge, Patricia Scofield, Michael Younger.

Churchwardens (ex-officio): David Watts, Charlotte Ellis – replacing Helene Evans.

Richard Tonry, elected in 2018, had served the three year term of office. Jo George, Judy Nightingale (both elected 2019) and Jackie Hall (2020) also wished to resign. Another vacancy was created by Charlotte Ellis (2019) becoming churchwarden and one place had remained unfilled – giving six places.

The electoral roll number allows for up to 12 elected members. Six nominations had been received for six places: from Molly Warrington, Helene Evans, Eduardo Andrade, John Organ, Sarah King and Richard Tonry. These six people were elected to the PCC. The requirement for retiring members to stand down for at least a year had been removed from the updated Church Representation Rules 2020.

Maggie Guite thanked the retiring members for their contribution to the PCC.

Reports from Committees and Organisations

Reports were included in the 2021 APCM booklet in paper form and on the website. In addition photos of activities were submitted and presented on the screen in church during the meeting. They were received from the following groups:

Beacon Youth Trust; Bell ringers; Events committee; Flower ministry, Linton C E Infant School; Church links with Linton Heights Junior School; Children and Families ministry; Together with God and Space for the Spirit services; Mothers Union; Music Ministry; Pastoral group; The Friends of St. Mary’s; The Monday Gang.

Additional comments were made and some questions taken from those present at the meeting.

Michael Younger had concerns about the Beacon Youth Trust in light of another change of youth worker. He wondered how the work could be made more prominent, wondered if we had rather a low profile as a church, suggested more involvement may be necessary, queried whether any needs were not being met and encouraged people to pray for a suitable

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replacement. In response Maggie Guite said that affordable housing in the area remained an issue. David Watts said that the Trust had now acquired the building in the recreation ground, formerly Linton Action for Youth (LA4Y) and it was well placed to reach a particular section of the community in line with the Parish Council funding. The Trust is grateful for the Romsey Mill partnership which should help recruit another youth worker and also cover some of the work in the meantime. Gill Powell requested that another Trustee be sought from St Mary's when Maggie Guite leaves.

David Parry-Smith enquired why the Infant School budget had decreased. Michael Younger, as a governor, explained that the budget is allocated according to numbers of children. The number of children in Year 1 is fewer than normal with only 48 in the year group; yet the school has an experienced group of staff and incurs the same costs. Funding levels for state schools in Cambridgeshire have been much lower than other areas for years, in spite of repeated representation to governments. Michael suggested that demographics used were not always up to date and that people could write to the MP.

Michael Younger noted that there were reports published in the APCM booklet from 14 different areas of activity. He thanked Sue Mudge, PCC secretary, for compiling the document and also the people who wrote those reports, which he said demonstrated great commitment and spirituality from relatively few numbers of people.

Rector's Report

Maggie Guite's report was published on the website alongside the APCM report.

In her spoken report Maggie wished to thank all those involved in church life, who are too many to name, but include the churchwardens, ministry team, clergy and LLM colleagues. The October 2020 APCM was 7 months after lockdown started. Recent months have demonstrated plenty of community engagement which necessitated learning new skills in order to offer worship on a variety of platforms. Maggie thanked everyone for showing a great spirit of 'carrying on', for resilience and forward thinking. The Community Help Team filled an immediate need in the village along with Sarah Thorne's Children and Families work, including delivering Boxes of Hope and preparing for Linton Make Lunch Club.

Entering a Vacancy will inevitably create more work for some but Vacancies can be a time of growth. The last six years have developed the 'Church in the Community, Community in the Church' vision. Life in the Spirit is all about connecting – connecting with God, connecting with each other and with the whole human community, and connecting more deeply with Creation in which the Spirit moves and breathes. Maggie ended with the plea 'Let's keep on keeping on in faith, hope and love, and show appreciation for each other as we do so.'

There were no questions for Maggie.

In conclusion, David Watts thanked Maggie on behalf of church members. It was her last APCM in Linton and as a Rector, following a peculiar year of great strain. It was Maggie's responsibility to shepherd us through it, using her ministry motivated by love for all people, shaped by a deep awareness of the fragility of human nature. Plans are being developed for Maggie's last service on 4th July and a social occasion on 23rd July. David thanked Malcolm Guite for his ministry to us and also thanked the other clergy and LLM people who lead services.

The meeting ended in prayer at 12.35.

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4. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2021 - 2022

Administrative Information

St Mary's Church is situated in Church Lane, Linton. It is part of the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England. The correspondence address is 4 Bakers Lane, Linton, Cambridge, CB21 4NF. The registered charity number is 1138508.

PCC members who have served from the APCM in May 2021 until this report are:

<i>Incumbent</i>	Vacancy - The Revd Canon Dr Maggie Guite retired in July 2021 The Revd Michael Wilcockson, Curate from July 2019, Associate Priest November 2021	
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Charlotte Ellis David Watts	
<i>Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs)</i>	Sarah Thorne Cathy Watts	Children and Families Minister Safeguarding Officer
<i>Representatives to the Deanery Synod</i>	Andrew Gore David Parry-Smith	from October 2020 - 31.05.23 from October 2020 - 31.05.23
<i>Elected members</i>	Eduardo Andrade Jacqui Burge Sue Ellis Helene Evans Sarah King Sue Mudge John Organ Gill Powell Patricia Schofield Richard Tonry Molly Warrington Michael Younger	from APCM 2021 (left Linton/resigned) from APCM 2019 from APCM 2020 - Treasurer from APCM 2021 from APCM 2021 from APCM 2020 - Secretary from APCM 2021 from APCM 2019 from APCM 2020 from APCM 2021 from APCM 2021 from APCM 2020

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules, updated in 2020. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

The PCC of St Mary the Virgin has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Mary's Church and for the Pavilion adjacent to the church.

Numerical performance in 2021 - 2022

With the gradual easing of Covid restrictions throughout 2021, more people have returned to church. This is reflected in the numbers attending major festivals. At Easter roughly 70 people attended services over the Easter Eve and Easter Day. Numbers at Christmas Eve and

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Christmas Day were more than double what they had been the previous year with a significant number of new faces.

Our regular services have shown some improvement. The Sunday 8am congregation is back in size to what it was pre-pandemic. The 10am service has seen some growth in numbers with new faces but is still below pre-pandemic levels in size, a feature seen in many churches. In some instances we know that this is because individuals are clinically vulnerable and still shielding; in others age, time and restricted social interaction has produced a frailty which makes them unable to be with us. For these people the paper service copies and Zoom services are a tremendous boon. Thursday communions draw a faithful, regular number but not as large as previously. It has been a joy to resume our regular infant school services and return to regular communions at Nicholls Court. Services in Symonds House have yet to be restarted on a regular basis. Evening prayer on Fridays brings in a faithful few to reflect after the end of the working week.

Review of the year to April 2022

Extensive changes to our lives were experienced in the previous year due to the pandemic. Three separate lockdown periods and varying Covid-19 restrictions impacted on worship, church life and all other aspects of our being. Thanks to a good national vaccination programme, restrictions have gradually been eased since last May, in line with government and Church of England guidance, but life for many people is not yet back to how it was at the start of 2020. The omicron variant caused some concern in the winter. Covid measures were discussed at each PCC meeting and opinions expressed about appropriate actions.

Most aspects of worship have now been reinstated as face to face with the Sunday 10am service also being offered by Zoom. Printed worship information is still hand-delivered to around 20 households for use at home. Most church committees and planning groups continued to meet by Zoom throughout the year but recent meetings have been in person and generally welcomed by the participants. Covid restrictions were lifted nationally in late February. More chairs were replaced in the nave which had the advantage in creating the space for the children's area to be refurbished. Good ventilation was still maintained in the church and mask wearing became a personal choice; although we were still encouraged to be sensitive to other people's needs and concerns.

We were sad to say farewell to Revd. Canon Dr Maggie Guite in July, upon her retirement as Rector. Malcolm Guite also conducted a number of regular services for St Mary's and I certainly miss his sonnets which concluded his sermons. Maggie's last service was a very joyful celebration, organised outdoors to allow singing as well as maintaining social distancing. Even the heavy rain shower part way through did not detract too much from the celebratory atmosphere. An evening picnic in the churchyard later in July was well attended and enabled us to present Maggie with a number of gifts from the Team to show our appreciation of her ministry and to wish her and Malcolm a happy retirement.

Moving into **the Vacancy** presented an ongoing challenge of finding clergy to cover all the services. David Watts has been able to plan ahead and book visiting priests, including Archdeacon Alex, Bishop Dagmar and Bishop Stephen. We are especially grateful to Michael Wilcockson who has taken several services each month, including a range of additional services for Remembrance, the Advent / Christmas period and Easter time. Michael started the year as Curate and was licensed as Associate Priest by Archdeacon Alex in November.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

The PCC had five scheduled meetings and the Standing committee met or had email correspondence between PCC dates, to deal with specific items. Reports from committees were received at each meeting and the function and responsibilities of the PCC were carried out even though church life was in some respects still not normal. Various aspects of the seven objectives of The Mission Action Plan (adopted in 2017) are embedded within different PCC agenda items. However, lack of face to face meetings and disruption experienced by external businesses meant that some projects were slow to progress, particularly those related to the fabric of the church.

The PCC set up a sub-group at the July meeting to consider and compile ideas for the **Parish Profile**; the document used to inform and attract candidates interested in applying to be the new Rector. The five Team PCCs wrote their own part and Molly Warrington very nobly offered to put the whole document together, which then had to be approved by each PCC before sending it to Archdeacon Alex. The churchwardens provided information about the vacancy and appointment process at each subsequent PCC meeting.

Sarah Thorne and the **Children and Families** team have continued to engage with a number of local families who experience food poverty in school holidays. Boxes of hope were delivered when social restrictions were in force but the Linton Make Lunch Club has been able to meet weekly during holidays since last summer. This and other activities are described in section 9.7 and fund raising to support the ministry is ongoing.

The **Finance and Stewardship** committee monitors income and expenditure throughout the year and prepares the budget which is submitted for PCC approval in November. We are grateful to Sue Ellis, treasurer, for her work in keeping the accounts up to date and providing the appropriate information to the PCC. Maintaining and encouraging regular giving from church members is a particular concern and the role of stewardship officer is still vacant. We were grateful to people for the response to the Giving Day held in June. Inevitably, loyal supporters move away or die and newer members may not appreciate the amount of expenditure which is beyond our control. Regular giving including gift aid refunds does not currently cover the regular expenditure. We can dip into reserves in the short term but ultimately this situation cannot be sustained and the chance to develop other initiatives and areas of mission is limited. We achieved a small surplus this year due to generous additional donations and legacies. See section 5 for the Financial Review.

Every PCC meeting includes a report from **Cathy Watts, Safeguarding Officer**. All PCC members are required to be DBS checked and have taken online training. The PCC upholds the House of Bishops policies of ‘Promoting a Safer Church’ and ‘Protecting all God’s Children’. The Ely Diocesan website has an extensive safeguarding section. It includes a Parish Dashboard which gives excellent advice and allows us to ensure that we are compliant with current policies and procedures. The Dashboard uses a ‘RAG’ rating system – Red for urgent action, Amber for items in hand and Green for actions which have been accomplished. There is safeguarding information on the home page of St Mary’s website and also displayed in church.

Consideration of worship and spiritual matters is informed by the **Rector’s report** (pre-vacancy) and **Ministry Team** report. Weekday Advent Promise and Passiontide Promise services took place online. Advent and Lent study groups were a mixed offering of online or in person. Maggie instigated a number of groups last summer to study the ‘Living in Love and Faith’ course, as recommended by the Diocese and part of a national church initiative. It

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

raises some big questions about diversity and inclusivity within the church, looks at interpretation of Bible teaching, considers secular views and challenges our individual opinions. These are ongoing themes; supported by a sermon from Michael Wilcockson in the autumn and questionnaires completed by members with the results posted on the website. We say that we aim to be an inclusive church in the Parish Profile but what does that mean in practice and how do we demonstrate it?

Nicola Collard, **Chair of Governors at Linton C E Infant School**, submits a termly report to PCC meetings to inform members of school events and progress. Sue Filby resigned as a Foundation Governor when her term of office ended in the autumn and her place was filled by Katherine Croxall. The other Foundation Governors are Jacqui Burge, Hannah Foote, Moire Jarritt, Cathy Watts, Michael Wilcockson and Michael Younger. We nominate 8 Foundation Governors out of the total of 14 school governors. The PCC is very grateful to these people for their contribution to the governance and upholding the Christian ethos of our church school. See also section 9.5.

The **Fabric** committee reports on necessary repairs to the church building and pavilion in the short term as well as prepares proposals for longer term projects. The PCC is grateful to The Friends of St Mary's, a separate charity which funds a high proportion of the church repair and improvement work. See sections 7 and 9.13.

Reports are received from the two **Deanery Synod** representatives to inform PCC members of views and events within the wider area of the Granta Deanery. See section 8 for more information.

The PCC is grateful to the **Events committee** - see section 9.3. The committee continues to organise a variety of social activities such as the popular monthly Saturday coffee mornings, as well as making an invaluable contribution by providing hospitality after special services.

We commend Sue Filby for completing an ALM course in pastoral ministry, with particular emphasis for older people. We are currently very fortunate to have such a strong Ministry Team, in its widest sense, able to lead all aspects of our worship, guide us in our 'Rooted in God, Rooted in Community' vision and who do so largely without financial payment. We thank you for your care, love and time.

Sue Mudge
PCC Secretary

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5. FINANCIAL REVIEW TO 31ST DECEMBER 2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's, Linton

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, SORP 2005 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements – to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and – to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kate Sagwt

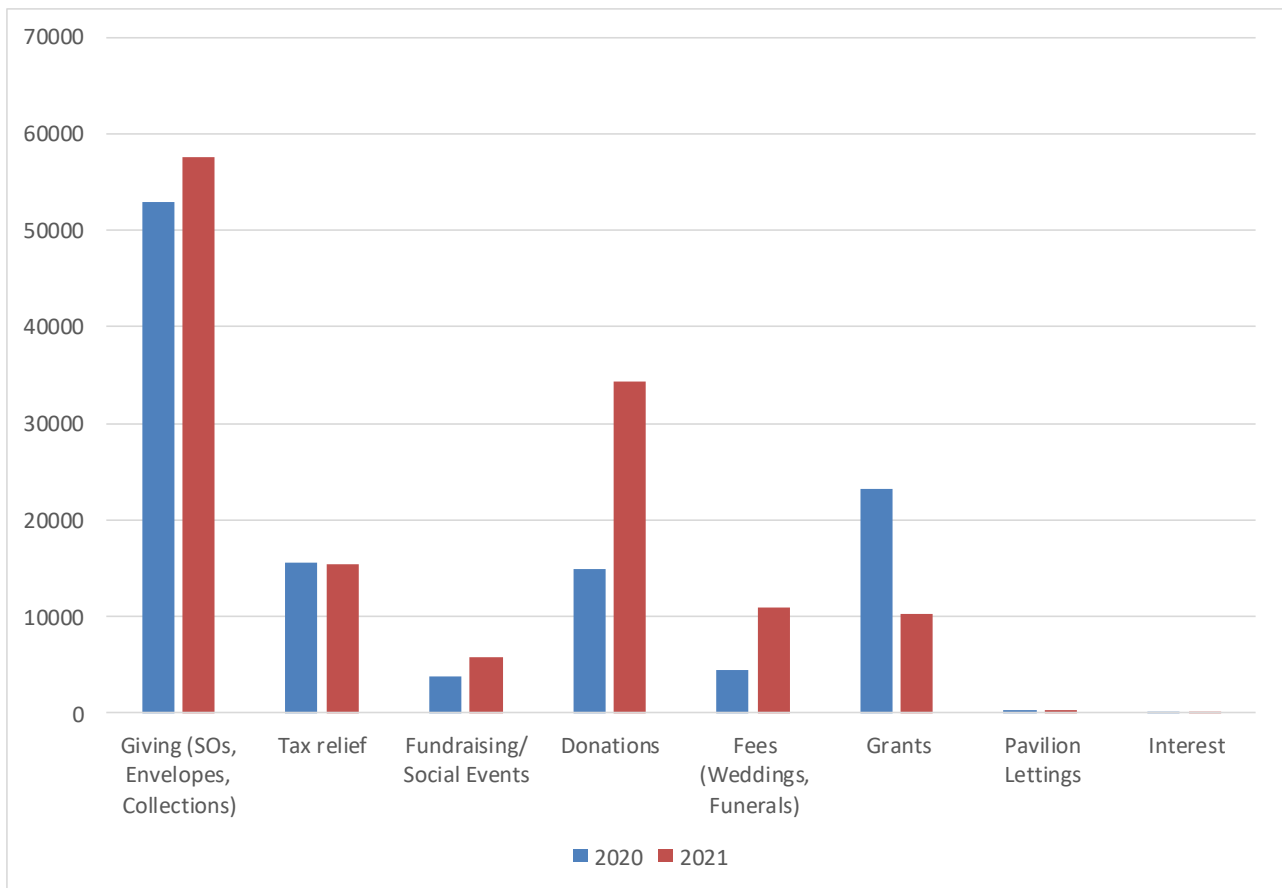
28/2/2022

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Where does the money come from?

In 2021 St Mary's received a total of £134,381.10. A substantial part of this was the result of our gift day which not only brought in one off donations but encouraged regular givers to review their giving. Two legacies were also received this year. In addition income was increased by four weddings this year, a collection for Revd. Canon Maggie Guite on her retirement and various fund raising events. Grants include funds from the Parish Council, the Anderson Trust and the Friends of St Mary's.

Income: £134,381.10



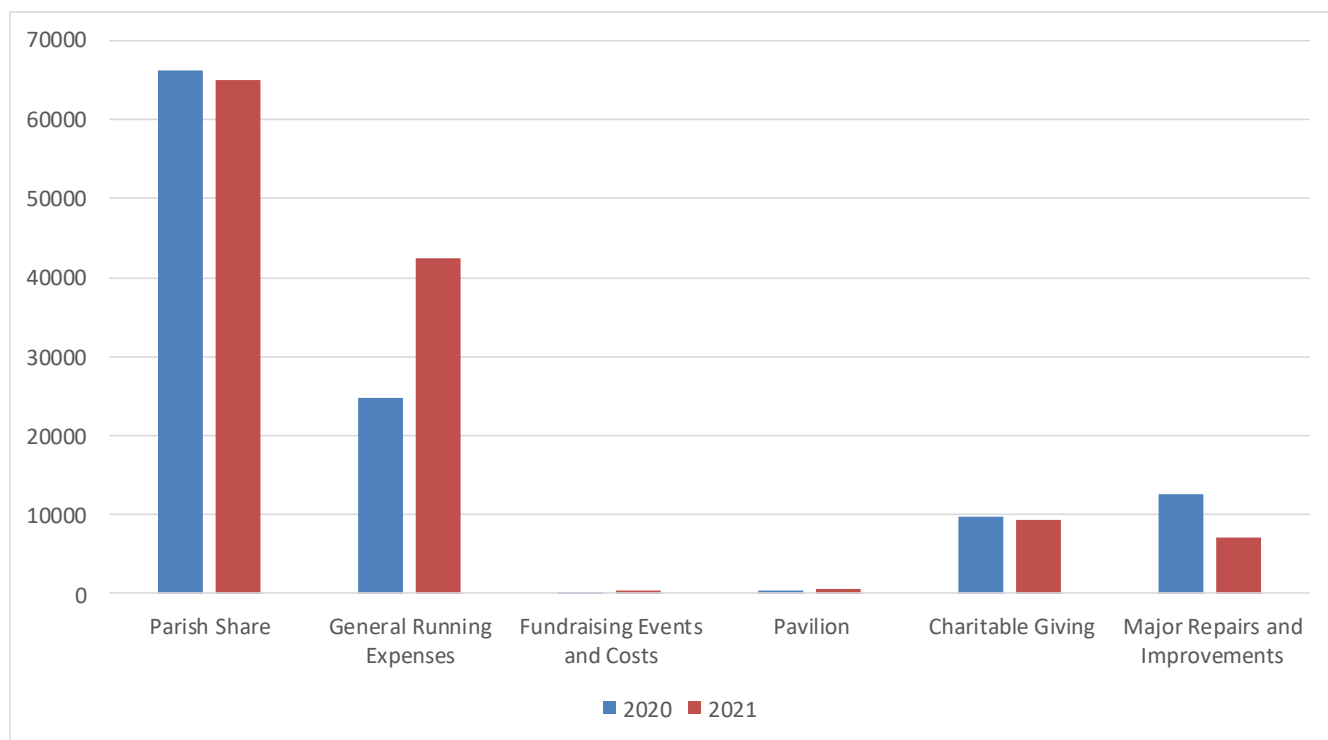
Where does the money go?

Total expenditure during the year was £124,726.89

As the chart below shows, the most significant part of expenditure goes on the Parish Share, which was £65,032.83. As in previous years, the PCC (in line with the majority of other parishes in the Deanery) is committed to paying the Share in full, principally because otherwise the Diocese would not provide us with a full-time Team Rector and House for Duty Team Vicar. During 2021, Wi-Fi has been put in the Church allowing services to be Zoomed, Smart water has been applied to the roof, a new notice board placed at the top of Church Lane, quotes obtained to improve the Church lighting. Apart from this the Children and Families team have been busy raising funds which have been allocated to their ministry, notably the Make Lunch scheme and earlier in the year Boxes of Hope.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Expenditure: £124,726.89



In budgeting beyond the Ministry Share, the PCC continues to prioritise expenditure on:

- providing a welcoming and well-maintained space for services;
- supporting the valuable work undertaken with Linton's young people, through the Beacon Youth Trust;
- providing administrative support, to free up time for the incumbent to spend on pastoral activities;
- maintaining the Pavilion as both a meeting space and an asset;
- as a reflection of God's generous giving to us, giving back a proportion of income to those in need;
- developing initiatives related to the Mission Action Plan.

Summary

The final accounts for 2021 show a surplus. However, as this is due to receiving legacies there is no room to be complacent. Every donation however big or small is important to keep the finances of the Church afloat. Day to day running expenses of the Church continue to be kept to a minimum, however we do have a significant Parish Share to pay and there is a responsibility to keep the Church in good repair.

Reserves Policy

In 2021, the PCC continued with a reserves policy; retaining a sum of £22,500 for urgent repairs and as contingency cover.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Financial Statements

The financial statements which follow comprise:

- A statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year, showing all resources made available to the PCC and all expenditure incurred by it, and reconciling changes to funds.
- A return of Parish Finance which shows the same information but gives a breakdown of income and expenditure.
- A Balance Sheet showing assets, liabilities and funds.

Accounting Policies

These accounts have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and in accordance with the Charities SORP (2005) and applicable standards. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission under the name of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Linton, Diocese of Ely, charity registration number 1138508.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

St Mary's Linton Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	116,425	1,010	—	117,435	106,354
Activities for generating funds	5,705	—	—	5,705	3,798
Investment income	6	0	—	6	59
Incoming resources from charitable activities	11,233	—	—	11,233	4,726
Other incoming resources	—	—	—	—	—
Total incoming resources	133,370	1,010	—	134,381	114,937
Resources used					
Cost of generating funds	91	—	—	91	—
Cost of generating voluntary income	—	—	—	—	—
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs	232	—	—	232	247
Charitable activities	123,386	1,016	—	124,402	113,681
Governance costs	—	—	—	—	—
Total resources used	123,710	1,016	—	124,726	113,929
Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer	9,660	(6)	—	9,654	1,008
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	4,628	—	—	4,628	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	(3,094)	(1,533)	—	(4,628)	—
Net incoming / outgoing before other gains / losses	11,194	(1,540)	—	9,654	1,008
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	—	2,929
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	11,194	(1,540)	—	9,654	3,938
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	79,588	6,171	—	85,759	81,821
Total funds carried forward	90,782	4,631	—	95,414	85,759

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Return of Parish Finance for year ending 31 December 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
Incoming Resources		
Voluntary Income		
Tax efficient planned giving		
Gift Aid - Bank	49,793.89	44,856.58
Gift Aid - Envelopes	1,220.00	1,745.00
Total tax efficient planned giving	51,013.89	46,601.58
Other planned giving	4,596.80	2,789.00
Loose plate collections	1,951.83	3,516.01
Regular Gift Days	6,106.00	1,500.00
Giving through church boxes	518.26	199.25
One off Gift Aid gifts	5,795.00	2,489.31
Donations, appeals, etc (note 1)	5,901.05	3,183.48
Tax recovered through Gift Aid (note 2)	15,373.56	15,486.85
Legacies	16,000.00	7,500.00
Non-recurring one off grants (note 3)	10,178.89	23,136.82
Total for voluntary income	117,435.28	106,402.30
Activities for Generating Funds		
Other funds generated (note 4)	2,572.62	1,340.03
Summer Event		
Christmas Events	885.15	265.05
Social Events (note 5)	2,247.43	2,193.10
Total for Activities for Generating Funds	5,705.20	3,798.18
Bank and building society interest	6.87	59.27
Church Activities		
Fees for weddings and funerals	10,908.00	4,420.00
Pavilion lettings	325.75	306.00
Total for Church Activities	11,233.75	4,726.00
Total for Incoming Resources	134,381.10	114,985.75

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Return of Parish Finance for year ending 31 December 2021

Resources Expended	2021 £	2020 £
Costs of Generating Funds		
Summer Event Costs		
Christmas Event Costs	91.83	
Costs of Social Events (note 6)	232.38	247.90
Total for costs of Generating Funds	324.21	247.90
All Mission Giving and Charitable Grants & Donations (note 7)		
Giving to missionary societies	718.50	895.50
Secular Charities	1,785.30	1,593.14
Youthinc	300.00	300.00
The Beacon Youth Trust	6,500.04	7,041.71
Total for All Mission Giving etc	9,303.84	9,830.35
Church Activities		
Parish Share	65,032.83	66,206.93
Salaries (note 8)	11,373.11	7,523.76
Expenses (clergy, pastoral staff, etc)		
Working expenses of Incumbent	480.00	480.00
Rector's telephone	52.50	90.00
Education (note 9)	3,182.66	663.19
Total for Expenses	3,715.16	1,233.19
Parish Training and mission	48.00	423.27
Regular Church running expenses (insurance, cleaning, admin)		
Visiting speakers/ locum	149.20	
Church running - insurance	3,359.76	3,270.59
Organ / piano tuning	0.00	105.00
Church telephone/Wi-Fi	2,394.50	
Church maintenance	5,115.32	1,438.70
Cleaning	0.00	292.02
Upkeep of services (note 10)	10,156.98	5,745.84
Upkeep of churchyard (note 11)	45.50	74.75
Administration (note 12)	2,224.37	1,093.70
Flowers (note 13)	257.60	31.73
Total for Regular Church running expenses	23,703.23	12,052.33

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Resources Expended	2021 £	2020 £
Church utility bills (gas, electricity, water)		
Church running - electric	647.28	821.11
Church running - gas	2,830.75	2,675.76
Church running - water	41.84	32.12
Total for Church utility bills	3,519.87	3,528.99
	2021	2020
Costs of trading Pavilion		
Pavilion running - electricity	259.67	155.90
Pavilion running – maintenance (note 14)	358.59	99.00
Pavilion running - water	41.84	32.11
Total for Costs of trading	660.04	287.01
Total for Church Activities	92,457.84	91,255.48
Total for Resources Expended	108,052.24	101,333.73
Major Capital Expenditure	2021	2020
Church major repairs	6,752.41	12,595.32
Peace Garden	294.19	
Total for Major Capital Expenditure	7,046.60	12,595.32
Total Expenditure	124,726.89	113,929.05
Total Income	134,381.10	114,985.75
Total Expenditure	124,726.89	113,929.05
Balance	9,654.21	1,056.70

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Balance sheet (Summary)

As of: 31 December 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets		
Pavilion (note 15)	500	500
Investments (note 16)	10,000	52,586
	<u>10,500</u>	<u>53,086</u>
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	95,672	38,205
	<u>95,672</u>	<u>38,205</u>
Liabilities (note 17)		
LCHT	6,510.14	5,483
Linton Parish Charities	4,250.00	
	<u></u>	<u></u>
Net current assets less current liabilities	<u>84,911</u>	<u>32,721</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>95,411</u>	<u>85,807</u>
Total net assets less liabilities	<u>95,411</u>	<u>85,807</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	41,472	44,640
Designated		
Designated - Contingency	22,500	22,500
Designated - Mission Action Plan	10,722	10,722
Designated - Pavilion (note 15)	500	500
Designated -Children and family ministry (note 18)	15,587	1,273
Restricted		
Restricted - Anderson Trust	757	1,973
Restricted - Bells	1,412	1,412
Restricted - Churchyard (note 19)	344	383
Restricted - Music	2,117	2,117
Restricted - Peace Garden		285
	<u></u>	<u></u>
Funds of the church	<u>95,411</u>	<u>85,807</u>

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Notes to Financial Statements

Return of Parish Finance

1. Donations include £190 received from the Historic Churches Trust for the ride and stride event, monies given through the Good Box but mostly comprises donations for our Children and Families Ministry work.
2. The figure is similar to last year although £1,816.59 of the tax recovered last year related to 2019 so it does reflect our increased gift giving.
3. Grants received this year are £1,010 from the Anderson Trust. £2,177 from the Parish Council, £500 from Cambridgeshire County Council Covid enabler, £200 from Transforming Lives for Good; all for the Make Lunch scheme. £6,005 from the Friends of St Mary's for works identified by the Quinquennial Inspection, mainly for architect's fees and the lighting project. £286.53 from the listed places of worship grant scheme which is a grant for the VAT element of eligible works carried out by the Church.
4. The income from other funds generated includes £188.34 from 'Give as you Live' and £32.59 from Amazon smile. This year it received funds for Maggie Guite's leaving gift and from the Children and Families sale. Specifically, the table top sale raised £382.79 for the refurbishment of the children's area in Church.
5. Social events include refreshments after services as well events organised by the Events Committee such as the Zoom Quiz, Malcolm Guite's Zoom evening, the photo quiz, the Vintage Tea, and our new monthly coffee mornings.
6. This relates to the cost of refreshments after services which are covered by donations and the cost of hiring the Village Hall for the Remembrance Day refreshments.
7. Charitable giving this year includes £693.25 to USPG including Maggie's garage sale, £500 to Haverhill Foodbank, £300 to Youthinc, £25 to Friends of the Holy Land, £136.80 to the Royal British Legion and £1,148.50 to Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign. In addition, £6,500.04 has been given to support the work of the Beacon Youth Trust.
8. Salaries relates to payments made to our organists and parish administrator. It also includes an honorarium for the enormous amount of work carried by our Children and Families Minister.
9. Education includes our usual expenses incurred by Messy Church, SMYG, resources for Baptism and Activity Bags and Year 6 books. However, this year it also includes expenses for the Boxes of Hope and Make Lunch costs.
10. Upkeep of services includes fees paid to Ely and Non-Stipendiary priests for taking weddings and funerals. In 2021 this was £6,674. It includes the leaving gift for Maggie raised by donations from the congregations of the Team Churches. Subtracting these sums means the cost of running our services in Church is £2282.98 (2020: £2,230.51).

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

11. Upkeep of Churchyard is from money held for the Monday Gang.
12. Administration costs have increased due to the annual Zoom fee and purchase of a new Good Box.
13. Flowers costs have largely been covered by separate collections and the generosity of the flower arrangers; however oasis has been purchased and also some flowers this year.
14. Pavilion maintenance is largely due to expenses for protecting and treating the outside of the Pavilion which has been undertaken by Andrew Gore and other volunteers.

Balance Sheet

15. Pavilion at cost £77,031. This has been depreciated over the last 10 years and is shown at a nominal value of £500.
16. Investments: The sterling bond fund was repaid in full. A new investment of £10,000 was made in December into The CBF Church of England Investment Fund - Accumulation Shares. The value at 31/12/21 was £10,099.96.
17. Liabilities represents funds we are holding for the Linton Community Help Team and Linton Parish Charities.
18. The Children & Families Ministry is money donated specifically for Children and Families Ministry.
19. The Parish Council gave us £500 in 2020 to cover on going expenses of the Monday Gang.

Sue Ellis, Treasurer

6. ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

The Electoral Roll is the Parish Church's register of electors, who are therefore qualified to attend and vote at the Annual Parish Church meeting where the elections take place for membership of the Parish Church Council, and the Deanery Synod.

Last year the number on the Roll was 129. Four people have been taken off and one has been added, giving a new figure of 126.

You can be added to the Electoral Roll if you have been baptised, and are over 16, and either 'live in the parish', 'live outside the parish and have attended St Mary's for six months' or 'are a member in good standing of another church and have attended St Mary's for six months'.

If you would like to be added to the Electoral Roll or have any questions, please do contact me - JoGeorge68@aol.com

Jo George - Electoral Roll Officer

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

7. FABRIC REPORT

The Fabric Committee met in June 2021 and January 2022.

Works to the fabric of the church

There have been no works to the fabric since the last APCM, pending the post-Quinquennial Inspection works and redecoration due to happen this year.

Fixed installations and services

Kershaw continued with the heating system maintenance contract. We have had a run of problems since they identified the need for a replacement pressure vessel in mid-January, then detected a fault with the boiler alarm system, then a problem with one of the boilers firing mechanism which was not identified when the system was serviced in mid-February. The problem was not finally fixed until 23rd March. It may be coincidental, but the company went into Administration on 1st April and it has been purchased from the Administrator by N G Bailey. It remains to be seen whether they will be able to provide the required level of service.

The broadband cabling was eventually installed, and the Wi-Fi installation is working, but needs enhancement for streaming some services.

The roof alarm system continues to work as expected. The only notifications received continue to be because of minor power cuts.

The contract for the fire security installations has been maintained.

Church furnishings

The only change in furnishings since the last APCM has been the re-ordering of the Children's Area in the south aisle with new furniture. The old storage units have been relocated to inside the north door for kneeler storage

It is planned to replace some of the remaining pews with chairs similar to those in the nave. This and other elements of the proposed re-ordering, such as the provision of a new oak storage area in the north aisle, will be contingent on finance and Diocesan Advisory Committee approval.

The Pavilion

Preparatory work for the external redecoration of the pavilion was carried out by volunteers organised by Andrew Gore during the autumn of 2021. It is hoped that actual redecoration can be carried out during 2022.

The Events Committee has investigated the cost of replacing the Pavilion kitchen. The estimate received was quite high, so a compromise initially will be to replace the current faulty cooker with a tall cabinet containing double ovens. An alternative quote will also be obtained.

The new bench and repairs to the arbour in the Peace Garden have been completed. We remain grateful to Glynis Younger and her group of volunteers for maintaining the area.

The Churchyard

The resurfacing of the paths in the Churchyard, by Parish Council contractors, has been further delayed by Covid as the contractors due to carry out the work in February half-term went down with the disease. We await a revised date,

We are grateful to the Monday Gang for their continuing commitment and care of the churchyard.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Other land

As reported to the 2021 APCM, the land between Church Cottage and the previous Rectory was retained by the Diocesan Board of Finance when the Rectory building was sold. Andrew Gore has obtained quotes for resurfacing the section of Church Lane and works to the parking area. The PCC has agreed that Andrew should negotiate with the Diocese on funding of this work.

The notice board at the top of Church Lane outside the Infant School has been replaced by a metal unit. The wooden 'To Linton Church' sign has been refurbished and repainted.

Relationship with the Friends

We are grateful to the Friends for funding the Architect's fees in relation to the tender specification preparation for the QI works, redecoration, and re-lighting. The Friends have agreed to underwrite the considerable cost of the QI works, redecoration and re-lighting, but expect the PCC to apply for any grant funding that may be available towards the cost.

Future work.

Henry Freeland, the Church's architect, prepared a specification for the QI works to allow tenders to be invited and included the internal redecoration of the Church and the cabling and installation of the new lighting system. Tenders were received at the end of last year, and we are awaiting approval of a Faculty application from the DAC for the lighting scheme. It is hoped that the QI works, redecoration and re-lighting can be carried out this summer.

The PCC agreed to appoint Freeland Reece Roberts to carry out a feasibility study for the proposed kitchenette/servery, as the Fabric Committee had been unable to match the conflicting demands of this with the need for flower arrangers' storage etc. Henry Freeland visited the Church on 1st March and was briefed by Richard Tonry and David Watts. He was quite positive that he would be able to propose a satisfactory solution, and we hope to have his proposal prior to the May PCC meeting.

Richard Tonry.

Chairman, Fabric Committee, on behalf of the Churchwardens

8. DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The Granta Deanery Synod has met three times in the last 12 months. David Parry-Smith and I have continued to represent St Mary's on Synod.

The July Synod included a presentation by Sarah Jorgenson from Hope Into Action, a Christian charity established by Ed Walker, formerly of Shudy Camps. The charity helps churches and potential investors from their congregations acquire homes for families or individuals with difficult backgrounds or particular needs. As yet the charity has not worked with groups of rural churches to jointly fund the purchase of suitable property, but we hope that may change in the future.

In November, the Deanery hosted an open meeting with Dr Eeva John, Enabling Officer for Living in Love and Faith in which she discussed the purpose and process of the project and the resources available.

At the November Synod Rev Julie Norris, former rector of the Granta Vale group of parishes, spoke about Ethical Perspectives on Creating, Storing and Using Embryos, the issue she is currently researching. This provoked a lively and searching discussion.

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Our March Synod was entirely a business meeting. Synod assessed progress in the Living in Love and Faith process. It was apparent that only a minority of parishes, including Linton, had engaged with the project. We hope to encourage more parishes to do so before the matter comes to the General Synod next year. Synod also reviewed progress with the proposed Deanery Mental Health First Aid project and Youth Inc., the charity which seeks to make provision for work with young people in the smaller parishes which do not have their own youth provision. The charity has seen a good measure of success, although the post of part-time youth worker is currently vacant. The money raised from the first Deanery Fair since 2019 was applied to Youth Inc's work.

The next Synod will be at Bartlow on 6 July where we hope Mike Kelly, the Diocesan Youth and Families Development Officer will be speaking. Anyone can attend Deanery Synod as an observer, and we particularly welcome people who wish to hear and engage with our guest speakers. There is no obligation to remain for the business part of the Synod.

Bishop Stephen visited the Deanery Chapter and spoke to clergy and lay ministers about the Deanery Development process and Bishop Dagmar came to Linton for a Saturday morning meeting at which she discussed it with lay people from the Deanery. This is a very important process as it will shape mission and ministry not only in the Deanery but in the Diocese as a whole for at least the next decade. Every parish will be directly involved in the process.

Despite Covid, giving at both the Granta Deanery and wider Diocesan levels has held up surprisingly well. In our own Deanery all parishes, apart from Great Shelford and some of the smaller parishes in the Granta Vale group, were able to pay their full parish share in 2021. However, the Deanery's contribution towards the cost of the Great Shelford clergy post in exchange for some lay ministerial training at Deanery level by the incumbent has been terminated as it was funded from the rebate the Deanery received from the Diocese in exchange for 100% payment of parish share.

The increase in parish share will be greater next year as its main element is clergy stipends and other direct clergy costs which will have to reflect inflation. This makes it even more important that anyone who still makes regular giving by envelope or standing order switches to the Parish Giving Scheme. It also makes our St Mary's Treasurer's life easier.

Last, but by no means least, Rev Simon Talbott, who had been our Rural Dean for 6 years, was appointed Bishop Stephen's Senior Chaplain, running his private office as well as undertaking various ministerial tasks. I was pleased that Bishop Stephen invited Rev Michael Wilcockson to succeed Simon and even more pleased that Michael accepted the invitation. Despite all the Deanery's current officers being Lintonians, we do assure the rest of the Deanery that it is not a Linton takeover. The next Deanery event is the Deanery Ascension service on Thursday 26th May, at St Mary the Virgin, Linton. Make of those last two sentences what you will.

Andrew Gore

Deanery Synod representative for Linton and Deanery Lay Chair.

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9. REPORTS FROM GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

The following are reports from Church activities, including some services. Thanks to all those who have contributed reports. The text has been left in the original style provided by the author. The named individual can provide further information about any aspect.

9.1. BEACON YOUTH TRUST REPORT

The following is an extract from the BYT end of year report.

'The Global Pandemic caused so much disruption across the World leaving most people and organisations uncertain about the future. This financial year 2021/2022 started with daily adjustments following the government's guidelines. Young people being among the most vulnerable population meant that the need and demand for the only youth work provision in Linton village was greater than usual. With limited resources and only a small team to deliver, it has been a very challenging year for The Beacon Youth Trust.

Beginning of April 2021 saw restrictions being eased. Youth workers slowly introduced face to face activities following the government's guidelines, starting with outdoor Monday football and 2 youth clubs. As time progressed the young people were able to have other special events like movie nights, baking and some fun trips.

The full time Youth Worker, Lizzie, left in May 2021. Young people were involved in the planning and recruitment of a new full time Youth Worker while the other team members worked hard to keep things going and made sure that young people still had support and their youth clubs.

A new full time youth worker, Cynthia Mukoko, was appointed in November 2021. This presented an opportunity to rebuild the Linton village youth provision with more consistency and capacity to do more. She has been able to continue building existing relationships and new relationships. Collaborations and partnerships have been formed with local schools, Churches and community groups.

Youth clubs have increased from 2 when she started to 4 youth groups; Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 - 11 and the 6th form youth club. Every holiday special activities and trips are held. Referrals have now started to be received from Linton Village College, so staff are working in partnership with the College and with the hope of working with more schools that are connected to Linton village.

The Beacon Youth Trust has also started a new initiative to bring together churches in Linton, The Linton Free Church and Linton St Mary's Church, to facilitate faith developing activities for the Young Christians in the village through weekly meetings, a once a month Youth Church Service and a worship youth band.

The future and development of Youth Work in Linton is looking very promising. Soon the Youth Workers will be doing a volunteer recruitment drive in the hope that with more volunteers and resources, it will bring more help and build capacity to create more projects and activities to engage young people in the community, in churches and in schools.'

We are grateful for the partnership with Romsey Mill. As the official employer of the Beacon Youth Trust's youth worker, they took the lead in recruitment and also provide valuable management, networking and training support.

The Trustees from St Mary's are Hannah Foote, David Watts, Michael Wilcockson and Hugh Paton (treasurer), along with Stephen Munday (chair/secretary), Daniel Gilbert and Alasdair McBean from Linton Free Church.

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9.2. BELL RINGERS

The past year has seen a return to normality up the tower. In line with national guidance we have been allowing more people up the tower and have slowly returned to having full practices and service ringing. Additionally we have been able to mark significant occasions, including ringing quarter peal for Remembrance Sunday and tolling a bell for the National Day of Reflection. Ringing has been a bit more back to basics, but it has been good to see the progress of all members of the band, and the standard of ringing has been consistently high. It has also been nice to hear compliments from members of the church team, congregation and local community about the return of the bells!

Numbers up the tower are a little lower than our pre-Covid levels; however with the reduced restrictions we are planning on recruiting more people to learn to ring. If you are interested in finding out more please contact our secretary Sue Ellis on sue.ellis@stmaryslinton.org.uk

Stephen Croxall
Tower Captain

9.3. EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Events committee was set up to enhance the social life of the church but also is called upon to provide hospitality after special services, including the tea in the Village Hall following the Remembrance Day service. The committee had another busy year and would like to thank all their supporters. This year saw the continuation of some virtual events and the return to some in-person events. Events included a village photo quiz, events marking Maggie's retirement, zoom quizzes, an afternoon tea, a concert from the Tapestry Singers, a pudding evening, a film night and a Seder-style meal. We also started a coffee morning on every third Saturday of the month, which has proved to be a popular social occasion. Some coffee mornings have raised money for specific charities whereas others have been for church funds. The events committee aim to cover costs and were very pleased to know they had made a surplus of over £2,000 for church funds. Although members of the committee plan the various events, they are always pleased to have extra help with serving refreshments or the offer of a cake for the coffee mornings.

Charlotte Ellis, Chair

9.4. FLOWER MINISTRY

Since the last Annual Meeting, Lian Watkin retired from running the flower rota and looking after the flower arrangers. As a congregation, we should thank Lian for the loyal years she gave to St Mary's.

I have now taken on this job and there may be many hurdles along the way but with the six flower arrangers who have volunteered their time and ability to arrange the flowers in church, I am sure we can look forward to seeing their creations appearing before us very soon.

As you may be aware, flowers are plentiful but expensive, especially when you need to fill the areas around the church on a fortnightly rota. We now collect donations on the second Sunday of the month to help the arrangers with the cost of the flowers, and we thank those who do give towards this and for the monthly donation to Sue Ellis by one of our congregation.

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The church at Easter was bursting with white and yellow flowers - on the window sills, the pedestal, the porch, the font and some of the ledges. Lian was around as she was doing an arrangement in the resurrection chapel, and she will also help us out at approaching festivals.

Finally, and with pride, St Mary's church is asked to provide flowers for weddings, and this is when Lian and Mary Spriggs will spring into action as professional arrangers.

Nanette Blackmore, Verger and one of your flower arrangers

9.5. LINTON C E INFANT SCHOOL

School life and wellbeing

The school, for the most part has fared well, with the rate of infections of COVID. Against local and national figures our rates have been comparatively low and the situation was manageable.

However, the picture became a rather bleak one in February. The school suffered from an alarming peak in cases from the second week in February and by the 24th a total of 43 children and 5 staff were off school. This amounted to a staggering 26% of the pupil population. This situation put the school under enormous pressure and, as you can imagine, the stress of having to cope was felt by every member of staff.

The staff reacted well and kept lessons and routine running as best they could; this being the primary focus, to try and weather the storm. It was all hands on deck and Kelly and the staff did an amazing job under the circumstances.

I can happily say that COVID numbers have, for a number of weeks, been on a downward trajectory. There is a real sense of relief amongst the staff due to the fact that numbers have stabilized and most Health and Safety restrictions have been lifted. A move toward a 'normal' school day has been met with a great sense of relief and staff members are feeling happier and very positive.

Pastoral support for the children is on-going and strategies to address anxiety are making marked improvements in behaviour and learning. We have been recently been accredited as a 'Sensory Circuit Practitioner'. This will be a welcome addition to our pastoral care skills; Lego Therapy, E4L (Emotions for learning), Sensory Therapy. Staff have also continued to be in contact with families personally, with particular focus for those who need extra help and support.

Governors have met with staff members recently to have conversations about how they have been coping. It is really pleasing that staff feel comfortable sharing so honestly with the Governors and while we can't capture everything we would wish to, we are confident that we have forged relationships which will further develop over time. We hope to build on this level of trust to facilitate a greater feeling of wellbeing. Even though there are few practical things we can do to help individuals, it is important that conversation in itself is a good thing.

Curriculum

The Senior Leadership Team and Subject leads have been working very hard to establish a new topic cycle for the year, for every subject, across every year group. This has given staff a real sense of ownership of their subjects and an enthusiasm to promote their subject in school and with Governors. A lot of work had been done in planning implementation and systems for monitoring progress. All topics appear to have breadth and depth, with room for development and refinement as they are embedded into the curriculum.

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Governing Body

Meetings have continued to be held via Zoom.

I am really pleased to say that Katherine Croxall has joined as Foundation Governor, filling the vacancy left by Sue Filby and her role of Pastoral Link Governor, plus sitting on Personnel Committee. Claire Revans also stepped down as Staff Governor, being replaced swiftly by Emma Little, Assistant Head and Maths Lead sitting on Curriculum & Data Committee. I want to express my thanks to both Sue and Claire for the number of years which they have dedicated to their roles with care and commitment. We are also trying to manage succession in light of one of our Parent Governors stepping down in September; there is already a parent who is interested in taking on this role.

All key areas continue to be monitored closely and subject monitoring will continue within school and between Governor and Staff Links. I invited subject leads to present to Governors at committee meetings, which has proved to be really useful and we look to continue to do this.

Our annual 'Governor Day of Business' in March, took the form of governors being invited to attend specific lessons. Last year, because of tighter Covid restrictions, 'visits' had to be done via Zoom, so it was an exciting opportunity for Governors to be in the classroom and have face to face interaction for the first time for a long time. The sessions corresponded to the foci of priorities set out in our School Development and Improvement Plan. We also got the chance to meet and greet parents at the school gates.

Fundraising

There have been two main foci for fundraising. The short term plan is the library refurbishment and the long term plan is the aim of securing 30 new laptops. We have already made good progress on both projects and hope to further raise the profile in the community to help us to reach our targets. I have just written an article for the Linton News, May edition. Watch this space, the school website and the Linton News!

As the budget continues to be extremely challenging, any support you feel you might be able to give, would be gladly welcomed.

Nicola Collard

Chair of Governors

Friday Church

The Infant School was back in church before Christmas, running split school sessions and with a restricted invitation to parents. Then after Christmas the Government announced a return to more stringent Health and Safety measures so we were delivering Friday Church via Zoom. After February half term, we have been back in the Church building, yay! Chris Kemshell is also ready to join Sarah Thorne and myself in leading services, his first one was due in March.

The children have been massively excited to be back and the energy of their cheerfulness and enthusiasm is felt by all who attend. The church team and Governors feel that the staff genuinely support what we do and are also so clearly encouraging the school values in everything they do. It really is a wonderful service. The children are so brilliant at listening and engaging during the storytelling and worship and I just wish I could record them reciting the Lord's Prayer and the sending out response, it lifts the spirits! We always try and set a challenge for the week or a pause

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for thought, as a response to the teaching and this has been really good in exploring questions they may have and affirming and applying the message in practice.

For example a few weeks ago, I told the transfiguration story, using The Hungry Caterpillar as a comparison, (change and transformation). My takeaway thought was that we don't really see the amazing miracles Jesus did every day, but, we are surrounded by little miracles, like caterpillars turning into butterflies...what little miracles might you be able to spot and how might you share your discoveries? And then that same afternoon there was a wonderful post from an early years class on the parental mail App, with photos of drawings the children had done of hyacinth plants which they had been tending from seed - as a direct response to that morning's service.

A rota is planned for the following term or two and we have just finished our theme of the life of Jesus, after his birth at Christmas and 'The Amazing Things Jesus Did'. We have told the stories of feeding the five thousand, healing of Bartemaeus, Jesus walks on water to name a few. The theme has landed with Jesus' last stop, Jerusalem, where he did the most amazing thing ever! We also try to link with the school value on which they are focusing at any given time.

At the end of term we had a 'Palm Parade', each child was given a mini palm cross, bigger ones for the adults and we had a wonderful celebratory service. The energy and enthusiasm was incredible, such fun! The children even carried across two big crucifixes which Foundation Year had decorated beautifully. They remain on proud display in the church. The children and teachers really feel part of the service and are invested in it as their 'church'. We are building many special relationships with our amazing little people. They are now familiar and comfortable with us and the space they occupy in church and fill it with heartfelt participation and joyful sound!

As always, we appreciate all that Nanette does, in supporting us and welcoming the children, teachers and parents so cheerfully. We are also very glad how much we are supported by our Foundation Governors who attend every week, Thank you.

Nicola Collard

9.6. CHURCH LINKS WITH LINTON HEIGHTS JUNIOR SCHOOL

Up until COVID struck Chris Kemshell, (Pastor at URC), and I were doing school assemblies once a month on a Monday morning. This was put on hold for the duration of the pandemic, falling in line with Health and Safety restrictions.

Chris has resumed doing assemblies recently. I have not been able to make this a regular commitment as yet. I had hoped that I may be able to resume supporting the assemblies at some point, but I am unsure as to whether this is something I feel able to do, with all of my other commitments.

While LHJS has not had a physical service in the church at the usual festivals of Harvest, Christmas and Easter, I contributed to their video presentations which they put together as an alternative, and which were sent out to parents. I send a video of a short mini reflection, prayer and blessing, which is embedded towards the end of their presentation.

Nicola Collard

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9.7. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY

Looking back over the past 12 months, we praise God as we see how he has been leading us on - one step at a time. A year ago, we were emerging from a year of very limited contact with children and their families. The solid foundation of relationships developed over the pandemic has enabled the team to develop and grow the ministry slowly and gently.

Baptisms resumed as Covid restrictions eased, with many 'lockdown babies' being baptised as toddlers! A **Baby Steps** course was run in the winter - with a 4-week break in the middle forced by rising Covid infection rates in the village. Baby Steps aims to encourage the spiritual nurture of babies and young children, giving parents confidence to talk about God, pray and play Bible stories.

Tots in Tow moved into the pavilion garden for the summer term and carers were delighted to meet up again in a beautiful outdoor setting.

We moved back into the village hall in the



autumn and maintained a Covid-aware space where all could feel safe by capping the numbers attending. We celebrate the way God has provided - especially being chosen as one of the Co-Op Local Causes. We were presented with a cheque for £2265 in October 2021.

We celebrate the birth of **Tots Plus** in summer 2021.

Young families were invited to join the elderly residents of Chalklands in the Community Garden for stories and song. **Tots Plus** continues to meet in the community room at Chalklands once a month. Any senior members of the Linton community are most welcome to join us. We will meet outside again in the summer term.

The Linton Infants School '**Friday Church**' Service was held virtually until September when we were delighted to welcome the school community back into the church. The team of Rev Chris Kemsell, Sarah and Nicola, supported by Nanette and Foundation Governors, look forward to being able to welcome parents to join the children and staff before too much longer.

Make Lunch Club was launched in July, after almost a year of training and planning. This is a partnership between St Mary's and national charity TLG, offering struggling families a hot meal during the school holidays when the usual support network is not available. We are grateful for regular financial



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support and the tenacious efforts of the team who work to apply for grants. The club has been open for ten sessions as I write. The team have needed to be flexible and resourceful and I feel so blessed to lead them. We have overcome the challenges presented and pray that God will continue to increase our impact as we serve the vulnerable in Linton.

Messy Church met five times during 2021. Highlights include joining in the Church of England's 'Godparents Sunday' and The Children's Society Christingle initiatives and building a life-sized Goliath who we 'knocked out' with the catapults we had made! Sessions were held in the churchyard, and we have welcomed families back into St Mary's and into the Village Hall in March and April 2022.



Covid restrictions meant the **children's area** inside the church was disassembled in 2020. Parents came up with ideas, organised fundraising, painted, assembled and sourced materials enabling the revamped Children's Area to be dedicated on Friday 11th March. The area is now a clear sign to the community that 'children are welcome here'.

SMYG (St Mary's Youth Group) continues to meet up once a month, ably led by Rev. Michael Wilcockson. The young people have been challenged to live out their faith, featuring preparation for confirmation and young leadership at Messy Church. The group is still needing another regular adult leader, following Ed's move away from the area.

What challenges do we face? The Children and Families Ministry at St Mary's is growing! It is exciting to see and experience the way God is working at the messy edges of the community. We value your support. If you feel moved to join in, there are some specific ways we need your help:

- Pray for us. There will soon be a WhatsApp prayer group keeping you up to date with specific prayer needs.
- Give. This could be for a specific area e.g. for Make Lunch Club. Looking forward, we need the ministry amongst families to be sustainable and recruiting a (paid) Children and Families Minister needs to be considered.
- Volunteer. Giving your time is a very precious gift. Have you heard that 'Children spell love T. I. M. E.'?

Sarah Thorne
LLM Children and Families Minister

9.8. TOGETHER WITH GOD

It has been lovely to be back in church delivering these services, after doing them over Zoom for a period of time.

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The Zoom services were actually very good. Cathy Watts and I went to great lengths to target families by designing invitations and using them to personally invite people who we knew, to join in. This proved to be very worthwhile and had a good response, some of whom had never been to church before. Even though some, who historically were our regular families, didn't make it to the online services it was a good thing to have a reason to make contact with them.

Back at church, we have found a significant absence of families and particularly young people. This has been a general trend and not just the case at TWG services. I think this can be attributed to COVID mainly but also other factors like the fact that some of our young people are at the age where other commitments like hobbies and sports training and matches fall on Sunday mornings, or where they are at the age where church services don't 'fit' their needs.

I know that most of our congregation appreciate that a great deal of time and effort goes into preparing for these monthly services. There have been occasions when the disappointment of a very sparse attendance, has been felt both by us and voiced to us by other members of the congregation. Having said that, the services have always been hugely appreciated and enjoyed by those who have attended regularly, with plenty of positive comments to keep us encouraged to continue! Thank you. The last few months have seen an increase in attendance with a few more little ones attending; one off visits, baptism families invited to be welcomed and a couple from Tots in Tow.

I have recently put together a rota for readers and those to do the prayers, including young voices too. This not only ensures that we have a well-represented cross section of our community taking part, but also helps our planning. Our wonderful music group, led by Russell and Jacqui alternately on the piano, provides mostly contemporary, reflective and uplifting worship. We enjoy hearing other instruments played from time to time and the number of singers in this group has increased too! Huge thanks to them for helping to make our service what it is.

TWG continues to be a service which allows for much creativity, inclusiveness and deep reflection in simple form. We are very much invested in how we shape these services and thankful for God's guidance and blessing over what we do.

Nicola Collard LLM

9.9. SPACE FOR THE SPIRIT

Space for the Spirit thrived during the course of 2021, with a consistent attendance of between around 20-25 people, occasionally more. We meet at 7.30 pm on the third Tuesday of the month for nine months of the year (with breaks at Easter, Christmas and in August). Reflections are a mix of secular and scriptural and last around 40 mins, with themes last year varying from Deserts to Sheep, from Transitions to Strangers. Space for the Spirit seeks to provide a calm, quiet and reflective time at the end of the day, using different kinds of music, poetry, readings, video and images.

Anyone is welcome. Do get in touch at sfts@stmaryslinton.org.uk for more information or for your name to be added to the monthly circulation list.

Molly Warrington

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9.10. MOTHERS' UNION

The Linton Branch of the Mothers' Union normally meets on the third Monday of the month, at 7.45pm in the Church Pavilion. Everyone is welcome to attend. The programme for the year is on the Church website.

In 2021 we enjoyed a full programme of meetings via Zoom, including a Bible Quiz in May and a very enlightening talk on Buddhism in June. July saw our first meeting together in person for over a year, when we enjoyed our annual picnic in the Churchyard. In August we held our first MU coffee morning in the Churchyard on a Saturday morning. This was a very successful outreach and fundraising event with over 40 people attending and there was a sense of real joy at being able to meet in the sunshine after so long in lockdowns. We are proud to say this has led to regular weekend coffee mornings at St Mary's with various hosts and fundraising causes.

In September we met for the first time again in the Pavilion and our varied programme brought talks about the work of the MU in Shyogwe, Rwanda and one on eating disorders. Unfortunately, due to rising COVID numbers, our Christmas party was cancelled but 2022 has started well and we have enjoyed so far this year fascinating talks on Michael Wilcockson's Journey towards Ordination and one on Celtic Christianity; a games evening and at time of writing we are looking forward to our Lent Meditation in Church during Holy Week which is open to all.

Members offer each other practical support and prayer at difficult times in our lives and aim to uphold the worldwide Mothers' Union Vision. Present in 84 countries, our members are not all mothers, or even all women. They are single, married, parents, grandparents, or young adults just beginning to express their social conscience. MU provides a network through which they can serve Christ in their own community. If you would like to know more about the Mothers' Union, please don't hesitate to contact Margaret Smith, Denise Thurston or Sue Mudge or check out www.mothersunion.org.

Denise Thurston (Secretary)

9.11. MUSIC MINISTRY

Once again, this has been a period of change and looking back it is interesting to see what we were able to achieve and to be grateful for the patience and adaptability of choir members and congregation alike.

For example, during Lent and Holy Week 2021 services were via Zoom – that ubiquitous video conferencing tool that we have had to become familiar with ("other tools are available"). Rather than using recorded music from the internet, we decided as a choir to do something more distinctively St Mary's Linton. Individuals and pairs of singers contributed recordings of singing to my accompaniment from their own homes. I then became somewhat proficient in GarageBand (!) and created a multi-tracked performance of hymns, songs and anthems that we could use during the services leading up to Easter.

Services – when able to resume in church, they were with organ but no choir or congregational singing. I was able to act as cantor (within the rules that we had adopted) and provided some hymns and songs in church. The choir was finally with great relief able to resume regular choir practices and singing in church seated in the choir stalls from September 2021.

Team Evensong in October at Castle Camps for All Saints Sunday was very successful, bringing together singers from across the team. Advent Sunday evening service in Linton was built around plainsong with psalms and readings and the great 'O' Advent Antiphons.

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Plainsong is popular in culture outside the church but gets a bad press within the reformed tradition – perhaps we should go more with popular culture here! We recently sang a special meditative choral Evensong for Passion Sunday (Anglican chant this time) and would very much like to return to singing Evensong monthly in future in Linton, complementing the monthly Evensong at Bartlow.

The choir took part in the service for All Souls Day and led the singing at the annual Remembrance Day Service, including the anthem by Douglas Guest (sometime organist of Westminster Abbey) of “They shall grow not old” – a favourite of ours in the choir at Linton. The Annual Carol Service was very well supported especially by young families.

Members of the choir will be singing at the Royal School of Music (RSCM) choirs Festival at **Ely Cathedral on Saturday, 14 May**. This had been postponed from 2020 when we first started to rehearse one cold evening in Ely Cathedral Song School. Everyone is welcome to join us in the congregation at the Festival of Church Music **service at 5pm**.

We are also looking forward to hosting the **Granta Deanery Ascension Day service on Thursday, 26 May at 7.30pm**. I am organising a choir for this service and would welcome singers who would like to join us. *Please use your network and encourage anyone you know who might like to sing with us for this annual event. I can't ask everyone personally but with your help we can reach more people.*

We are always happy to welcome new singers in the choir. The regular nature of building a singing team to worship on a regular basis, Sunday by Sunday and Friday by Friday creates the fertile ground in which we can grow our music ministry at St Mary's. Any prospective singers should come to a Friday evening choir practice to see what is required or contact me directly.

The Music Group continues in the important task of providing the music on the 4th Sunday (Together with God) and is led alternately by Jacqui Burge and Russell Taylor. Jacqui and I would be glad to hear of any instrumentalists and singers who feel called to serve in this way.

Our choir aspires to be an open and inclusive group of adults of mixed musical ability, but hearts called to sing God's praises. We sing music from all periods from Gregorian chant up to the 21st century world of classical composition. We have recently introduced Hymns Ancient & Modern – Hymns and Songs for Refreshing Worship (2013) as our standard hymnal, replacing Hymns Old and New, New Anglican Edition (1996), which we have used for about 25 years. The new A&M contains a wider selection of useful worship songs as well as new translations of old hymns and a substantial selection of traditional hymnody.

Donations for the hymn books are gladly received – please speak to Sue Ellis if you wish to donate a hymn book in memory of a loved one.

Finally, a note on the organ. As you know, we have been discussing plans for renovating our valuable and well-used pipe organ at St Mary's. The pandemic has rather got in the way of our progress. A Saturday coffee morning in February raised some money for the organ fund (a reserved fund in the PCC accounts). Substantial donations have been made and pledged. We will be looking for matched funding from grant making bodies as this will be a large capital project – Suzanne Darkins (Finance Committee chair) and others have kindly offered to help in this process. There is a special leaflet on the organ project available in church or from Anne admin@stmaryslinton.org.uk or me, dom@stmaryslinton.org.uk

David Parry-Smith, Director of Music

9.12. PASTORAL GROUP

The group is made up of 8 members, all committed to extending the kindness and compassion to our church family. Individuals are committed to safe working practices and undertake the safeguarding checks & training required by the Diocese.

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Visits are in response to requests from clergy or through family, friends or neighbours. The nature and frequency of contact is individually tailored to meet the needs of each person. Thankfully the lifting of the COVID restrictions has meant that some face-to-face visits have started again, including Home Communion visits.

We usually meet, as a group, every two months to discuss the visits/contact we have made, support each other and share the responsibilities of extending the love beyond the boundaries of services at St Mary's. It is our desire to represent the church in our role, maintaining connections, develop relationships and sharing the love of Christ with those we visit.

I would like to thank each member of the group for maintaining contacts, the support they have shown and for the opportunities that have seen kindness shared. I would like to also thank Judy Nightingale for leading the Pastoral group for the last few years, in particular her leadership during the challenges of the pandemic, I am very grateful for the handover and her continued faithful membership.

Sue Filby

9.13. THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

This report covers the year April 2021 to March 2022.

"The Friends" is a secular charity, formed to help with the expenses associated with maintaining the church building, its fixtures and fittings. Currently there are about 90 members who pay a membership fee each year, and in normal times the Friends have raised funds by holding social events throughout the year but this year that has not been possible due to pandemic restrictions. We also administer the funds bequeathed by Richard Godel and make available any surplus from them in accordance with his wishes.

The Friends have historically funded all of the costs associated with maintenance identified at the Quinquennial Inspection (QI) enabling the PCC to use their funds for other purposes.

This year we have paid the architect's technical design fees of £8,212 for the QI repairs and lighting project and have very recently (at the time of writing) agreed to underwrite the total of £112,312 associated with the QI works themselves, the lighting project and redecoration work though we have urged the PCC to maximise any other charitable grants or other sources of income which may be available.

In addition we have received a bequest from the late Enid Bald to cover the costs of a new wooden reading stand for the church and for some work in the churchyard.

In the coming year we hope to have a website up and running to advertise our work and help in recruiting more members from the church congregation and the wider community. We would welcome new members and encourage all who value the church building to join us.

I should like to thank all our committee for their work and their patience with me as I have eased into the chair this year at a time which has been challenging for all of us. Particularly I should like to thank our Treasurer, Hugh Paton, who manages our finances so ably and Margaret Cox our Secretary.

Andrew King, Chair, The Friends of St Mary's Linton.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

9.14. THE MONDAY GANG IN THE CHURCHYARD

Over the past two years members of the gang have tended to work independently and often not on a Monday afternoon and, as, during this time we have lost some members, we are looking to recruit one or two more people. Weeding, mowing and clipping in the churchyard, along with chatting to people who stroll along the paths, is a pleasant way to spend a Monday afternoon and ideal for the recently retired who have a little time on their hands.

During the past two years much of the churchyard has become more natural, or if you like, more wild. This is the result of less intensive mowing, itself a result of lockdown. The profusion of wild flowers which have sprung up, many of which we had not seen before, has been a joy to behold.

In June 2021, Judy Nightingale and Oriel O'Loughlin counted 38 species of wild flowers. These, of course, did not include the aconites, snowdrops and other spring flowers which had died down by then, or the late-summer flowers.

Indeed, Diana Cook of the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust was so impressed when she saw our churchyard that she thought we could be in line for a Bronze award in the Bishop of Ely's Cambridgeshire Churchyard Conservation Award Scheme. This would require some strict modifications to the mowing programme and other aspects of managing the churchyard, which we do not have the capability of doing at present. Nevertheless we have taken on board Diana's comments and are modifying our activities to encourage the wild flowers and other wildlife.

Margaret Cox

Accounts



St Mary's LINTON

Rooted in God. Rooted in Community

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Annual Parish Vestry Meeting
followed by
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 23rd May 2021 at 11.15am
in the Church

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

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St Mary the Virgin, Linton

1. AGENDA FOR 23RD MAY 2021

Part A - Vestry Meeting

1. Prayers
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Vestry Meeting held on 11th October 2020
3. Election of Churchwardens

Part B - Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 11th October 2020
3. Matters Arising
4. Parochial Church Council Report 2020 - 2021
5. Financial Report followed by appointment of Independent Examiner
6. Electoral Roll Report
7. Fabric Report
8. Deanery Synod Report
9. Election of PCC Members
10. Reports from Groups and Activities
11. Rector's Report
12. Questions from the floor
13. Closing Prayers

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH VESTRY MEETING, SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2020

The meeting, held in the Church, began at 10.30 with prayers and followed a shortened service. Twenty-three parishioners were present. Annual meetings were not able to be held in April. A national lockdown was imposed from March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Parishes were asked to hold the meetings before the end of October 2020 while still observing the social distancing rules and keeping the meetings as brief as possible. There was no provision made for virtual annual meetings within the Church of England rules.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parishioners' Vestry Meeting of 28th April 2019 were accepted as a correct record.

Election of Churchwardens

There were two nominations for Churchwarden: Helene Evans and David Watts. They were unanimously elected for another year and thanked for their service to the parish. David was first appointed in 2017 and Helene in 2018.

It was noted that at the March 2017 PCC meeting, members had agreed that the normal term of office for a churchwarden at St Mary's should revert to being 3 years, with the option of extending to a maximum of 6 years if wished; and still to be elected annually in line with the guidelines in the Churchwardens Measure 2001.

3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2020

Apologies

Chris Morse, Di Morse, Anne Parry-Smith, David Parry-Smith, John Thorne, Sarah Thorne, Molly Warrington, Cathy Watts, David Watts, Glynis Younger and Michael Younger.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 28th April 2019 were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising

There were none.

The reports presented to the meeting are summarised below and can be found on the church website www.stmaryslinton.org.uk. Look under resources and APCM reports.

Parochial Church Council Report April 2019 – March 2020

The PCC had six scheduled meetings during the year to March 2019. Regular agenda items included reports from the Rector and the PCC committees: Finance & Stewardship, Fabric, Children & Families and Events committees. Reports were also received from the parish Safeguarding Officer, Ministry Team, St Mary's two Deanery Synod representatives and the Chair of Governors at Linton C.E. Infant School. Aspects from the seven objectives in the Mission Action Plan were included in discussions. Extending children and families work was a particular focus.

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Financial Review – to 31st December 2019

Income from giving, fund raising activities and grants had increased from 2018. Expenditure had also increased due to spending on church repairs, music stands for singers and a noticeboard, some of which was offset by grants. The main expenditure was to pay the Parish share and general running costs. Income from regular giving had dropped which was a cause for concern. The final accounts show that a deficit of £14,500 was covered from reserves.

The accounts were proposed, seconded and accepted by the meeting and Sue Ellis was thanked for her considerable contribution and skill as Treasurer. After the 2019 APCM, Kate Sargeant had been appointed as a new independent examiner. Sue Ellis proposed that Kate be re-appointed. This was seconded and agreed by the meeting.

Electoral Roll Report

Following the complete revision of the Electoral Roll in March 2019, there were 129 on the Roll in March 2020. Five people had died and one new name was added, giving a total of 125 in September 2020. Jo George had taken on the role of Electoral Roll Officer from Pam Richardson and Pam was thanked for her contribution.

Fabric Report

The final set of repairs arising from the Quinquennial review had been completed. An improved security system for the church roof had been installed. New music stands were designed and made for use by choir in the north aisle. Semi-upholstered stacking chairs were bought to replace plastic ones. A new noticeboard was installed in the churchyard. Other projects were continuing but had been delayed due to COVID restrictions.

Deanery Synod Report

Andrew Gore and David Parry-Smith represent Linton on the Deanery Synod. In addition to the ongoing discussions of finance and other deanery matters including vacancies, there were presentations about the work of the Haverhill foodbank charity REACH; an opportunity to meet the new Bishop of Huntingdon, Revd Canon Dagmar Winter, and hear her hopes for the future and Geoffrey Hunter, Diocesan Buildings Adviser, spoke about the 'Re-imagining Church Buildings' project. Meetings are open to anyone and the business part is brief.

Election of Deanery Synod representatives

Deanery Synod reps are elected for 3 years. The current term of office should have expired in May but provision was made for the current two reps to continue until an APCM could be held. Completed nomination forms had been received for Andrew Gore and David Parry-Smith. No other nominations were forthcoming. Andrew and David were therefore elected for another term, ending 31st May 2023.

Election of Parochial Church Council members

Continuing members on the PCC were confirmed as:

Elected in 2018: Mr R Tonry, two places remained vacant.

Elected in 2019: Mrs J Burge, Miss C Ellis, Mrs J George, Mrs J Nightingale, Mrs G Powell, Mrs L Read – all for 3 years. Mr C Morse and Mr J Organ were re-elected for 1 year only.

Churchwardens (ex-officio): Mr D Watts, Mrs H Evans.

Mrs S Ellis, Mrs C Lockstone, Mrs S Mudge (all elected in 2017) stood down, having completed their three year term of office. Mrs L Read (elected in 2019) also resigned.

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The electoral roll number allows for up to 12 elected members. Three nominations had been received for six places: from Jackie Hall, Patricia Schofield and Michael Younger. These three people were elected to the PCC. The requirement for retiring members to stand down for at least a year had been removed from the updated Church Representation Rules 2020. As there were no other nominations from the meeting, Sue Ellis and Sue Mudge (treasurer and secretary respectively) were nominated, seconded and re-elected. One vacancy remained, to which someone could be co-opted later.

Maggie Guite thanked the retiring members, Collen Lockstone, Chris Morse, John Organ and Linda Read, for their contribution to the PCC.

Reports from Committees and Organisations

Reports were included in the 2020 APCM booklet in paper form and on the website. In addition photos of activities were submitted and presented on the screen in church during the meeting. They were received from the following groups:

Beacon Youth Trust; Bell ringers; Events committee; Flower ministry, Linton C E Infant School; Church links with the Infant and Junior Schools; Children and Families ministry including Baby Steps, Tots in Tow, Messy Church, Rooted; Together with God and Space for the Spirit services; Mothers Union; Music Ministry; The Friends of St. Mary's; The Monday Gang.

Additional comments were made and some questions taken from those present at the meeting.

Rector's report

Maggie Guite said that the detailed content of the APCM report showed what a lot of activity makes up the various aspects of church life and she thanked everyone involved in reaching out to others and building a community for the glory of God. Maggie is very grateful to be part of a lively church. The national lockdown from March to July necessarily stopped many activities but other things were put in place to keep in touch. Maggie thanked Anne Parry-Smith for her support with all administrative matters, Michael Wilcockson and his daughter Emma who became film producers, the Ministry Team for help with worship materials. The church was locked for almost three months. Opening again in July was a challenge while everyone became used to the new rules. Maggie thanked the Churchwardens and the Standing Committee and was heartened by the positive response and attendance of those who felt safe to worship in church, whilst recognising that some people felt unable to come for health reasons. Face to face work with children and families was not able to happen after March but Maggie commended Sarah Thorne, Cathy Watts and their team for responding in other ways. Maggie urged everyone to sustain each other within worship and outreach. Maggie deliberately kept her report under 2 minutes to comply with the directive of holding a very brief meeting and only conducting essential business.

Questions or comments

Patricia Schofield wished to thank Jo George for organising the stewards' rota to allow the church to be open for private prayer. Maggie agreed and also thanked Jo for maintaining the cleaning rota too.

Michael Wilcockson thanked Maggie for her unstinting loyalty and her work on everyone's behalf. The meeting ended in prayer.

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4. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2020 - 2021

Administrative Information

St Mary's Church is situated in Church Lane, Linton. It is part of the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England. The correspondence address is 4 Bakers Lane, Linton, Cambridge, CB21 4NF. The registered charity number is 1138508.

The APCM for 2020 was unable to be held at the usual time in the spring due to the national lockdown imposed in March 2020 to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The Bishop signed an instrument to extend the time period for Annual Meetings, which allowed them to take place any time before 31st October 2020. The terms of office for Churchwardens, PCC and Deanery Synod members were extended accordingly until elections could be held. The APCM for St Mary's Linton took place on 11th October. The content of the 2020 PCC report covered the year from April 2019 until March 2020.

PCC members who have served from the APCM in October 2020 until this report are:

<i>Incumbent</i>	The Revd Canon Dr Maggie Guite	
	The Revd Michael Wilcockson, Curate from July 2019	
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Mrs Helene Evans	
	Mr David Watts	
<i>Representatives to the Deanery Synod</i>	Mr Andrew Gore	from October 2020 - 31.05.23
	Dr David Parry-Smith	from October 2020 - 31.05.23
<i>Elected members</i>	Mrs Jacqui Burge	from APCM 2019
	Miss Charlotte Ellis	from APCM 2019
	Mrs Sue Ellis	from APCM 2020 - Treasurer
	Mrs Jo George	from APCM 2019
	Dr Jackie Hall	from APCM 2020
	Mrs Sue Mudge	from APCM 2020 - Secretary
	Mrs Judy Nightingale	from APCM 2019
	Mrs Gill Powell	from APCM 2019
	Mrs Patricia Schofield	from APCM 2020
	Mr Richard Tonry	from APCM 2018
	Mr Michael Younger	from APCM 2020
<i>Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs)</i>	Mrs Sarah Thorne	Children and Families ministry
	Mrs Cathy Watts	Safeguarding officer

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules, updated in 2020. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

The PCC of St Mary the Virgin has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic,

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Mary's Church and for the Pavilion adjacent to the church.

Numerical performance 2020 - 2021

Attendances at each service are recorded and annual returns made to the Diocese of Ely. It has been hard to get accurate numbers for services this year. Whilst the register of services gives the number of people who have attended a service in person, when this has been allowed, this has only been a part of our ministry. In addition, a number of printed service sheets and reflections have been distributed weekly to those who have been housebound and self-isolating. We have also broadcast services on Facebook live and held services on Zoom.

A recent meeting of the ministry team considered what our 'total' congregation might be on a Sunday at 10am. Taking all the various forms of worship into consideration it was concluded that on most Sundays we reach about seventy individuals.

Services at Christmas and Easter were both affected by the need for social distancing and self-isolation. Numbers at 8am Sunday communions have stayed broadly consistent and whilst numbers attending on Thursdays at 10am have been low there is reason to believe this will bounce back once all the restrictions are lifted. The weekly term-time Friday service for the Infant School has not been possible for over a year, nor have there been services in Symonds House and Nichols Court.

Review of the year to March 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on everyone's life, work and range of activities. A national lockdown was imposed across England from 23rd March 2020 and churches were ordered to be closed and locked. Restrictions were eased to allow churches to be open for private prayer from mid-June and for services at the start of July. Actual worship in Linton began with an outdoor service on 12th July and indoor ones from the following week, subject to social distancing rules and a limit on numbers attending. Many people were still shielding themselves or family members and preferred to worship from home. The second lockdown was imposed from 5th November for four weeks. December allowed some degree of freedom and then a third lockdown was required from 6th January. A phased opening of businesses was planned from the end of March 2021 and restrictions were being lifted in a controlled manner to prevent further transmission of the virus; aided by the successful vaccination programme. Churches were allowed to remain open for private prayer during the 2nd and 3rd lockdowns. This was possible at St Mary's; thanks to a rota of volunteers to unlock and lock the church each day, regular cleaning and subject to additional risk assessments each time the rules changed.

The first lockdown period challenged the Ministry team as they devised YouTube videos and Zoom services to offer virtual worship for those able to access it. Paper orders of service and pewsheets were delivered to some twenty church members who do not use the internet. That situation still continues with a combination of actual services in church, Facebook live, regular Zoom services and printed worship information hand-delivered to others at home.

Since April 2020, all church committees and groups have met by Zoom. The PCC had five scheduled meetings and the Standing committee met on four occasions between PCC dates, to assess the impact of changing regulations and to agree the best course of action for St Mary's.

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Reports from committees were received at each meeting and the function and responsibilities of the PCC carried on, even though church life was in some areas very different. The Mission Action Plan had been adopted at the 2017 annual meeting. Various aspects of the seven objectives are embedded within different PCC agenda items. However, lack of face to face meetings and disruption experienced by external businesses meant that some projects were not able to progress, particularly those related to the fabric of the church.

Sarah Thorne completed her two year training programme through Ridley Hall and in October was licensed as a **Children and Families** minister by the Bishop, during a Zoom service of course, instead of live in Ely Cathedral. Sarah has identified a need in the village and expanded existing activities to include the 'Make lunch' project. Although offering cooked lunches has not yet been possible, 'Boxes of Hope' have been delivered to families during school holidays. Fund raising to support this ministry is ongoing. See section 9.7 for the Children and Families Team report

The **Finance and Stewardship** committee monitors income and expenditure throughout the year and prepares the budget which is submitted for PCC approval in November. We are grateful to Sue Ellis, treasurer, for her work in keeping the accounts up to date and providing the appropriate information to the PCC. Maintaining regular giving from church members is a particular concern and the role of stewardship officer is still vacant. Inevitably, loyal supporters move away or die and newer members may not appreciate the amount of expenditure which is beyond our control. Regular giving including gift aid refunds does not currently cover the regular expenditure. We can dip into reserves in the short term but ultimately this situation cannot be sustained and thus the chance to develop other initiatives and areas of mission is limited. See section 5 for the financial review.

Every PCC meeting includes a report from **Cathy Watts, Safeguarding Officer**. All PCC members are required to be DBS checked and have taken online training. The PCC upholds the House of Bishops policies of 'Promoting a Safer Church' and 'Protecting all God's Children'. The Ely Diocese website has an extensive safeguarding section. It includes a Parish Dashboard which gives excellent advice and allows us to ensure that we are compliant with current policies and procedures. The Dashboard uses a 'RAG' rating system – Red for urgent action, Amber for items in hand and Green for actions which have been accomplished. There is safeguarding information on the home page of St Mary's website and also displayed in church.

Consideration of worship and spiritual matters is informed by the **Rector's report** from Maggie Guite and **Ministry Team** report. Most initiatives were able to continue, in spite of COVID restrictions. Weekday Advent Promise and Passiontide Promise services took place online, as did Lent Study groups across the Team. The Lent discussions were based on the previous Sunday sermon with the theme of 'Understanding the Bible'. The special services which usually attract a lot of people were worst affected. The usual All Souls service was not possible and different arrangements were offered for bereaved families to come into church separately, to sit and remember in a small group and light candles. The annual Remembrance service fell in the 2nd lockdown and only short outdoor ceremonies with a few people were allowed. Maggie Guite led a service for Linton at the war memorial in the cemetery. Congregational singing has been forbidden from the start and thus the carol service could not take place before Christmas. Numbers were restricted for Christmas and Easter services.

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Nicola Collard, **Chair of Governors at Linton C. E. Infant School**, submits a report to each PCC meeting to inform members of school events and progress. The other foundation governors are Jacqui Burge, Sue Filby, Hannah Foote, Moire Jarritt, Cathy Watts and Michael Younger. Michael Wilcockson was appointed to a vacant position in January. The PCC is very grateful to these people for their contribution to the governance and upholding the Christian ethos of our church school. See also section 9.5. The year has been like none other, as a high proportion of school time was spent teaching online with only vulnerable children and key workers' children actually in school. There has been no opportunity for governors to visit the school, as all governor contact has been online too, in order to keep staff and children safe and healthy.

The **Fabric** committee reports on necessary repairs to the church building and pavilion in the short term as well as preparing proposals for longer term projects. The PCC is grateful to The Friends of St Mary's, a separate charity which funds a high proportion of church repair and improvement work. See sections 7 and 9.13.

Reports are received from the two **Deanery Synod** representatives to inform PCC members of views and events within the wider area of the Granta Deanery. See section 8 for more information.

The PCC is grateful to the **Events committee** which has persevered with creating virtual events, sadly without food and drink. There have been photographic competitions with the theme of summer gardens and later Christmas trees, and both virtual and paper quizzes. Some funds were raised by asking for donations to participate and also to vote on the photos. See section 9.3.

In the March meeting, Maggie Guite announced her intention to retire in early July. The PCC would like to thank Maggie most sincerely for her leadership, inspiration and dedication over the last six years and, of course, we have also benefitted from Malcolm Guite's ministry. We wish them both a happy and relaxing retirement with time to pursue their various interests.

I am looking forward to further restrictions being relaxed and the opportunity for us all to worship together again and to share conversations and social events with each other, as we used to do.

Sue Mudge
PCC Secretary

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

5. FINANCIAL REVIEW TO 31ST DECEMBER 2020

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's, Linton

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, SORP 2005 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements – to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and – to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kate Sargent

KATE SARGENT

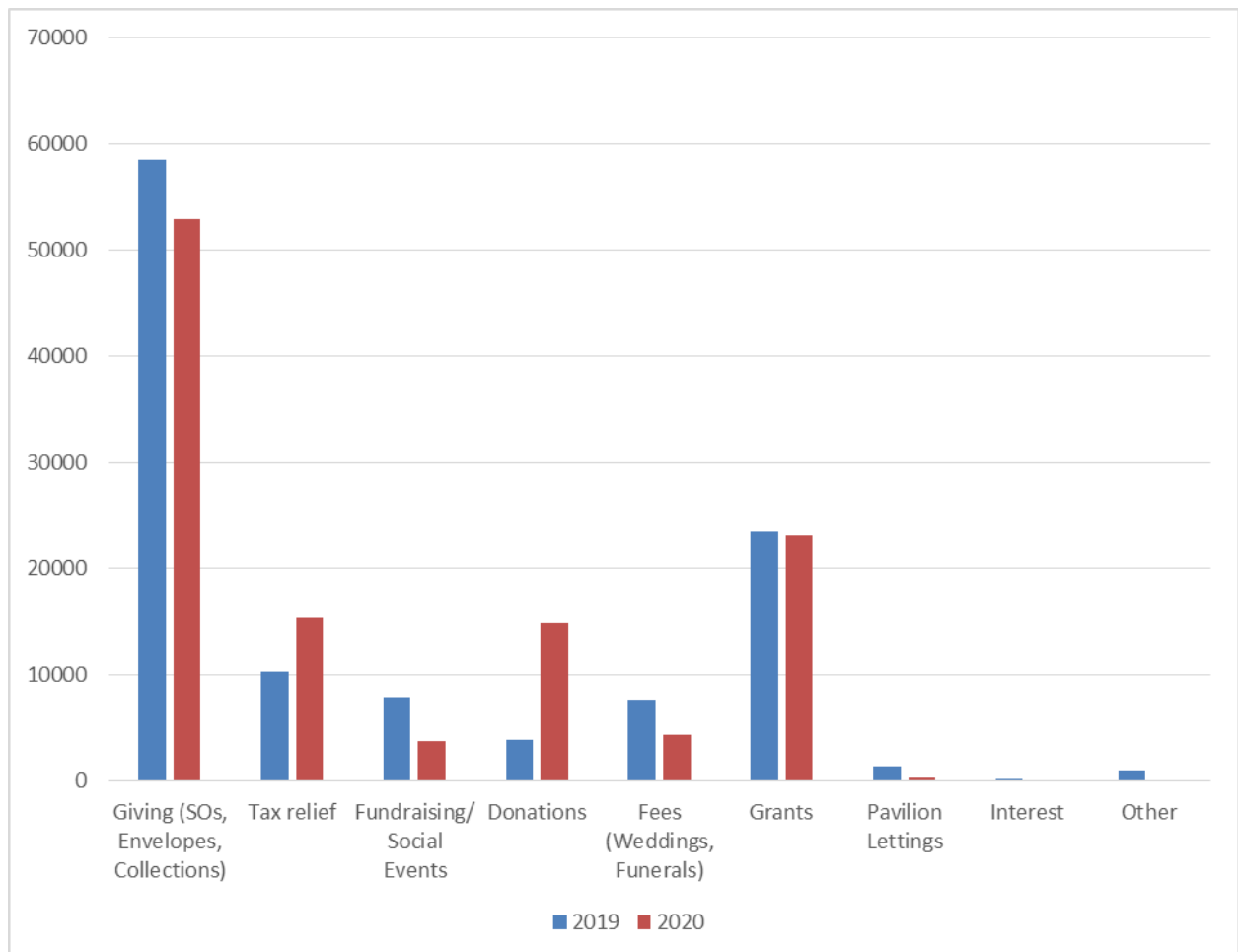
26th March 2021

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Where does the money come from?

In 2020 St Mary's received a total of £114,985.75 which surprisingly was comparable to 2019. In 2020 £23,499.00 came from grants from the Friends of St Mary's, the Anderson Trust, the Parish Council, the listed places of worship grant scheme and the PCC would like to express its gratitude to these organisations for their ongoing support. A legacy of £7,500 was gratefully received. Our Giving Sunday in March brought in £1,500 and increases in regular giving which was very timely with the following lockdown. Some members of our congregation have given one-off donations; others have switched from envelopes to the parish giving scheme or standing order so they can continue to make regular donations whilst not in Church. This has been very encouraging when income from other events, weddings and pavilion lettings has dropped. This year more than ever shows the Church's reliance on regular giving by all members of our congregation and it is disappointing to see from the graph that this has fallen.

Income: £114,985.75



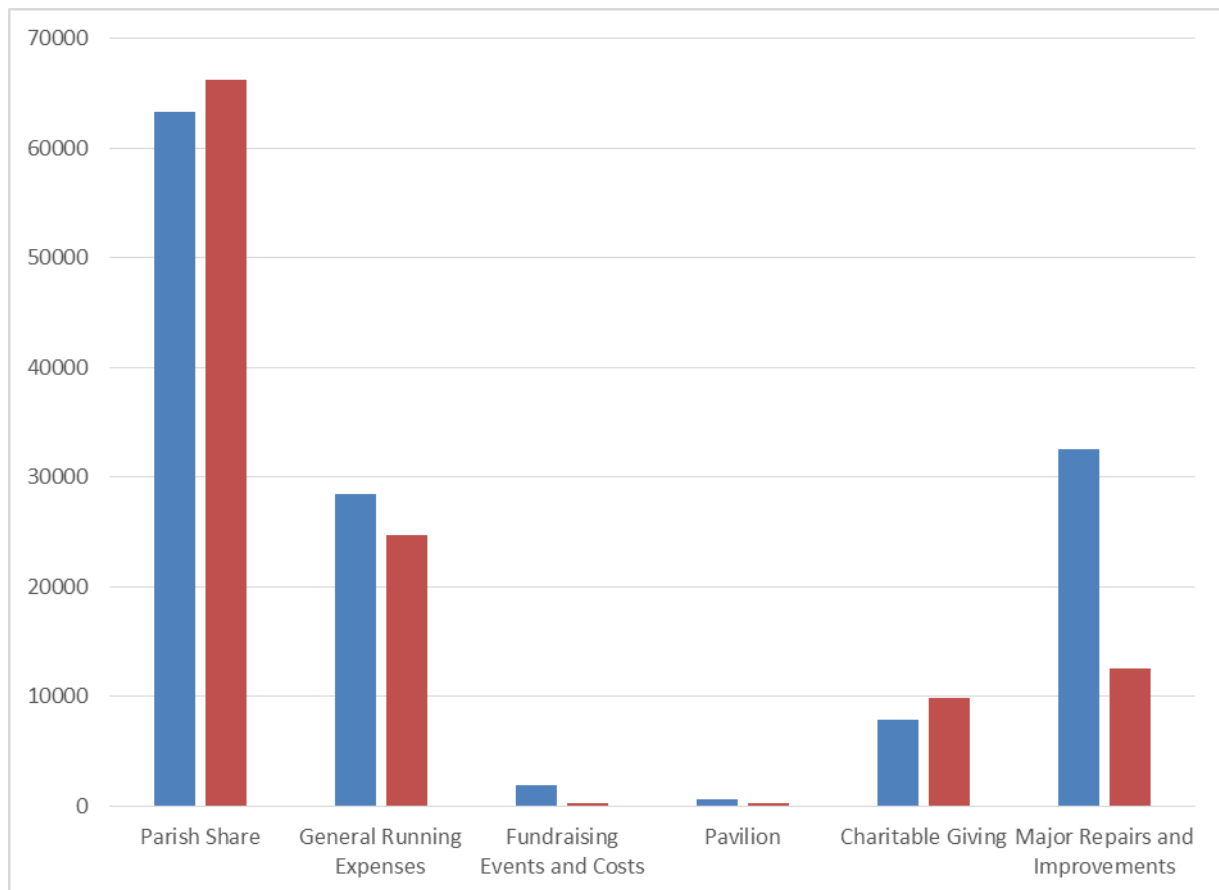
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Where does the money go?

Total expenditure during the year was £113,929.05

As the chart below shows, the most significant part of expenditure goes on the Parish Share, which was £66,206.93. As in previous years, the PCC (in line with the majority of other parishes in the Deanery) was committed to paying the Share in full, principally because otherwise the Diocese would not provide us with a full-time Team Rector and House for Duty Team Vicar. The amount requested by the Diocese continues to increase not only in line with inflation but also by requiring benefices to meet the full cost of their clergy as well as some of the diocesan costs and mission costs. During 2020, some repairs under the Quinquennial Inspection have been carried out and we have also paid for the roof alarm, organ reports and church letterbox. Much of this work has been paid for by grants from the Friends of St Mary's and the listed places of worship grant scheme. Our administrator's hours have increased this year due to the extra work entailed in keeping members of our congregation up to date with service sheets and pewsheets. However general running expenses of the Church have been lower this year.

Expenditure: £113,929.05



St Mary the Virgin, Linton

In budgeting beyond the Ministry Share, the PCC continued to prioritise expenditure on:

- providing a welcoming and well-maintained space for prayer and services;
- supporting the valuable work undertaken with Linton's young people, through the Beacon Youth Trust;
- providing administrative support, to free up time for the incumbent to spend on pastoral activities;
- maintaining the Pavilion as both a meeting space and an asset;
- as a reflection of God's generous giving to us, giving back a proportion of income to those in need;
- developing initiatives related to the Mission Action Plan.

Summary

The final accounts for 2020 show a small surplus. However, the tax refund of £1,816.59 and a grant of £4,103.29 both received in January relate to the previous year so there is no room for complacency. Day to day running expenses of the Church continue to be kept to a minimum, however we do have a significant Parish share to pay and there is a responsibility to keep the Church in good repair.

Reserves Policy

In 2020, the PCC continued with a reserves policy; retaining a sum of £22,500 for urgent repairs and as contingency cover.

Financial Statements

The financial statements which follow comprise:

- A statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year, showing all resources made available to the PCC and all expenditure incurred by it, and reconciling changes to funds.
- A return of Parish Finance which shows the same information but gives a breakdown of income and expenditure.
- A Balance Sheet showing assets, liabilities and funds.

Accounting Policies

These accounts have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and in accordance with the Charities SORP (2005) and applicable standards. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission under the name of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Linton, Diocese of Ely, charity registration number 1138508.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

St Mary's Linton Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	105,897	505	—	106,402	96,296
Activities for generating funds	3,798	—	—	3,798	7,860
Investment income	56	2	—	59	187
Incoming resources from charitable activities	4,726	—	—	4,726	8,941
Other incoming resources	—	—	—	—	968
Total incoming resources	114,477	507	—	114,985	114,254
Resources used					
Cost of generating funds	—	—	—	—	1,296
Cost of generating voluntary income	—	—	—	—	—
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs	247	—	—	247	587
Charitable activities	113,379	301	—	113,681	140,000
Governance costs	—	—	—	—	—
Total resources used	113,627	301	—	113,929	141,884
Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer	850	206	—	1,056	(27,629)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	73	2,710	—	2,784	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	(2,425)	(359)	—	(2,784)	—
Net incoming / outgoing before other gains / losses	(1,501)	2,557	—	1,056	(27,629)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	2,929	—	—	2,929	3,792
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	1,428	2,557	—	3,986	(23,837)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	78,207	3,613	—	81,821	105,658
Total funds carried forward	79,636	6,171	—	85,807	81,821

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Return of Parish Finance for year ending 31 December 2020

	2019 £	2020 £
Incoming Resources		
Voluntary Income		
Tax efficient planned giving		
Gift Aid - Bank	42,407.64	44,856.58
Gift Aid - Envelopes	5,480.80	1,745.00
Total tax efficient planned giving	47,888.44	46,601.58
Other planned giving	2,854.00	2,789.00
Loose plate collections	7,769.67	3,516.01
Regular Gift Days	0.00	1,500.00
Giving through church boxes	485.23	199.25
One off Gift Aid gifts	2,057.91	2,489.31
Donations, appeals, etc (note 1)	415.00	3,183.48
Tax recovered through Gift Aid (note 2)	10,327.23	15,486.85
Legacies	1,000.00	7,500.00
Non-recurring one off grants (note 3)	23,499.22	23,136.82
Total for voluntary income	96,296.70	106,402.30
Activities for Generating Funds		
Other funds generated (note 4)	1,310.17	1,340.03
Summer Event	4,509.02	
Christmas Event	650.03	265.05
Social Events (note 5)	1,391.65	2,193.10
Total for Activities for Generating Funds	7,860.87	3,798.18
Bank and building society interest	187.28	59.27
Church Activities		
Fees for weddings and funerals	7,549.00	4,420.00
Pavilion lettings	1,392.25	306.00
Total for Church Activities	8,941.25	4,726.00
Other Incoming Resources		
Choir funds	968.66	
Total for Incoming Resources	114,254.76	114,985.75

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Return of Parish Finance for year ending 31 December 2020

Resources Expended	2019 £	2020 £
Costs of Generating Funds		
Summer Event Costs	1,296.36	
Christmas Event Costs	0.00	
Costs of Social Events (note 6)	587.45	247.90
Total for costs of Generating Funds	1,883.81	247.90
All Mission Giving and Charitable Grants & Donations (note 7)		
Giving to missionary societies	1,190.00	895.50
Secular Charities	1,675.45	1,893.14
Home mission	4,958.25	7,041.71
Total for All Mission Giving etc	7,823.70	9,830.35
Church Activities		
Parish Share	63,362.69	66,206.93
Salaries (note 8)	6,790.96	7,523.76
Expenses (clergy, pastoral staff, etc)		
Working expenses of Incumbent	480.00	480.00
Rector's telephone	123.60	90.00
Education	1,475.25	663.19
Total for Expenses	2,078.85	1,233.19
Parish Training and mission	117.59	423.27
Regular Church running expenses (insurance, cleaning, admin)		
Church running - insurance	3,674.65	3,270.59
Organ / piano tuning	235.00	105.00
Church maintenance	3,770.47	1,438.70
Cleaning (note 9)		292.02
Upkeep of services (note 10)	6,442.88	5,745.84
Upkeep of churchyard (note 11)	128.20	74.75
Administration	2,701.23	1,093.70
Flowers (note 12)	132.08	31.73
Total for Regular Church running expenses	17,084.51	12,052.33

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Resources Expended	2019 £	2020 £
Church utility bills (gas, electricity, water)		
Church running - electric	534.35	821.11
Church running - gas	1,829.67	2,675.76
Church running - water	26.58	32.12
Total for Church utility bills	2,390.60	3,528.99
 Costs of trading Pavilion		
Pavilion running - electricity	550.39	155.90
Pavilion running - maintenance	53.99	99.00
Pavilion running - water	28.26	32.11
Total for Costs of trading	632.64	287.01
Total for Church Activities	92,457.84	91,255.48
Total for Resources Expended	102,165.35	101,333.73
 Major Capital Expenditure	2019 £	2020 £
Church major repairs	32,515.70	12,595.32
Pavilion Depreciation	7,203.10	0
Total for Major Capital Expenditure	39,718.80	12,595.32
Total Expenditure	141,884.15	113,929.05
 Total Income	114,254.76	114,985.75
 Resources Expended	134,681.05	113,929.05
 Depreciation	7,203.10	0
 Total Expenditure	141,884.15	113,929.05
 Balance	-27,629.39	1,056.70

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Balance sheet (Summary) As of: 31 December 2020

	2019 £	2020 £
Fixed assets		
Pavilion (note 13)	500	500
Investments (note 14)	49,656	52,586
	<u>50,156</u>	<u>53,086</u>
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	31,665	38,205
Liabilities		
LCHT (note 15)	0	5,483
	<u>31,665</u>	<u>32,721</u>
Net current assets less current liabilities	<u>31,665</u>	<u>32,721</u>
	<u>81,821</u>	<u>85,807</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>81,821</u>	<u>85,807</u>
	<u>81,821</u>	<u>85,807</u>
Total net assets less liabilities	<u>81,821</u>	<u>85,807</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	44,485	44,640
Designated		
Designated - Contingency	22,500	22,500
Designated - Mission Action Plan	10,722	10,722
Designated - Pavilion (note 13)	500	500
Designated – Children & Family Ministry (note 16)	-	1,273
Restricted		
Restricted - Anderson Trust	628	1,973
Restricted - Bells	1,411	1,412
Restricted - Churchyard (note 17)	(41)	383
Restricted - Music (note 15)	1,615	2,117
Restricted – Peace Garden	0	285
	<u>81,821</u>	<u>85,807</u>
Funds of the church	<u>81,821</u>	<u>85,807</u>

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Notes to Financial Statements

Return of Parish Finance

1. Donations include £80 collection for USPG, £230 part of our Lent lunch collection for MND Association. £695 is from some of our donations for our Children and Families Ministry whilst another portion is included in regular giving.
2. £1816.59 of the tax recovered through gift aid relates to 2019.
3. Grants received this year are £1,625 from the Anderson Trust, £800 from the Parish Council of which £300 is for the Peace Garden and £500 for the upkeep of the Churchyard; £15,058.80 from the Friends of St Mary's for works identified by the Quinquennial Inspection, organ reports and the new letterbox; £5,653.02 from the listed places of worship grant scheme which is a grant for the VAT element of eligible works carried out by the Church.
4. The income from other funds generated includes £53.25 from 'Give as you Live', a further £98 from Sale of 2019 Calendars and £224.00 from Ride and Stride. A refund of £500 was received from the Team Ministry account which covers the expenses of our team and its clergy.
5. Social events include refreshments after services as well events organised by the Events Committee such as New Year's Eve, film showing of Paddington 2, the successful Come and Sing in early March (£1074.91) as well as virtual events including the virtual bake off, quiz and garden show.
6. This largely relates to the cost of showing Paddington 2 and expenses for the Come and Sing and Virtual events.
7. Charitable giving this year includes £315.50 to Christian Aid from the Harvest Collection and Soup, £658.14 from the 2019 Carol service to Cambridge Churches Homeless Project, £500 to USPG, £500 to Haverhill Foodbank and £300 to Youthinc. In addition £7,041.71 has been given to support the work of the Beacon Youth Trust.
8. Salaries relates to payments made to our organists and parish administrator.
9. Cleaning expenses include the purchase of a lightweight cordless vacuum cleaner and Covid-related cleaning materials.
10. Upkeep of services includes fees paid to Ely and Non Stipendiary priests for taking weddings and funerals. In 2020 this was £3,515.33. This means the cost of running our services in Church is £2,230.51 (2019: £2,432.21).
11. Upkeep of Churchyard is from money held for the Monday Gang.
12. Once again, the cost of the flowers has also been covered by separate collections and the generosity of the flower arrangers.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Balance Sheet

13. Pavilion at cost £77,031. This has been depreciated over the last 10 years and is shown at a nominal value of £500.
14. Investments: £52,586 is the value of the Sterling Bond Fund held at Barclays. The fund has been closed and we still await repayment of the fund.
15. Liabilities: LCHT represents funds we are holding for the Linton Community Help Team.
16. The Children & Families Ministry is money donated specifically for Children and Families Ministry, in response to fund raising.
17. The Parish Council gave us £500 this year to cover ongoing expenses of the Monday Gang.

Sue Ellis, Treasurer

6. ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

The Electoral Roll is the Parish Church's register of electors, who are therefore qualified to attend and vote at the Annual Parish Church meeting where the elections take place for membership of the Parish Church Council, and the Deanery Synod.

Last year the number on the Roll was 129, however, though three people have died, three people have been added, so the total remains at 129.

You can be added to the Electoral Roll if you have been baptised, and are over 16, and either 'live in the parish', 'live outside the parish and have attended St Mary's for six months' or 'are a member in good standing of another church and have attended St Mary's for six months'.

If you would like to be added to the Electoral Roll or have any questions, please do contact me - JoGeorge68@aol.com

Jo George - Electoral Roll Officer

7. FABRIC REPORT

The Fabric Committee has not met formally since the last APCM in October. We are planning to have an in-person meeting at the Church prior to the July PCC meeting.

Works to the fabric of the church

The internal door to the base of the tower has been eased and the frame re-fixed (Part of QI works brought forward for security reasons). SmartWater has also been applied to the North Aisle and Porch roof.

Fixed installations and services

Kershaw continue with the heating system maintenance contract. The boilers are due for service in summer 2021.

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One of the initial reasons for installing broadband and Wi-Fi in the Church was to facilitate remote control of the heating and enhance our ability to cater for social events. In the last year, the ability to stream services without reliance on mobile phones and 4G connection has become more urgent. However, despite David Watts' best efforts, attempts to get a shallow trench dug to install a conduit for the cables has become like a Norse Saga. The supplier finally arrived to commence digging the trench on Tuesday 4th May 2021.

The roof alarm system had its first annual service in January. So far, the only notifications received have been as a result of minor power cuts.

The contract for the fire security installations has been maintained.

Church furnishings

No articles or goods have been permanently removed from the church or acquired since the last APCM.

A survey of users confirmed a preference for forward facing chairs in the Resurrection Chapel; this will be actioned once Covid restrictions allow for more than a few socially distanced chairs in the Church. It is hoped to take forward the replacement of some of the remaining pews with chairs similar to those in the nave. This and other elements of the proposed re-ordering, such as the provision of a new oak storage area in the north aisle, will be contingent on finance and Diocesan Advisory Committee approval.

The pavilion

It is hoped that external redecoration of the pavilion can be carried out during 2021.

The Peace Garden has been well used during lockdown. The March PCC approved funding to replace a bench and repair the arbour. We remain grateful to Glynis Younger and her group of volunteers for maintaining the area.

The Churchyard

The resurfacing of the paths in the Churchyard, by Parish Council contractors, has been delayed at the request of the PCC until the broadband cable has been installed. The notice board will be moved back and the path widened at the same time.

We are grateful to the Monday Gang for their continuing commitment and care of the churchyard.

Other land

The Diocese has finally confirmed to Andrew Gore that the land between Church Cottage and the previous Rectory was retained by the Diocesan Board of Finance when the Rectory building was sold. The Parish Council has given tacit approval to surfacing the parking area with gravel, and it may be advantageous to grub up the shrubs adjacent to the Churchyard wall at the same time to improve access and reveal more of what is an attractive wall.

The existing notice board at the top of Church Lane outside the Infant School is rotten, and the cost of repair would be high. We are proposing that it should be replaced by a metal unit, slightly larger than one of the panels on the board outside the Church.

Relationship with the Friends of St Mary's

The formal process for requesting funding from the Friends has been instigated and used twice in the last six months. We are grateful to the Friends for funding the design scheme for the lighting, and agreeing to fund SmartWater application to the roof of the North aisle and porch and easing of the inner door to the base of the tower.

Future work

The PCC has agreed that Henry Freeland, the church's statutory architect, should be invited to prepare a specification for the QI works to allow tenders to be invited. However, this has been

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

delayed so that the cabling and installation of the new lighting system can be included. As well as the buff pampments, Andrew Gore has identified a source for red pampments which have been approved in principle by the DAC Secretary for repairs to the floor. We are awaiting a quotation for these.

We have received a thorough proposal from the third lighting consultant, Norwich Architectural Lighting, initially by Zoom, but were able to meet in the Church after Easter and separated elements of the scheme into essential, nice to have and non-essential. It is hoped this will reduce the hardware element of the scheme by up to £10,000. In addition there will be a cost of circa £4,500 for the Wi-Fi switching system, and the installation cost.

The PCC hopes to undertake re-lighting alongside the Quinquennial works, subject to DAC approval. It is proposed that financial contributions should be sought from the Village at large for this work, in addition to a request for financial assistance from the Friends.

Initial remedial work to the organ bellows has been approved. Quotations to clean and overhaul the organ have been obtained by the Director of Music, and it is hoped that Grant funding may be obtainable for this work. It is felt that the proposed re-orientation of the organ is not currently affordable.

Richard Tonry.

Chairman, Fabric Committee, on behalf of the Churchwardens, 4th May 2021

8. DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

A new Deanery Synod (for a 3-year term) came into being in December 2020 and we welcomed several new Deanery Synod representatives. The Deanery Synod members will soon be voting on representatives for the new Synod of (Ely) Diocesan Synod. In turn, there will then be elections for General Synod which begins its new term in November 2021. At the meetings of Granta Deanery Synod (usually 3 meetings a year) we receive reports from both Diocesan and General Synod, so the links between these groups are maintained. Members of General Synod are automatically members of Diocesan and Deanery Synod. This means that our Rural Dean, Revd Simon Talbott, a member of General Synod, is a member of all 3 Synods.

Deanery Synod has only met twice (via Zoom) in the period in question – November 2020 and April 2021. We had hoped to meet in person, but this was not possible. However, with the help of technology we have been able to participate in 2 useful sessions.

In November 2020 – “Getting to know you – Sharing a view of your deanery” with Phil Marsh, Diocesan Development Officer: Inherited Church and Mark Rodel, Diocesan Development Officer for Fresh Expressions and Pioneer Ministry. We looked at what parishes have achieved during the pandemic as well as exploring the challenges and looking to the future. We hope to use the material from this session when putting together the Deanery Plan later this year to look at levels of ministry, finance and future plans.

At the April 2021 Synod, David Parry-Smith led an update on Mental Health First Aid (following a session in April 2019). The hope is that it may be possible to set up a group of Mental Health First Aiders in the Deanery who would then train to become accredited Mental Health First Aiders. We would be interested to know if there are already any schemes in existence. It was good to see several visitors from Linton at this meeting.

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Finance – Michael Younger (Deanery Treasurer) has produced a post Covid Recovery Plan to encourage and support churches in the Deanery on financial matters. It has been difficult for some parishes to pay their full Ministry Share in 2020 and the position looks more bleak in 2021. Michael is keen to encourage churches to adopt the Parish Giving Scheme in the Deanery and already 12 out of 24 parishes are doing so.

Youthinc – has now been in existence for 5 years. Youthinc enables young people to link with their local church and have contact with a Christian Youth worker so they can explore their faith. This is particularly relevant for smaller parishes with no regular youth work provision. Youthinc employs a part-time youth worker through Youth for Christ. St Mary's has supported the project financially for the past 3 years.

Andrew Gore and I are the elected Deanery Synod Reps from Linton. Andrew is also Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod, and Anne Parry-Smith is the Secretary of the Deanery Synod and I am grateful to her for drafting this report.

David Parry-Smith
Deanery Synod Representative
7 May 2021

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9. REPORTS FROM GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

The following are reports from Church activities, including some services. Thanks to all those who have contributed reports. The text has been left in the original style provided by the author. The named individual can provide further information about any aspect.

9.1. BEACON YOUTH TRUST REPORT

The Beacon Trust and its youth work has remained an important contribution to village life, despite lockdowns and other restrictions. Our youth worker, Lizzie Bottrill, was initially furloughed during the first lockdown, but since then has maintained contact with a good number of young people through on-line meetings where it has not been possible to meet with them physically, and in those parts of the year where more face to face meeting has been allowed she and her co-worker, Stella, and the volunteers have run groups in the Drop In Centre on the Rec., made contact with 'hard-to reach' young people through detached youth work, and taken full advantage of the youth work Covid provisions which allowed some face to face support and individual mentoring even during the Autumn lockdown.

During the summer period, the Drop In Centre was handed over to the Beacon Trust's ownership by Linton Action 4 Youth, (LA4Y - now largely defunct), and a great deal of improvement and decorative work was done, much of it by Lizzie and Stella with young people themselves. A previous part-time sessional worker, Jacob, brought the electrical wiring and devices up to date, without charge for labour. The activity at the centre itself proved the catalyst for more contacts with young people who had previously not been involved.

Whilst Lizzie has successfully recruited volunteers to help with the youth sessions, she has recently been hoping to recruit more, which is very necessary.

On the Church front, Lizzie has this year participated regularly in SMYG's monthly meetings on-line, leading games and Bake-Off competitions, and has been a great support for Michael and Maggie in the leadership of the group. She has equivalent contacts in the Free Church. We are sorry that the hope she entertained last year of setting-up a joint Bible Study group for the young people of both churches fell victim to Covid 19 restrictions. She did, however, for a while last spring and summer, run online creative writing groups as a voluntary enterprise, which involved young people of both churches.

We are very sorry that Lizzie is leaving at the end of May, but we understand how difficult it is for single young adults to acquire settled and affordable housing in this area - something which has affected Lizzie. However, she also has a strong sense of call to something new, which may give her more time for her creative writing. She assures us that Linton will always have a place in her heart, and that she has enjoyed her time here.

We are grateful that the partnership with Romsey Mill remains firm, and that they will not only take the lead in recruitment of a new worker for Beacon but also continue to support its ongoing youth programme with sessional work while there is a vacancy in the post here. Romsey Mill, as the official employer of the Beacon Trust's youth worker, also provides valuable management, networking and training support for youth workers when in post; this is something which Lizzie has appreciated. So we go forward in a good state, still well-supported by the Parish Council, and with the hope and potential for Beacon Youth Trust to

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go on supporting both 'secular' and church-based youth work into the future. The Trustees from St Mary's are Hannah Foote, David Watts, Hugh Paton (treasurer) and Maggie Guite (secretary), along with Stephen Munday (chair), Daniel Gilbert and Alasdair McBean from Linton Free Church.

Maggie Guite

9.2. BELL RINGERS

Despite all the troubles, the bell ringers have still managed to stay active during the past year. During the summer we were able to ring for the 10am service with restrictions in place (only 4 people in the tower for 15 minutes), but this was reduced through the autumn and winter to only one person either chiming a single bell, or using the Ellacombe chime (at the bottom of the tower). Additionally, we were able to mark significant events through the year with the tolling of a bell for Remembrance Sunday in November, the National Day of Reflection in March, and the recent death and funeral of Prince Philip.

We have also been able to stay in touch with each other by meeting online every Wednesday evening when we would normally be practicing and ringing virtually. We are also looking forward to being able to return to the tower in the coming months as restrictions are lifted. If you are interested in finding out more please contact our secretary Sue Ellis on sue.ellis@stmaryslinton.org.uk

Stephen Croxall, Tower Captain

9.3. EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Events committee has had several changes over the past year. Pam Richardson stood down as chair and left the committee along with Rebecca Richardson and Derek Lockstone. We will miss them from the committee and thank them for all their work on the committee over the years. I have taken on the role of chair and am supported by the remaining committee members. We have also been unable to hold the face to face events that we had planned. Instead we have adapted and held various virtual events including a virtual bake off, several zoom quizzes, a virtual garden show, a paper quiz, a virtual Christmas tree show, several children's drawing competitions, virtual bingo and an evening with Malcom Guite via zoom. We are due to run a picture quiz with images around Linton from late May to 26th June, see details on the pewsheets. The aim of the events committee is to enhance the social life of the church and to cover its costs. We are very pleased to let you know that despite the restrictions this year we have managed to make a surplus of £1,245.75 for church funds.

Charlotte Ellis, Chair

9.4. FLOWER MINISTRY

The flower ministry like everything else has had a tough year as we relied on a monthly collection but with donations and support from the team, we were able to deck the church weekly (when open) and decorate the church for Christmas and Easter. We would welcome new arrangers. Help will be given if needed.

Lian Watkin

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

9.5. LINTON C E INFANT SCHOOL

Governing Body

Over the last academic year the Governing Body has said goodbye to Hilary Angetter and welcomed Michael Wilcockson. Michael's term started from January and, with a bit of forward planning, he hit the ground running and has already attended Full Governor meetings, a Foundation Governor meeting and the Curriculum and Data Committee meeting. We are delighted to have him on board and we wish him all the very best going forward. The rest of the Foundation Governors are Sue Filby (Pastoral Link Governor), Hannah Foote (RE Link Governor), Moire Jarritt (Humanities Link Governor), Jacqui Burge (Music and PE Link Governor), Cathy Watts (Phonics, Emotions 4 Learning/PHSE and SIAMS Link Governor), and Michael Younger (English and Safeguarding Link Governor). In my role of Chair and Foundation Governor, I am Art and SEND Link Governor and also filled in as Finance and DT Link in Hilary's absence. I sit on all three Committees and Chair Finance and Property. I have been involved with Steph Booth with five sessions of well-being training across the academic year and join the Well-being Working Party led by Louise Cooper, a member of the SLT. Every term Kelly and I meet with the Head and Chair at Linton Heights Junior School to compare notes and work together on areas such as transition to the Junior School. My role includes being part of the Headteacher Assessment meetings with Michael and Moire and making myself available to sit in on interviews or respond quickly to any pressing concerns which may arise.

I am pleased to say that we have a strong body of individuals who are enthusiastic in their roles to hold the school to account and to support and monitor all that the school does. We have been blessed to have had individuals who have volunteered their time, with a healthy diversity of skills and expertise. We are now at full capacity with 14 Governors, (including Kelly Harries and myself), three Associate Governors and Emma Hicks, our Clerk.

We continue to meet via Zoom and, despite minor hiccups in the technical department, this is working well. Governor Training has also continued over Zoom which has made it so accessible and has resulted in record uptake by governors. All governors have commented on the merits of training this way and we hope it is something that will continue.

It has been a tricky year in terms of finding a balance in dealing with what we have been faced with. We have not been able to monitor subjects etc. as we would normally expect to, therefore many usual Governor duties would not have been practical or sensitive to the situation. Our priorities continue to focus on:

Mental Health and Well-being and SEND

Health and Safety

Safeguarding

Budget

We have just started to look at how we can collect and present data, given the incredibly difficult job of measuring progress over the last year. Remote learning was a challenge for most staff and they all did a fantastic job.

In March we would have normally had a full day of Governor Business, which involves a whole day at school. Top and tailing with a Board meeting and a very finely planned day of small groups observing and being presented to, including the chance to chat to parents on the school gates and have lunch with the children! (Always a highlight for me!)

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Covid restrictions forced us to be creative this year. We decided to provide a timetable of assembly sessions, lessons, stilling (calming sessions linked to E4L), and story time slots over the week, so that Governors could observe what and how lessons were being taught, how this was working and how well the children were engaging. This was a great way to gain insight and give feedback on our observations; information which is in the form of Governor Visit reports, which will be circulated to all Governors for the next meeting.

Myself, Moire and Michael will be meeting with Kelly to look at how we are going to progress by revisiting the SIDP, assess together what our short term and long term plans need to be and to help and support Kelly in making those key decisions. As the landscape has changed somewhat it is important that we continue to react sensibly and sensitively, particularly in the areas of assessment, transition, and wellbeing. We will also look at any weaknesses and plan how best to address this and also finding better ways of celebrating our successes, of which there have been many!

The budget has obviously suffered and has been subject to very thorough and careful scrutiny by Liz Brooker and Kelly Harries, with the help of regular meetings with the LA Financial Adviser, Ray Byford.

Kelly and Liz have worked hard to try and drive down a deficit figure to an amount which is both realistic and acceptable. We have a plan that will aim to get us back to a balanced budget over the next financial year. Being creative and dedicated to fundraising for the school will be as important as ever, crucial to ensuring we can provide quality of teaching, experiences and resources for our children. So, if any of you can help with generating funds through contacts you may have or have any ideas as to what you might be able to do, we would, sincerely love to hear from you! A date for your diaries - the School Summer Fair will be on the Friday 9th July between 5-7pm. It would be lovely to see you there and if you would like to help on a stall or in any other way, please contact Emma Hicks on reception. We would be grateful of any support; this will be the first social fundraising event we have had for some time!

Huge thanks to all the Governors who have continued with their invaluable support with time, engagement and communication. Having got to this point, I believe that the Governors have done a great job in supporting and challenging Kelly and the staff team who have responded with enormous levels of dedication, and hard work needed to provide care and education for our children this year. It has been extremely tough and stressful at times, but we are coming through it. We have been fortunate to experience low infection and high attendance rates. The staff team remain a very tight group and with the support of the parent community the school has excelled itself. All the evidence you need is to see the smiles on the children's faces as they rush in through the gates every morning!

Key:

SEND – Special Educational Needs and Disability

SENDCo – SEND Co-ordinator

SIAMS – Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodists Schools

E4L – Emotions for Learning (A range of methods taught for children to practice good relationships and to help them recognise and equip the children with techniques to help manage them)

Nicola Collard (Chair of Governors)

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Friday Church

Since the beginning of this academic year I continued to deliver Friday Church via video so this could be watched on a screen in class ‘bubbles’ at school and also via a school link so children could access it from home during lockdown.

Since January this year I have been doing an assembly live on Zoom. Every class bubble ‘attends’ and we also get a few joining from home, including parents and a couple of Governors usually. Claire Coulson, our SIAMS link at the Diocese joined us last week and she gave a glowing feedback to Kelly, which was good to hear and very encouraging.

I covered some Old Testament stories at the start of the year moving on to talk about Advent. After the Christmas story we continued with Jesus growing up leading to what Lent means to the Easter story, doubting Thomas and then Ascension. I try to follow the Christian calendar where possible or appropriate. I use a mixture of resources, sometimes just inventing my own thing. Occasionally I may do an assembly based on a theme, for example prayer or being kind or being patient. From next week onwards I will be mostly telling stories and parables of Jesus, starting with ‘The Marvellous Picnic’ - (the feeding of the five thousand!) I always like to do things a little differently and use pictures and props. I also like to plant seeds of thought or set a small challenge so they can have something to take away with them, in a spiritual sense.

The basic format remains the same. We have obviously had to improvise on a few things, like the lighting of the altar candles which the children always did at church. Now Kelly lights a candle in her office which stands on a table covered by a cloth of the corresponding liturgical colour of the season. Doing the service on Zoom is so much better; I get to see most of the children, we are now able to introduce the readers back and it feels a bit more like it should be. Although I can get the children to do simple actions or sounds and a thumbs up or down, I do miss interacting with the children as much as I used to. I would always have a chat with some of the children, teachers and parents before the service and they sometimes would participate in the story, I like to roam through with the microphone asking questions and getting feedback, (which was always fun!), and I loved doing a high five with each and every child as they left the church.

I do hope that the children can return to church soon. However, the fact that Friday Church has been consistent throughout, provides the familiarity of the routine and an important connection between the church and the school. It has been much appreciated and supported by Kelly Harries, parents, and staff alike.

Nicola Collard

9.6. CHURCH LINKS WITH LINTON HEIGHTS JUNIOR SCHOOL

There is not much to report here as we still haven’t resumed a school church assembly. The main reason for this is that it was just a step too much for both myself and Chris Kemshell. I hope that we might be able to start again at some point in the near future.

James Puxley is working with GenR8 in providing resources, particularly the year six moving up booklets, funded by all three churches in Linton.

The school put together a wonderful Easter service, over ‘Teams’ which the whole school attended along with parents too. It was lovely! There were videos of singing and the children acting out the story of The Three Trees. Maggie sent a recording of a short reflection and I

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joined live to conclude with a prayer. It was extremely well put together by Emma Mason and it was a joy to be part of it.

Nicola Collard

9.7. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY

Selwyn Hughes said, “The world is changing. If we play by the old rules, we’ll lose the new battles.”

Change! This year, we have seen so much of it! It has sometimes felt overwhelming, but looking back there have been encouraging and exciting developments in the ministry of St Mary’s Church among children and their families. Highlights include:

1. Not only keeping contact with families through a year of restrictions on meeting face-to-face, but deepening relationships with many and making lots of new contacts. We have achieved this by

- a. Moving Holiday Club to YouTube, with a film each week including a Bible story and Tilly the Toucan, and an activity bag with lots of crafts and ideas for things to do.
- b. Advent Windows Trail, encouraging the whole village community to get out and wonder at the Biblical Christmas story portrayed in windows of shops and homes.
- c. Easter Trail, working with our friends at Linton URC.
- d. Activity bags on seasonal themes, including Harvest, Light, Remembrance, Nativity, Mothering Sunday. The doorstep visits to deliver bags have been crucial to their success.



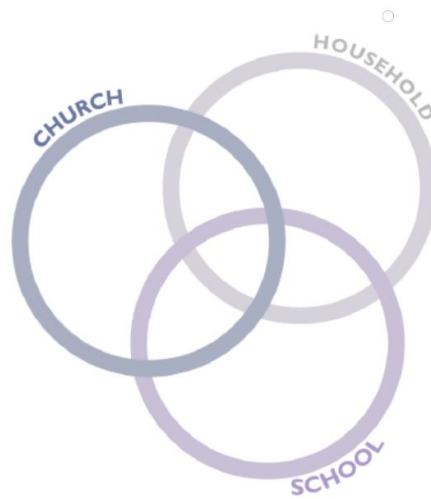
2. Learning new skills. In March 2020, we hadn’t even heard of Zoom! Our IT skills have had to increase. The past year has seen lots of training opportunities and online ways to share ideas and learn together with Christians across the world.
3. The launch of our renewed vision and action plan on November 15th 2020 saw St Mary’s partner with TLG (Transforming Lives for Good). Planning and fundraising began towards opening a Make Lunch club. We celebrated all the ways we include children and families – Nicola Collard drew a fantastic illustration to help us do this.
4. We have partnered with Linton Community Help Team to deliver Christmas Kindness and Boxes of Hope to families in the village who are vulnerable in the school holidays when they miss the usual support.



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Sarah was licensed as an LLM Children and Families Minister to the Linton Team in October. Looking forward, we will work towards implementing the Church of England “Growing Faith” report, where we see church, school and household communities linking. The focus is on life-long faith formation.



Thank you to all those who have delivered activity bags and Boxes of Hope; to those who have patiently helped Sarah with moving things online; to those who have volunteered to help as we re-opened Tots in the Garden and prepare to re-launch Messy Church; to those who have encouraged and prayed for Sarah and the team.

Please will you continue to hold the children and families of Linton in prayer, and those who work with them, as we move into the next year. As Covid-restrictions ease we have the potential to serve a new generation in new ways.

Sarah Thorne on behalf of Children and Families Team

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9.8. TOGETHER WITH GOD

Cathy Watts and I continue with the TWG services once a month via Zoom. (With the exception in March when the sermons were on the theme of 'Understanding the Bible').

As always we like to offer something for the whole family, young and old and we enjoy the challenge! These services do require a lot of planning as we like to introduce a fresh presentation every time.

Recently we have sent out personal invitations to families; at Easter this had a huge response. We had families attend the service who have never even been to church before which was wonderful. Usually we have always provided something for everyone to take away with them, a bookmark, prayer bracelet, mini scripture scrolls etc. For the last two services on Zoom starting with Easter we put together craft bags for families with young children. These were delivered in person and they had something to do before the service and things to do during and after. A similar thing was done with invitations and craft bags for 'The Good Shepherd' service. Unfortunately this didn't have such a successful uptake, for a few reasons we could guess at. But having made those connections, we have something to build on and it will be interesting to see how we progress. It is such a blessing to be able to provide something which is able to specifically target young children.

The TWG service triggers such positive response. We are always delighted and so encouraged by what people have made the effort to voice in their feedback. We are really glad that people enjoy the format and find that they can connect to some part of the service which they have been touched by on a deeply personal level. Cathy and I very much enjoy working together in planning these services and hope to continue and grow in it.

Thank you for all your support.

Nicola Collard

9.9. SPACE FOR THE SPIRIT

In August 2020, at the request of the Ministry Team, Space for the Spirit resumed its monthly Reflections, this time on Zoom, which has been surprisingly successful. Sadly, Colleen later had to withdraw from the Team: we were sorry to lose such a valued contributor, whose ideas really enhanced our Reflections. However, we were fortunate that Hélène offered to join the Team, and we've been delighted to welcome her.

We've met on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7.30 pm, for around 40 minutes. Themes have been varied and have included such subjects as Holy Ground, Patience, Trees, Winter and Decisions. Space for the Spirit seeks to provide a calm, quiet and reflective time at the end of the day, using different kinds of music, poetry, readings (secular and Biblical), video and images. An email list is kept so that regular and occasional attenders can be sent a Zoom link each month. Do get in touch at sfts@stmaryslinton.org.uk for more information or for your name to be added.

Molly Warrington

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9.10. MOTHERS' UNION

The Linton Branch of the Mothers' Union normally meets on the third Monday of the month, at 7.45 pm in the Church Pavilion. During the pandemic, meetings are currently held via Zoom, at 7.30 pm, until such a time when we can meet face to face again. Everyone is welcome to attend. The programme for the year is on the church website.

In 2020, following the initial lockdown, we managed only one face to face meeting, a socially distanced BYO picnic in a member's garden in August. Thankfully the weather was perfect. MU members were not idle during 2020 lockdowns and some made masks and PPI gowns and others sold plants for MU funds.

In November, our AGM was our first meeting held via Zoom, followed by our Christmas social when we got together for chat, food and drinks and a few games and quizzes.

So far in 2021, we have enjoyed a variety of meetings, starting in January with a very interesting talk including photos by Catherine Richardson about her Diocesan trip to Southern India. In February we had a general knowledge quiz. Michael Wilcockson led a wonderful Lent meditation in March and during our April meeting we heard Yannick Auckland talk about her walk along the Camino Way, again with lovely photos.

Members offer each other practical support and prayer at difficult times in our lives, and aim to uphold the world wide Mothers' Union purpose and values of Christian family life. If you would like to know more about the Mothers' Union please don't hesitate to contact Margaret Smith, Denise Thurston or Sue Mudge or check out www.mothersunion.org

Denise Thurston, Branch secretary

9.11. MUSIC MINISTRY

During the period under review, with some services in church and many more on Zoom, some lockdown music has been provided by the choir. Fortunately, we had made a CD entitled "Waiting for the King" several years ago. This has been particularly suitable for Advent and Christmas music with a local feel of our own choir.

Recording myself (and listening to myself afterwards) is not my favourite activity. However, I have recorded organ music for online services, including many favourites ("Rhosymedre" by Vaughan Williams, Handel's Largo from Serse, and music by Pärt, Rutter and Bach – amongst many others. In addition, I have recorded some little improvisations of my own – again to provide some familiarity of style, along with pieces that are distinctively "of Linton". The Viscount digital organ at The Copse has really come into its own in helping us through this. I have also been able to provide some real organ music at services in church, when permitted. Other music has been gathered from useful resources, including St Martins Voices, via A Church Near You (CofE), and other licenced material to which we have access.

Singing by choir and/or congregation is still not possible, though we are hopeful this may soon change. We took a decision that singing would be minimal (just a cantor in church) until we could all join in. I keep an eye on the guidance from the Royal School of Church Music* (with which the church is affiliated). Of course, we must be mindful of the constraints due to the comparative lack of space at St Mary's and the challenges this poses for ensuring social distancing.

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During Lent and Easter, we decided to hold some Friday night choir rehearsals on Zoom to get everyone back into the singing habit. This was an interesting experience, and it was heartening that many members of the choir were able to participate. It was clear from the chat at the end of the rehearsal that people appreciated the chance to talk as well as sing!

Several singers have been able to record their hymn singing (and even an anthem for Palm Sunday by David Halls – “Wash me thoroughly”). This was all done in singers’ homes to a backing track which I had pre-recorded (organ or piano with me and Anne singing the melody). I then put all the voice tracks together (using software with the unlikely title of “GarageBand” – but very effective it is). The finished result appeared on the PowerPoint presentations for the Zoom service and for some church services. I have recorded some more organ music that we can use on Zoom services and when I am unable to be present at church.

During the pandemic, although not everyone has been able to join in our virtual music making in praise of God – we have welcomed one or two new singers. Thanks be to God!

David Parry-Smith
Director of Music

* Members of the congregation may be interested to know that the RSCM is the Church of England’s officially recognised body for consultation on musical matters. I am the Ely Area Team Leader (having previously been Chair of the now disbanded committee). We are looking forward to working with the new team to bring about the new RSCM vision for music and liturgy in the Diocese.

9.12. PASTORAL GROUP

The Pastoral Group visit regularly, as individuals, but on behalf of St Mary’s, members of our church family unable to attend services through ill-health or frailty, or bereaved families and those living alone. Such visits are at the request of clergy or through family, friends or neighbours. At present, there are seven lay members of the Group, plus three clergy. In addition to the clergy, nine people are authorised to take Home Communion. Individuals undertake the safeguarding training required by the Diocese.

Home visiting has obviously not taken place since March 2020 because of Covid restrictions, but contact has been maintained as far as possible with around twenty people, mostly by regular telephone calls, throughout the pandemic.

Judy Nightingale, Convenor

9.13. THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY’S

This report covers the year April 2020 to March 2021.

“The Friends” was formed in 1984 to help with the expenses associated with maintaining St Mary’s. Currently there are almost 90 members who pay a membership fee each year. This money goes towards the maintenance of the church. The Friends also manage the Godel Trust (a bequest from the last organist) as well as raising funds by holding social events throughout the year.

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In the last year The Friends have provided over £10,000 to cover the cost of maintenance and improvements to St Mary's.

Discussions have taken place between the PCC and The Friends Committee concerning the development of a Protocol that defines a formal approach by the PCC for requesting money from The Friends to pay for maintenance or improvements. This Protocol was approved and is now operational – it will help manage the financial commitments and will be useful as we move into a time when there could be many requests for support (for instance new lighting, organ repairs and re-ordering).

It has not been possible to hold our regular social events during this last year because of the COVID Pandemic and consequently we have not been able to add to the funds available. We have been dependant on the annual subscriptions from members and also on the interest that we receive from the Godel Trust. We would welcome new members who wish to assist in the funding of the maintenance and improvements to St Mary's. The Friends have historically funded all of the costs associated with maintenance identified at the Quinquennial examination enabling the PCC to use their funds for other purposes. It is hoped that all church members will consider joining The Friends to assist in the funding of this important work.

I would like to thank all the Committee for their work throughout the year. I have, once again, taken a back seat for the last three months as I have had to have another major operation but have been happy to know that The Friends has been in good hands. Our Treasurer (Hugh Paton) has done an excellent job in managing our finances and Judy Nightingale (our President) and Margaret Cox (our Secretary) have kept the charity running.

Chris Morse

Chair – The Friends of St Mary's, Linton

9.14. THE MONDAY GANG IN THE CHURCHYARD

As for everyone, it has been a strange year for the members of the Monday Gang. The first Lockdown hit just as we were about to start working in the churchyard so we all 'stayed at home'. Some weeks later Maggie indicated that churchyard maintenance was permissible, so we took up our duties, mostly working individually and at various times.

Mowing, pruning and weeding were thus delayed which turned out to be an advantage. To our surprise all sorts of varieties of wild flowers we had not seen before sprung up all over the place. We let these go to seed and are looking forward to them re-appearing this year. Letting the seeds develop did mean that the churchyard looked less tidy in places for a while.

As it was the third year in a row of drought during the summer the grass grew less, so less mowing was required. So far this spring although there has been little rain, the grass looks healthy and it has not grown much. The only area of damage is at the sides of the footpaths crossing the churchyard, the result of more people walking through the churchyard and maintaining 'social distance'.

Margaret Cox