

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WEST MERSEA ST PETER AND ST PAUL

England & Wales · Charity number 1142676

Details

Other names	WEST MERSEA ST PETER AND ST PAUL PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2011-07-01
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	ST. PETER & ST. PAUL High Street West Mersea Colchester CO5 8QD
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Phone	01206383222
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Email	admin@freshsalt.uk
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Website	www.freshsalt.uk
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Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Activities: Religious activities according to the doctrine and practices of The Church of England.

Classification

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

Geography

- Essex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£144,235	£161,035	-	-
2023-12-31	£149,648	£161,006	-	-
2022-12-31	£146,364	£149,824	-	-
2021-12-31	£146,483	£160,082	-	-
2020-12-31	£192,457	£132,223	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Barbara Peter	Chair	2019-07-10
Alan David Brook		2025-05-25
CATHY ROBERTS		2011-07-01
Emma Julie Cornwell		2017-03-20
Geoff Hills		2025-05-25
HEATHER LESLEY FRANCES KING		2011-07-01
PETE EASY		2011-05-15
Pauline Low		2025-05-25
Pauline Sanderson		2021-05-05
Peter John Rudlin		2025-05-25
ROLAND JOHN GARDENER		2011-07-01
Rev JOHN RICHARD PANTRY		2011-07-01
Rev Jo Parrott		2023-09-01

Accounts

Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul, West Mersea

Annual Meeting

Sunday 21st April 2024

11.30 am.

AGENDA for the ANNUAL MEETING

To be held on Sunday 21st April 2024 @ 11.30 am in the Church Hall,

1. Attendance
2. Welcome
3. Appointment of Clerk to the meeting
4. Apologies for absence

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. Minutes of the 2023 meeting
2. Matters arising
3. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, 2024

1. Minutes of 2023 meeting
2. Matters Arising.
3. **To accept:**
 - 3.1 Copy of the new 2024 Electoral Roll
 - 3.2 Annual report on the proceedings of the PCC in 2023
 - 3.3 Deanery Synod report
 - 3.4 The independently examined accounts and statements of funds and property for the year ended 31st December 2023.
 - 3.5 Fabric report
 - 3.6 Pastoral Care Report
 - 3.7 Reports of Children's activities/Families Worker'
 - 3.8 Music Report
 - 3.9 Gift Aid Report
 - 3.10 Chairman's Report
 - 3.11 Mothers' Union
 - 3.12 Bereavement Drop-In
 - 3.13 Porch Pantry
 - 3.14 Health and Safety/ Safeguarding/ Eco Church/ Catering/Social

4. ELECTIONS

- 4.1 Parochial Church Council 2 vacancies
- 4.2 Deanery Synod – no vacancies
5. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2024
6. Any other business
7. Notices
8. Date of Next Year's meeting – TBC
9. Closing Prayer

BACKGROUND

St Peter and St Paul's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with incumbent, in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for the Parish Church in West Mersea.

Membership The Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parish and Parochial Meetings in accordance with the Church Representational Rules.

During the year the following served on the PCC:

Incumbent: Rev.Jo Parrott

Assistant Priest: Rev. John Pantry

Wardens: Mr Peter Easy and Mrs Barbara Peter

Health & Safety Officer and Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Cathy Roberts

Families Worker: Mrs Heather King

Treasurer: Mr Roland Gardener

Representatives on the Deanery Synod: Dr. Martin Parsons and Mr Geoffrey Hills

Elected Members:

Mrs Emma Cornwell

Mrs Cathy Roberts

Mrs Barbara Peter

Mr Peter Easy

Mrs Pauline Low

Mrs Pauline Sanderson

Mrs Val Bocking

Mr Stan Joslin

Number of meetings of PCC during the year 5

Report from Deanery Synod Representatives

Martin Parsons and Geoff Hills are the two representatives from St Peter and St Paul, West Mersea.

The Deanery Synod met 3 times in the past 12 months. The meeting on the 14th of June had no representation from West Mersea, owing to notification of the meeting from the Deanery administration office not being received before the meeting.

A second meeting was held on the 19th of October and was attended by Martin Parsons. A report of this meeting was provided to the PCC in November.

The final meeting was held at Wickham Bishops on the 28th of February. Both Martin Parsons and Geoff Hills attended.

Report of Deanery Synod meeting of 28th February 2024

The meeting commenced with a presentation by two, diocese trained, lay representatives who undertake C of E funerals. The resource of these trained officials, it was felt, is not widely known within parishes.

As one of the main agenda items was postponed the area Dean agreed that the (agenda item) brief update on LLF could have a little more time. St Peter and St Paul Deanery representatives had, prior to the meeting requested that this item is given greater prominence on this and future agendas.

The area Dean, Simon Garwood, did emphasise that he did not want the matter debated but would allow questions following his update.

Geoff Hills thanked Simon for the update and asked

“However polarised the subject may be, it should be given a clear platform at future meetings, not least because the whole matter may lead to a major fracture in the Anglican Communion.”

Supporting the urgency for discussion the point was added: “that over 130 clergy attended a meeting in Chelmsford with the Bishop recently to voice their concerns.”

Simon explained about parishes opting in or out and mentioned that no parishes will be forced to comply with the change in doctrine.

Geoff Hills raised a further comment in reply :

“Are our leaders being simplistic in this approach as “around the corner” any parish voting not to offer the LLF menu will certainly be labelled homophobic by the media and wider community. This would be a tag no church would wish to have.”

Martin Parsons asked if the consequences of the C of E roll out of LLF had been considered when evaluating the negative effect that similar measures have had on other Churches. He

gave an example of the Church of Scotland losing over a third of their congregations following their decision to adopt liberal theology and conduct same sex unions. A similar outcome in C of E rural parishes would result in many congregations being unsustainable.

Only one parish PCC in the deanery has actually decided on a decision concerning LLF with Simon Garwood stating that all PCC's will eventually have to consider the LLF adoption or opt out question.

Deanery vacancies were discussed and with planned retirements Simon Garner explained that a third of the deanery clergy posts will be vacant later this year. The area Dean has not yet resolved how the parishes will be served but he is planning to discuss this with the Archdeacon.

No financial update for the deanery was possible due to absence but the Area Dean commented that the Witham Deanery was registering about 70% of parish share for 2023 had been met but these figures may change if more year end updates are forthcoming.

The meeting ended with Compline.

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER
AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA**

ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

Registered Charity Number 1142676

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA
Registered Charity Number 1142676

ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

2022	INCOMING RESOURCES	2023
£	On Unrestricted Funds	£
	Incoming Resources from Donors	
6,423.98	General Collections	6,360.30
35,085.35	Parish Giving Scheme	35,337.20
35,907.00	Standing Orders(incl Family Worker donations)	25,095.00
650.43	Donations for General Fund	1,986.17
19,621.03	Gift Aided Tax Reclaim	16,188.64
88.91	Good Plate Online Giving	1,283.54
145.40	Messy Church Donations	669.85
30.00	Carol Services	81.15
207.10	Midnight Mass & Christmas Day	277.19
-	Confirmation Service	46.84
-	Civic Service	366.00
<u>98,159.20</u>		<u>87,691.88</u>
	Other Voluntary Incoming Resources	
366.51	Donations for Mary's Meals	234.23
3,000.00	Musical Instruments Donation	-
600.00	Laptop Donations	-
367.50	Terry Walker Thank You Donations	-
995.00	Christian Aid (in lieu of Lent Lunches)	-
-	Diocesan Fuel Award	855.00
395.90	Ukrainian Appeal	-
-	Rev Jude Leaving Collection	708.70
-	Ghanaian Evening	291.99
<u>5,724.91</u>		<u>2,089.92</u>
	Income from Ancillary Trading	
6,253.40	LPWS Grant	1,233.63
-	Beacon House Service Collection	-
4,945.00	Hall Hire	4,978.00
620.00	Tearfund Collection	131.00
-	Insurance Claim re Wall	1,660.00
-	Donations for Jamie & Helen Nightingale Gift	80.00
<u>11,818.40</u>		<u>8,082.63</u>
	Ordinary Incoming Resources	
45.54	Bank loyalty Reward	47.81
-	Interregnum Fees refunded by CDBF	2,204.00
16,498.95	Fees from Funerals & Weddings	16,213.90
200.75	Catering/ Refreshments	32.00
1,026.49	Benefice Team Ministry Expenses Reimbursed	393.72
<u>17,771.73</u>		<u>18,891.43</u>
69.76	Interest Received	172.24
<u>133,544.00</u>	Total Incoming Resources	<u>116,928.10</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA
Registered Charity Number 1142676

ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

2022 £	OUTGOING RESOURCES On Unrestricted Funds	2023 £
	Ministry	
63,443.16	Diocesan Family Share	55,194.48
3,767.48	Team Ministry Expenses	1,643.01
<u>67,210.64</u>		<u>56,837.49</u>
	Running Expenses	
	Good Plate Fees	208.67
469.14	Water & Sewerage	217.99
2,274.77	Insurance	2,506.80
2,127.09	Heating Oil	3,025.37
2,286.02	Electricity	3,134.52
259.20	Altar Requisites	857.32
11,108.52	Parish Office	24,446.95
1,819.00	Office Machines & Equipment	202.50
1,479.53	Printing, Postage & Stationery	4,179.31
52.78	House Group Costs	183.42
4,446.02	Hall Costs	4,539.90
46.33	Catering Costs	770.68
478.35	Audio & Video Costs	522.42
1,210.00	Organists Fees	740.00
3,148.14	Musical Instruments	-
374.53	Messy Church Costs	745.93
4,664.84	General Running Repairs	2,019.65
520.14	Flowers/Oasis	626.70
-	Rectory Repairs	36.73
5,633.19	Families Worker Costs	5,671.57
588.05	Evangelism	334.84
-	Rev Jude Gift	750.00
7,302.86	Charities and Missions - see schedule	5,626.63
296.51	Mary's Meals Donation Made	-
-	Confirmation Service	46.84
410.24	Bank & Audit Charges	415.97
367.50	Gift for Terry Walker	-
-	Interregnum Fees	2,358.00
11,567.90	Funeral & Wedding Fees Costs	11,280.33
216.00	Sunday School Sponsorship	216.00
28.43	Sunbeams	-
254.67	Refreshments for Installation Service	-
-	Lent Lunch Cost	47.75
-	Jamie & Helen Nightingale Gift	200.00
<u>63,429.75</u>		<u>75,912.79</u>
130,640.39	Total Outgoing Resources	132,750.28
-		
133,544.00	Total Incoming Resources	116,928.10
<u>2,903.61</u>	Net Change on Year	<u>-15,822.18</u>
99,068.94	Balance at 1st January 2023	101,972.55
<u>101,972.55</u>	Balance at 31st December 2023	<u>86,150.37</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA
Registered Charity Number 1142676

ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023
RESTRICTED FUNDS

2022		2023
£	BELL FUND	£
8,173.20	Balance at 1st January 2023	8,280.70
107.50	Interest Received	265.38
-	Repairs	-
<u>8,280.70</u>	Balance at 31st December 2023	<u>8,546.08</u>
	FABRIC FUND	
7,902.16	Balance at 1st January 2023	5,790.03
103.92	Interest Received	207.46
-	Donations from Friends WMPC	12,355.78
-	Replacement Triangular Window	(3,700.00)
-	Back Board Bell Tower	(156.99)
-	Church Wall Repair	(2,160.00)
-	Church Hall Floor Replacement	(7,401.78)
(299.99)	Wheelchair Ramps	-
(954.00)	Good With Devices Station	-
-	Tower Cupboard	(1,520.00)
(962.06)	Tower repairs (2022 Retention Fee)	-
<u>5,790.03</u>	Balance at 31st December 2023	<u>3,414.50</u>
	COMMUNITY CHEST FUND	
4,581.95	Balance at 1st January 2023	312.96
-	Transferred from General Fund	-
670.00	Donations Received	295.00
(4,938.99)	Good Causes	(299.99)
<u>312.96</u>	Balance at 31st December 2023	<u>307.97</u>
	PORCH PANTRY FUND	
1,764.20	Balance at 1st January 2023	2,162.23
-	Transferred from General Fund	-
10,387.23	Donations Received	17,842.71
(9,989.20)	Purchases	(13,017.74)
<u>2,162.23</u>	Balance at 31st December 2023	<u>6,987.20</u>
	TITHE CHANCEL ENDOWMENT FUND	
15,373.05	675.39 Shares held 1st January 2023	13,954.50
407.79	Dividends in the year (reinvested in shares)	421.82
(1,826.34)	Shares re-valuation	1,331.84
<u>13,954.50</u>	694.8883 Shares held 31st December 2023	<u>15,708.16</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA
Registered Charity Number 1142676

ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023
RESTRICTED FUNDS

2022		2023
£	AUDIO VISUAL FUND	£
4,128.07	Balance at 1st January 2023	4,128.07
-	FWMPC donation towards new Sound System	-
-	Sound System Costs Including Installation	-
4,128.07	Balance as at 31st December 2023	4,128.07
	CHURCH & COMMUNITY(CCTV) FUND	
307.00	Balance at 1st January 2023	1237.16
1,143.57	Jubilee Flower Festival Income	-
(213.41)	Jubilee Flower Festival Costs	-
1,237.16	Balance as at 31st December 2023	1,237.16

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA

Registered Charity Number 1142676

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2023

2022		2023
£		£
	CURRENT ASSETS	
13,954.50	Central Board of Finance Investment Fund Units	15,708.16
102,639.28	Cash with Barclays Bank	90,773.14
21,660.72	Cash with Central Board of Finance of the Church of England	20,089.75
57.23	Cash in hand	57.23
4,016.08	Debtors and Prepayments	2,901.60
(4,489.61)	Liabilities	(3,050.37)
<u>137,838.20</u>		<u>126,479.51</u>

REPRESENTED BY:

Totals		Restricted	Unrestricted	Totals
101,972.55	General Fund	-	86,150.37	86,150.37
2,162.23	Porch Pantry Fund	6,987.20		6,987.20
8,280.70	Bell Fund	8,546.08		8,546.08
5,790.03	Fabric Fund	3,414.50		3,414.50
312.96	Community Chest Fund	307.97		307.97
4,128.07	Audio Visual Fund	4,128.07		4,128.07
1,237.16	Church & Community (CCTV) Fund	1,237.16		1,237.16
13,954.50	Tithe Chancel Trust- held by Diocese	15,708.16		15,708.16
<u>137,838.20</u>		<u>40,329.14</u>	<u>86,150.37</u>	<u>126,479.51</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA
Registered Charity Number 1142676

ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

SCHEDULE OF GIVING TO CHARITIES AND MISSIONS

2022		2023
£		£
500.00	Essex Clergy Charity (LMDC)	500.00
500.00	Leprosy Mission	628.90
500.00	Mersea Beach Club	500.00
500.00	Mission to Seafarers	500.00
189.06	Royal British Legion Remembrance Day	278.25
500.00	Barnabus Fund	-
500.00	Colchester Beacon House	500.00
862.00	Christian Aid	244.24
133.00	Christian Aid Week	-
500.00	Cochester CYO	500.00
500.00	Fellowship Afloat	500.00
40.00	Childrens Society (Balance)	-
500.00	Colchester CAP	500.00
620.00	Tearfund - Earthquake Appeal	131.00
500.00	Colchester CAB	-
388.80	Ukranian Appeal	-
-	Colchester Mayors Charities (2 Services)	284.78
70.00	Mary's Meals	59.46
-	Help The Persecuted	500.00
<u>7,302.86</u>		<u>5,626.63</u>

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Peter
and St. Paul, West Mersea Registered Charity Number 1142676**

I report to the members of the Parochial Church Council of St Peter and St Paul,
West Mersea on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

L C Tippet ACA
Chartered Accountant

West Mersea
10 April 2024

Fabric Report

APCM 2024

The Fabric Committee meet regularly to ensure that the church, hall and churchyard are kept in good condition. We are aware that this there has been a church on this spot for over 1,000 years and we all intend that this will continue for another millennium.

Many of the recommendations in the latest Quinquennial Inspection report, in 2022, have been addressed and the rest will be dealt with soon.

These are some of the works that have been carried out since the last APCM in 2023.

Church

- New storage in the tower room for Porch Pantry goods.
- Bell rope cabinet has been strengthened and a new backing sheet installed, showing the bell numbers. (Thank you to Anne Moscrop).
- A ramp which will enable wheelchair and mobility scooter access to the chancel.
- After debris was found by the porch, this was inspected, and remedial work will begin soon. * We are fortunate that Geoff Sexton prepared the preliminary paperwork, thus saving considerable costs.
- An electronic giving machine has been installed. *

Churchyard

- The wall, by the hall path, has been repaired.
- The path lighting bollards have been refurbished.
- Sadly, some trees had to be removed as they were beginning to rot. Although this was not visible, investigations revealed rot on the core of the trees. The stumps were also removed. This work was carried out by West Mersea Town Council using contractors. Fruit trees have been planted as replacements.
- The wiring to various outside lighting has been tidied and made safer.

Hall

- Major work was undertaken in the hall as the flooring was deemed unsafe. The subfloor was in poor condition and had to be replaced. A new floor was laid. *
- A new, bespoke, double-glazed widow has been installed in the upper room, replacing a window that was showing signs of rot. *
- A deep clean and sort out of the kitchen has taken place.
- Reorganisation of storage in the upper room and office is well underway. This will provide a room for all non-office activities. Much of the equipment for children's work and clergy robes are now in there with a desk, printer and photocopier.

Rectory

- Whilst the Rectory was unoccupied, a splendid team of volunteers kept the house and garden in good repair.

Other

- Lightning conductors, the boiler and fire extinguishers have been serviced.
- Various minor electrical jobs have been done e.g. new switches and timers fitted.

*These works have been paid for or funds promised by the Friends of West Mersea Parish Church. We are all very grateful for their support.

Many thanks must go to the members of the Fabric Committee -

Alan Hammond, Alan Brook, Pete Easy, Pete Rudlin, Roland Gardener, Geoff Sexton and myself. Between them, they do many minor repairs, move items, sort out cupboards, replace batteries, reprogramme clocks & timers etc, etc, etc. We must be very grateful to them.

Barbara Peter. Chair.

Pastoral Report 2023 – Val Bocking

Our congregation are very friendly and welcoming and makes pastoral care happen in a very encouraging way. It's very important that we notice when people are missing and are aware of those on zoom.

I would like to thank everyone for the part they play and also thank those who care about the people who attend services other than our Sunday morning united service.

Home groups and weekday activities also help to make people feel valued.

It's like a huge web that touches the lives of everyone and connects them to others in our large church family.

Jesus is at the centre reaching out to all with his love and his peace.

The last year has flown by, Sunbeams and Messy Church continue to flourish and we had the joy of welcoming Jo, Tom, and the children into our church family.

SUNBEAMS

Sunbeams is such a joy we have a really lovely group of children who have gone from cuddly babies last year to toddlers this year, our mums have formed strong friendships and the session is enjoyed by all. With Jo's approval I will be extending Sunbeams to an all-day group later this year with tea/coffee and bacon rolls available lunch times, using the church in the morning and hall in the afternoon. The Sunbeams Christmas party went well with 13 children and 10 adults attending and Malcolm Peter as our resident Santa as usual.

MESSY CHURCH

Messy church has continued to flourish with the support of our amazing team of volunteers, Sue and Cathy are producing a hot meal for everyone attending, they even cooked a full roast for the Christmas session. We had 29 Children and 18 adults which is the average number attending each session, there are dads as well as mums/carers and a really happy time is enjoyed by all.

BAPTISMS

Baptism meetings are now booked for one Saturday in the month at church so that Jo and I meet the families together, this works well for the families and us. It is always a pleasure to meet and get to know the families and then welcome them into our church family at the baptism.

BEACH CLUB

Beach club 2023 was as always, a pleasure to be part of, it's nice to be working alongside the free church and meeting the families. The weather was not brilliant every day, so it was run from the free church on those days, the numbers were good and we averaged out 100 children a day over the course of the week. I am looking forward very much to this year's again as it's one of my favourite weeks of the year. I also spent a morning at Waldegraves car boot collecting money on the gate and ran a cake stall to help raise funds for this years.

I have continued to source items support and visit any families in the community that have found themselves in need of furniture, bedding, flooring, benefits advice or just a porch pantry delivery. Our amazing community always supports us with items when asked.

I will continue to work to support our families, strengthen our links within our community and to carry information and a welcome to our church into our community.

Heather King (Families Worker) 11/3/24

Music Report

The 10am worship team aims to provide a mix of traditional and modern hymns and songs. Jo has introduced some catchy new ones recently, and it has been good to have the I-sing Worship app to help us introduce them to the congregation. Our group has re-instated its pre-covid name of PP+ and will be singing at the Mersea Island Music Marathon in the MICA Centre on Saturday 18th May at 8.30am, along with some former members of Pianissimo. Do come and sing along!

Liz Willey and Joan Sanderson

GIVING & GIFT AID DURING 2023

giftaid it



We are blessed here at West Mersea Parish Church (WMPC) in that so many of our regular supporters chose to support us via 'non cash' methods which does significantly help Gift Aid and other financial administration. A huge 'THANK YOU' to all who have continued their faithful donations during the year.

As per last year I thought it may be helpful to list and summarise some of the methods already available to support our church financially both for its immediate well-being and as potential for its future.

1. **The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)** is the **most efficient way** to make donations to our church. During 2023 donations totalling £43,171.07 (inc. £8,242.26 Gift Aid reclaim) were received from 32 regular donors. This scheme enables donations via Direct Debit and any associated Gift Aid reclaim is received locally within 10 working days. All costs of the Scheme are borne by the Diocese with no charge to WMPC.



A convenient and relatively new way to access and set up donations (single or regular) to WMPC via PGS is via a "QR" code which, if you point a smartphone camera at it should display a link to enable donations to this church via the PGS scheme. **Why not give it a go? ☺**

There are, however, other ways in which you can set up a PGS Direct Debit to WMPC

- a) via paper 'Gift Form' – available from our Churchwardens or Treasurer
- b) via the PGS telephone service on 0333 002 1271, Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm
- c) via: <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/> quoting PGS Parish Code: **080608478**

2. **In-house Gift Aid scheme:** Donations of £31,352.59 (inc. £7,838.18 Gift Aid reclaim) were received from 38 regular donors. The total sum also includes receipts of £6,647.54 from the HMRC 'small donation' (cash) concession. The HMRC reclaim is processed by myself manually on a quarterly basis in arrears so not all may appear in the 2023 accounts. **Note:** The 'traditional' donations via cash, envelopes, cheques and/or Banker's Order are still available and gratefully accepted. However, our bank (Barclays) have now moved from the Island and make significant handling charges for both cash and cheques that serve to reduce the value of donations made this way.

3. **Cashless donation device:** this device is situated near the main church entrance and is available anytime to church members and visitors for donations via credit/ debit cards and smartphone Apple/ Google Pay.

4. **Legacies:** from time to time our church has been blessed to receive legacy gifts. Our legacy policy is: *"West Mersea Parish Church welcomes gifts in Wills, however large or small. We promise to use such gifts to make a difference to our church (e.g. by funding development projects, whether buildings, equipment or staff). However, since needs change over the years we encourage gifts for the general purposes of the parish rather than for a restricted use. We may consult with executors about the most appropriate use of the gift in light of current projects. We will respect a donor or executor's request for PCC acknowledgement of a gift within existing parish policy or, equally, we can make sure that gifts remain anonymous if that is preferred."*

5. **"Friends of West Mersea Parish Church":** is a registered and non-religious charity "established as a group of interested people from the wider community who wish to support and maintain this wonderful Mersea ancient building, recognised as requiring a long term sustainable commitment. In this way we will ensure that this generation hands the Church on in good order to the next, just as previous custodians have done". More details are available on the web-site <https://www.fwmpc.org/> or by post to: 'Friends of West Mersea Parish Church', c/o Church of St Peter & St Paul, High Street, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8QD.

6. **Direct Donations:** of course it is always possible to support the work of our church by direct bank transfer(s). If you favour this method then bank details are below – **thank you** (and please let us know if donations can be Gift-Aided):

- a) To the church directly = sort-code 20-22-67; account no. = 20935557; name = 'West Mersea Parochial Church Council'
- b) Or via the 'Friends' = sort-code 20-22-67; account no. = 43164136; name = 'Friends of West Mersea Parish Church'



Last thoughts (for now!): ... a) Gift Aid allows donations given to this church by **ANY TAXPAYER** (church members, or the wider public – and eligible taxes should **not** include VAT or Council Tax) to be increased by 25% via tax reclaim. The offerings may be made for any church purpose ... and, **b)** it is now 35 years since I inherited the role which has become Gift Aid

secretary for West Mersea Parish Church. It would be good for both myself and this church to discover a new member to undertake the role for the future and I would be happy to explain more to anyone expressing a genuine interest.

Contact: Alan Hammond ... 3, Stable Mews, West Mersea, CO5 8HR (tel: 383 383) alan@3stablemews.co.uk

APCM 2024

Chairman's Report

This last year, since Easter 2023, has been eventful. It began with us having to say goodbye to Rev. Jude Bevan, who had only been with us for 18 months. But personal circumstances made this inevitable. We were very sorry to see her go as she had made a strong impression on the whole benefice and introduced some new initiatives. This meant that we entered another interregnum. However, Bishop Roger reassured us that this vacancy would not be long. The post was advertised, applications came in and an interview took place. The wardens of the four parishes in the benefice were unanimous in their choice of the Rev. Jo Parrott to be our new incumbent. Jo was installed in a wonderful licensing service at the end of September 2023. Jo, her husband Tom, children Isaac, Esther and Martha have settled in and are enjoying the delights of Mersea and surroundings. We pray that they will have a happy life here. Jo has inspired and encouraged us in our worship in a joyous way with new, imaginative, passionate ideas.

Our pattern of services at West Mersea remains the same. We are pleased that we can offer two services on Sundays, one on a Wednesday and a regular, monthly Sunday evening service with a choir. However, this only a small part of our life. There is Messy Church, Sunbeams, a Bereavement group, Pastoral team, Porch Pantry, Mothers' Union, house groups, regular prayer meetings, outreach to sheltered housing, Lent lunches. (Please forgive me if I've missed anything out). You are able to read about these in other reports. We are able to have our church open everyday thanks to a team who unlock and lock the main door. This allows anyone to come in, have a look around and/or spend time in personal prayer.

Christmas services were particularly successful. The Christmas Eve outdoor Carol Service attracted about 500 people. Later, the Midnight Service had a congregation of 102.

In addition to the usual Civic Service for West Mersea, for the Mayor, Sophie Weaver, we were asked to host a Civic Service for the Colchester City Mayor, John Jowers, a Mersea resident. Following this, he asked for a Carol Service as well.

The Friends of West Mersea Parish Church are a wonderful organisation. Their hard work at fundraising means our church is in good condition. We are very grateful to them for not only does their activities provide funds for maintenance, refurbishment and repairs, their events are great fun to attend.

Our PCC is a strong committee. We meet regularly and our discussions are robust, far reaching and amicable. The church here is West Mersea is blessed with a host of talented people who work hard – children's activities, fabric, flowers, making sure we have clean linen and communion requisites, stacking the Porch Pantry, providing music for our services, making stars to give out at Mersea Lights Up, keeping the churchyard tidy, taking

APCM 2024

Chairman's Report

on Verger duties, reorganising furniture and many other things. And of course, giving generously to keep all these important aspects of our church life in place. Thank you all.

MOTHERS' UNION ANNUAL REPORT FOR APCM **2024**

We started the year with 18 members but ended with 17.

Mary Mayears sadly passed away, and 2 ladies are no longer able to attend due to severe ill-health, but we welcomed 2 new members who were formally admitted in September by the Revd. Keith Lovell.

Our meetings are open to anyone, not just members.

I am very pleased to report that we have monthly contact with Mary Trenter as she is still a member. She has continued her membership of our Branch of Mothers' Union as an Indoor Member. This type of membership is for those who, for whatever reason, are unable to attend meetings. We have 3 such members in our Branch. I keep in regular contact with them, and they receive special letters, cards, prayers, etc. from the Diocesan Indoor Members Officer.

We meet monthly – on the 3rd Friday of each month – in the Parish Hall.

There are “special” months throughout the year:-

A New Year Party in January / A Lent Quiet Afternoon in March / An outing to somewhere in May / A Garden Party in July / “A Celebration of Christmas” in December.

After a break in August, our September meeting was held in the Church, and we are so grateful to the Revd. Keith Lovell who has led us in a traditional Evensong for many years.

We continue to serve Tea, Coffee and biscuits in the Parish Hall after the 10am service on the 4th Wednesday of each month. It is truly wonderful to see up to 20 people chatting away – some very reluctant to go home! Fellowship at its best!

Members receive communications from our Central Office in London, and our Diocesan President and Council in Chelmsford. Our Worldwide President and Diocesan President work very hard behind the scenes to keep our members here, and across the world, informed and provided with spiritual encouragement. I, and other Mersea Island members, attended Diocesan Services, Council Meetings and events in Chelmsford during the past year.

Mersea Island Mothers' Union co-ordinates the Mersea Island Churches “Annual World Day of Prayer Service” held across the world, always on the first Friday in March. Representatives from each of the 5 main churches meet together in January to prepare and share responsibility for all involvement, and we take turns to host the Service. This year the Methodist Church gave us a very warm welcome, and the service was prepared by the Christian ladies of Palestine. 30 ladies and gentlemen met for the service, followed by tea, coffee and biscuits. A lovely afternoon of worship and fellowship.

Our meetings are open to all. Please come and join us!

For more information, please contact me on 01206 383166

Bridget Smith

Branch Leader, Mersea Island Mothers' Union

The Bereavement Drop In seems to be much appreciated by those who come and to be meeting a very definite need. We meet on the 1st Saturday of each month (except August) and have recently been seeing up to 20 guests coming along; each time there have been new people to join those who have come before, occasionally, or regularly. We have a very committed team who chat with our guests as well as making delicious cakes and treats to offer with the teas and coffees. Our aim is to provide an accepting space where each person feels welcomed and their loss understood and accepted, whether or not they want to talk about it.

It has been good to see supportive friendships develop and a number of those coming have also started to attend our services and are finding these helpful too.

We are on the lookout for another man to join our team. Please talk to me if this is something you might be interested in.

Pauline Low

PORCH PANTRY REPORT - APCM APRIL 21st 2024

The Porch Pantry enters its fifth year and continues to meet the ever increasing need on our Island. Fortunately, we have been awarded substantial grants from the EALC (Essex And Local Councils). These have enabled us to provide winter warmth for residents by purchasing and distributing electric blankets and draught excluders. We also produced and delivered 40 Christmas Hampers to individuals and families.

To date, we have received £700 from just 9 donors on our 2024 Just Giving Page! Many further donations have been received from other charities and organisations on the island.

January saw our first online shop for the Porch Pantry with Asda who can deliver direct to the church. This has saved the team from shopping, lifting and delivering invariably heavy food items. It also reduces our own carbon footprint as this means 5 cars less travelling to shop separately. The same team members now take turns meeting and sorting the delivery at church. So far, it is proving far easier, safer and eco-friendly. A huge thank you to the team who work like a well-oiled machine! Without them the Porch Pantry simply wouldn't be.

April sees the launch of an exciting new initiative we are calling The Moses Basket Mission. A similar scheme is currently run by a church in Debenham, Suffolk. We aim to provide a brand new Moses basket and start-up essentials for new Mums and their newborn baby. This would be for Mersea residents who are experiencing significant financial hardship. I am keen to up-cycle good condition actual stands for the baskets but every other item will be brand new. For example, the mattress, bedding, muslins, nappies, sleep-suits, toiletries, hooded towels etc. We are hoping members of our congregation may be able to knit/crochet a blanket for each basket.

We recently applied for a £500 start-up grant from Mersea Community Support following their article in The Courier. I am pleased to report that this was awarded over Easter. An answer to prayer indeed!

I am in contact with the Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service to discuss the logistics so watch this space!

We welcome your continued pray for those who are struggling right now. 'Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth' 1 John 3: 18

Safeguarding

Both at West Mersea and throughout the Benefice we continue to strive to keep our churches a Safe and Inclusive place for ALL.

Our congregations are growing, our children's work and our Pastoral care are expanding and so safeguarding awareness is vital and something we must ALL take responsibility for.

All our staff and volunteers who may work with unaccompanied children or vulnerable adults are required to have a DBS check, so if this is you and you're not sure if you have an up to date check, please ask me.

We have run several Safeguarding awareness sessions, initially directed at relevant volunteers but are planning more, in the near future, to which we will be inviting everyone. For those who prefer, safeguarding training is available online through the Chelmsford Diocese website. Thank you to all who have participated so far. If you've never taken part in safeguarding training I urge you to do so and to regularly refresh training. It's amazing what you forget!

My thanks to Emma for initiating 'Hidden Disabilities' awareness – such an important part of our inclusivity and something to continue to work on this year.

Health and Safety

Making our church a safe place also involves many, very practical, aspects. Risk Assessments are necessary and highlight potential hazards, both for the regular use of the building and for specific events. But on a day to day basis we do value the eyes of the congregation and visitors to report potential problems. Please never feel you might be making a fuss.

My thanks to the Churchwardens and Fabric Committee who help to rectify things where necessary and my thanks to Sally for her help with Risk Assessments!!

Eco Church

Our main focus in the last few months has been the wildlife area, with continuing development of the Bug Church, additional bird and bee boxes and introduction of more pollinating plants for insects. Our thanks to the local Guide Company who again came to help and thanks to Stan for his faithful service.

But..... there is a very long way to go if we are going to meet our targets. We need you!

I would really like to gather a group of volunteers who are passionate about improving our green credentials and would be able to give just a few hours on various tasks. There are some amazing webinars on the Cof E website to get you motivated. Please let me know if you are interested.

Catering/Social

Apart from our regular 'after service' coffee, most of this year's activity in the kitchen has been supporting events within the church put on for other purpose (Lent lunches, Messy Church etc). But we are back with Parish Breakfasts and very keen to offer more opportunities for 'fellowship with food'.

Have you got ideas of what you would like? Would you be keen to organise something? There are a lot of lovely volunteers now who would help make things happen.

BEACH CLUB REPORT

Beach Club went well in 2023 but we were a little hampered by the wet weather, and for two days the Club was held at the Mersea Free Church with tents outside for registration and coffee and groups meeting in the Methodist and Free Church buildings. It was held on 24 to 28 July.

The theme for the week was The Wonder Zone and the leaders did various science experiments to show how wonderful God's creation is.

For attendance, we had 89 children on Monday, 104 on Tuesday, 107 on Wednesday, 73 on Thursday and 80 on Friday. Overall, we reached 197 different children.

Beach Club takes a lot of work with the setting up of many gazebos, chairs and tables etc, the team found it hard to manage the workload as many of us are getting older and there was a lot of heavy lifting. This prompted an after-Beach Club follow-up meeting with all those involved and it was felt that we couldn't sustain Beach Club in its present form, unless we had more help from fit and able volunteers. It was agreed to write to the other churches in Colchester to ask for help, but this proved a dead end as people couldn't commit to being available in that summer week. The planning now is for a different format for Beach Club which is still underway for 2024. It is hoped it will be more of an Open Day on the grass behind the beach huts with a craft area, a games area, story telling and puppets, and a play area for the under 4-year-olds. There is also going to be a separate group for the 11+. The main emphasis this year will be on parents staying with their children and being responsible for them throughout the morning.

This year we had the sad news that Rob and Jenny Hughes, Pastors at the Free Church will be leaving in May 2024 so we will really miss their input this year. The Steering Group is well represented by all the churches and Rev Jo has joined us too with offering help in 2024.

Beach Club this year is from 29 July to 2 August 2024 with Beach Club Sunday on 4 August.

Fundraising events last year included a Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy at the Methodist Church, and the Parish Church held a Bric a brac sale and coffee morning in April and another Christmas themed one in November.

On Sunday, 28 April we are doing a bucket shake at Waldegraves Car Boot from 8 to 12 noon to raise money for Beach Club and also will have a table top sale there to sell any items that people can donate. Please see Cindy Rudlin if you can help in any way with this fundraising effort.

Cindy Rudlin
for Beach Club Steering Group
21 March 2024

CHURCH BELLS ANNUAL REPORT - MARCH 2024

Annie Moscrop has written a sign for the new bell ringing chart which has been fixed on the new wooden backing board made by Andy Bacon.

The tidy up session on the bell ringing level of the tower has been completed.

CHURCH CLOCK REPORT

The Church clock level of the tower is due for a spring clean to remove cardboard boxes and odd timber.

The clock seems to be keeping reasonable time and is running well. Adjustments are generally made regularly due to changes in outside temperature. I aim to keep it accurate within two minutes.

TOWER FLAG AND HALYARD

There has been an agreement to keep the church flag raised all week during the summer, wind and weather permitting.

Periodically the flag post nuts are checked for tightness and all seems secure.

A new flag is due to be ordered from Piggots of Witham as a spare.

We are hoping to have the weathervane and post repainted this year and the gulleys in the tower have been cleaned out recently.

Peter Rudlin

March 2024

Report to APCM on 2023 Activities

Open the Book

The OtB group of storytellers continued to deliver weekly sessions at Mersea School through the first term and a half at Mersea School with Bible stories for assemblies of Key Stage 1 students. We took a break for the second half of the Summer Term as there were several other activities at the school which took up a number of our usual Thursday afternoon slots. We were expecting to return in the Autumn Term but were then advised by the school that they would be too busy with other activities on their Thursday afternoon assemblies so there was no opportunity for us to return that Term. We had already begun a monthly session on Friday morning at Fingringhoe Church to the whole of Fingringhoe School and we have continued to present to them with a really encouraging response from children and teaching staff. A big thank you to those who lead teams and to everyone who participates in the telling of the stories.

Margaret and Steven Gaunt, OtB Team Leaders

Mersea Lights Up

The Mersea Lights Up event is a locally inspired event and is gaining in popularity. In 2023 it again provided a missional opportunity for our church.

We started our **Stars Distribution** later than planned as the weather was wet but, as the sun broke through around noon, we were able to establish our usual distribution point outside the church gates from a wooden stand formed as a Christmas tree. A small group of women from our church had met weekly and worked through the year making stars in various media; on painted silk, clay, patterned card, felt and cross-stitch. Each star bears a message inviting people to join our Christmas services; I must particularly thank the wonderful star makers as they continued with production in November when I was indisposed.

Hot Chocolate was again served in the afternoon from the churchyard.

On this occasion, with poor weather again threatening, we moved our **Carol Singing** inside the church. Many visitors as well as those from the regular congregations filled the church where the carol singing was ably led by Rev Jo.

Margaret Gaunt

Accounts

Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul, West Mersea

Annual Meeting

Sunday 28th May 2023

11.30am

AGENDA for the ANNUAL MEETING

To be held on Sunday 28th May 2023 @ 11.30 am in the Church Hall,

1. Attendance
2. Welcome
3. Appointment of Clerk to the meeting
4. Apologies for absence

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. Minutes of the 2022 meeting
2. Matters arising
3. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, 2023

1. Minutes of 2022 meeting
2. Matters Arising.
3. **To accept:**
 - 3.1 Copy of the new 2023 Electoral Roll
 - 3.2 Annual report on the proceedings of the PCC in 2022
 - 3.3 Deanery Synod report
 - 3.4 The independently examined accounts and statements of funds and property for the year ended 31st December 2022.
 - 3.5 Fabric report
 - 3.6 Pastoral Care Report
 - 3.7 Reports of Children's activities/Families Worker
 - 3.8 Music Report
 - 3.9 Gift Aid Report
 - 3.10 Chairman's Report

4. ELECTIONS

- 4.1 Parochial Church Council 0 vacancies
- 4.2 Deanery Synod – 2 vacancies
5. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2023
6. Any other business
7. Notices
8. Date of Next Year's meeting – TBC
9. Closing Prayer

BACKGROUND

St Peter and St Paul's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with incumbent, (during the vacancy with the Churchwardens) in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for the Church complex in West Mersea.

Membership The Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parish and Parochial Meetings in accordance with the Church Representational Rules.

During the year the following served on the PCC:

Incumbent: Rev. Jude Bevan

Assistant Priest: Rev. John Pantry

Curate: Rev. Terry Walker

Evangelist: Mr Stephen Rice

Wardens: Mr Peter Easy and Mrs Barbara Peter

Health & Safety Officer: Mrs Cathy Roberts

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Cathy Roberts

Families Worker: Mrs Heather King

Treasurer: Mr Roland Gardener

Representatives on the Deanery Synod: Mr Christopher Parkinson

Elected Members

Mrs Emma Cornwell

Mrs Cathy Roberts

Mr Peter Easy

Mrs Pauline Low

Mrs Frances Hart

Mr Christopher Parkinson

Co-opted Mrs Pauline Sanderson

Elected at APCM 2022:

Jamie Nightingale

Helen Nightingale

Number of meetings of PCC during the year 6

3.3 DEANERY SYNOD REPORT – Christopher Parkinson

Report on the meeting of Witham Deanery Synod on the evening of 14th June at All Saints' Terling

The meeting began at 8 pm with a welcome and prayer from Simon.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24th February 2022 were agreed. Simon briefly mentioned the consultation process currently being carried out by members of the Deanery Standing Committee with wardens and clergy in parishes. This was to help draw up a Deanery plan which truly reflected the needs and desires of all parishes in the deanery.

The next agenda item was introduced by Simon, a Community Arts Project for 2023. This arose from discussions between Simon, Gillian and Jake Lever (www.leverarts.com). The couple, practicing Christians and artists have carried out several community projects, most recently at Birmingham Cathedral where a template of a model boat was sent to interested parishes. The contents of the boats were filled with stories of people's experiences from their personal lives and journeys. The boats were then hung from the ceiling of the Cathedral. Simon wished for parishes in our deanery to carry out something similar but not identical next year, which may involve a template. A ten-minute video between Jake and Stephen was then shown where Jake explained how the Birmingham project, named Soul Boats, came about and was carried out, Jake additionally gave his full commitment and practical support for our deanery project. Members of Synod gave their full support for the project with the desire for the wider community to be involved. Simon said that details had been sent to the clergy and he envisaged a small group of interested people to be formed by July 2023. While not all parishes will be involved, a common thread would run through the participating parishes. All those and parishes interested were asked to contact Simon.

Finance Report. The Deanery Treasurer had given apologies for their absence before the meeting. Details of the amount of Parish Share paid so far were circulated before the meeting. The next agenda item was "Caring for Creation – the path to net-zero?" presented by the Revd Ruth Hatchett. Ruth began by reminding us of the Church of England's desire to attain net carbon neutrality by 2030, but acknowledged the difficulties presented by Covid, Ukraine and increased cost of living have put environmental issues on the "back burner". However, climate and energy concerns have not gone away and if successfully confronted, it will be a win-win scenario for reduced deanery costs and the climate. Being part of the Tiptree and Winstree group of parishes, Ruth described how she and her colleagues, after a difficult start, have followed the Church of England's check list and list of milestones on the route to becoming eco-churches. By working together and supporting each other and using many resources available via the internet, one of the group's churches is ready for a Bronze Award. The Diocesan Heating Advisor was present at this Synod, he urged parishes to contact him through the DAC after which he would be happy to visit individual churches to offer practical advice. It was also noted that September was the month of creation in the church calendar and would be a suitable time for parishes to revisit this topic. Synod members were asked to bring to this meeting questions for Bishop Guli's who will be at the Witham Synod Meeting on 19 October 2022. One question was given as to her views on the future of MMU's under her leadership. Simon urged members to discuss further questions in their parishes and pass on to him. Deanery Notices. Parishes were asked to hold the forthcoming interviews for a Team vicar at Tiptree in their prayers. Simon again mentioned the many positive outcomes of the Community Arts Project discussed earlier and encouraged parishes to think about what they could contribute. The meeting concluded with prayers and the saying of the Grace.

3.4 ACCOUNTS – Roland Gardener – Treasurer (attached as separate document)

3.5 FABRIC REPORT FOR APCM 2023 - Barbara Peter (Chair of the Fabric Committee)

The Fabric Committee meets approximately 6 times each year to discuss and put forward recommendations to keep our church, church hall and churchyard in good condition. This year the following items have been on the agenda.

The Churchyard

- The trees have been of great concern. The churchyard is maintained by West Mersea Town Council and they commissioned a tree survey which, unfortunately, found some trees were in such poor condition that they had to be felled. We are reusing some of the logs etc in the churchyard as seats. We are planting new trees as replacements.
- We are allowing part of the churchyard to become a wild area which will attract wildlife and allow wild flowers to flourish. There is also a bug hotel to complement the wilding.
- The Lay Weeders meet regularly to keep the rest of the churchyard tidy. This means weeding, pruning and planting.

The Hall and Upper Rooms

- The major work this year was the replacement of the window in the meeting room upstairs with a bespoke, wooden window.
- This room has been cleared and redecorated so it can be used for a variety of reasons, i.e. Tell The Story, meetings etc. This has meant that the items previously stored here have had to be relocated.

The Tower

- New lights were purchased to go around the top of the tower in time for Christmas.
- The reorganisation of the rooms in the tower is ongoing. New shelving for the Porch Pantry is being built and this will mean clear access to the stairway.
- The clock needs regular tweaking so that it is showing the correct time.

The Church

- A contactless giving terminal is now in situ.
- A plaque has been put in place dedicated to Jeremy Dumas by the Friends organisation. Jeremy worked very hard to establish the Friends.
- The choir stalls in the Chancel have been repaired.

Other

- Fire extinguishers, heating in the hall, the boiler, the clock have all been serviced.
- More Smart Water has been applied on the lead roof.
- A wheel chair ramp has been purchased to enable better access to the Chancel.

Quinquennial Inspection

This was carried out in the summer of 2022. It reports that the church and the site are in

good condition. There are no matters of concern in the recommendations, in fact, many of them are part of our annual maintenance strategy anyway.

The Future

- Becoming carbon neutral by 2030 will be a challenge. The Fabric Committee, guided by Cathy Roberts, are looking at strategies to achieve this.
- Some reorganisation of the Chancel.
- The Rectory is now the responsibility of the PCC until a new incumbent is in place.
- The damaged wall outside is to be repaired.

Our gratitude must go to the members of the Fabric Committee: Pete Easy, Roland Gardener, Alan Brook, Pete Rudlin and Geoff Sexton. We must also thank the Friends of West Mersea Parish Church for their generous help in funding maintenance of the church, the Lay Weeders for keeping the churchyard neat and tidy, the volunteers working on the wild parts of the churchyard and other people who carry out tasks for us, such as Aaron Cornwall who helped with clearing gutters and painting Smart Water. Many people do little, unseen jobs for us – changing light bulbs, fixing broken fittings, tidying. Thank you to them all.

CHURCH BELLS ANNUAL REPORT 2023 – John Talbot

In this last year, the bells were “rung” a number of times, additional to Services and Weddings etc. At the passing of our late Queen in September, church bells across the land were ‘toll’d’, which included our own church Number 4 Bell.

With the official proclamation – by the Mayor of Mersea – of King Charles III in the garden of the church, a full ring of the bells sounded.

At Christmas (as in 2021) carols were sung in the garden just outside the East end of the church where carols and Bible readings were enjoyed by over 300 people- preceded by the bells ringing in carols.

The church is most fortunate and grateful that there are a number of Campanologists able and willing to chime the bells as needed.

Thank you all very much.

Carpenter Andy Bacon has made a new wooden backing board for the bell ringing cupboard and Annie Moscrop agreed to sign write a new bell ringing chart to be fixed on the new board.

There will shortly be a tidy up session on the bell ringing level of the tower.

CHURCH CLOCK REPORT 2023 – Peter Rudlin

The clock seems to be keeping reasonable time and is running well. Adjustments are generally made regularly due to changes in outside temperature. I aim to keep it accurate within two minutes.

TOWER FLAG AND HALYARD 2023 – Peter Rudlin

Periodically the flag post nuts are checked for tightness and all seems secure.

In April 2023 a new St George flag was purchased from Piggotts of Witham and Ben Peter kindly fitted the new fittings on the cords.

New Led lights were fitted on the top of the tower before Christmas.

3.6 PASTORAL CARE REPORT 2023 – Val Bocking

In the past year many more people have been joining with us in our services and this has extended the role of pastoral care.

A survey carried out before Christmas showed that everyone who is part of our church family is known to one of our team.

Pauline Low began a bereavement drop-in group meeting in the hall for coffee and a cake, on the first Saturday of each month and this has definitely met a need and has been a blessing to many.

It is important that we all look out for each other and that needs are shared and met.

Home communion and visits are available and prayer support is much appreciated.

We must continue to care for our church family as we wait for our new shepherd to be appointed.

THE BEREAVEMENT DROP IN REPORT– Pauline Low

The Bereavement Drop In began in June last year and meets on the 1st Saturday of each month (apart from August) to provide a friendly welcoming space for those who have lost loved ones. The committed team involved completed an online Care for the Family Bereavement Care Awareness Course beforehand to equip us more fully. We have been encouraged by the number of folk attending, and the way it has proved helpful to them with the opportunity for understanding conversations. Supportive friendships are being made between the guests themselves, which is what we'd hoped, and the delicious homemade cakes have been much appreciated. My thanks to all in the team who have run with the vision so enthusiastically and faithfully.

We have paused this month for the Coronation but the Drop In will return June 3rd.

3.7 FAMILIES' WORKER REPORT 2023– Heather King

2022 has been another busy year with lots of baptisms as usual. Jude and I did the welcoming meetings and bookings together and it was such a pleasure as always to welcome families into our church, many couples having been married or even baptised here themselves. It's a joy to see and hear the connection they feel to us and the church.

Sunbeams took a little while to rebuild after lockdown but we now have a thriving group with both tiny babies and toddlers. Many friendships have been formed there and it's lovely to see the children's confidence and abilities blossoming. The year ended with our annual Christmas party and Malcolm Peter as our Santa as always.

I restarted messy Church at Jude's request and that also is growing nicely we had 29 children and 18 adults at the Easter Session. We have a brilliant team of helpers and had the pleasure of adding Andrew French and Jenny Hughes to our team of story leaders in church.

I love the first week of the school summer holidays as I get to spend it registering and welcoming children and families to Beach Club it's nice to be working alongside the free church and the children have such a great time.

Along with the members of the CCTV committee I helped to organise the flower festival in the church to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, the community and holiday makers flooded in, it was a great success and really enjoyed by everyone.

I continue to source items, support and visit families in the community, help along with others with the purchasing and delivery of food for the porch pantry. Beacon House is as always grateful for any donations of trainers, jeans, new socks and underwear, tents and sleeping bags.

I will continue to work to strengthen links within our community, to assist and support mums and carers to build friendships and to carry a welcome to our church into our community.

ACTIVITIES REPORT 2023

BEACH CLUB – Steven Gaunt, (ex) Hon Treasurer, Beach Club Steering Group

Beach Club is an event supported by all churches on Mersea and a “Centenary” Event was held from 25 to 29 July in 2022. This followed a two-year gap due to Covid restrictions and the week took as its theme the story of Joseph, from the Old Testament, linking to the life of Jesus in the New. We were blessed with good weather through the week and our vicar, Rev Jude, led the daily dramatization of the stories with Andrew French appearing as Joseph, from his coat of many colours through his time in prison and finally to his being Prime Minister in Egypt. For the statisticians it is interesting to note that whilst we were delighted to welcome 186 individual children to Beach Club across the week, only 20 were there for all five days. 85 visited for just one day, 35 for 2 days, 23 came for 2 days, 23 for 3 days and 23 for 4 days.

Beach Club takes quite a lot of work to organise and it is good that most churches are represented on the Steering Group. Andrew French has stepped down after the 2022 event, having had many years of involvement, as have Sue Hammond and Steven Gaunt. Cindy Rudlin now represents our church on the Steering Group and it would be good for another person from our church to join so that the workload is well spread. Please have a chat with Cindy if you feel you could be that person. Beach Club is all set to appear in its second century of activity on the beach opposite the end of Empress Avenue, in the first week of the summer holidays in 2023.

OPEN THE BOOK - Margaret Gaunt, OtB Team Leader

We are pleased to report that in 2022 we were back to “normal” service at Mersea School. A group of would-be thespians from our church community acts out Bible stories for assemblies of Key Stage 1 students at the School on Thursday afternoon each week, using the Lion Storyteller Bible, working with the programme produced by The Bible Society. During the year the children have become more responsive and now interact with the stories quite freely, and vocally! We are also thrilled to have been invited by Jude and Terry to present a story once a month first thing on a Friday morning at Fingringhoe Church to the whole of Fingringhoe School. It is a wonderful venue and despite its formal setting the children listen intently, being quite at home there as they normally have their Friday assembly in the church.

MERSEA LIGHTS UP – Margaret Gaunt

This local event continues to present our church with a wonderful missional opportunity. A small group of women from our church worked through the autumn and again made stars in various media, on painted silk, clay, patterned card, felt and cross-stitch. We then distributed these, as we have done before, during the event outside the church gates from a wooden stand formed as a Christmas tree. Each star bears a message inviting people to join our Christmas services; we thus reached out to our community with a gift from the church. It's a great opportunity to meet our neighbours and engage in conversation. Hot chocolate was served in the afternoon from the churchyard and two brief, but well attended, carol singing sessions were conducted by Rev Jude in the churchyard during the afternoon.

3.8 MUSIC REPORT 2023– Liz Willey

We are very grateful to everyone who contributes in any way to the music of the church.

Ray Bocking's organ skills are frequently needed, not least in the regular 10am united service, which aims to provide a mix of traditional and modern songs and hymns. We were sad to bid farewell recently to Jamie and Helen Nightingale, who have led the worship team so ably for the past couple of years, but many thanks to fellow musicians and singers, Joan, Val, Pat, Claire, Michelle and Grace for their input, and to Lily and the Cornwell family for operating the projector week by week. If you have musical ability and feel that God may be calling you to serve with the worship team, please speak to one of the wardens.

Many thanks are also due to John Davies and the Mersea Island Choir for leading the monthly Evensong and various special services.

3.9 GIFT AID REPORT 2023– Alan Hammond

GIVING & GIFT AID DURING 2022

We are blessed here at West Mersea Parish Church (WMPC) in that so many of our regular supporters chose to support us via 'non cash' methods which does significantly help Gift Aid and other financial administration. A huge 'THANK YOU' to all who have continued their faithful donations during challenging times.

As per last year I thought it may be helpful to list and summarise some of the methods already available to support our church financially both for its immediate well-being and as potential for its future.

1. The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is the most efficient way to make donations to our church. During 2022 donations totalling £41,848.50 (inc. £7,991.75 Gift Aid reclaim) were received from 33 regular donors. This scheme enables donations via Direct Debit and any associated Gift Aid reclaim is received locally within 10 working days. All costs of the Scheme are borne by the Diocese with no charge to WMPC.

During 2022 a new way to access and set up donations (single or regular) to WMPC via PGS was introduced. Alongside is a "QR" code which, if you point a smartphone camera at it should display a link to enable donations (single or regular) to this church via the PGS scheme. Why not give it a go? 

There are, however, other ways in which you can set up a PGS Direct Debit to WMPC

a) via paper 'Gift Form' – available from our Churchwardens or Treasurer

b) via the PGS telephone service on 0333 002 1271, Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm

c) via: <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/> quoting PGS

Parish Code: 080608478

2. In-house Gift Aid scheme: Donations of £45,442.69 (inc. £11,360.68 Gift Aid reclaim) were received from 36 regular donors. The total sum also includes receipts from 17 'occasional' donors AND the HMRC 'small donation' (cash) concession. The HMRC reclaim is processed by myself manually on a quarterly basis in arrears so not all may appear in the 2022 accounts.

Note: The 'traditional' donations via cash, envelopes, cheques and/or Banker's Order are still

available for 2023 and gratefully accepted. However, our Island bank (Barclays) now make significant handling charges for both cash and cheques that serve to reduce the value of donations made this way.

3. Cashless donation device: this new device was installed near the main church entrance toward the end of 2022 with the financial support of the Friends and is available anytime to church members and visitors for donations via credit/ debit cards and smartphone Apple/ Google Pay.

4. Legacies: from time to time our church has been blessed to receive legacy gifts. Our legacy policy is: "West Mersea Parish Church welcomes gifts in Wills, however large or small. We promise to use such gifts to make a difference to our church (e.g. by funding development projects, whether buildings, equipment or staff). However, since needs change over the years we encourage gifts for the general purposes of the parish rather than for a restricted use. We may consult with executors about the most appropriate use of the gift in light of current projects. We will respect a donor or executor's request for PCC acknowledgement of a gift within existing parish policy or, equally, we can make sure that gifts remain anonymous if that is preferred."

5. "Friends of West Mersea Parish Church": is a registered and non-religious charity "established as a group of interested people from the wider community who wish to support and maintain this wonderful Mersea ancient building, recognised as requiring a long-term sustainable commitment. In this way we will ensure that this generation hands the Church on in good order to the next, just as previous custodians have done." More details are available on the website <https://www.fwmpc.org/> or by post to: 'Friends of West Mersea Parish Church,' c/o Church of St Peter & St Paul, High Street, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8QD.

6. Direct Donations: of course, it is always possible to support the work of our church by direct bank transfer(s). If you favour this method, then bank details are below – thank you (and please let us know if donations can be Gift-Aided):

a) To the church directly = sort-code 20-22-67; account no. = 20935557; name = 'West Mersea Parochial Church Council'

b) Or via the 'Friends' = sort-code 20-22-67; account no. = 43164136; name = 'Friends of West Mersea Parish Church'

Last thoughts (for now!): ... a) Gift Aid allows donations given to this church by ANY TAXPAYER (church members, or the wider public – and eligible taxes should not include VAT or Council Tax) to be increased by 25% via tax reclaim. The offerings may be made for any church purpose ... and, b) it is now 34 years since I inherited the role which has become Gift Aid secretary for West Mersea Parish Church. It would be good for both myself and this church to discover a new member to undertake the role for the future and I would be happy to explain more to anyone expressing a genuine interest.

MOTHERS' UNION ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - Branch Leader, Mersea Island Mothers' Union

We started the year with 20 members, but ended with 19 having very sadly lost Beryl Balls. Beryl had been a member of Mothers' Union for more than 25 years. However, 2 ladies have been joining us for meetings and will be enrolled very soon.

I am very pleased to report that we have monthly contact with Mary Trenter as she is still a member. She has continued her membership of our Branch of Mothers' Union as an Indoor Member. This type of membership is for those who, for whatever reason, are unable to attend meetings. We have 6 such members in our Branch. I keep in regular contact with them, and they receive special letters, cards, prayers, etc from the Diocesan Indoor Members Officer.

We have been meeting monthly – on the 3rd Friday of each month – in the Parish Hall.

There are “special” months throughout the year:-

A New Year Party in January

A Lent Quiet Afternoon An outing to somewhere in May

A Garden Party in July A Christmas Celebration in December

After a break in August, our September meeting is held in the Church, and we are so grateful to the Revd. Keith Lovell who has led us in a traditional Evensong for many years.

Post Covid we have been able to restart serving Tea, Coffee and biscuits in the Parish Hall after the service on the 4th Wednesday of each month. It is truly wonderful to see up to 20 people chatting away – some very reluctant to go home! Fellowship at its best!

As Branch Leader, I receive lots of communication from our Central Office in London. Our Worldwide President and Diocesan President work very hard behind the scenes to keep our members here, and across the world, informed and provided with spiritual encouragement. I have also attended Diocesan Meetings and events via Zoom during the past year.

Mersea Island Mothers' Union co-ordinates the Mersea Island Churches “Annual World Day of Prayer Service”, always held, across the world, on the first Friday in March. Representatives from each of the 5 churches meet together in January to prepare and share responsibility for all involvement, and we take turns to host the Service. This year was the turn of the Catholic Church of St Cedd and St Gregory, and the service was prepared by the ladies of Taiwan.

Our meetings are open to all.

For more information, please contact me on 01206 383166

MISSION TO SEAFARERS 2023- Michael J. Berry

There have been many changes forced upon the Mission to Seafarers, due to the pandemic, and has concentrated their thinking and approach to the support and services they offer around the world. This has been a worthwhile exercise for them.

The generation of charitable contributions is now, quite rightly, concentrated on the very large shipping and freight forwarding companies around the world who use their facilities, and a highly targeted computerised data base of individuals who are contacted on a regular basis. The Mission no longer actively pursues collection box donations as it recognises it does not have the 'critical mass' appeal of certain charities, for example, the RSPCA, RNLI or those campaigning on behalf of serious illness. The pandemic has concentrated their marketing efforts, a good thing! In addition to concentrating their fund-raising efforts they have been forced to assess the services they offer at their missions and centres across the globe and many changes are planned.

We as a church have always supported our local Mission to Seafarers, which is based at Harwich (Felixstowe Dock). This facility is one of the busiest in the world, due to its capacity as the largest UK container port. The Mission facility at Felixstowe has also been subject to change and is now under the supervision of the QVSR (Queen Victoria's Seaman's Rest homes). Although the management of the facility remains the same, the centre, which has always been multi-faith based, is now run by the QVSR which is a Methodist charitable organisation. However, it still is part of the Mission to Seafarers and retains all the commitment of care expected of it. What does this mean to our continued church support?

1) We as Mersea Churches and churches in the surrounding parishes have made a tremendous contribution to the well-being of many a seaman taking refuge in the Mission at Felixstowe by the hand knitted hats produced by our 'wonderful ladies' around parishes. I cannot emphasise enough how well these are received and appreciated by the Mission and many a freezing sailor!!! The production and supply of these hats will be actively encouraged by me in the future.

2) I propose we also continue with our thoughts and prayers on Sea Sunday (first Sunday in July) which is part of a Worldwide prayer day for Seafarers and which is organised by the Mission to Seafarers.

3) We discontinue any minor 'collection box' contributions in line with Mission policy.

4) I would like it put on record the great thanks and appreciation the management of the Mission to Seafarers give to our many 'knitters' who give so much time and effort in producing these vital bobble hats which ensure the well-being of many a young man from the Indian sub-continent, the Pacific rim, or China who have never experienced a Nor'easterly wind in the North Sea before!

5) There are no financial matters to report. All activities are undertaken on a FOC basis and are encouraged so to do.

3.10 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023 – Barbara Peter

There have been good things and not so good things happening in the last year. So let us dwell on the good things.

We have been able to have a complete resumption of our services as the threat of Coronavirus decreased. We no longer wearing masks and we are able to mix freely in the church and the hall. We can enjoy a sociable coffee after the 10 o'clock Sunday service and once a month after the Wednesday morning service. The end of semi-isolation has been of great comfort to many in the various congregations.

The Wednesday morning service, sometimes Holy Communion and sometimes Morning Prayer has a regular attendance of over twenty. We are pleased that Keith and Terry have been able to take the service in the past and we hope that they will soon back with us. Morning Prayer is led by the Churchwardens, Val Bocking or Alan Brook.

Sunday services attract a regular group of worshippers. The 8 o'clock numbers are in the teens and the 11 o'clock United Service usually has 45 - 50. For special services, such as a Baptism, there can be 80+ in church. We still offer a Zoom connection. However, we probably do not have as many in the two services as we did pre-Covid. Very pleasing is the fact that we now have Tell The Story; a session of a story and craft activities for 5-10 year olds during the 10 o'clock service. We hope and pray that this will grow. The Choral Evensong service held once a month attracts a congregation of 20-30 with a choir of 10 or so. It must be noted that most of the attendees do not come at other times to our church and we are pleased to welcome people from other churches on the island. In fact, we often have members of the Catholic Church reading lessons at this service.

Christmas last year was tremendous, back to the old routine of services, with the new tradition of Carols by Candlelight which attracted over 400 people into the churchyard for a service, Carol singing and, of course, donkeys. Thank you to all who worked so hard before, during and after this event. Bishop Roger was very impressed when we told him about it. The Friends of West Mersea Parish Church put on two concerts of Christmas music which were very well supported and great fun. Who will forget singing the Twelve Days of Christmas, with actions?

We are blessed with some amazing musicians who lead the music in our worship. We were sorry to say goodbye to Jamie and Helen Nightingale at Easter. They will be missed.

Our work with younger children was able to restart this past year as well. Heather, our wonderful Families' Worker, was able to resume Messy Church and after a slow start, the expected numbers are 30 or more. This is due to Heather's team gathering so we must give thanks to them. People spend a long time preparing craft activities and others prepare food. The children, and their parents/carers, have a great time whilst learning about the Christian faith and then have a lovely meal. Leaders of the service not only include our own clergy but Pete Easy, Margaret and Steven Gaunt, Andrew French and Jenny Hughes from the Free Church. There is also Sunbeams, for mothers/granny's/carers of toddlers during term time. The regular group enjoy this hour or so of chat and coffee whilst the toddlers have space to run around and play alongside others.

Open the Book continues weekly at Mersea Island School. This is our only initiative that goes out to the children of Mersea so is vitally important.

Unfortunately, we are not able to offer much for teenagers. This is an area of outreach that needs a lot of prayer. We have approached Time For God, which places young adults in parishes specifically to work with teenagers. Host families are needed and one did come forward. This idea is on hold at the moment until a new incumbent is in place.

House groups have resumed and thank you to the hosts of these groups.

The Porch Pantry continues to offer a lifeline to those in need on the island. Emma and her team work incredibly hard to maintain it. Emma has been successful in gaining grants. In fact, she was so successful recently that she had to beg for storage space in people's garages after a large, time limited grant. Mersea has taken the Porch Pantry to its heart, local people bring goods and other fund raise. Thank you Emma and your team.

2022 saw the Quinquennial Survey taking place and we are pleased to report that the architect considered the church was in good condition with nothing major to worry us.

The finances of the church are in a reasonable state at the moment, but costs are rising so they are being carefully monitored. Roland is an excellent treasurer and we must thank him profusely. A digital, contactless giving terminal has been installed in the church. It will be interesting to see how much extra income this generates.

The Friends organisation continues to give us tremendous financial backing. They have supported the new window in the Upper Room and the contactless giving terminal. Of course, their events are also great fun.

At the beginning of this report, bad things were mentioned. This was the devastating news that Jude would be leaving, which was announced earlier this year. She made a big difference to our church life, proved to be a wonderful preacher and became a good friend to us all. She will be sorely missed. Hopefully and prayerfully, next year's Chairman's report will highlight the works of a new incumbent.

Many people contribute to the life of this church and it is impossible to name them all. So if you are missing, many apologies.

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER
AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA**

ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

Registered Charity Number 1142676

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA
Registered Charity Number 1142676

ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

2021	INCOMING RESOURCES	2022
£	On Unrestricted Funds	£
	Incoming Resources from Donors	
4,860.77	General Collections	6,423.98
35,614.88	Parish Giving Scheme	35,085.35
35,010.50	Standing Orders(incl Family Worker donations)	35,907.00
2,008.37	Donations for General Fund	650.43
18,567.68	Gift Aided Tax Reclaim	19,621.03
-	GoodPlate Online Giving	88.91
-	Messy Church Donations	145.40
51.72	Carol Services	30.00
59.00	Midnight Mass & Christmas Day	207.10
2,555.23	Legacies	-
<u>98,728.15</u>		<u>98,159.20</u>
	Other Voluntary Incoming Resources	
-	Donations for Mary's Meals	366.51
-	Musical Instruments Donation	3,000.00
-	Laptop Donations	600.00
-	Terry Walker Thank You Donations	367.50
430.00	Christian Aid (in lieu of Lent Lunches)	995.00
105.00	Donations towards Flowers	-
-	Ukrainian Appeal	395.90
<u>535.00</u>		<u>5,724.91</u>
	Income from Ancillary Trading	
-	LPWS Grant	6,253.40
72.50	Beacon House Service Collection	-
4,813.00	Hall Hire	4,945.00
-	Tearfund Collection	620.00
309.26	Rev. Jude Bevan Installation Collection	-
80.00	Pianissimo Income (incl Weddings)	-
<u>5,274.76</u>		<u>11,818.40</u>
	Ordinary Incoming Resources	
-	Bank loyalty Reward	45.54
1,598.00	Interregnum Fees refunded by CDBF	-
17,086.33	Fees from Funerals & Weddings	16,498.95
-	Catering/ Refreshments	200.75
147.43	Benefice Team Ministry Expenses Reimbursed	1,026.49
<u>18,831.76</u>		<u>17,771.73</u>
2.76	Interest Received	69.76
<u>123,372.43</u>	Total Incoming Resources	<u>133,544.00</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA
Registered Charity Number 1142676

ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

2021 £	OUTGOING RESOURCES On Unrestricted Funds	2022 £
	Ministry	
47,132.88	Diocesan Family Share	63,443.16
1,473.78	Team Ministry Expenses	3,767.48
<u>48,606.66</u>		<u>67,210.64</u>
	Running Expenses	
335.11	Water & Sewerage	469.14
2,136.08	Insurance	2,274.77
642.13	Heating Oil	2,127.09
1,639.61	Electricity	2,286.02
588.27	Altar Requisites	259.20
6,249.19	Parish Office	11,108.52
413.95	Office Machines & Equipment	1,819.00
1,818.05	Printing, Postage & Stationery	1,479.53
-	House Group Costs	52.78
3,982.16	Hall Costs	4,446.02
-	Catering Costs	46.33
461.72	Audio & Video Costs	478.35
480.00	Organists Fees	1,210.00
-	Musical Instruments	3,148.14
-	Messy Church Costs	374.53
3,583.24	General Running Repairs	4,664.84
490.57	Flowers/Oasis	520.14
234.61	Rectory Utility Costs	-
5,636.80	Families Worker Costs	5,633.19
461.45	Evangelism	588.05
65.50	Advertising (Christmas Leaflets & Vacancy)	-
6,189.34	Charities and Missions - see schedule	7,302.86
0.00	Mary's Meals Donation Made	296.51
5,689.80	Rectory Refurbishment	-
191.42	Bank & Audit Charges	410.24
-	Gift for Terry Walker (retiring)	367.50
1,632.00	Interregnum Fees	-
11,471.32	Funeral & Wedding Fees Costs	11,567.90
216.00	Sunday School Sponsorship	216.00
48.00	Sunbeams	28.43
141.16	Refreshments for Installation Service	254.67
<u>54,797.48</u>		<u>63,429.75</u>
103,404.14	Total Outgoing Resources	130,640.39
30,094.84	Transferred to Fabric Fund	-
133,498.98	Total Resources Used	130,640.39
123,372.44	Total Incoming Resources	133,544.00
<u>(10,126.54)</u>	Net Change on Year	<u>2,903.61</u>
109,195.48	Balance at 1st January 2022	99,068.94
<u>99,068.94</u>	Balance at 31st December 2022	<u>101,972.55</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA
Registered Charity Number 1142676

ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022
RESTRICTED FUNDS

2021		2022
£	BELL FUND	£
8,168.94	Balance at 1st January 2022	8,173.20
4.26	Interest Received	107.50
<u>-</u>	Repairs	<u>-</u>
<u><u>8,173.20</u></u>	Balance at 31st December 2022	<u><u>8,280.70</u></u>
	FABRIC FUND	
7,898.05	Balance at 1st January 2022	7,902.16
4.11	Interest Received	103.92
10,000.00	Donations from Friends for Tower Repairs	-
500.00	Donation for Clock Repairs	-
30,094.84	Transferred from General Fund for Tower Clock Repairs	-
-	Wheelchair Ramps	(299.99)
-	Good With Devices Station	(954.00)
(3,074.40)	Major Clock Repairs	-
<u>(37,520.44)</u>	Tower repairs (2022 Retention Fee)	<u>(962.06)</u>
<u><u>7,902.16</u></u>	Balance at 31st December 2022	<u><u>5,790.03</u></u>
	COMMUNITY CHEST FUND	
2,177.29	Balance at 1st January 2022	4,581.95
-	Transferred from General Fund	-
3,132.45	Donations Received	670.00
<u>(727.79)</u>	Good Causes	<u>(4,938.99)</u>
<u><u>4,581.95</u></u>	Balance at 31st December 2022	<u><u>312.96</u></u>
	PORCH PANTRY FUND	
9,931.38	Balance at 1st January 2022	1,764.20
-	Transferred from General Fund	-
7,188.52	Donations Received	10,387.23
<u>(15,355.70)</u>	Purchases	<u>(9,989.20)</u>
<u><u>1,764.20</u></u>	Balance at 31st December 2022	<u><u>2,162.23</u></u>
	TITHE CHANCEL ENDOWMENT FUND	
13,091.18	665.46 Shares held 1st January 2022	15,373.05
383.69	Dividends in the year (reinvested in 18.93 shares)	407.79
1,898.18	Shares re-valuation	<u>(1,826.34)</u>
<u><u>15,373.05</u></u>	675.39 Shares held 31st December 2022	<u><u>13,954.50</u></u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA
Registered Charity Number 1142676

ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022
RESTRICTED FUNDS

2021		2022
£	AUDIO VISUAL FUND	£
4,128.07	Balance at 1st January 2022	4,128.07
-	FWMPC donation towards new Sound System	-
-	Sound System Costs Including Installation	-
4,128.07	Balance as at 31st December 2022	4,128.07
	CHURCH & COMMUNITY(CCTV) FUND	
307.00	Balance at 1st January 2022	307.00
-	Jubilee Flower Festival Income	1,143.57
-	Jubilee Flower Festival Costs	(213.41)
307.00	Balance as at 31st December 2022	1,237.16

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA
Registered Charity Number 1142676

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2022

2021		2022
£		£
	CURRENT ASSETS	
15,373.05	Central Board of Finance Investment Fund Units	13,954.50
109,242.86	Cash with Barclays Bank	102,639.28
21,379.54	Cash with Central Board of Finance of the Church of England	21,660.72
57.23	Cash in hand	57.23
2,669.60	Debtors and Prepayments	4,016.08
(7,423.71)	Liabilities	(4,489.61)
141,298.57		137,838.20

REPRESENTED BY:

Totals		Restricted	Unrestricted	Totals
99,068.94	General Fund	-	101,972.55	101,972.55
1,764.20	Porch Pantry Fund	2,162.23		2,162.23
8,173.20	Bell Fund	8,280.70		8,280.70
7,902.16	Fabric Fund	5,790.03		5,790.03
4,581.95	Community Chest Fund	312.96		312.96
4,128.07	Audio Visual Fund	4,128.07		4,128.07
307.00	Church & Community (CCTV) Fund	1,237.16		1,237.16
15,373.05	Tithe Chancel Trust- held by Diocese	13,954.50		13,954.50
141,298.57		35,865.65	101,972.55	137,838.20

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA
Registered Charity Number 1142676

ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

SCHEDULE OF GIVING TO CHARITIES AND MISSIONS

2021		2022
£		£
809.26	Essex Clergy Charity	500.00
500.00	Leprosy Mission	500.00
-	Mersea Beach Club	500.00
500.00	Mission to Seafarers	500.00
377.58	Royal British Legion Remembrance Day	189.06
500.00	Barnabus Fund	500.00
500.00	Colchester Beacon House	500.00
430.00	Christian Aid	862.00
-	Christian Aid Week	133.00
500.00	CYO	500.00
500.00	Fellowship Afloat	500.00
500.00	Childrens Society (Balance)	40.00
500.00	Colchester CAP	500.00
-	Tearfund	620.00
-	Colchester CAB	500.00
-	Ukranian Appeal	388.80
72.50	Beacon House (Mersea Island Chorus)	-
-	Mary's Meals	70.00
5,689.34		7,302.86

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Peter
and St. Paul, West Mersea Registered Charity Number 1142676**

I report to the members of the Parochial Church Council of St Peter and St Paul,
West Mersea on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

L C Tippet ACA
Chartered Accountant

West Mersea
15 March 2023

Accounts

**Parish Church of St Peter & St
Paul, West Mersea.**

Annual Parochial Meeting

**Sunday 3rd April 2022
11.30am**

AGENDA for the ANNUAL MEETING

To be held on Sunday 3rd April 2022 @ 11.30am in the Church Hall,

1. Attendance
2. Welcome
3. Appointment of Clerk to the meeting
4. Apologies for absence

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. Minutes of the 2021 meeting
2. Matters arising
3. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, 2022

1. Minutes of 2021 meeting
2. Matters Arising.
3. **To accept:**
 - 3.1 Copy of the new 2022 Electoral Roll
 - 3.2 Annual report on the proceedings of the PCC in 2021
 - 3.3 Deanery Synod report
 - 3.4 The independently examined accounts and statements of funds and property for the year ended 31st December 2021
 - 3.5 Fabric report
 - 3.6 Pastoral Care Report
 - 3.7 Reports of Children's activities/Families Worker
 - 3.8 Music Report
 - 3.9 Parish Evangelist Report
 - 3.10 Reports from Committees/Representatives for Charities
 - 3.11 Chairman's Report
4. **ELECTIONS**
 - 4.1 Parochial Church Council 3 vacancies
 - 4.2 Deanery Synod – no vacancies
5. **Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2022**
6. Any other business
7. Notices
8. Date of Next Year's meeting – TBA
9. Closing Prayer

Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul, West Mersea

MINUTES of the ANNUAL MEETING

Held on Sunday 30th May 2021 at 11.30 am in the Church

1. **PRESENT:** 28 members

2. The Church Warden Barbara Peter presided at this 91st meeting, welcoming members
3. Sandra Wheeler was appointed Clerk to the meeting.

4 Apologies for absence were received from: Peter Easy, Derek and Hilary Gay, David Galliphant, Frances Hart, Malcolm Peter, John and Jackie Pantry, Christopher Parkinson, Stephen Rice, Sarah Robinson, Annette Sapsford, Bridget Smith, Brian and Vera Snelling

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. **Minutes of the 2020 meeting:** One name was corrected in the list of Apologies. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2 Matters arising: There were none

2. **Election of Churchwardens:** The meeting approved unanimously the appointments of Alan Brook and Barbara Peter as Church Wardens.

Signed:

Date:

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, 2021

1. **Minutes of 2020 meeting:** Pauline Sanderson proposed and Heather King seconded the approval of the Minutes as a correct record. The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2. **Matters Arising:** There were none.

3. To accept:

3.1 Copies of the new 2019 electoral roll.

The Electoral Roll now stood at 101 members. Nine names having been removed during the last year. The Electoral Roll was accepted by acclamation.

3.2 Annual report on the proceedings of the PCC in 2020.

St Peter and St Paul's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with incumbent, (during the vacancy with the Churchwardens) in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for the Church complex in West Mersea.

Membership The Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parish and Parochial Meetings in accordance with the Church Representational Rules.

During the year the following served on the PCC:

Incumbent: Vacancy Assistant Priest: Rev. John Pantry Curate: Rev. Terry Walker Evangelist: Mr Stephen Rice Wardens: Mr Alan Brook and Mrs Barbara Peter Health & Safety Officer: Mrs Cathy Roberts Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Cathy Roberts Families Worker: Mrs Heather King Treasurer: Mr Roland Gardener Representatives on the Deanery Synod: Mr Christopher Parkinson Elected Members Mrs Emma Cornwell Mrs Cathy Roberts Mr Peter Easy Mrs Pauline Low Mrs Frances Hart Mr Christopher Parkinson Co-opted Mrs Pauline Sanderson

It was noted that Mr. Stan Joslin had been co-opted in the last year.

3.3 Deanery Synod report

The report was available to those attending and gave details of two meetings of the Deanery Synod. The first focussed on the ongoing review of stipendiary numbers, on the need for tithing and the use of lay ministers to take up roles normally undertaken by a priest.

The second meeting highlighted the need for the Church to review its carbon emissions with the aim of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

There were no questions following this report and Christopher Parkinson is willing to continue. The Chair asked for others to consider serving as deanery representatives.

3.4 The independently examined accounts and statements of funds and property for the year ended 31st December 2020.

Barbara Peter thanked Roland Gardiner for the work involved in providing the accounts and reiterated the need for an assistant.

The Accounts were accepted by acclamation.

3.5 Fabric report.

Barbara Peter drew attention to the fact that the Church of St Peter and St Paul, West Mersea is very old, Grade 1 listed and maintenance is an ongoing task. Generally, the church building is in a reasonable condition but some work is always needed. This report listed major work.

- Quinquennial Report - all significant works are now completed.
- PA/AV system is in place and working.

The Rectory, although empty, is regularly monitored and the grounds are maintained. This is organised by Pete Rudlin.

- Cleaning the church re Covid-19 precautions continues.
- The bells have been inspected and the suggestions in the report carried out.
- The two ceremonial chairs in the Chancel, have been refurbished.
- There have been discussions about replacing the organ, but the Standing Committee and the PCC decided to leave this until we have a new incumbent.
- The major work in the future is repair to the tower. This is now in the planning stage and tenders have gone out to a number of companies. Although a considerable sum of money has been ring-fenced for this project, further fundraising will be necessary. The PCC are very grateful to Geoff Sexton, who has offered to project manage this work without charge.

- Barbara Peter expressed the thanks of the meeting to the Members of the Committee, Alan Brook, Pete Rudlin, Alan Hammond, Roland Gardener and Geoff Sexton

The Fabric report was accepted by acclamation.

3.6. Pastoral Care Report. Barbara Peter thanked Rev. Terry Walker and his team for their care

3.7. Reports of Children's activities/Representatives for Charities.

These reports were available to those attending. They included reports from Giving and Gift Aid, Alan Hammond. Families Worker Report, Heather King. 'Open the Book' Bible Storytelling at Mersea School, Margaret Gaunt. Beach Club, Steven Gaunt. Mersea Island Mothers' Union, Bridget Smith Church Cleaners Report, Sue Hammond. Church Bell and Clock Report, Peter Rudlin. The Children's Society, Georgie Hewes. Mission to Seafarers, John Talbot.

3.8. **Music Report.** No music report had been submitted. Elizabeth Willey expressed the thanks of the meeting for the work of Ian Jewitt, particularly in the lead up to Christmas and in the setting up of the zoom services. The music team would continue as at present with a review on the appointment of a new incumbent.

3.9. Parish Evangelist Report. Barbara Peter spoke of the appreciation of someone who had been significantly helped through contact with Stephen Rice.

3.11 Chair Person's Report

These reports were read and accepted en bloc and without further question.

4 Elections

4.1 Barbara Peter thanked Frances Hart for her work following her decision to 'stand down' from the PCC. Four nominations had been received namely Peter Easy, Pauline Low, Pauline Sanderson and Valerie Bocking. These nominations were accepted by acclamation.

4.2 **Deanery Synod.** The appointment of Christopher Parkinson was agreed nem.con.

5 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2021

Louisa Tippet had agreed to continue as Independent Examiner for 2021.

6 **Any other business** Pauline Low expressed the thanks of the meeting to Alan Brook and Barbara Peter and others who had kept things going through a difficult year.

Barbara Peter mentioned the work of Georgie Hewes and Philippa Fairbanks in helping with funerals and Peter Rudlin and his team for many other tasks undertaken. Other names mentioned were Angelina Naish who cared for the linen and candles, Rosemary Gardener for her work on flowers, Heather King and Lily Cornwell in bell ringing.

7 **Notices** There were no further notices

8 Date of Next Year's meeting

The suggested date for this is Sunday 10th. April 2022

9 Val Bocking offered a vote of thanks to Alan Brook and Barbara Peter in their challenging jobs as Church Wardens and prayed for them

Barbara Peter closed the meeting in prayer.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

3.1 ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

3.2 REPORT OF PCC

ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH Annual Report for 2021

Background St Peter and St Paul's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with incumbent, (during the vacancy with the Churchwardens) in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for the Church complex in West Mersea.

Membership The Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parish and Parochial Meetings in accordance with the Church Representational Rules.

During the year the following served on the PCC:

Incumbent: Vacancy then from September 2021 Rev. Jude Bevan

Assistant Priest:	Rev. John Pantry
Curate:	Rev. Terry Walker
Evangelist:	Stephen Rice
Wardens:	Alan Brook and Barbara Peter
Health & Safety Officer:	Cathy Roberts
Safeguarding Officer:	Cathy Roberts
Families Worker:	Heather King
Treasurer:	Roland Gardener
Representative on the Deanery Synod:	Christopher Parkinson
Representatives of Friends of West Mersea Parish Church :	Lizzie Dumas and Steven Gaunt

Elected Members

Val Bocking
 Pete Easy
 Stan Joslin
 Pauline Low
 Cathy Roberts
 Pauline Sanderson
 Emma Cornwell
 Co-opted Mrs Pauline Sanderson

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Peter and St Paul, West Mersea, met on 6 occasions during 2021. At each meeting they considered reports from the Fabric Committee, Porch Pantry, Deanery Synod and accounts from the treasurer as well as other topics.

Major topics included -

- The environment: to explore ways in which the church can improve our green credentials and to be striving visibly to protect God's earth.
- Covid protocols, which changed frequently, and working to reopen the church.
- New marriage certification procedures.
- Strategies to be carbon neutral by 2030.
- Management of the church during the interregnum.
- Assisting the new incumbent, Rev. Jude Bevan, to settle into her new role.

Many thanks must go to the PCC who have worked very hard to ensure the church has continued to function both materially and, more importantly, spiritually during 2021.

3.3 DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Report on the meeting of Witham Deanery Synod on the evening of 24th February 2022, the meeting was held by Zoom

The meeting began at 8 pm with a welcome and prayer from Simon.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th October 2021 were agreed, followed by congratulations given to Terry Walker on taking up his placement at East Donnyland.

The report from the latest General Synod had been circulated with other papers for this evening's meeting. Simon urged us to look at the section on Everyday Faith, page 3. Simon additionally reported on a course ran last month on Growing Churches which looked at topics such as welcoming new people into the Church family, quality of worship, engagement, all with achievable outcomes.

The main agenda item was for incumbents or their representatives to give a short report on where their churches were now as the Government eases restrictions relating to covid. From the reports given, some common themes emerged such as relying on the greater use of technology, the age demographics of congregations and those who feel unable to return to church for whatever reason. Simon thanked those who had given their reports and stressed the importance of letting other know of positive outcomes and issues in their parishes, all which will help develop the Deanery Plan, more of which later.

The Deanery Treasurer next presented a short report. A full end of year report could not be given until the diocese release figures for parish share paid last month, but at the end of December 2021 the Deanery had paid 77% of its share, the Archdeaconry 88% and the Diocese 82%. The Treasurer concluded that parishes will see have seen an increase in their share to reflect the full cost of incumbents.

Simon next updated Synod on the new Deanery Plan and its four sub-divisions; where are we now, this meeting had started this process; what are our hopes; where we need to be by 2027; how are we going to achieve this. The plan would aim to address issues such as finance and support and MMU's will not become the be all and end all. The need for clergy and parishioners not to feel isolated will also be a main focus point. Where you are now is important and discussions on this will continue at the summer meeting of Synod at Terling.

As at the last meeting of Synod, serious concerns were expressed by several Synod members regarding the current diocesan safeguarding training. Good people were leaving their safeguarding roles whilst others were ready to resign rather than undergo the training which had been widely reported as cumbersome, time consuming and discriminating to those without internet access. One member who had undertaken the full training program was willing to train others in her parish but this offer had been refused by the diocese. Simon responded that he totally accepted their concerns and would share these with Ruth. The meeting finished at 9.10 pm with prayers for growth and the Ukraine, followed by the saying of the grace.

3.4 ACCOUNTS

3.5 FABRIC REPORT

Fabric Committee Report 2021

This has been a busy year for the Fabric Committee which comprises of Barbara Peter, Alan Brook, Alan Hammond, Geoff Sexton, Roland Gardener and Pete Rudlin.

- The major work carried out in 2021 was, of course, the refurbishment and repair of stone work on the tower. The project was organised by Geoff Sexton, who worked tirelessly drawing up the schedule of work, getting quotations and liaising with the contractors. All this work is done as a service to our church and saves us a considerable amount of money. We are very grateful for Geoff's efforts on our behalf. The finance for this project was partially from the Friends of West Mersea Parish Church and also from a generous legacy. Whilst the scaffolding was in place, the clock face was removed and refurbished. The clock on the tower is the only public clock in West Mersea.

Other works include -

- The box for the PA system has been repaired.
- Fire Brigade inspection was satisfactory. The one item of concern, signs on the fire doors, has been addressed.
- The clock has been serviced.
- The bells were inspected and fixtures were painted following advice.
- Rat problems in the drains is an ongoing problem which is dealt with as it arises.
- The Rectory garden was maintained during the Interregnum.
- Extra storage was installed in the Tower Room for Porch Pantry goods and a curtain put up to hide these goods when necessary e.g. at a Baptism.
- We had a visit from the insurance company, Ecclesiastical, which was very comprehensive. The representative was satisfied with the way the church was maintained.
- The notice board outside has been amended to include Jude's name but it is intended that it should be replaced.
- 'Bottle Brush' devices have been put in some gutters to prevent down pipes becoming blocked and therefore gutters overflowing in heavy rain.
- The flagpole has been stabilised.
- Planning has begun the church buildings to be carbon neutral by 2030 as requested by the Church of England.

These are some of the work carried out during 2021 but regular maintenance is done on a weekly basis by a willing group of volunteers. We must all be grateful to these people who monitor the buildings and rectify problems immediately.

I would like to thank the members of the Fabric Committee for their diligence and hard work during 2021.

Barbara Peter

3.6 PASTORAL REPORT

Pastoral Care Report for 2021

The pastoral care team have not been able to meet during the last year and for much of the time we have not been able to visit people or take home communion. However our newsletter bridged the gap for those who were unable to join us on Zoom and it was also sent out as an email. A team of people delivered them and some contact was maintained by knocking on doors and standing back. Now opportunities are opening up again and we are beginning to plan ahead and would welcome anyone who would like to be involved in this ministry.

Terry Walker has headed up this ministry for many years and we thank him for his ministry to so many people. We will miss him but know that his new Benefice will be blessed by his care and compassion. Val Bocking.

3.7 REPORTS OF FAMILY WORKER AND CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

2021 has been another strange and for some an isolating year. I have continued to stay in touch with local elderly residents and struggling young families.

Sunbeams like all things had to stop for a while but as soon as it was safe to do so we restarted. We had our Christmas party with Malcolm Peter our resident Santa as usual which was enjoyed by all.

I have been very busy supporting young families over 2021 many in need of bedding white goods, furniture, toys, flooring and financial help or advice with heating. Our wonderful community have risen to the challenge every time I have asked for help sourcing items, some even helping with collecting and delivering. I cannot tell you how completely overwhelmed I have been by peoples kindness. We have collected, delivered, heaved fridges, freezers and sofa's up flights of concrete steps for a number of families and the amount of household items I can squash into my Corsa car amazed me. Thank you so very much to you all.

A number of baptisms were incorporated into the end of the zoom services once we were able to use the church again, others were postponed, all these bar one have been rebooked.

Beacon House had stopped taking donations when covid numbers were high and the homeless had all been found places of the street by the council. When donations did resume they have been as always very grateful for your donations of jeans, trainers, new underwear and socks. Thank you to all of you that have continued to support Beacon House with your donations.

There had been no junior church due to lockdowns and covid restrictions, activities for our youth are now restarting afresh and are very exciting.

I shall continue to work to strengthen links with our community, to assist mums/carers/and young families and those in need and to carry information and a welcome to our church into our community.

Heather King (Families Worker)
18th February 2022.

Report to APCM on 2021 Activities

Beach Club

A Beach Club for children of all ages has been running in Mersea for one hundred years. The Covid pandemic sadly curtailed the plans for Beach Club yet again in 2021 and the event did not run for a second year in succession so there is no activity to report for the year. The good news is that with Covid restrictions lifted, gaining a licence from the Council now appears to be straightforward. We are therefore very much looking forward to celebrating a somewhat delayed Centenary Event from 25 to 29 July in 2022. Please come and support West Mersea Beach Club's Centenary Year on the Beach opposite the end of Empress Avenue as Mersea churches join together for the week's programme of events.

Steven Gaunt, Hon Treasurer, Beach Club Steering Group

Open the Book

The Bible Society-backed programme at West Mersea School has been very disrupted, as has been the case for the past two years. The usual format is that members of our church act out Bible stories at assemblies at the school on a weekly basis, using the Lion Storyteller Bible. We were invited to return in

September 2021, having been absent from the school since the start of the first Covid lockdown of March 2020, and to deliver the stories to the first two school years only, rather than the whole school. We were rather disappointed not to be delivering to the entire school, but respected the School's wishes and we had a great reception from the children in that format for a number of weeks until the rate of Covid infection began to rise and we were then asked to deliver the stories on a one storyteller per class basis, which we did for the latter part of the Autumn term. Both formats appeared to be well received by the children.
Margaret Gaunt, Team Leader

3.8 MUSIC REPORT

3.9 PARISH EVANGELIST REPORT

"2021 has been a tough year for many and I am no exception. There have been episodes when I have been barely functional. I am however supported by the knowledge that there are saints praying for me and my work, both specifically and generally.

No prayer goes unanswered, and this is one of the many things I tell people who are interested. And many still are.

Quantifiable, futile, 'target-driven' activities are never going to be my area, but if it is felt that someone with such gifts is needed, then please go ahead. Otherwise, you are saddled with me, on the margins, working alone, of sketchy faith, but determined that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit never abandon us, and are not about to now, no matter how inadequate and ineffective we may feel.

May you all continue to be blessed.

Yours truly

Stephen Rice
Parish Evangelist
Just off the coast
West Mersea 2022"

3.10 OTHER REPORTS

CHURCH BELLS ANNUAL REPORT 2022

The church bells were not chimed during the "lockdown" period, as required by Church Authorities but with easing of constraints bells have again been chimed for services and weddings as campanologists were available!!

The opportunity has been taken to thoroughly clean the belfry area, together with the bells, following the tower restoration work. All the bells and hangers have been brushed down and sprayed with a PTFE lubricant spray, bell fixings checked for tightness and treated to prevent any further rusting. All the bell moving parts have been lubricated and checked against wear.

The "Captain of the Tower" expresses his grateful thanks to all who have assisted in maintaining the fabric and those who call the faithful to church.

John Talbot
Captain of the Tower
February 2022

CHURCH CLOCK REPORT

Towards the end of 2021 the clock face and hands were removed by Simon Michlmayr & Co Ltd, from Norwich, using the scaffold that was surrounding the tower at the time for the tower repairs. The clock face was repainted and the hands re-gilded with gold leaf. These items were then refitted.

At this time the worn gear was remade, and the worn shaft repaired. These were later replaced and the clock restarted and adjusted before the end of the year.

The clock is now keeping good time.

TOWER FLAG HALYARD AND WOODEN YOKES REPORT

The new halyard was spliced in with the help of local fisherman, Andrew French in June 2021.

The flag pole has had its rotting bracing saddles replaced with new, specially made, teak versions and new Nyloc stainless nuts were fitted.

Peter Rudlin
March 2022

The Children's Society

Unfortunately, yet again, we were unable to have a Christingle Service due to COVID restrictions. This of course, meant that the money raised for the Society during 2021 was entirely based on the box collections from our Supporters. The amount raised was £1665.55.

Georgie Hewes
Local Hon. Sec. for The Children's Society

MOTHERS' UNION ANNUAL REPORT FOR APCM **2021**

We started the year with 20 members, but sadly, 1 member is no longer able to continue due to ill health. However, another lady has joined us, so, despite another terrible year due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, we have remained at 20 members. I believe we are now the largest branch in the Witham Diocese.

I am very pleased to report that Mary Trenter is still a member. Although she left Mersea Island a year ago, she has continued her membership of our Branch of Mothers' Union as an Indoor Member. This type of membership is for those who, for whatever reason, are unable to attend meetings. We have 6 such members in our Branch. I keep in regular contact with them, and they receive special letters, cards, prayers, etc from the Diocesan Indoor Members Officer.

We were unable to hold our monthly meetings from February 2020 until last November when we were able to start again. As we would in September of any year after our summer break in August, we held our "reopening" service in Church in November. This was a traditional Evensong led, as usual, by Revd. Keith Lovell.

We were able to hold our usual Christmas Celebration Meeting in December with mince pies and a gift for each member from Santa.

During the past 2 years, each member of the branch has received a birthday card in the relevant month instead of the customary birthday posy presented at meetings, and a Christmas Card.

As Branch Leader, I've received lots of communication from our Central Office in London. Our Worldwide President and Diocesan President have been working very hard behind the scenes to keep our members here, and across the world, informed and provided with spiritual encouragement. I have also attended Diocesan Meetings and events via Zoom.

We are all looking forward to being able to continue to gather for meetings, and hopefully, soon to hold our twice monthly Prayer Group Meetings in members' homes, and to worship together at our Corporate Communion Service on the First Wednesday of each month.

Mersea Island Mothers' Union co-ordinates the Mersea Island Churches "Annual World Day of Prayer Service", always held on the first Friday in March. We arranged for the 2021 service to be held in our own homes. Representative from each of the 5 churches distributed the service booklets to those who would normally attend, with a letter suggesting we all sat down at 2pm on 5 March to read through the service, and feel united in prayer and fellowship.

This year, the World Day of Prayer Service on Friday 4 March will be hosted by the Mothers' Union here in our Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul. The Service has been written by ladies in England.

Bridget Smith
Branch Leader, Mersea Island Mothers' Union

Mersea Lights Up

Lights Up presents us with a wonderful missional opportunity in our village, to meet our neighbours and engage in conversation - particularly good after the absence of interaction that Covid has created. 2021 Lights up was different, and was a village-wide event held during the day on Saturday 4 December from 10am to 6 pm.

A smaller than usual group began star making in October meeting on Wednesday mornings, fortunately we had a stock of stars and so we were able to get 350 ready for the day.

We were ready with the stars hung on the Christmas tree on the Church wall by 3pm with a group of helpers to give them out, it's a real privilege to meet people and share the Christmas message the verse on the stars was

"May the love of Jesus shine as a bright star in your life this Christmas"

We gave about 280 stars away and were delighted to think that our stars will be displayed in so many local homes over Christmas. As it was a really cold evening we decided to have the Carol singing inside the church at 6.30pm, rather than outdoors. Hot chocolate was served and David Willey led an enjoyable session of carol singing which was shared with members of the church and community. Thank you to all who shared in this event.

Margaret Gaunt

3.11 CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

CHURCHWARDENS' APCM REPORT – 2021

As we will all, no doubt, remember so vividly, 2021 was mainly marked as our second consecutive year of Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns and restrictions. Your Wardens, together with Cathy Roberts, our Health & Safety Representative, worried about how to keep the church open as much as possible, for safe services and private prayer, without creating a hotbed of infection. By working hard and largely following both Government and Diocesan instructions/recommendations, we were happy to have come through the year without a single outbreak of the disease being recorded as having come through church contact.

In retrospect, we could, maybe, have kept the church building open a little more than we did. Certainly, the Right Reverend, Justin Welby himself, the Archbishop of Canterbury, regretted not having rebuffed Government restrictions more than he did. But hindsight is a wonderful thing, as the saying goes, and the main thing to reflect on, probably, is that we came through 2021 safely. We hope not to have failed the community in taking safety to too great an extreme, to the detriment of prayer and spiritual comfort.....

By sealing off alternative pews, instigating mask wearing and the use of hand washing disinfectant procedures, we were able to offer the building for private prayer on two mornings a week. The ability to remain open longer, for more days was inhibited by the need to have at least one responsible person remaining in church, both to help visitors, to ensure protocols were followed and to clean up after their departure. This onerous duty was also felt necessary because of the untimely and sad thefts of both the roof lead and the eagle lectern from St. Edmund's, Martyr & Saint, East Mersea church. It is perhaps now time our own eagle lectern might be brought back out from its place of safe storage in the tower and replaced in the Lady Chapel; our church not being so isolated and remote a target?

With the church closed we were forced into new ways of thinking about worship and the arrival of "Zoom" meant a rapid and steep learning curve of modern technology for all! With very grateful thanks to the fantastic support received from all involved in making this work, it was a new delight to be able to welcome 80- 90 people every Sunday, via our computer screens, as we worshipped together, but separately, at home.

We have, though, lost some momentum in our regular patterns of prayer and worship, as a result of the pandemic. We did temporarily lose some old friends, those unable to either join on Zoom or enjoy church through the ether, but we also gained many new friends who discovered our online services as a safe haven in a storm. The closing of weekly House Groups is something we need to work on reversing. Hopefully, the recent return of Carol Services, Open the Book school sessions and Lent Lunches will rekindle sparks of a new flame in that direction? The melding together of the two, old 9:30am and 11:00 am Sunday morning

services is a feature that will remain, however, as it is far too great a workload on our clergy and musicians to continue offering the extra service.

It was so very special to be able to include friends and family from far away, allowing us to reconnect with the French family in Norfolk, with Frances Hart's daughter & granddaughter, in Arles, France, and even Alan & Sue Hammond, quarantined for several weeks in Christchurch, New Zealand! Online service facilities are here to stay for a while, we expect.

The Christmas services were affected by Covid with our traditional Christmas Eve Midnight service being Zoom only, apart from a few people and a small choir in church. But earlier that afternoon, we were able to serve our community with an open air Carol service which was attended by over 250 people. As Cathy Roberts commented, "I think we've started a new tradition!" Christmas morning saw a restricted service in the church.

Special thanks and a mention must go to those stalwarts who stuck by us and helped make our Zoom services of United Worship such a success, if we might claim that. Without the true and amazingly loyal support of our retired clergy, our long three year period of vacancy would have been intolerable and far more painful. But without the commitment and extra efforts of David Willey, in producing the weekly 'songsheets', and Pete Easy, in hosting and mediating the 'Zoom' attendances, to maximise quality of sound and minimise the risk of unwanted outside interference, it would not have been possible to run our online church.

Our new audio system, therefore, got far less use than was intended and, with the loss of our Music Director to pastures new during the year, it was a struggle at first to include music at all with our worship. So, we were very, very fortunate to 'discover' the musical talents of Joan Joslin. We are therefore equally grateful to both her, and to Stan, for allowing us to draw on her keyboard talents and lovely singing voice, which enabled music once again to help us praise our Lord.

Val Bocking, too, helped maintain our outreach to those who could not access church nor join us on 'Zoom', both with her Newsletters and her pastoral contacts. Her weekly group prayer sessions also helped many during their struggle through life in the 'new normal'.

Once our church was able to reopen for worship, we were delighted to be able to continue to offer 'Zoom' linked services to all. Now, too we could bring music back into church in all its many forms. It has been wonderful to welcome back both Jamie and Helen Nightingale, as well as John Davies and the Mersea Island Choir, to enhance our weekly joint services and re-establish a regular, monthly pattern of Evensong. With Ray Bocking helping nurse along more traditional hymns on our faltering organ, we are well-served, musically, once again.

In late September, of course, the biggest news of all was the arrival of our new incumbent, the lovely Reverend Jude Bevan! Her instalment commissioning service, led by Bishop Roger of Colchester, was a complete joy and a very welcome moment indeed. Her transforming ministry has begun, with much to do and with happy acclaim from all who have met her. Hallelujah! We pray, oh God, you will give her the strength and wisdom to carry this Mersea Benefice forward into a joyous future, in Your name, Lord.

Following that momentous occasion, the year was rounded off most satisfactorily by the amazing achievement of Geoff Sexton, who, almost single-handedly, not only brought in the Tower stonework refurbishment project well under budget, but also did so to a superb standard, completed on time, before the bats started their winter roosting period of hibernation! Our very grateful thanks must go to Geoff, who made his professional services to our church a huge part of his tithed 'giving'. Our ancient Norman tower should continue to serve us well for many, many more years.

Finally, it is with no little relief, and with very grateful thanks to you all, especially to Roland Gardener, our loyal and hardworking Treasurer, I am able to announce, notwithstanding the closures of church and the loss, or postponement, of many regular services, weddings, baptisms and other special occasions, that our finances still stand us in good stead!

It is fair to report we have had to dig into our reserves a bit, and are currently budgeting a shortfall on income over expenditure for this year. However, the General Account remains healthy and, largely thanks to our regular givers who have adopted the newly installed Parish Giving Scheme, as well as the support of those who contribute via Direct Debit, the reduction in numbers using the Gift Aid envelopes, or giving in

the form of hard cash, has been offset much more than might have been expected during our lockdown periods. So, Thank You all!

Alan Brook and Barbara Peter

4 ELECTIONS

4.1 PCC 5 Vacancies

4.2 Deanery Synod 1 vacancy

5. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER FOR 2022

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7. NOTICES

8. DATE OF NEXT YEAR'S MEETING

9. CLOSING PRAYER

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER
AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA**

ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

Registered Charity Number 1142676

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA
Registered Charity Number 1142676

ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

2020	INCOMING RESOURCES	2021
£	On Unrestricted Funds	£
	Incoming Resources from Donors	
5,103.63	General Collections	4,860.77
35,828.88	Parish Giving Scheme	35,614.88
31,703.90	Standing Orders(incl Family Worker donations)	35,010.50
1,109.79	Donations for General Fund	2,008.37
17,987.36	Gift Aided Tax Reclaim	18,567.68
3.00	Home Communion	0.00
0.00	Carol Services	51.72
18.00	Midnight Mass & Christmas Day	59.00
50,000.00	Legacies	2,555.23
<u>141,754.56</u>		<u>98,728.15</u>
	Other Voluntary Incoming Resources	
543.54	Donations for Mary's Meals (incl some 2019)	0.00
320.00	Donations for Val Bocking (Retiring C Warden)	0.00
404.40	Appeals Income	0.00
100.00	Christmas Lunch Donations Received(2019)	0.00
0.00	Christian Aid (in lieu of Lent Lunches)	430.00
85.00	Donations towards Flowers	105.00
<u>1,452.94</u>		<u>535.00</u>
	Income from Ancillary Trading	
0.00	Beacon House Service Collection	72.50
4,702.00	Hall Hire	4,813.00
134.00	Bell plates Income	0.00
0.00	Rev. Jude Bevan Installation Collection	309.26
490.20	Pianissimo Income (incl Weddings)	80.00
12.00	Certified Copies of Marriage Certificates	0.00
<u>5,338.20</u>		<u>5,274.76</u>
	Ordinary Incoming Resources	
1,972.00	Interregnum Fees refunded by CDBF	1,598.00
14,354.00	Fees from Funerals & Weddings	17,086.33
70.00	Catering/ Refreshments	0.00
0.00	Benefice Team Ministry Expenses Reimbursed	147.43
<u>16,396.00</u>		<u>18,831.76</u>
21.76	Interest Received	2.76
<u>164,963.46</u>	Total Incoming Resources	<u>123,372.43</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA
Registered Charity Number 1142676

ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

2020 £	OUTGOING RESOURCES On Unrestricted Funds	2021 £
	Ministry	
43,035.00	Diocesan Family Share	47,132.88
0.00	Team Ministry Expenses	0.00
<u>43,035.00</u>		<u>47,132.88</u>
	Running Expenses	
308.72	Water & Sewerage	335.11
2,199.86	Insurance	2,136.08
900.62	Heating Oil	642.13
1,134.93	Electricity	1,639.61
281.80	Altar Requisites	588.27
4,828.18	Parish Office	6,249.19
2,500.00	Office Machines & Equipment	413.95
965.84	Printing, Postage & Stationery	1,818.05
0.00	Team Ministry Costs	1,473.78
3,337.04	Hall	3,982.16
0.00	Organ Service & Repairs	0.00
335.40	Audio & Video Costs	461.72
5,600.00	Organists Fees	480.00
600.00	Pianissimo	0.00
180.00	Pianissimo +	0.00
2,635.26	General Running Repairs	3,583.24
125.16	Flowers/Oasis	490.57
200.00	Rectory Utility Costs	234.61
5,748.40	Families Worker Costs	5,636.80
425.50	Evangelism	461.45
432.45	Advertising (Christmas Leaflets & Vacancy)	65.50
6,447.94	Charities and Missions - see schedule	6,189.34
0.00	Porch Prayer Display	0.00
0.00	Rectory Refurbishment	5,689.80
206.62	Bank Charges	191.42
320.00	Gift for Val Bocking(retiring C Warden)	0.00
1,972.00	Interregnum Fees	1,632.00
11,828.87	Funeral & Wedding Fees Costs	11,471.32
216.00	Sunday School Sponsorship	216.00
16.00	Sunbeams	48.00
0.00	Refreshments for Installation Service	141.16
<u>53,746.59</u>		<u>56,271.26</u>
96,781.59	Total Outgoing Resources	103,404.14
0.00	Transferred to Fabric Fund	30,094.84
2,000.00	Transferred to Community Chest Fund	0.00
<u>98,781.59</u>	Total Resources Used	<u>133,498.98</u>
164,963.46	Total Incoming Resources	123,372.44
<u>66,181.87</u>	Net Change on Year	<u>(10,126.54)</u>
43,013.61	Balance at 1st January 2021	109,195.48
<u>109,195.48</u>	Balance at 31st December 2021	<u>99,068.94</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA
Registered Charity Number 1142676

ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021
RESTRICTED FUNDS

2020		2021
£	BELL FUND	£
8,134.40	Balance at 1st January 2021	8,168.94
34.54	Interest Received	4.26
0.00	Repairs	0.00
<u>8,168.94</u>	Balance at 31st December 2021	<u>8,173.20</u>
	FABRIC FUND	
7,863.99	Balance at 1st January 2021	7,898.05
3,547.20	FWMPC Donation for Moss Removal & Tile Replacement	0.00
34.06	Interest Received	4.11
0.00	Donations from Friends for Tower Repairs	10,000.00
0.00	Donation for Clock Repairs	500.00
0.00	Transferred from General Fund for Tower Clock Repairs	30,094.84
(3,547.20)	Moss Removal & Tile Replacement	0.00
0.00	Major Clock Repairs	(3,074.40)
0.00	Tower repairs	(37,520.44)
<u>7,898.05</u>	Balance at 31st December 2021	<u>7,902.16</u>
	COMMUNITY CHEST FUND	
307.59	Balance at 1st January 2021	2,177.29
2,000.00	Transferred from General Fund	0.00
120.00	Donations Received	3,132.45
(250.30)	Good Causes	(727.79)
<u>2,177.29</u>	Balance at 31st December 2021	<u>4,581.95</u>
	PORCH PANTRY FUND	
0.00	Balance at 1st January 2021	9,931.38
2,228.05	Transferred from General Fund	0.00
12,560.19	Donations Received	7,188.52
(4,856.86)	Purchases	(15,355.70)
<u>9,931.38</u>	Balance at 31st December 2021	<u>1,764.20</u>
	TITHE CHANCEL ENDOWMENT FUND	
699.42	Dividends in the year (reinvested in 17.47 shares)	383.69
11,892.70	638.99 Shares held 1st January 2021	13,091.18
499.06	Shares re-valuation	1,898.18
<u>13,091.18</u>	656.46 Shares held 31st December 2021	<u>15,373.05</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA
Registered Charity Number 1142676

ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021
RESTRICTED FUNDS

2020		2021
£	AUDIO VISUAL FUND	£
20,915.47	Balance at 1st January 2021	4,128.07
10,000.00	FWMPC donation towards new Sound System	0.00
(26,787.40)	Sound System Costs Including Installation	0.00
<u>4,128.07</u>	Balance as at 31st December 2021	<u>4,128.07</u>
	CHURCH & COMMUNITY(CCTV) FUND	
307.00	Balance at 1st January 2021	307.00
<u>307.00</u>	Balance as at 31st December 2021	<u>307.00</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA
Registered Charity Number 1142676

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2021

2020 £		2021 £
	CURRENT ASSETS	
13,091.18	Central Board of Finance Investment Fund Units	15,373.05
122,104.26	Cash with Barclays Bank	109,242.86
21,368.41	Cash with Central Board of Finance of the Church of England	21,379.54
57.23	Cash in hand	57.23
2,410.62	Debtors and Prepayments	2,669.60
(4,134.31)	Liabilities	(7,423.71)
<u>154,897.39</u>		<u>141,298.57</u>

REPRESENTED BY:

Totals		Restricted	Unrestricted	Totals
109,195.48	General Fund	-	99,068.94	99,068.94
9,931.38	Porch Pantry Fund	1,764.20		1,764.20
8,168.94	Bell Fund	8,173.20		8,173.20
7,898.05	Fabric Fund	7,902.16		7,902.16
2,177.29	Community Chest Fund	4,581.95		4,581.95
4,128.07	Audio Visual Fund	4,128.07		4,128.07
307.00	Church & Community (CCTV) Fund	307.00		307.00
13,091.18	Tithe Chancel Trust- held by Diocese	15,373.05		15,373.05
<u>154,897.39</u>		<u>42,229.63</u>	<u>99,068.94</u>	<u>141,298.57</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA
Registered Charity Number 1142676

ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

SCHEDULE OF GIVING TO CHARITIES AND MISSIONS

2020		2021
£		£
500.00	Essex Clergy Charity	809.26
500.00	Leprosy Mission	500.00
-	Mersea Beach Club	-
500.00	Mission to Seafarers	500.00
-	Royal British Legion Remembrance Day	377.58
500.00	Barnabus Fund	500.00
500.00	Colchester Beacon House	500.00
500.00	Christian Aid	430.00
500.00	CYO	500.00
500.00	Fellowship Afloat	500.00
500.00	Childrens Society	500.00
500.00	Colchester CAP	500.00
904.40	Tearfund	-
-	Colchester CAB	-
-	Beacon House (Mersea Island Chorus)	72.50
543.54	Mary's Meals (some late for 2019 plus 2020)	-
6,447.94		5,689.34

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Peter
and St. Paul, West Mersea Registered Charity Number 1142676**

I report to the members of the Parochial Church Council of St Peter and St Paul,
West Mersea on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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



L C Tippet ACA
Chartered Accountant

West Mersea
21 March 2022

Accounts

AGENDA ITEM 3.2
ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH
Annual Report for 2019

Background

St Peter and St Paul's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with incumbent, (during the vacancy with the Churchwardens) in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for the Church complex in West Mersea.

Membership

The Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parish and Parochial Meetings in accordance with the Church Representational Rules.

During the year the following served on the PCC:

Incumbent:	Vacancy
Assistant Priest:	Rev. John Pantry
Curate:	Rev. Terry Walker
Evangelist:	Mr Stephen Rice
Wardens:	Mrs Valerie Bocking and Mr Alan Brook
Health & Safety Officer:	Mrs Cathy Roberts
Safeguarding Officer:	Mrs Cathy Roberts
Families Worker:	Mrs Heather King
Treasurer:	Mr Roland Gardener
Representatives on the Deanery Synod: Mrs Patricia Moore and Mr Christopher Parkinson (co-opted on Sept 2018)	

Elected Members	Until APCM
Mrs Lizzie Dumas	2020
Mrs Patricia Moore	2020
Mrs Margaret Gaunt	2020
Mrs Emma Cornwell	2022
Mrs Cathy Roberts	2022
Mr Peter Easy	2021
Mrs Pauline Low	2021
Mrs Frances Hart	2021
Mr Christopher Parkinson	2021

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER
AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA**

ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Registered Charity Number 1142676

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA
Registered Charity Number 1142676

ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2019

2018 £	INCOMING RESOURCES On Unrestricted Funds	2019 £
Incoming Resources from Donors		
26,967.40	General Collections	17,148.85
	Parish Giving Scheme	27,203.00
43,048.80	Standing orders(incl Families Worker donations)	35,629.60
4,390.84	Donations for General Fund	2,933.01
19,436.80	Gift Aided Tax Reclaim	20,256.59
135.60	Home Communion	77.00
592.29	Carol Services	583.03
656.52	Midnight Mass & Christmas Day	418.76
-	Legacies	3,000.00
<u>95,228.25</u>		<u>107,249.84</u>
Other Voluntary Incoming Resources		
913.87	Donations for Mary's Meals	-
270.25	Balance from Families Worker Fund now closed	-
-	Appeals Income	1,139.52
283.60	Christmas Lunch Donations received	172.20
953.32	Lent Lunches Income	1,002.12
635.00	Donations towards Flowers	733.00
-	Porch Pantry Donations	3,284.51
<u>3,056.04</u>		<u>6,331.35</u>
Income from Ancillary Trading		
755.00	Rev Sam Norton leaving Donations	-
210.00	House Group Income	-
4,505.65	Hall Hire	4,869.00
-	Newsletter Income	-
180.00	Chelmsford Ordination Coach Donations	-
1,781.29	Pianissimo Income (inc Weddings)	2,500.29
66.00	Certified Copies of Marriage Certificates	22.00
<u>7,497.94</u>		<u>7,391.29</u>
Ordinary Incoming Resources		
693.00	Interregnum Fees refunded by CDBF	5,404.00
9,495.04	Fees for Funerals & Weddings	18,350.20
77.50	Catering/ Refreshments	202.50
588.03	Benefice Team Ministry Expenses Reimbursed	-
<u>10,853.57</u>		<u>23,956.70</u>
26.27	Interest Received	31.41
<u>116,662.07</u>	Total Incoming Resources	<u>144,960.59</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA
Registered Charity Number 1142676

ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2019

2018 £	OUTGOING RESOURCES On Unrestricted Funds	2019 £
	Ministry	
56,582.52	Diocesan Family Share	55,274.98
1,653.62	Team Ministry Expenses	8.00
<u>58,236.14</u>		<u>55,282.98</u>
	Running Expenses	
419.03	Water & Sewerage	420.87
2,106.14	Insurance	2,159.32
1,642.42	Heating Oil	2,828.78
1,761.84	Electricity	1,320.18
911.42	Altar Requisites	820.08
210.00	House Group Donations	-
11,128.20	Parish Office	4,370.70
393.89	Office Machines & Equipment	-
2,272.40	Printing, Postage & Stationery	2,830.89
-	Pre Printed Publications	110.00
2,477.21	Hall	2,624.89
1,284.00	Organ Service & Repairs	234.00
797.42	Audio & Video Costs	432.78
5,250.00	Organists Fees	5,700.00
2,475.49	Pianissimo	2,070.25
1,100.00	Pianissimo +	-
2,960.16	General Running Repairs	5,874.47
894.28	Flowers/Oasis	853.74
591.36	Rectory Refurbishments	463.37
5,623.10	Families Worker Costs	5,757.28
275.00	Evangelism	380.44
131.42	Advertising(Christmas Leaflets & Vacancy)	659.44
6,141.03	Charities and Missions - see schedule	6,162.03
22.95	Porch Prayer Display	11.75
-	Porch Prayer Donations	3,284.51
-	Bank Charges	423.56
295.00	Chelmsford Ordination Coach Cost	-
693.00	Interregnum Fees	5,404.00
4,309.00	Funeral & Wedding Fees Costs	13,711.28
216.00	Sunday School Sponsorship	216.00
758.90	Rev San Norton Leaving Gift	20.20
283.60	Christmas Lunch Costs	100.00
<u>57,424.26</u>		<u>69,244.81</u>
<u>115,660.40</u>	Total Outgoing Resources	<u>124,527.79</u>
116,662.07	Total Incoming Resources	144,960.59
970.19	Transfer - Families Workers Fund	-
115,660.40	Total Outgoing Resources	124,527.79
<u>1,971.86</u>	Net Change on Year	<u>20,432.80</u>
20,608.95	Balance at 1st January 2019	22,580.81
<u>22,580.81</u>	Balance at 31st December 2019	<u>43,013.61</u>

**ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2019
RESTRICTED FUNDS**

2018 £		2019 £
BELL FUND		
8,033.79	Balance at 1st January 2019	8,073.71
39.92	Interest Received	60.69
-	Repairs	-
<u>8,073.71</u>	Balance at 31st December 2019	<u>8,134.40</u>
FABRIC FUND		
8,828.50	Balance at 1st January 2019	6,425.34
4,700.40	FWMPC Donation for Tower Cleaning & Repairs	-
2,520.00	FWMPC Donation for Moss Removal North Roof	-
2,250.00	Various Donations for Repairs to Clock	-
38.24	Interest Received	66.65
-	Donations from Friends for Chancel Floor Repair	1,176.00
-	LPWS VAT Refund for Repairs	196.00
-4,700.40	Tower Cleaning & Repairs	-
-3,495.00	Repairs to St Christopher Lintel	-
-3,416.40	Clock service and repairs	-
-300.00	Priests Door Escape Bridge	-
-	Other Fabric Costs	-
<u>6,425.34</u>	Balance at 31st December 2019	<u>7,863.99</u>
FAMILIES WORKER FUND		
1,240.44	Balance at 1st January 2019	0.00
-270.25	2018 closing entries	-
-970.19	Transferred to General Fund	-
<u>0.00</u>	Balance at 31st December 2019	<u>0.00</u>
COMMUNITY CHEST FUND		
228.58	Balance at 1st January 2019	928.58
700.00	Receipts	120.00
-	Good Causes	-740.99
<u>928.58</u>	Balance at 31st December 2019	<u>307.59</u>
TITHE CHANCEL ENDOWMENT FUND		
320.65	Dividends in the year (reinvested in 18.66 shares)	339.29
9,556.30	601.75 Shares held 1st January 2019	9,717.36
-159.59	Shares re-valuation	1,836.05
<u>9,717.36</u>	620.41 Shares held 31st December 2019	<u>11,892.70</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA
Registered Charity Number 1142676

ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2019
RESTRICTED FUNDS - continued

2018 £		2019 £
	AUDIO VISUAL FUND	
0.00	Balance at 1st January 2019	20,375.90
9,641.10	Mersea Island Music Marathon Sponsorship	-
600.00	Music Marathon Cycle Ride	-
4,247.00	Music Marathon Donations	-
5,145.91	Music Marathon Just Giving	-
2,525.80	Music Marathon Catering income	-
593.75	Music Marathon Gift Aid reclaimed	-
22,753.56		20,375.90
-343.53	Music Marathon Costs	-
-733.73	Music Marathon Catering costs	-
-4,675.96	Music Marathon - Third Party Charity payments	-
17,000.34	Music Marathon - Surplus	20,375.90
	Donations plus unbanked cheque for £38.28	539.57
1,183.00	Ghanaian Evening Event surplus	-
855.00	Barn Dance surplus	-
427.50	Hexacordia Event surplus	-
1,946.55	Sea Shanties Event - income	-
-1,036.49	Sea Shanties Event - costs	-
<u>20,375.90</u>	Balance at 31st December 2019	<u>20,915.47</u>

CHURCH & COMMUNITY (CCTV) FUND

-	Balance at 1st January 2019	-
-	Barn Dance Income	514.45
-	French Evening Income	657.00
-	EofE Ambulance Trust (MI 1st Responders) Donation	-350.00
-	Beach Club Donation	-514.45
<u>-</u>	Balance at 31st December 2019	<u>307.00</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA

Registered Charity Number 1142676

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

2018		2019
£		£
CURRENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		
9,717.36	Central Board of Finance Investment Fund Units	11,892.70
36,903.80	Cash with Barclays Bank	65,835.56
21,119.30	Cash with Central Board of Finance of the Church of England	21,278.05
57.23	Cash in hand	57.23
8,639.81	Debtors and Prepayments	4,507.65
(8,335.80)	Liabilities	(11,136.43)
<u>68,101.70</u>		<u>92,434.76</u>

REPRESENTED BY:

		Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Totals
		£	£	£
22,580.81	General Fund	-	43,013.61	43,013.61
8,073.71	Bell Fund	8,134.40		8,134.40
6,425.34	Fabric Fund	7,863.99		7,863.99
928.58	Community Chest Fund	307.59		307.59
20,375.90	Audio Visual Fund	20,915.47		20,915.47
-	Church & Community (CCTV) Fund	307.00		307.00
9,717.36	Tithe Chancel Trust- held by Diocese	11,892.70		11,892.70
<u>68,101.70</u>		<u>49,421.15</u>	<u>43,013.61</u>	<u>92,434.76</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, WEST MERSEA
Registered Charity Number 1142676

ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2019

SCHEDULE OF GIVING TO CHARITIES AND MISSIONS

2018 £		2019 £
460.00	Church Mission Society	-
600.00	Essex Clergy Charity	600.00
460.00	Leprosy Mission	460.00
600.00	Mersea Beach Club	600.00
460.00	Mission to Seafarers	460.00
493.84	Royal British Legion Remembrance Day	447.91
-	Refresh	-
600.00	Colchester Beacon House	-
953.32	Christian Aid (from Lent Lunches)	1,002.12
-	Christian Blind Mission	-
600.00	Fellowship Afloat	600.00
913.87	Mary's Meals - Balance for 2018	-
-	Colchester CAP	600.00
-	Tearfund (re Quiz)	570.00
-	Tearfund (Bahamas Appeal)	300.00
-	Christian Aid (Bernard Lloyd Celebration)	244.00
-	Christian Aid (Big Breakfast Appeal)	108.00
-	Beacon House (Mersea Island Chorus)	170.00
6,141.03		6,162.03
-	Beach Club (from CCTV Barn Dance)	514.45
-	Mersea Island First Responders (from CCTV)	350.00
6,141.03		7,026.48

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Peter
and St. Paul, West Mersea Registered Charity Number 1142676**

I report to the members of the Parochial Church Council of St Peter and St Paul,
West Mersea on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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



L C Tippet ACA
Chartered Accountant

West Mersea
15 March 2020