



St Mary's LINTON

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Rooted in God. Rooted in Community

**ANNUAL REPORT  
& ACCOUNTS  
for the year ended  
31<sup>st</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 11.30am  
in Church

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# **Agenda for 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

## **Part A - Vestry Meeting 11.30am**

1. Prayer
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Vestry Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024
3. Matters Arising
4. Team Rector's Report
5. Parochial Church Council Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> 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 19<sup>TH</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>TH</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 31<sup>ST</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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

24<sup>th</sup> 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 Scheme<sup>1</sup>, 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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
<b><i>Incoming resources</i></b>					
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	—
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>127,997</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>128,305</b>	<b>224,248</b>
<b><i>Resources used</i></b>					
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	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total resources used</b>	<b>132,184</b>	<b>6,560</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>138,745</b>	<b>231,013</b>
<b>Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer</b>	<b>( 4,186)</b>	<b>( 6,253)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>( 10,439)</b>	<b>( 6,765)</b>
<b><i>Transfers</i></b>					
Gross transfers between funds - in	1,147	4,696	—	5,844	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	( 5,844)	—	—	( 5,844)	—
<b>Net incoming / outgoing before other gains / losses</b>	<b>( 8,883)</b>	<b>( 1,556)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>( 10,439)</b>	<b>( 6,765)</b>
<b><i>Other recognised gains / losses</i></b>					
Gains / losses on investment assets	1,659	—	—	1,659	3,618
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>( 7,224)</b>	<b>( 1,556)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>( 8,780)</b>	<b>( 3,146)</b>
<b><i>Reconciliation of funds</i></b>					
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>61,682</b>	<b>7,128</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>68,810</b>	<b>71,957</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>54,457</b>	<b>5,572</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>60,030</b>	<b>68,810</b>



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

<b>Incoming Resources</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Voluntary Income</b>		
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
<b>Total for voluntary income</b>	<b>202,190.35</b>	<b>107,331.89</b>
<b>Activities for Generating Funds</b>		
Other funds generated (note 4)	971.45	592.06
Christmas Events	2,042.85	
Social Events (note 5)	4,486.46	6,100.53
<b>Total for Activities for Generating Funds</b>	<b>7,500.76</b>	<b>6,692.59</b>
<b>Bank and building society interest</b>	<b>1,390.25</b>	<b>1,156.56</b>
<b>Church Activities</b>		
Fees for weddings and funerals	11,710.00	8,788.00
Pavilion lettings	1,456.90	2,630.50
<b>Total for Church Activities</b>	<b>13,166.90</b>	<b>11,418.50</b>
<b>Granta Deanery Refund</b>		<b>1,705.55</b>
<b>Total for Incoming Resources</b>	<b>224,248.26</b>	<b>128,305.09</b>

<b>Resources Expended</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Costs of Generating Funds</b>		
Christmas Event Costs	350.00	228.13
Costs of Social Events (note 5)	772.89	1,861.38
<b>Total for costs of Generating Funds</b>	<b>1,122.89</b>	<b>2,089.51</b>
<b>All Mission Giving and Charitable Grants &amp; Donations (note 6)</b>		
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
<b>Total for All Charitable Giving</b>	<b>8,865.99</b>	<b>9,289.04</b>
<b>Church Activities</b>		
Ministry Share	68,221.95	65,944.45
Salaries (note 7)	10,181.16	11,014.80
<b>Expenses (clergy, pastoral staff, etc)</b>		
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
<b>Total for Expenses</b>	<b>5,018.61</b>	<b>6,701.70</b>
Parish Training and mission		22.04
<b>Regular Church running expenses (insurance, cleaning, admin)</b>		
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	
<b>Total for Regular Church running expenses</b>	<b>23,052.20</b>	<b>19,314.78</b>
<b>Church utility bills (gas, electricity, water)</b>		
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
<b>Total for Church utility bills</b>	<b>4,120.40</b>	<b>7,988.95</b>

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

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

	<b>2023</b> £	<b>2024</b> £
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Pavilion (note 11)	500	500
Investments (note 12)	32,438	34,097
	<u><b>32,938</b></u>	<u><b>34,597</b></u>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	40,659	28,826
	<u><b>40,659</b></u>	<u><b>28,826</b></u>
<b>Liabilities</b> (note 13)		
LCHT	1,293	
Linton Parish Charities	3,494	
	<u><b>3,394</b></u>	
<b>Net current assets less current liabilities</b>	<u><b>35,872</b></u>	<u><b>25,432</b></u>
<b>Total net assets less liabilities</b>	<u><b>68,810</b></u>	<u><b>60,030</b></u>
<b>Represented by</b>		
<b>Unrestricted</b>		
Unrestricted - General fund	27,292	24,275
<b>Designated</b>		
Designated - Contingency	22,500	22,500
Designated - Pavilion (note 11)	500	500
Designated - Children and family ministry (note 14)	11,389	7,181
<b>Restricted</b>		
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>
<b>Funds of the church</b>	<u><b>68,810</b></u>	<u><b>60,030</b></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](mailto: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 26<sup>th</sup> June, 10<sup>th</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 and to hold another Quiz Evening on 21<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays and leading the singing in the simpler Parish Communion on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays, members of the choir have participated in other services and events (see below).

On the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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