

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF EAST BARNET

England & Wales · Charity number 1143134

Details

Other names ST. MARY THE VIRGIN'S PCC, EAST BARNET

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2011-07-27

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address East Barnet Parish Office
2 Cat Hill
EN4 8JB

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Activities

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

Activities: Anglican Church

Classification

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

Geography

- Barnet

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£0	£0	-	-
2024-12-31	£145,687	£185,297	-	-
2023-12-31	£160,269	£223,416	-	-
2022-12-31	£974,979	£1,042,418	£88,002	1
2021-12-31	£126,471	£116,190	-	-
2020-12-31	£115,192	£133,019	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr ALEC CORIO	Chair	2019-07-28
Gail Constance Phillips		2016-04-18
John Savage		2014-04-30
Ka Ming Chan		2026-05-10
Margaret Helen Cranfield		2026-05-10
Neil Howard Graham		2026-05-10
Professor Alison Mary Blunt		2019-04-28
Rev Alberta Konadu-Yiadom		2026-05-10
Roger Melling		2011-07-08

Accounts



Annual Report 2024

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About St Mary's, East Barnet

The charity's full name is The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Barnet.

It is governed according to the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended. It operates according to the Church Representation Rules (2022).

At the time this report was issued, the Parochial Church Council consisted of:

The Revd Dr Alec Corio (Rector, PCC chair, ex officio member)
Prof Alison Blunt (representative of the laity)
Mr Victor Chan (representative of the laity)
Mrs Bettina von Cossel (representative of the laity)
Mrs Margaret Cranfield (representative of the laity)
Mrs Katherine Duncan-Kerr (PCC secretary, representative of the laity)
Mr Stephen Edwards (representative of the laity)
Mrs Amy Jobson (representative of the laity)
Rev Abe Konadu-Yiadom (Methodist minister, ex officio observer)
Mr Roger Melling (PCC vice chair, deanery synod representative)
Ms Gail Phillips (representative of the laity)
Mr John Savage (deanery synod representative)

The charity exists to advance the gospel in the ecclesiastical parish of East Barnet, according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, for the benefit of the public.

The charity cooperates with the Rector to provide and maintain a building used for religious purposes; provide and maintain a building as a local heritage asset; conduct public worship, including services marking life events; sponsor cultural and artistic events; support local community formation; support educational activities; further the ecumenical and interfaith engagement of the Church of England; and provide pastoral care to peoples of all faiths and none.

The parish church is located at:
The Church of St Mary the Virgin
Church Hill Road
East Barnet
Hertfordshire
EN4 8XD

The parish office (for all correspondence) is located at:
East Barnet Parish Office
Brookside Methodist Church
2 Cat Hill
East Barnet
Hertfordshire
EN4 8JB

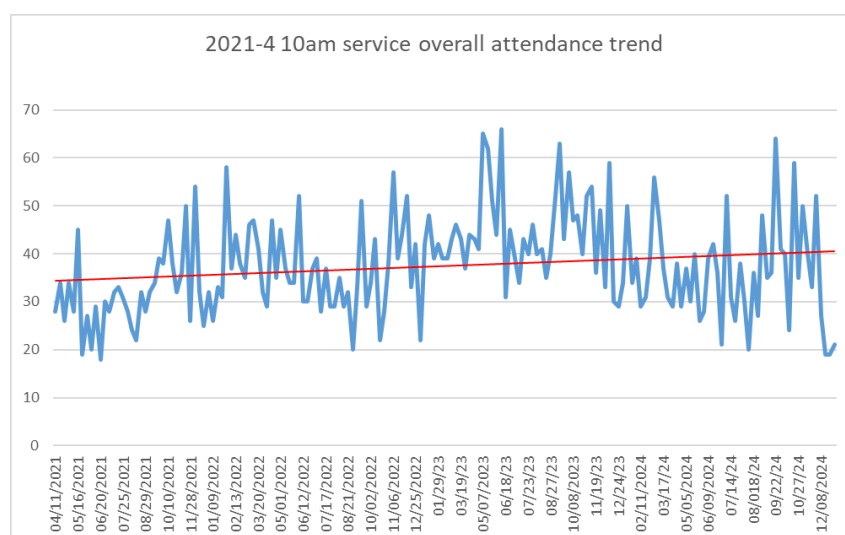
Website: stmaryseastbarnet.org
Social media: @smaryeastbarnet
Telephone: 02084414401
Email: administrator@stmaryseastbarnet.org
The PCC's charity number is 1143134

The Independent Examiner of the PCC's financial reports was Ms Victoria Neil of 30 Cedar Avenue, East Barnet, EN4 8DX.

Rector's Report and Introduction

During 2024, there was continuing slow growth in the size of the average congregation at St Mary's, though with a little more variance and unpredictability around week-on-week numbers than in 2023. There was also a small increase in the size of our total worshipping community.

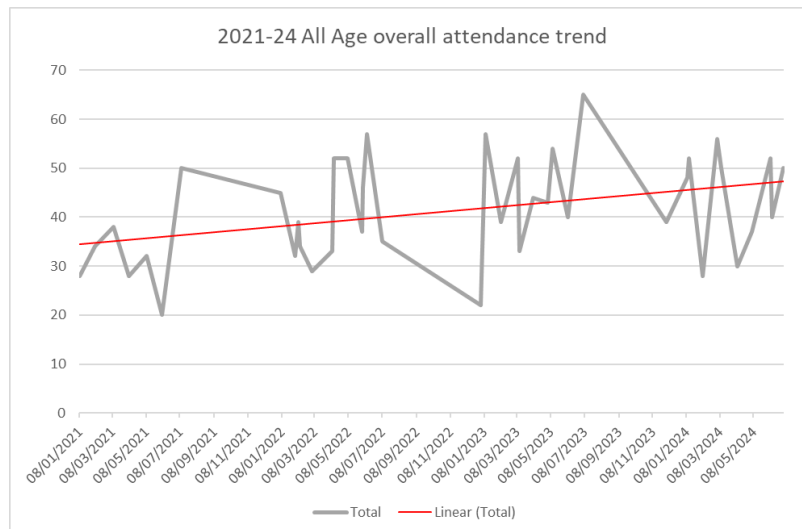
A chart of attendance at Sunday morning services, from the point when we reopened the building (permanently) for public worship in April 2021, reveals both this positive trend and the unpredictability of attendance in any particular week.



This seems to relate to a number of different factors. One obvious explanation is that some members of the historic congregation are attending less frequently than prior to 2020, and all ARE doing so on slightly different cycles, while still remaining connected to St Mary's. Another issue relates to the way in which a particular reasons for non-attendance (such as bad weather, illness, family time, or holidays) has a much larger impact on this form of worshipping community than on a more stable one.

Pastoral contacts and home communion visiting seems to have increased in 2024, as in addition to those whose health or personal circumstances have prevented them from attending St Mary's for a long time, we have been ministering to a number of people who have found it difficult to attend St Mary's during a shorter period of time. I am very grateful that I share in contact and visiting with the excellent Pastoral Group at St Mary's: Bridget Bowden, Brian Gregory, Helen Ball, Chris Mears, Roger Melling and Vincent Pereira. It was from the Pastoral Group that in 2024 St Mary's began holding a Coffee Morning on the first Thursday of the month. Along with the Sewing Circle that meets on the second and fourth Thursday of the month this is going from strength to strength. In 2025 I hope that we will continue to build up the visibility and sustainability of the Pastoral Group.

The most important factor relating to the range of numbers attending services is shown by the difference in attendance between All Age Messy Eucharists and Parish Eucharists. On average, 8 more people have attended each All Age Eucharist on the first Sunday of the month than each Parish Eucharist on other Sundays of the month; and as some members of the historic congregation generally do not attend All Age Eucharists, the potential 'gap' between numbers attending each of those services is even higher.



This highlights the fact that whenever there is provision for children and young families at St Mary's – and I think this applies whether it is within the main service, alongside it, or immediately before or after – then they are much more likely to attend services.

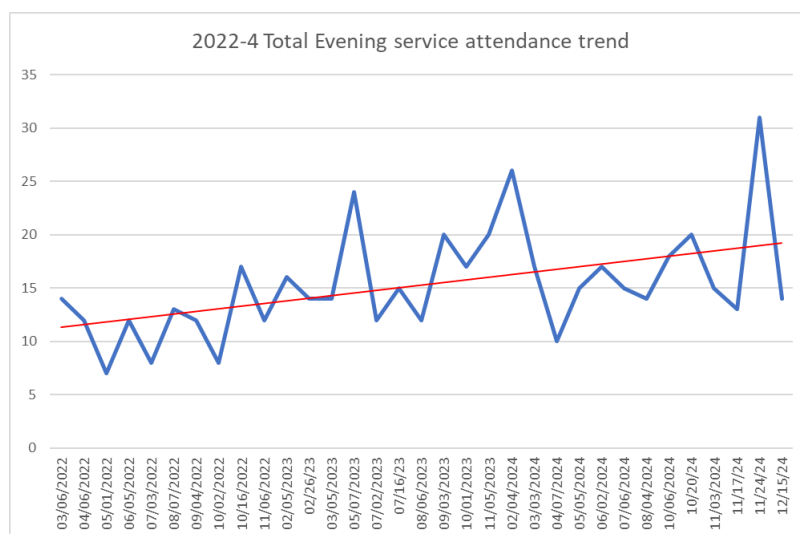
Though we have not been able to offer regular provision for children and young families on Sunday mornings apart from at the All Age Eucharist, we have held a number of very enjoyable Messy Churches at other times, in partnership with Brookside Methodist Church and thanks to the planning of Louise Sutton and Margaret Thompson. We have also been able to offer a series of afternoon children's parties at St Mary's as a very successful and enjoyable form of outreach to this cohort. Amy Jobson, Kelly Sykes-Fassett and Gail Philips have all proved enthusiastic and energetic in planning these ... and in helping me to encourage other volunteers to join in with our fun and games.

Attendance at Evensong has also been growing from the point when we reestablished that service on the first Sunday of the month in June 2022. Since October 2024 we have also been offering a new afternoon service on the third Sunday of the month: a Contemplative Eucharist with music from the ecumenical community at Taize. Alan Danson, Brian Gregory, and Kathy Gilbert all helped me to kickstart this new venture.

The introduction of this service came from a desire to offer an additional Eucharist that could be attended by people who find it difficult to come to a morning service at St Mary's. It has already proved a valuable form of engagement, because of its peaceful atmosphere; and a wider worshipping community is forming around this service. The liturgy of the Contemplative Eucharist allows us to use different forms of music and meditation than we can on other occasions. Both our regular evening services have increased the total numbers attending St Mary's on the first and third Sundays of the month.

This improvement in the worshipping life of the church involves a great team of deputy wardens: Roger Melling, Chris Mears, and John Savage; and many sidesmen, servers, sacristans, readers, intercessors, coffee makers, musicians, and choir members. It is very encouraging that there has been a growth in the numbers of those who are helping to lead our services in this way, and in the different voices we rejoice to hear during our worship – and that people do keep signing up for all the very many slots on the rota, which is now ably curated by Margaret and Graham Cranfield.

We have also welcomed some visiting clergy and readers to contribute to building up the vibrancy of our worship through their preaching and presidency, and I am grateful to Margorie Brown, Guy Hewitt, Iain Lane, Abe Konadu-Yiadom, Margaret Peart, Shaun Sanders, and Stephen Venner for their assistance.



In 2024 there has also been a very encouraging level of local community engagement with seasonal services. Though terrible weather limited attendance at the St Mary's School Carol Service, we experienced fantastic attendance at a shared service with Brookside Methodist Church and St Mary's School in the summer at the East Barnet Festival, where the school choir sang alongside the Church Choir and Young Voices. That was one of the last services that I was privileged to lead with Shaun, before we wished him a fond farewell as he moved to a new ministry among the Methodist churches in Walton-on-Thames. At the East Barnet Festival I was also able to coordinate with several local churches to offer children's craft activities in a joint venture, and Bettina von Cossell brought together a team to run a St Mary's stall, so that our presence as the parish church of East Barnet was also really visible there.

In the autumn a service of Choral Evensong in the same collaborative spirit between school and church completely filled the school hall. The relationship with St Mary's School seems better than at any point since my arrival in the parish, and much of that is due to the enthusiastic leadership of Maria Constantinou as headteacher, and to the role that Stephen Edwards as chair of governors has played in improving governance of the school. I have enjoyed continuing our weekly practice of holding collective worship services, now alternating between school and church. In 2024 we have also resumed holding a Eucharist in school each term, and I have been increasingly involved with teaching - now across all the classes of the school, and in 2 or 3 subject areas: from straightforward RE to more esoteric exobiology. My hope is that the fuller partnership with St Mary's School will lead to termly services shared between the church congregation and school community, and that we will more fully share in local mission together. More occasional contact with Church Hill School and Brunswick Park Primary School has also been very positive, and could be developed further in the future with additional resources.

I have also enjoyed some opportunities to help facilitate adult learning through the Book Club; a Lent lunch and course: On Prayer; a Bible Study Eucharist; a Teaching Eucharist; and a couple of sessions talking about Relationships between Religions, as part of a group for inter-faith families. In

addition, I have continued to lecture on liturgy for ordinands and readers in training on the Eastern Region Ministry Course.



Attendance at the Act of Remembrance at the war memorial outside Brookside Methodist Church on Remembrance Sunday seems to grow larger every single year, and the enthusiastic response of the Royal British Legion meant that we were encouraged to hold smaller services there on the Anniversary of D Day in June, to launch the Poppy Appeal in September, and on Armistice Day on 11 November. We also shared in a really enjoyable, and downright raucous, Community Carols event at the Legion in December.

Our Christmas Carols by Candlelight services were also an exceptional success in 2024, and more people attended this magical presentation of the Christmas story than have come to a Christmas carol service at St Mary's in many years, going back well before the pandemic. Many congratulations must go to Alan, and his ability to conjure up the atmosphere of the season so successfully in these services with his excellent Christmas orchestra.

It is also very likely that there was undercounting at some other Christmas services, like the utterly chaotic but fun Children's Nativity Service where children were invited to come as their favourite character from the first Christmas story, and so we can rejoice in the inclusive appeal of all our worship at that very special time of year. I am very grateful that Abe, my new Methodist minister colleague, trusted me when I promised that the Nativity Service would work out ... and that somehow it did.

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Christingle		55	76	89
Ash Wednesday		13	12	13
Mothering Sunday		32	37	47
Palm Sunday total all services		47	98	88
Holy Week midweek	32	50	35	53
Easter Day	36	99	104	113
Ascension	10	9		11
Education	49	51	63	48
Harvest	47	34	47	64
Memorial Service	59	88	90	53
Advent Carols	75	61	68	64
Christmas Carols total both services	127	185	282	411
Other 'Christmas' special services - schools, crib etc	35	430	574	435
Christmas Midnight and Day total	69	133	122	128

Unpredictable Sunday morning attendance on a week-by-week basis does make it slightly more difficult to prepare music, preaching and liturgy to suit each individual Sunday, and it does make it harder to build an overall sense of momentum toward the fuller flourishing of the worshipping life of the church.

If we wish to see further growth in our worshipping community into 2025, then we must all continue to be committed to faithful, regular, and frequent attendance at services, in ways that are realistic to our needs and our availability. The Church Council must also continue its work toward increasing the provision of regular activities for children and families at Sunday services. The Church Council has been making encouraging progress toward this goal in 2024, by developing a shared vision for such work and by beginning an application for a grant for a children's worker to be submitted in 2025.

Though we cannot afford the additional costs of a children's worker without a grant, St Mary's finances appear much healthier at the end of 2024 than at any time members of the Church Council can recall. This is thanks to all your regular generosity in your planned giving to the church, some very successful fundraising efforts coordinated by Gail Philips, and also, increasingly, to some commercial activities.

The really big difference in our finances when compared with 2022 and before is that we are now receiving regular rental income from 54 Church Hill Road, which was built on the site of the old Parish Hall. The build up of this rental income has allowed Roger to recommend to the Church Council that we resume full payment of parish share, and also make up our parish share deficit from the period when the Church Council paused parish share payments during the community halls building project. It is incredibly generous of Roger to continue to hold the role of treasurer, which he took on temporarily and is still fulfilling. In 2025 the Church Council must find a long-term alternative to Roger holding that role, engage in some more stewardship campaigning, and continue to advertise for regular community halls rentals to further stabilize our finances.



The Church Council's focus in 2024 has also been on completing and then refreshing the goals of our 2021–2026 Mission Action Plan. We can give thanks for some significant areas of progress, such as our Bronze Eco-Church award. In the second half of 2024, it seemed right to the Church Council to focus increasingly on becoming more intentional about growing the church through a shared spirit of invitation. Into 2025, that process should begin to bear more fruit, through more dedicated sessions within the Church Council and through a series of enjoyable congregational activities that are being planned for us all to engage in together.

The Church Council has also continued to oversee our flourishing relationship with Barnet Collective, who are now re-distributing food that would otherwise go to waste to about 80 families each week: those who are struggling, yet not eligible for Foodbank vouchers. The Church Council has also been kept fully informed of my work to encourage Barnet Council and the commercial developer of the North London Business Park to include an integrated well-being centre within this substantial development, and for local churches (including Brookside Methodist Church; Manodr Drive Methodist Church; St Mary's; and St Paul's, New Southgate) to partner in offering spiritual care to the estate from its premises. Disappointingly, a scheme containing this element was proposed and then was refused planning permission, at a planning inspectorate inquiry in the late Spring. Though the result of that decision has favourably limited the size of the development a little, it is proceeding now – and at present without this or any other kind of community service or space.

Amazingly, given his continuing dedication in the role of treasurer, Roger did manage to stand down as Churchwarden in 2024. At the Annual Meeting he was very touched to receive effusive thanks and some special gifts from the congregation to symbolize our gratitude to him in this role and to Heather for her support of this role. As we have been without a Churchwarden since that point, I have been working hard alongside the Deputy Churchwardens, Standing Committee, and Church Council to divide up and diversify some of the roles that are associated with the position of Churchwarden. Those who are now sharing in those roles are forming a strong team, and I am very grateful for all they continue to do as we work to build up a stronger and more collegial form of leadership at St Mary's. It must be said, however, that we would greatly benefit from 2 suitable Churchwardens stepping forward at this year's Annual Meeting. We also have not found sufficient

members to form a sustainable team to oversee the church's fabric, though there have been a series of successful Church Care sessions overseen by Victor Chan; Tom Hodgson has kindly been working to sort our alarm systems; Roy Mears oversees planned maintenance; Roger and John continue to do many things around the building; and there is an extensive team of cleaners. I also seem to spend a lot of time up the tower, or on the roof.



While many tasks from 'the great St Mary's job fair' are being completed by a wider team, I am also still bearing a very heavy load of administrative and communications work. Good communications work and targeted advertising is of vital importance in the growth of our church community, so that a greater amount of time is being spent on this area than ever before: from producing posters, to flyers, to social media posts, to revamping the website, to sending out News from St Mary's, to printing the pewsheets ... It's wonderful when other people do assist in this area, such as Margaret producing seasonal brochures, or a large proportion of the congregation distributing Christmas services invitation cards. Those met with a very warm response this winter. It may be that the Church Council will be able to return to employing a parish administrator in 2025, so that my time can be focused on other areas, and that so this work can be done in a more dedicated manner.

I would like to close the Rector's Report by expressing my thanks to everyone who is leading our community into a healthier future, and to all who help us to meet the challenges we face in our current lives, as we seek to follow Jesus Christ, together.

Alec Corio

Deanery Synod Report

Barnet Deanery Synod met on three occasions in 2024.

In February, Synod met at Christ Church, Little Heath, when Glyn Barker, the Director of Finance for the Diocese, talked about the 'Parish Share' and the future prospects for parish finances. The Parish Share is the amount of money each church is asked to pay the Diocese. The majority of this money in effect comes back to parishes by way of paying for clergy employment costs, cost of

clergy housing and training, and mission and ministry support to the Parish. Very little goes towards Diocesan costs.

Synod also met at St Michael & All Angels, Borehamwood, when Tim Bull, Director of Vocations at the Diocese, spoke about 'Callings and Vocations: Opportunities for Churches in the Barnet Deanery'. Tim explained the range of opportunities for lay people, not just for ordination.

In October Synod met at King Charles the Martyr, Potters Bar, when the Bishop of Hertford, the Rt Revd Dr Jane Mainwaring led a communion service and then spoke about 'Working together as leadership and congregations of the Diocese'. Bishop Jane first offered her thanks and appreciation for all the work carried by volunteers in our parishes. Bishop Jane spoke about the impact of the pandemic, youth, children and families, diversity, safeguarding, and how important it is for all of us to talk about Jesus. The Bishop then took questions.

Our Area Dean for the last four years, the Revd Laura Hewitt, who was the Vicar of St James for nine years, has moved to a new post in the Diocese of Hereford. Our new Area Dean is the Revd Stefan Chrysostomou, Vicar of St Mary's, Potters Bar.

Roger Melling

Electoral Roll Report

The Electoral Roll is our list of all those entitled to vote on in elections to the Church Council and Deanery Synod. Anyone over the age of sixteen who resides within our parish or who regularly worships at St Mary's may join the roll.

Our 2024 Electoral Roll revision process in April 2024 showed a total of 118 names, the same as in the previous year.

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules, our Electoral Roll is being deleted and a new roll started in 2025.

The notice of this complete renewal of the Electoral Roll has been on display on the church notice board since 5 February 2025. The new roll is open for applications between 5 April and 3 May 2025. Application forms are available in church, or online.

A copy of the new Electoral Roll will be published by 4 May 2025, and an overview included in the 2025 annual report.

Bettina von Cossel

Fabric Report

In January 2024 we faced a major flood in the church basement, due to the failure of the sump pump, and the church boilers were rendered inoperable. This was repaired, and costs largely covered by our Insurers, with the works managed by Roy Mears. Rectification works involving the electrical installation and pump were necessary to prevent this recurring. The boilers have needed.

Thanks to Paul Moon, an excellent ramp was installed in church to the chancel step. The accessibility of the whole building has been greatly enhanced by the halls project and this work. Other smaller pieces of work have continued on the building, such as safety works to the boiler house steps by Roger Melling and John Savage; the renewal of the entrance and welcome area, with clearer noticeboards; and the clearance of the vestry and gallery by a larger team.

Roof works to make the historic building fully watertight will be a key project for me into 2025, and the precise details of these should be further informed by the architect's quinquennial inspection due early in the year. However at the moment it is clear that they will concern targeted works on the point where the nave and chancel roof join, and other pieces of isolated work scattered across the church roofs. Once this work is completed then other work on redecoration, the sound system installation or lighting design would be possible without risking a leak destroying any further progress.

Following completion of our community halls building project, minor defects inspection and rectification works continued by our contractor, Ash, into 2024, and the halls were completely signed off by our architects, JBKS, in October. They have been in use throughout this period. In addition to these works, there have been works to the boiler and minor pieces of redecoration when needed due to wear and tear.



In the churchyard, there have been 2 tree planting sessions to work toward establishing a biodiverse hedge on the borders of the churchyard. The Church Care sessions have been very helpful in keeping some level of control over bushes and excess growth while avoiding limiting the churchyard's natural feel. The corners of the Garden of Remembrance have been marked, and the extension to the area brought into proper use. Two benches were installed thanks to kind donations from the Knitwits and the East Barnet Residents Association, and Barnet Council paid for the repainting of the lych gate. The maintenance of some monuments and the future restoration of others remains an issue to be resolved with Barnet Council.

Management of the School House has now been returned to the Diocese of St Albans, with the house in excellent condition thanks to John Savage's work.

Management of 54 Church Hill Road is in the hands of Barnard Cook as our agents, with outstanding issues being handled by members of the Standing Committee. The house is in excellent condition.

The Rectory has been completed, and I have moved in. There are a number of pieces of rectification and defects work for Ash to work through, and the garden conditions require a great deal of clearance. The overall appearance of the house is excellent, and it should be a hospitable home in the future..

Regular maintenance schedules are in place for the historic building and halls, with RVTV and Tom Hodgson overseeing the alarms; Roy Mears overseeing planned maintenance of the church; and a Halls Committee of the Church Council working to both increase commercial and community use of the halls and dealing with for wear and tear on the halls fabric. Victor Chan has begun overseeing regular Church Care sessions. I am very grateful to everyone who assists to manage and improve our beautiful building as a major asset in our mission.

Alec Corio

Financial Statements

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Barnet Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 December 2024

			Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	Total	Total
			General	Designated	funds	2024	2023
			£	£	£	£	£
Income							
Voluntary income			79,679	-	-	79,679	77,207
Income from church activities			21,904	-	-	21,904	20,197
Interest received			2,554			2,554	2,137
Income for building project				7,854		7,854	26,873
Rent received for School House					6,300	6,300	8,400
Rent received for Curate's House			27,396			27,396	25,455
Total income			131,533	7,854	6,300	145,687	160,269
Expenditure							
Church activities			- 149,219			- 149,219	- 77,308
Cost of building the new church hall				- 2,978		- 2,978	- 138,847
Administration of School House					- 32,332	- 32,332	- 1,223
Administration of Curate's House			- 767			- 767	- 6,038
Total expenditure			- 149,986	- 2,978	- 32,332	- 185,297	- 223,416
Net movement in funds			-18,454	4,876	-26,032	-39,610	-63,147
Cash at bank at 1 January 2023			64,411	17,615	48,464	130,490	
Cash at bank at 31 December 2024			45,957	22,491	22,432	90,880	

Statement of assets and liabilities

					2024		2023
					£		£
Cash funds							
Cash at bank					90,880		130,490
Hall deposits held					340		40
Amounts owed at year end							
	Rent for parish office				610		

The balance on the restricted fund in relation to the school house fund of £22,432 was repayable to the Diocese of St Albans as of 30 September 2024.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 14 May 2025 and signed on its behalf by the Revd Dr Alec Corio (Chair).



The attached notes form part of these accounts.

Notes to the accounts

							Total 2024	Total 2023
							£	£
Analysis of Income								
Voluntary income								
Planned giving							40,604	41,963
Regular donations							11,458	9,363
Other donations and grants							10,434	10,257
Bequests							5,000	-
Gift aid recovered							12,184	15,625
							79,679	77,208
Income from church activities								
Phone mast							12,750	12,750
Fundraising							4,358	4,060
Rental income from church hall							2,163	1,950
Fees for weddings and funerals (net)							2,634	1,437
							21,904	20,197
Analysis of Expenditure								
Church activities								
Parish share						-	115,215	- 23,510
Organist fees						-	9,840	- 9,700
Church running costs:								
Church services						-	931	- 2,035
Light, heat and power						-	8,549	- 25,692
Insurance						-	2,589	- 2,606
Repairs and maintenance						-	5,936	- 3,014
Organ maintenance						-	964	- 1,357
Printing, postage and stationary						-	1,780	- 1,221
IT costs						-	619	- 2,213
Telephone and internet						-	499	- 523
Rent						-	610	- 1,220
Subscriptions						-	351	- 167
Donations						-	112	- 56
Sundry expenses						-	867	- 3,635
Bank charges						-	358	- 358
						-	149,219	- 77,307

Designated funds							
These funds have been designated by the PCC for the building project.							
The movement of funds in 2024 is as follows:							
			At 1.1.24	Income	Expenditure		At 31.12.24
				in year	in year		
			17,615	7,854	- 2,978		22,491
Restricted funds							
These funds can only be used for the administration of the school house and the building project.							
The movement of funds in 2024 is as follows:							
			At 1.1.24	Income	Expenditure		At 31.12.24
				in year	in year		
		School house	48,464	6,300	- 32,332		22,432
		Building project	-	-	-		-
			48,464	6,300	- 32,332		22,432

Related party transactions

The PCC members are considered the key management personnel of the church. No remuneration is paid directly to key management personnel, although the church contributes to the diocesan fund and the incumbent, who has overall responsibility for promoting the whole mission of the church, is remunerated directly by the diocese.

Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCC's, and with the Regulations 'true and fair view' provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP (FRS102).

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis as the income for the year is below £250,000.

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 102.

Fund accounting

The general fund represents the unrestricted fund, which is available for use at the discretion of the PCC members in furtherance of the general objectives of the church, and which has not been designated for any other particular purpose.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by PCC members for a particular purpose.

Restricted funds represent funds which are to be used in accordance with specific instructions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the church for particular purposes.

Income

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) donated services and the time spent by volunteers, of which the church is heavily dependent in order to achieve its aims, are not included in income as the economic benefit cannot be measured reliably.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Neither the cost of the new church hall nor the curate's house have been treated as a fixed assets. The church hall is attached to the church and title is held by the Incumbent.

The Curate's House, 54 Church Hill Road, is owned by St Mary's Church Hall (separate Charity Scheme) with the Diocese of St Albans serving as Custodian Trustee and The PCC as Managing Trustees.

Independent examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Barnet

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 5.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

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.



VICTORIA NEIL

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

7 May 2025

Acting treasurer's report on the financial statements

Our annual income now exceeds our annual costs. BUT this is only possible because of the rental income we receive from the 'Curates' house and the mobile phone mast in the tower. The Church Council is very grateful for the donations made by the congregation and the gift aid we receive as a consequence [£12,000 in 2024] but it will only take small changes in our income or expenditure to put us 'in the red'. We do not have sufficient income to employ an administrator and as a result our Rector has to devote time on administrative work keeping him from more important pastoral duties.

It is therefore very relevant that I raise the question of stewardship, particularly in relation to financial giving. It is important that we all regularly review our giving. It is so easy to set up a payment that remains the same for years and therefore its value to St Mary's reduces. Many members of the congregation donate through the Parish Giving Scheme. The scheme includes the option for an annual inflationary increase, which is easily cancelled if necessary. The Church Council would encourage the use of this option and anyone who does not donate through the Parish Giving Scheme to join it. It is very easy and Heather Melling will give you every assistance. You may wish to consider helping St Mary's in the future by making a bequest in your will. Again assistance is available if required.

I would draw your attention to the following points in the accounts:

1. PARISH SHARE

At the time we were building the hall, with the agreement of the Diocese we stopped paying our Parish Share and then resumed at less than the full rate. During 2024 we paid all arrears and we are now paying the full rate of Parish Share.

2. SCHOOL HOUSE FUND

For many years the Church Council was responsible for the management of the School House. This responsibility has now passed to the Diocese. The School House account has been included in St Mary's main account. The £22,432, shown in the accounts will now be transferred to the Diocese.

On behalf of the Church Council I would like to thank Victoria Neal for again agreeing to undertake the Independent Examination of our accounts.

Roger Melling

Methodist Minister's Report

It's been a pleasure to continue to build on the work of my predecessors, Colin Smith and Shaun Sanders, in this, the 21st year since a Covenant between our the Church of England and the Methodist Church was signed and the ministries of our churches were mutually recognised.

I have had the pleasure of co-leading with Alec a series of very successful Remembrance Day and Armistice Day services, partnership worship and events, Messy Church, the Covenant Service, and collective worship at St Mary's School. I have also been pleased to join St Mary's Church Council meetings and ministry team meetings fortnightly.

At the most recent Partnership Enabling Group meeting, there was a strong commitment to the future of the partnership between our churches, with a desire to explore the churches understanding of our joint mission to the community. But all this is to come! As God becomes the centre of our community life, we will better use those things that we excel in for building up of the life of the Churches and our witness.

For now, I want to express gratitude to Alec for his support and guidance; for the support of the deputy churchwardens and congregation of St Mary's; for Maria Constantinou, her staff and pupils at St Mary's School; to the officers of the Royal British Legion; and last but certainly not least, to the Stewards and members at Barnet Brookside Methodist Church.

Abe Konadu-Yiadom

Parochial Church Council Report

The Church Council met on 4 February, 7 April, 8 July, 23 September and 18 November in 2024. The PCC also met for a Mission Action Planning afternoon on 2 June 2024. The council discussed current strengths at St Mary's, and where there might be opportunities for further growth.

In relation to this, the Church Council has held regular discussions on church growth priorities focusing on how we establish a commitment to growth, how we articulate that commitment, and what actions we should take to promote a growing church.

Following the Mission Action Planning meeting, the PCC met later in the year to home in on five Mission Action Plan goals. However, this has now been reduced to two goals due to the capacity of Church Council members. The first is to take steps towards the appointment of a paid children's worker. The second is to run a social course on to encourage a spirit of invitation within our whole congregation in 2025.

The Church Council remains proud of St Mary's membership of Inclusive Church and has asked Roger Melling, as a deanery synod representative, to share information about Inclusive Church within the deanery, which he duly did.

The Church Council has strong links with St Mary's School and receives regular updates on the growing partnership in mission with our School. An invitation has been extended to Church Council members to attend more school services.

Attempts were made to publish a short monthly update on the work of the Church Council in the News from St Mary's emails, but this was not carried through consistently. This may be something that can be revived in 2025. Minutes and other Church Council information is now available on the St Mary's website.

The Church Council voted to pay off outstanding parish share to the Diocese of St Albans, which had been paused and then resumed at a lower rate due to an overspend on our community halls building project, and to resume payment of parish share in full from January 2025. The Church Council voted to reduce the amount the Standing Committee's spending authority approval from £2,000 to £1,500 in order to maintain appropriate oversight of church finances.

Grant Fassett, Tom Hodgson and Angela Johnson have resigned from the Church Council in 2024. We thank them for their hard work and leadership. The Church Council sends its particular thanks

to Angela who brought the issue of Eco-Church to the attention of the Church Council, with St Mary's achieving bronze status, and also for her role as Church Council safeguarding lead.

Katherine Duncan-Kerr

Parochial Church Council Mission Action Plan 2024–2026

We have continued our reflection on the words of the Magnificat, and begun to meditate on the Beatitudes, to become more aware of the blessings we have received as leaders of the church of St Mary the Virgin.

Learning from the words of the Magnificat and the Beatitudes, we are seeking to become confident that we may speak words of hope and perform signs of service in the world, in order to share these blessings with our whole parish community.

We have therefore renewed our goals for 2024 and beyond, within the structure of our 2021-Mission Action Plan.

From the Anglican 5 Marks of Mission, the Church Council's related objectives within our parish, and goals for the 2024-2025 Church Council year

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom we will provide missional children's work in East Barnet by taking clear steps toward the appointment of a children's worker. The church council lead for this goal is Katherine Duncan-Kerr

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers we will provide an accessible opportunity to deepen discipleship by planning and attending a congregational course on church growth. The church council lead for this goal is Alec Corio.

These goals will be a standing item on every Church Council agenda, so that our progress can be monitored. Goals may be renewed in 2025. The Mission Action Plan will be renewed in 2026.

Partnership Enabling Group Report

The East Barnet Anglican Methodist Partnership continues, and we have enjoyed a number of united services throughout the year.

Courses and groups, and Messy Church all continue as joint activities taking place a number of times during the year.

The Partnership Enabling Group has met a couple of times in the recent past after a long period of hiatus post-pandemic.

At our last meeting we agreed that an annual partnership service should take place each year to recognise and celebrate the partnership outside of the times of any festivals. The first of these will be on Sunday 22nd June at St Mary's where the Bishop of Hertford will formally welcome Abe in her ministry within the partnership on behalf of the Church of England.

Graham Wheeler

Safeguarding Report

St Mary's is fully compliant with the safeguarding guidelines laid down by the House of Bishops, and throughout 2024 St Mary's has worked to continue to create a safe environment to all who attend our church.

The Church Council adopted the Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse policies which are in keeping with the relevant Church of England policies. Recruitment checks and safeguarding training are ongoing for everyone involved in leadership and ministry at St Mary's.

Safeguarding Sunday in 2024 was 17th November and it was rather disappointing that there were fewer people who attended that service than expected. On reflection, we need to 'advertise' this very important event earlier and bring it to the attention of more people, not only within the church, but within the wider community. We must all be aware that there are many forms of abuse, many of which cannot be seen easily. We must remember that often people who are abused, whatever their age or sex, are of the opinion that it is their fault or it is usual behaviour. It most definitely is not.

We need an open culture where abuse has nowhere to hide. We need to talk about it to ensure everyone in our church, and elsewhere, is aware of their part and how to be alert to the risks of abuse from within and outside the church.

It is the responsibility of each and every one of us to keep our ears and eyes open and to look after and care for each other in any and every way we can. As Jesus said: 'Love one another as I love you.'

St Mary's strives to create and maintain environments that are safer for all, that promote well-being, that prevent abuse, and that create nurturing, caring conditions within the church for children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Please continue to be vigilant and report anything suspicious. Let us ensure we keep our community as safe as possible.

Chris Mears

Minutes of 2023 Annual Meeting of Parishioners
19 May 2024

1. The meeting opened with prayers and welcome.

2. Election of the clerk

John Hawkins was elected as clerk, proposed by Roger Melling; seconded by Chris Mears; there was 1 abstention.

3. Apologies for absence

Bridget Bowden, Roy Mears.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 21 May 2023 were approved as a true record. Passed with no objections or abstentions.

5. Election of Churchwardens

No nominations were received. Alec recorded his gratitude to Roger for his previous service as Churchwarden and for his courage in choosing to stand down at a time that he felt was appropriate.

Minutes of 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting
19 May 2024

1. Apologies for absence

Bridget Bowden, Roy Mears

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 21 May 2023 were approved as a true record. This was passed unanimously.

3. Annual reports: questions on the statutory reports

No questions

4. Annual reports: questions on the non-statutory reports

John Savage asked if it was correct that everyone had an opportunity to read either online or advance. Alec confirmed this was correct. Andrew Godleman made the point that it was disappointing that there wasn't at least a short summary of the reports and noted there had been few questions raised.

5. An addendum to the Annual Report on the church's progress in 2024 so far

Alec stated that we continue to predict a deficit for 2024 albeit smaller. We will soon be taking delivery of a card donation (tap to give) machine and will be making plans on how best to deploy this. It was Alec's hope that the Church Council would plan for a more dedicated discussion on stewardship.

Roger Melling provided a brief financial report. Anna Castiglioni mentioned the statement of accounts and noted that they require a minor change as a £10 000 grant should have been presented as being in a restricted account. Accounts were examined and signed off by Victoria Neil. Roger recorded our thanks for the generosity of the congregational giving and encouraged membership of the parish giving scheme. He explained that our finances are still such that we remain unable to employ a parish administrator. This has a major impact on Alec's time as he is covering administrative duties, and it therefore limits our ability to extend further support and engage in more outreach to the community.

A question was raised on whether installation of solar panels had been considered. Roger mentioned that a significant upfront cost was involved in this. Alec also mentioned that this was discussed early in the building project but at that time council policies would not have allowed it due to the building's listed status. It may be considered in the future.

Alan Danson asked how much over budget the halls project cost had been. Alec asked him to refer to the financial reports and statements in the annual report.

Andrew Godleman mentioned the Church of England energy footprint online tool. Alec stated that we had used this.

Anna Castiglioni asked whether we could use the restricted fund for the school house to fund solar panels either there or at church. Alec mentioned this decision would sit with the diocese now, as we will not be continuing as managing agent for the school house property beyond 2024.

Gail Philips asked if the energy standing charge would reduce in October. Roger mentioned that unit cost was going down, but not standing charges. Alec emphasized that the standing committee scrutinized all payments to keep our running costs to a reasonable minimum.

Gail Philips asked if there was a charities rate for energy providers and asked if not, was the CoE was putting effort into changing that. Alec mentioned the Parish Buying scheme which unfortunately we had not been able to use due to their quotes being higher than going to suppliers directly. We do access a charity rate of VAT on energy costs.

Steve Harris asked what the position was with the new Rectory. Alec was unable to provide a moving-in date but stated that this wasn't a large material cost to the parish. Steve mentioned concerns about the risk of damage whilst the building remained empty, and Alec said it would not impact the church financially should this occur. Alec requested that questions on the rectory be moved outside of this meeting as it was not something within our control.

Alec raised the question of lay leadership and volunteerism. Given the current availability of lay volunteers, some projects would need to be curtailed or paused.

Margaret Cranfield suggested that administration duties might be split between confidential and non-confidential work so that some work could be offered to someone seeking to build work experience. Alan Danson asked whether a request for help in this way had been advertised. Alec stated we had tried this, but had no responses.

Alec mentioned that the pattern of congregational attendance seemed to be becoming regular but less frequent post-pandemic, and so whilst there were positive signs of growth in the congregation's size, this was hard to visualize every Sunday morning.

Alan Danson mentioned limited commitment and attendance, particularly from children and young families. He mentioned that the only children at the last all-age service were part of the choir and urged us all to pray about this matter. Alec noted that many people are committed, but all our patterns of life have changed post-pandemic.

Andrew Godleman mentioned that he had been put off joining the reading rota due to the need to find a replacement if he was unable to attend on a Sunday he was due to be on duty. He asked what the costs would be of hiring a part-time administrator to carry out this kind of duty and assist in other ways. Alec replied this was around £9000 p.a. when we considered this in 2021.

Alec said he thought our engagement with the school was higher than at any point in recent history. The use of the community halls, the start of the sewing circle and recently introduced coffee morning were also high points to mention.

Alec said that average Sunday attendance was slowly increasing. Christmas and Easter service attendance were also consistently higher coming out of the pandemic. He mentioned our community was more diverse and more willing to speak up.

Andrew Godleman asked if any attempts had been made to engage with large local communities in the area. Alan Danson mentioned that he had ensured posters for our music events were well displayed to encourage outreach. Debbie Windeler mentioned the need for prayer for our wider community engagement.

6. Conduct of elections of representatives of the laity on the Parochial Church Council

Two nominations were received: Roger Melling and Alison Blunt. There were no additional nominations and both nominees were duly elected.

7. Appointment of the Independent Examiner

The meeting approved the appointment of Victoria Neil (proposed by Alec; seconded by Gail Phillips; unanimously approved). Victoria is a qualified FCA and lives in the parish.

9. Any other business

Alec further extended our thanks to Roger Melling for his service as Churchwarden, and to Heather for her support of this role.

10. The meeting ended at 12.30 with the loyal toast to King Charles III.

1374 Squadron Air Training Corps

1374 (East Barnet) Squadron of the Air Training Corps meets twice a week, and provides teenagers from 12 to 20 years with engaging activities relating to the Royal Air Force and aviation more generally. Night to night at the squadron headquarters, our activities can vary from classes about subjects related to aviation, to preparation for adventure training, to sports, to leadership activities which require the cadets to think of different strategies to complete tasks. Cadets also take part in a wider range of activities offsite and on other occasions. These range from shooting, to long distance walking (road marching), to camps, to completion of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, to flying and gliding.

As the squadron chaplain Alec leads a whole evening's 'Padre's Hour' on a monthly basis, and provides pastoral care to the whole squadron community. In the last year, Padre's Hour has focussed on themes including: Respect, Integrity, Service, Excellence: the values of the RAF; Having an aspiring mindset; Remembrance; Christmas carols; Lent: giving up and starting up?; and Appropriate communication and online safety.

Anthony Chan
Alec Corio

Assistant Churchwardens

Please note that this is the first time in St Mary's very long history that the Annual Report has not included a churchwarden's report – as we currently do not have a Churchwarden. Could you be one of our next Churchwardens? Please do think about it, as the role is rewarding and satisfying.

We three [sounds like a carol!] Assistant Churchwardens continue to work together to support the running of the church. We are very appreciative of all the assistance we receive from so many other members of the team, but it is not always easy to resource all the activities we would like to put on at St Mary's. Do you remember President Kennedy's inaugural speech? He asked '... think not of what my country can do for me, think of what I can do for my country...' Just substitute 'St Mary's' for country and you'll see what we mean. Don't 'hide your light under a bushel' because if you have just time or any particular skill please talk to us and to Alec. We will help you think about how you could help the church to thrive.

After all the difficulties relating to the construction of the new rectory, Alec and his family were finally able to move in last November. Moving house is never easy but we are relieved that at last our Rector is living in the parish and next to the church. We hope it will make life a bit easier for him not having to make that difficult journey from Bell's Hill.

The time and effort that many of you give is very much appreciated and we know that St Mary's could not function without it. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your prayers, support, friendship and love.

Roger Melling
Chris Mears
John Savage

Barnet Collective

Since the Summer of 2023 Barnet Collective have been pleased to be able to use the smaller community hall at St Mary's Church to receive a Thursday afternoon food delivery and for volunteers to repack this into individual crates for distribution.

Turn-around time from the receipt of the food to drivers taking it to recipients has become slick and fast, moving the food out as quickly as possible.

Volunteers have been consistently reliable in being at the church in time to receive and pack the food and drivers have been consistent and punctual with their particular round. Several recipients are also actively involved in the collective project, and provide the assistance necessary to keep it running week after week.

Collection of bakery produce and other food from local supermarkets is continuing, adding to the food available

Referral is through local schools, social workers, home visitors and local organisations.

Several Barnet Collective volunteers have completed their Level 2 Food Hygiene certification, and the offer to do that course is open to all, free of charge.

Plans are ongoing for a walking group, writing workshops, jam making and other creative activities.

Barnet Collective volunteers also join in with church activities either formally or informally, such as the sewing circle, coffee morning, and bring and share lunches. We are delighted to come to St Mary's and see the lovely activities happening there.

Several Barnet Collective volunteers came to a Sunday Service at St Mary's where Guy Hewett spoke to mark Black History Month. He covered the "anti migrant rampages" across England that took place in August 2024. From the pulpit, Guy spoke about his mixed racial background and his journey to challenge racist thinking. He talked about the slave trade, colonialism and linked these to what has happened in the West Bank and Gaza. Speaking of love as the direction of our lives rather than displacement, trauma and killing, he said that this value would allow justice to triumph over oppression.

Joe Tweg
Karen Kiil

Children's Outreach Working Group

In 2024 we held 4 children's outreach events at St Mary's, in addition to having 2 Messy Churches in collaboration with Brookside Methodist Church, and holding Local Churches: Craft, Play, Prayer at the East Barnet Festival with Brookside Methodist Church; Holy Trinity, Lyonsdown; St James', New Barnet; and St John's URC, New Barnet.

Our first children's part of the year was on Friday 9th February for Mardis Gras. At this event we asked for donations as opposed to selling tickets. Although it was very well attended and children and families had a great time, we made a small loss of £23.64 due to the cost of entertainment and food.

On Sunday 3rd March we arranged Arts and Crafts for Mothering Sunday, after the All Age Messy Eucharist. This was very well attended, with children of all age groups participating in card making, plant pot decorating, and gift making. We received very positive feedback, especially as we provided juice, biscuits and crisps for the children.

At the end of July the team organized a Barbecue and Fun Day. Attendance was lower than we had hoped for, though the weather was fine and the food was great. This community engagement event also generated a small profit of £161.94 for St Mary's.

Finally on Friday 6th December we held a children's party for St Nicholas' Day. We invited lots of local vendors, as well as having a local photographer offering mini Christmas photo shoots. We also offered arts and crafts in the smaller community hall, an entertainer in the larger community hall, and a second entertainer to wander around making balloon models. St Nicholas and his helpful elf also made an appearance. Thanks to a raffle with excellent prizes and a generous donation from Chas R Lowe of £150 for the cost of the entertainer this event also raised £932.38 for St Mary's.

Amy Jobson

Chipping Barnet Foodbank

Thank you to those of you at St Mary's who have continued giving so generously to Chipping Barnet Foodbank, either by donating food and toiletries every week, or monetary and warm clothing gifts. May God bless you all!

In the past year over 7700 people were helped at our Foodbank. With the increase in numbers and a 3% decrease in donations, the Foodbank has had to spend £1000 per week to meet growing needs.

However, the Foodbank has successfully implemented a 'client wrap-around support model' in order to assist people who suffer with food insecurity. This includes giving a holistic suite of support to clients, addressing the root causes of their situations, integrating services, client empowerment, and seeking a future without the need for emergency food support.

Unfortunately, Barnet Council withdrew their funding for the local Food Hub and it was closed in September 2024. This was a vital facility that provided fresh produce to our Foodbank and over 10 other Foodbanks in the borough. The Felix Project has kindly stepped in and done their best to help, but the fresh produce supply is not the same.

Despite all the challenges faced, this Foodbank we serve is a wonderful place that provides numerous much-needed services to the very needy in our community.

Debbie Windeler

Christian Aid

The annual Christian Aid week start-up conference was held at St. James, Piccadilly, in early March. There plans for the annual Christian Aid week in May were outlined and the featured country was announced. Following this event, various fund raising possibilities were discussed at St Mary's, and we decided to participate in the sponsored Freedom Walk in the City of London and utilise the red

Christian Aid collection envelopes in church. In addition, I arranged for a speaker with Christian Aid field experience to give a talk at church at a service to launch Christian Aid week, and a Quiz Night was held on its Friday to round off the campaign. These efforts resulted in a total of £542.86 being contributed to Christian Aid on behalf of St. Mary's.

St Mary's School also engaged in some shared fundraising during Christian Aid Week by encouraging children and staff to wear trainers to school, and the school has sent a separate donation to Christian Aid.

Gail Phillips

Coffee Mornings

Our coffee mornings commenced in May 2024. They are held in St Mary's large community hall on the first Thursday of each month from 10.30 to 12 noon. The sessions have been very successful with many people attending.

Everyone is welcome to come along for coffee or tea and cake and, of course, to socialise and chat. There is always a friendly buzz with people sharing in discussions, laughter and having a good time.

To those who join us for our coffee mornings, thank you for making them such a big success. For those of you who would like to give it a try, come along on the first Thursdays of each month and join in the fun. You will not be disappointed!

Chris Mears

Community Halls

The Halls team currently comprises Roger, Gail, Victor, and Alec.

Throughout the year, the halls have been used weekly for church events and hospitality after services. The spaces have been used for our own meetings, in partnership with Barnet Collective, to host the Sewing Circle, to offer study sessions, and to hold Fairs and Table Top Sales.

The halls have also been rented occasionally for private and commercial hires. The plan is to increase regular community and commercial hires.

To facilitate this form of halls rental and management, the team has updated booking forms; had photos taken and floor plans done; and expanded the group of keyholders. The halls are now visible on the church website and advertised regularly on social media. An advertising banner has been designed. Advertising in local print media is being explored.

To keep the halls in good order, regular indoor maintenance were conducted such as carpet cleaning, fire and electric inspections. A spring clean is being planned early in 2025. Externally, two church care sessions were conducted which took in the halls. There are plans to regularise these maintenance activities in the future.

Victor Chan

Fundraising Events at St Mary's

A wide variety of fundraising events were held during 2024. Commencing with a Table Top Sale in March, and followed by two more in June and September, these popular events raised £1027.93. A highly successful Plant Sale in late May provided income of £328.49. At the East Barnet Festival held in late June our bottle tombola raised £205.95. The Barbecue and Fun Day held at the end of July, designed as a community outreach event, contributed a further £161.94 to St Mary's. A fun filled evening of quizzing in November resulted in takings of £347. The year drew to a close with the annual Christmas Fayre which raised £909.60 this year.

I would like to thank the volunteers who worked so hard to make these various events the successes they were, and through whose efforts St Mary's benefitted by a total of £2774.96.

Gail Phillips

Music at St Mary's

Singing, praising the Lord with our voices, and worshipping Him through music are all important parts of the Christian faith. Coupled with the spoken words of the liturgy, live music is very much part of St Mary's church life.

The major festival services: Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter, Advent, and Christmas, have each seen an increase in those attending in 2024 in comparison to previous years. I am very grateful to Young Voices and the Church Choir members for their commitment and for singing for these services, and their regular leadership at the All Age Messy Eucharist, Evensong, and at our newly introduced Contemplative Eucharist with Taize chants, which takes place on the third Sunday of the month. If you are not familiar with these services, can I recommend you come to one of them to hear the good work these choir members do? The choir's vocal repertoire is determined by the resources available to us. If more members were able to join the choirs, there is no limit to what could be achieved in the future. The inclusion of instrumental and orchestral accompaniment has added yet another dimension to many of these major services.

Two additional events that took place in 2024 were a concert given by the renowned cellist, Pal Banda, who performed two cello suites by J. S. Bach, and in November; and Be A Chorister for an Afternoon, at which Young Voices joined by the Church Choir and some woodwind instrumentalists presented a programme which included many songs in their repertoire.

Alan Danson

St Mary's Sewing Circle

The second year of the Sewing Circle continued to enjoy excellent attendance levels, with sessions usually attracting between 11 and 19 participants, from a total 'enrolment' of 26.

Suggested donations of £5 per attendance totalled £1431.35 for the year, an average of £62.23 per session. From this, £120 was sent as a donation on behalf of St. Mary's to Tearfund's Toilet Twinning scheme, through which a latrine in Nepal and another in Uganda have been financed. Certificates are displayed in the community halls new loos. The balance of the money raised contributes toward the costs of the Sewing Circle using the halls.

Many thanks go to Alec for arranging for a group from the Sewing Circle to visit the Broderers of St. Paul's Cathedral where we were able to view their beautiful, intricate work, ask lots of questions, absorb professional advice, and get to wander through the lesser known parts of the cathedral up lots and lots of stairs!

Gail Philips

St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Aided School

St Mary's Church of England Primary School has enjoyed a strong and growing partnership with St. Mary's Church, while also addressing the school's increasing financial challenges, over the last year.

Our school-church links have grown in quality and frequency, with regular, well-received collective worship sessions led by the Rector both in church and in school, and collaborative planning of schemes of worship and RE subject lessons. We have also increased the number of special services involving the school, with a second school Carol Service for the local community taking place at the church, a service of Choral Evensong held in the school, and a wonderful joint service held at this year's East Barnet Festival. We have been grateful for the musical support provided by the church's Director of Music, Alan Danson, in all of this activity.

The school has also deepened its links with other national and local communities over the last year, proudly participating again in the Barnet Schools Musical Festival and expanding the number of extra-curricular clubs and activities we are able to offer, including a successful chess club, choir and football club. We are proud to have deepened our partnership with the Good Samaritan School for the Deaf in Uganda, leading to the children learning sign language to accompany a biblical memory verse that changes each half term.

We have again run a "Hopeanuary" initiative, celebrating positive actions within the school by pupils at the beginning of the calendar year. The school has also pushed for change in our East Barnet community, with pupils writing to local councillors to highlight issues with fly-tipping, the Head and Chair of Governors hosting a visit from our local MP, and school children regularly collecting litter in Oak Hill park. We have also joined forces with other Barnet schools in campaigning, and have officially become a Smartphone Free school.

The school is flourishing in many areas, particularly in its strong connection with the church and its commitment to pupil development. Its leadership, governance and community links are all in a very positive position. The quality of education it offers and its provision to help all our children grow are well recognized. However, in common with other local schools, we face significant financial pressures due to the increasing needs of its pupils and inadequate funding. The school is actively seeking solutions through the development of new funding streams to address these challenges.

Maria Constantinou
Stephen Edwards

Accounts



Annual Report 2023

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About St Mary's, East Barnet

The charity's full name is The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Barnet.

It is governed according to the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended. It operates according to the Church Representation Rules (2020).

At the time this report was issued, the Parochial Church Council consisted of:

The Revd Dr Alec Corio (Rector, PCC chair, ex officio member)
Mr Roger Melling (Churchwarden, PCC vice chair, ex officio member, and deanery synod representative)
Prof Alison Blunt (representative of the laity)
Mr Victor Chan (representative of the laity)
Mrs Bettina von Cossel (representative of the laity)
Mrs Margaret Cranfield (representative of the laity)
Mrs Katherine Duncan-Kerr (representative of the laity)
Mr Stephen Edwards (representative of the laity)
Mr Grant Fassett (representative of the laity)
Mr John Hawkins (PCC secretary, representative of the laity)
Mr Tom Hodgson (representative of the laity)
Mrs Amy Jobson (representative of the laity)
Ms Gail Phillips (representative of the laity)
Rev Shaun Sanders (Methodist minister, ex officio observer)
Mr John Savage (deanery synod representative)
Mrs Angela Stancar-Johnson (representative of the laity)

The charity exists to advance the gospel in the ecclesiastical parish of East Barnet, according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, for the benefit of the public.

The charity cooperates with the Rector to provide and maintain a building used for religious purposes; provide and maintain a building as a local heritage asset; conduct public worship, including services marking life events; sponsor cultural and artistic events; support local community formation; support educational activities; further the ecumenical and interfaith engagement of the Church of England; and provide pastoral care to peoples of all faiths and none.

The parish church is located at:
The Church of St Mary the Virgin
Church Hill Road
East Barnet
Hertfordshire
EN4 8XD

The parish office (for all correspondence) is located at:
East Barnet Parish Office
Brookside Methodist Church
2 Cat Hill
East Barnet
Hertfordshire
EN4 8JB

Telephone: 02084414401
Email: administrator@stmaryseastbarnet.org

The PCC's charity number is 1143134

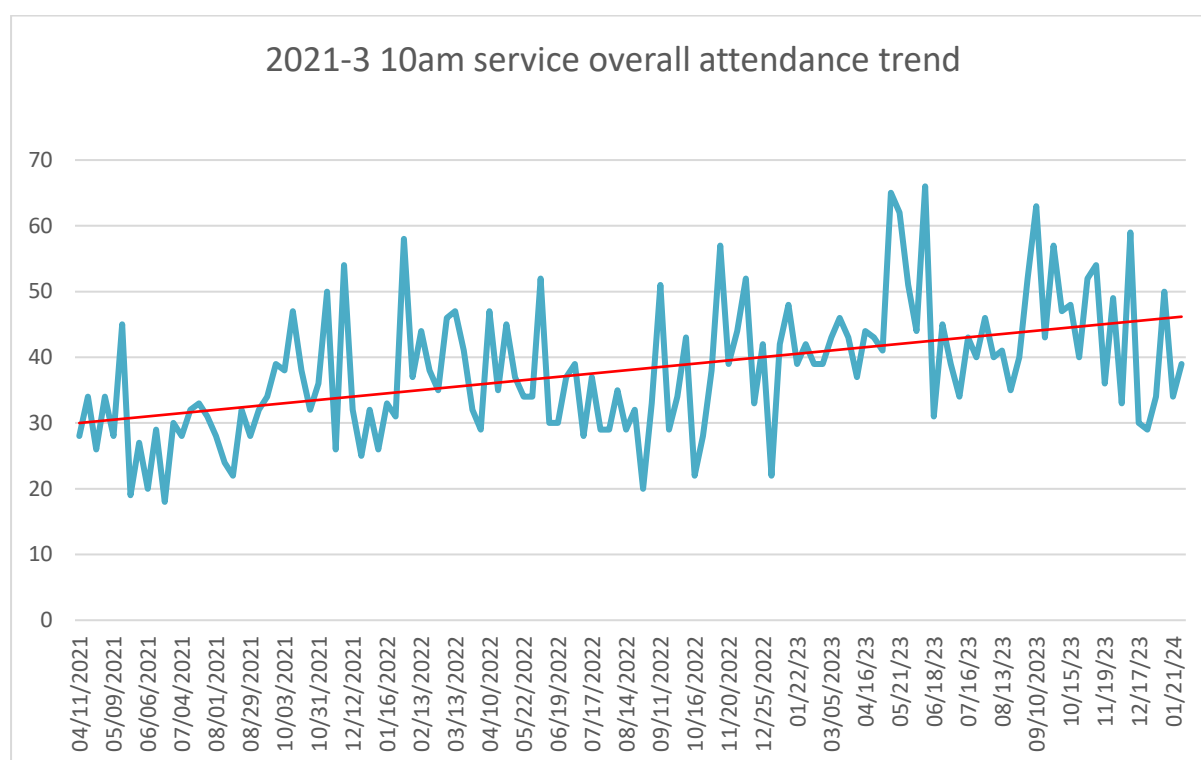
The Independent Examiner of the PCC's financial reports was Ms Victoria Neil of 30 Cedar Avenue, East Barnet, EN4 8DX.

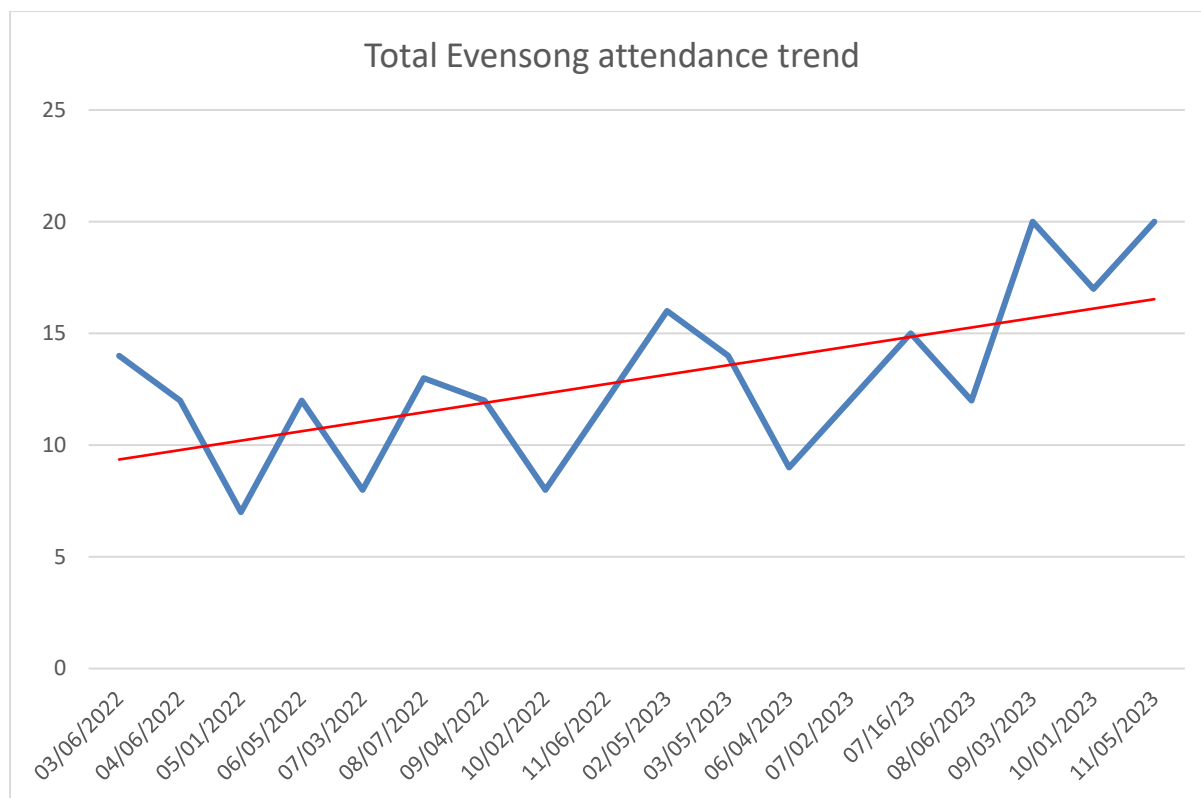
Rector's Report and Introduction

2023 witnessed slow but encouraging progress in the life of St Mary's, especially in the growth of the congregation following the disrupting effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the community halls building project. We can now look forward to the halls becoming increasingly busy with church and community groups; sources of support and care; and signs of our service to the whole of East Barnet.

Our 'Statistics for Mission', unsurprisingly, show that all quantitative data related to service attendance at St Mary's has fallen in comparison to 2019. However, I have taken a week on week measure of attendance from the point when we reopened the building (permanently) for public worship in April 2021, and this reveals a slow and continuous positive trend in attendance across all types of service. There has also been very positive increase in attendance at most Sunday seasonal services, especially in 2023.

Perhaps more important, there seems to have been a much more enthusiastic level of engagement with events designed to reach out to our local community, and to deepen our own Christian faith, in 2023. This suggests that we are making progress toward both articulating a more invitational approach that will allow the church to grow, and planning sustainable improvements in the quality of our community life, as I outlined in 2022.





Seasonal Services attendance 2021-3

	2021	2022	2023
Christingle		55	76
Ash Wednesday		13	12
Mothering Sunday		32	37
Palm Sunday total all services		47	98
Holy Week midweek	32	50	35
Easter Day	36	99	104
Ascension	10	9	
Education	49	51	63
Harvest	47	34	47
Memorial Service	59	88	90
Advent Carols	75	61	68
Christmas Carols total both services	127	185	282
Other 'Christmas' special services - schools, crib etc	35	430	574
Christmas Midnight and Day total	69	133	122

This attendance data can't measure that depth of engagement. Nor can it show the continuing connections that the church has with those who are unable to attend services, but receive pastoral care and visits at home; or the wider work of public ministry in the parish. However, I hope it will be an encouragement to you in our work together to grow the authenticity and the size of the community of our church.

All this progress has been occurring at a time when I am very aware of the limitations placed on our local resources. In 2023 the Church Council took a series of very difficult financial decisions relating to those limitations, such as to pause payment of our Parish Share for part of the year. The

need to make an additional payment related to the contractor's overrun on the community halls building project was the immediate reason for that decision, and I am pleased that the Church Council was able to move rapidly to minimize financial risk to the viability of our parish. I am also relieved that, following some strict budgeting work, the Church Council has been able to resolve to resume payment of Parish Share at a sustainable level.

However, the budgeting exercise the Church Council authorized Roger Melling to undertake has shown that we are still running at an operational deficit. As we enter 2024, it does not yet seem wise to resume payment of Parish Share at the full level of our assessment. Energy cost rises since 2021 are just one factor in this calculation, as there has been a long history of spending beyond what our regular income permits at St Mary's. As a church, we have therefore conducted further fundraising across the year, and the Church Council has begun a stewardship programme, to ensure that we encourage responsible and informed decision making within our congregational community about offering a more appropriate level of financial support to the church's work.

We have also continued to try and keep operational expenditure to a minimum, though this obviously has a restricting effect on our community: we continue to operate without a parish administrator, professional building management, or paid children's work. That greatly increases the work associated with my role, and the burden on a small number of key volunteers. It stops us from doing positive things. Though the membership of the Church Council grew at the Annual Meetings in 2023, and our strategic leadership is in a very strong position as a result, there are roles which are needed – just for us to operate as we are – that cannot be filled at this stage. In a time when it is obvious that volunteers are able to offer less time commitment, the Church as a whole will need to consider the further, careful, professionalization of some areas of these ministries even though that comes with a financial obligation.



Communications work is obviously very important to the progress we are making, though I find improving our church advertising and messaging places a heavy demand on my time and energy levels. The church is advertised through banners and posters around the site. We are also present on social media and on A Church Near You, and engagement through Facebook and Instagram has increased across 2023. I'm grateful that John Hawkins monitored the church's social media accounts during my Shared Parental Leave. With John, I've made some further developments to the website so that it is a more effective way of sharing our community's vision. At the end of 2023, I decided that we would trial different approaches to how we share regular news within the church community, shifting from a monthly email News from St Mary's to a weekly Mailchimp offering, and setting up a new weekly pewsheets. Into 2024, these all seem to be continuing to enhance our

community life, but it is not sustainable for this level of communications work to be going on in the long term without employing a parish administrator.

In addition to the services noted above, our provision of special seasonal and festival services has continued to grow in ambition, and in 2023 these have included:

A blessing for the new community halls; the reintroduction of Eucharists with prayers for healing and peace; a series of Eucharists with preaching focusing on the creeds; a Safeguarding themed Eucharist; a Stewardship themed Eucharist; a festal Evensong for the coronation; hosting the Deanery confirmation service; two sessions of *These are a Few of my Favourite Hymns*; Caring for Creation (with Brookside Methodist Church, at St John's United Reformed Church); The Launch of the Poppy Appeal in East Barnet (at Brookside Methodist Church); An interfaith Act of Remembrance on Remembrance Sunday (at East Barnet War Memorial); Christmas Carols in the Prince of Wales; St Mary's School Carol Service; The Brunswick Park – Church Hill School Federation Carol Service; a Family Crib Service; Children's seasonal parties; and more regular Messy Churches (jointly with Brookside Methodist Church).



The pattern I established in 2022, of using readings, drama or poetry creatively at carol and seasonal services, has continued, and there was a very encouraging growth in engagement with school carol services in 2023. Music at these services has been supported by Alan Danson's creativity and amazing energy levels, and it has been encouraging to see the success of Young Voices in leading our worship. We have also introduced a new setting for festal Eucharists and continue – now in closer collaboration with St Mary's Primary School and the RSCM Hymnpath scheme – to try and increase our congregational singing repertoire.

St Mary's Primary School has also enriched the worshipping life of the church through the regular Collective Worship services that take place in the church building, and the opportunity given to me to lead many of these. In 2023 we also began to hold Collective Worship services at Brookside Methodist Church once a term, and I am grateful that Rev Shaun Sanders and Rev Dr Martin Wellings also covered many Collective Worship services during my Shared Parental Leave. One of Maria Constantinou's key contributions to the school as Headteacher has been to lead on a revision of the school's vision statement and its theological basis, so that in 2023 that was embedded in a wonderful new logo. Our school has also been affirmed in 2023 through a very positive OFSTED inspection report. The small number of areas for further development this highlighted were already being addressed before the inspectors visited, which served as

confirmation of the school's excellent leadership. We continue to see outstanding outcomes for the children the school serves.



I've also enjoyed seeing local learning engagement with the Book Club; Reflecting on the Readings; a Lent lunch and Lent course *Meeting Jesus afresh in John's Gospel*; and continuing to lecture on liturgy for the Eastern Region Ministry Course. In addition, I have begun working with Rabbi Gershon Sillins of The Liberal Synagogue, Elstree, to convene *Relationships between Religions* as a group for inter-faith families.

We have also welcomed more guests to preach at or to take our services than is usual, because I was on Paternity and Shared Parental Leave for a period of the year. Thanks are due to the Rt Revd Stephen Venner; the Revd Sam Korn; the Revd Brian Blackshaw; Canon Dr Tim Bull; the Revd Anna Studdard; the Revd Dr Jonathan Holmes; Mr Richard Osborne; the Revd Patrick Moriarty; the Revd Jenny Robinson; the Revd Preb Marjorie Brown; the Revd Francesco Aresco; the Ven Janet Mackenzie; the Revd Iain Lane; and the Revd Canon Laura Hewitt who visited St Mary's to preach or take services. Thanks are also due to the Churchwarden team for offering an exceptional welcome to our visitors, and also for stepping into the breach to lead Morning Prayer a few times during my Shared Parental Leave when a licensed minister was not available. Joanna Forbes L'Estrange also gave a very engaging talk at a Bring and Share lunch, after she had introduced us to her setting for the Eucharist during a service.

I would like to close the Rector's Report by expressing my thanks to everyone who is leading our community into a more healthy period of growth, and to all who help us to meet the challenges we face in our lives, as we seek to follow Jesus Christ, together.

I would also like to express my particular thanks to John Hawkins, who will be standing down as PCC Secretary at the Annual Meeting; to Roger Melling, who will be standing down as Churchwarden at the Annual Meeting; and to Rev Shaun Sanders, who will be moving to a new ministry in Walton-on-Thames in August. I have been supported by my colleagues with enormous generosity and grace during my service here so far, and am very grateful for their friendship and kindness in all we have worked on together.

Alec Corio

Churchwarden's Report

I regard 2023 as a year of consolidation for St Mary's. It was the first year that the new community halls were available. Not surprisingly they have proved to be a great asset. It has been a real joy to enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat after the morning service in comfortable surroundings, rather than balancing cups of coffee on the pews – that's quite apart from having a kitchen area to prepare the coffee, a dishwasher, decent toilets and wifi. The halls are being used by an increasing number of groups: our own Sewing Circle; Barnet Collective, who distribute food to families in need; the Residents Association; and towards the end of the year a Tai Chi Group has been meeting in the halls. There have also been a number of children's parties. It would be good if the halls had greater use, to offset the running costs but we need to find people who are willing to handle the bookings, open and close the halls, clear/put out tables and chairs and clean the halls. We have to widen the group of people who are willing to share these duties if we are going to expand the halls' use.

For me a second area of consolidation is the recovery from the consequences of the pandemic. We all know that the pandemic has impacted every aspect of our lives, and that some things will never be the same again. One of the consequences for St Mary's, like many other churches, is that our patterns of worship have changed. Pre-pandemic, many in the congregation attended every week. Post-pandemic probably a similar number of people are attending church, but not every week. Consequently our week by week attendances are lower than before. Interestingly, however, our monthly Evensong Services are attracting greater numbers than before. Collections during the service have been reintroduced. We continue to be very grateful to all those who give through the Parish Giving Scheme or by Standing Order, but this of course is an 'invisible' form of giving. Collections during a service bring to the notice of those who are not members of these schemes that the church does require all of us to share in its financial support.

The new Rectory was essentially completed by the end of 2023. However there are a number of residual issues that the Diocese has to resolve before Alec will be able to move in. Not living locally has placed an additional burden on Alec. It is not an easy journey from St Stephen's Vicarage, taking up a valuable portion of his time. I also hope that our parish finances will improve sufficiently to allow us to once again employ an administrator. This would release Alec from the administrative work he also has to spend a lot of time on at present. I seem to be repeating points I made in last year's report, although I had assumed that Alec would have moved into the Rectory by now! On behalf of us all I would like to express our appreciation of all that Alec brings to St Mary's.

This is my last report as churchwarden, as I announced a year ago that I will be retiring. I stand down with mixed feelings: I have been churchwarden for 7 years and have enjoyed the role but as I get older I am finding that the responsibilities can at times be over-bearing. The basic duties of a churchwarden are relatively limited and essentially fulfil a legal requirement. Having been involved in church activities for many years I have accumulated other many duties as well which could be undertaken by any member of the congregation. I have already been relieved of some of these duties and will carry on with some of the others. I will continue in the role of Acting Treasurer for the time being, at least until other arrangements can be put in place. It is disappointing that at the of writing this report no one has stepped forward to take on the role of churchwarden. Really we should have two churchwardens to work with and support Alec, the congregation and each other. I will be here to fully support anybody who takes on the role, if they wish.

In standing down as churchwarden I want to express a huge debt of gratitude to the many members of the congregation who have always been prepared to offer me their help and support: the Deputy Churchwardens; Sidesmen; readers and intercessors; the refreshments team; church cleaners; the

open church team on Saturday afternoons; and the school collective worship teams. I am also very grateful for the work undertaken by the sacristy team; the choirs and Director of Music; and those who work in the churchyard.

I hope you will understand that the person I have to pick out to thank by name is Heather. Make no mistake, I could not have been churchwarden without her love and support. She has always been there when the going got tough, she reminded me when I forgot things; came up with good ideas; and has very frequently helped out with churchwarden duties. I am so fortunate to have such a marvelous wife.

Many thanks to you all for your prayers, support, friendship and love.

Roger Melling

Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Synod met on three occasions in 2023.

Synod met at St Giles, South Mimms, in February when Dr Jacob Kurien reported on the Work of the Diocesan Racial Justice Group and Dispute Advisory Service.

In May Synod met at King Charles the Martyr Church in Potters Bar to hear from the Diocesan Giving Adviser on 'Encouraging greater levels of giving from parishioners'.

In October, meeting in St Mary's, Potters Bar, Synod had two speakers. First the Very Revd Jo Kelly-Moore, Dean of St Albans Cathedral, spoke about 'The St Albans Cathedral Revisioning Process' and secondly Martine Whitaker-Lucas talked about the Barnet Fostering Service.

Roger Melling

Electoral Roll Report

The Parish Electoral Roll is our list of all those entitled to vote on our electoral matters.

Anyone over the age of sixteen who resides within our parish or who regularly worships at St Mary's may join the roll.

Our 2024 Electoral Roll revision in April 2024 added a total of 2 names to the list and also removed 2 names. This means our total remains static at 118 names,

In accordance with the Church Representation rules, our electoral roll will be deleted and a new roll started in 2025.

John Hawkins

Fabric Report

During 2023, maintenance work on the church's historic fabric proceeded to schedule as snagging and defects work were carried out by Ash on the new community halls.

Annual maintenance, inspections, and checks were conducted on the following areas of the historic building: the Lightning Conductor; Fire Safety Equipment; Boilers and Gas Appliances. Sparklight also carried out remedial work to the current lighting installation and electrical control panels. The Church Council is grateful to Roy Mears for organising these inspections and works.

Shared Access also carried out maintenance work to the tower phone mast installation, and the Church Council is thankful to Roger Melling for facilitating their access and liaison over electrical billing to Shared Access.

The Organ Blower and Humidifier were serviced, and the organ also required additional work, to resolve a problem with its power supply. The Church Council is grateful to Alan Danson for his continuing care of the organ.

Also within the main church building, volunteers oversaw the disposal of some obsolete furnishings such as a prayer desk and icons, and carried out a lot of cleaning in the vestry and gallery that the building works had held up. There is some further tidying of these areas that will be needed to make them more usable in the future. Early in 2024 flooding to the basement made repairs to the boiler and electrical installations there necessary.

Permission was granted, in the churchyard, to extend the Garden of Remembrance that is set aside for the burial of ashes. That comes with new churchyard regulations that are now in force, and these have enabled a number of burials to take place and be marked with memorial stones. The corners of the Garden of Remembrance will be marked in 2024.

New benches were donated to the churchyard from the Knitwits and East Barnet Residents Association. One of these is now in place. In 2024 the other will be sited, and an older bench resited to allow better access to the Garden of Remembrance.



I have continued to work with the London Borough of Barnet Council, which is statutorily responsible for the maintenance of the churchyard in good order and safety, to improve its condition. In 2023 the north fence was replaced, and repairs to the Lych gate actioned, though these were not carried out until 2024. In addition, the Council authorized a tree survey, and the trimming and removal of a number of trees.

Around the coronation, the churchyard was also sown with wild flower seeds and a rowan tree was planted to commemorate this special event. A number of other shrubs have also been planted, the bare soil around the new halls seeded with wild flowers and grasses, and an area of native hedging at the west boundary established. The Church Council is grateful to everyone who has helped with the churchyard works, especially Steve Harris for his regular maintenance work.

Over 2023, a new Rectory has been built next door to the church site. When finished, this will be the first new parsonage building constructed in the Diocese of St Albans for over 30 years. It will also serve as a trial site for green measures that may be retro-fitted to other, older parsonage buildings as the diocese moves its entire housing stock toward achieving Carbon Net Zero by 2030. As we enter 2024, there is not yet a firm date for its practical completion but this is close at hand.

The parish's house at 54 Church Hill Road has been tenanted since February 2023, and remains in excellent condition.

The school house was re-roofed, as part of a larger project affecting the whole old school buildings, in summer 2023. The appropriate annual inspections were also carried out. The Church Council is still seeking to transfer management of the schoolhouse, and its funds, to the Diocese of St Albans as managing and custodian trustee.

In addition, in 2023 I formed an informal Fabric Working Group to report to the Church Council on how best to plan projects that can be coordinated within the church community. Seeking the Church Council's authority for our works, the Fabric Working Group has been authorized to carry out a number of small projects to improve accessibility; to begin work improving the physical welcome of the porch and under-gallery area; and to start planning for the minor roof works that will be needed before any restoration of the church interior can proceed.

Alec Corio

Community Hall Building Project Report

A certificate of Practical Completion on the community halls was issued in December 2022, and the church and community has had regular use of the halls since January 2023.

A certificate of Practical Completion was issued on the house built in connection with this project, at 54 Church Hill Road, in February 2023, and the church tenanted that property immediately.



We celebrated the opening of the halls in grand style, with a small dedication ceremony at which a commemorative plaque was unveiled; and also with a larger service of blessing and community lunch.

The opening of the halls is the culmination of many, many years of prayer and hard work, and we were delighted to invite special guests, including HRH Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester, to the hall's dedication; and to welcome old friends, including many former Rectors and Churchwardens, to the service of blessing and lunch.



During 2023, snagging works on the halls and 54 Church Hill Road were first completed and then defects were rectified. Ash Construction's work on the halls defects list has not seriously disrupted the increasing use of the halls by both church and community groups. A small number of defects remain to be rectified as we enter 2024, and Ash continue to work to complete these to a high standard under JBKS's oversight. Stanley and Ingram's work on 54 Church Hill Road has been much more limited following practical completion, and equally only a very small number of defects remain to be rectified there as we enter 2024.

During 2023, gravestones that had been moved during construction were also repositioned around the halls by Memorial Masters, to ensure that those buried in this area continue to be respectfully

commemorated and also to allow a more open atmosphere surrounding that area of the site in the future. Some loose stones now require removal from the churchyard. For cost issues, I hope that can be done by volunteers from the congregation.

The final costs of the building project were all also finalized in early 2023. These included an additional fee to Ash beyond what was originally budgeted for, to cover unforeseen delays and time extensions that arose during the building programme. These additional costs were settled at a reasonable level, following the church taking appropriate professional advice and a period of negotiation.

These additional costs forced the Church Council to make further limitations to our operational budget. This led the Church Council to decide to pause payment of our Parish Share to the Diocese of St Albans for a period of time. Once budgetary adjustments were made, payment of Parish Share was resumed as soon as it was possible to do so, at first at a reduced rate. Taking stock of our improving finances, in very early 2024 the PCC was able to take the decision to repay the outstanding balance of 2023's Parish Share, and to increase our payment rate toward the normal level. It is hoped that in 2024 and then going forward, full payment of Parish Share can be made.

The total costs of the community hall building project were finalized at £1 028 310. There are also other fees, additional to this, that were paid at earlier stages of the project, prior to my tenure at St Mary's. They are unfortunately harder to quantify. Some of those earlier fees were necessary expenses that the project's eventual success was dependent upon. Others, regrettably, had to be written off when the Church Council made alteration to its plans or were required to change architect firms. There are financial controls within the way the PCC operates that should prevent expenditure that is difficult to track, in this way, in future.

The project's costs have been supported by the sale of part of the site of the old parish hall; funds from Church Council controlled trusts; historic congregational fundraising; the Garfield Weston Foundation; the Benefact Trust; the Diocese of St Albans; the City Churches Fund; and the London Borough of Barnet. The Church Council is extremely grateful to these funders and to everyone whose generosity, hard work and prayers has now been fulfilled in the new community halls.

Alec Corio

Financial Statements

The Statement of Financial Activities below sets out our income and expenditure for 2023.

In 2023, we had a net negative expenditure of £63,102 as we completed building work on our community halls. The halls are now fully operational and as well as being able to enjoy this excellent asset for the ministry of our church, we are also able to earn money through renting out the facilities.

Income

Our church saw an increase in Voluntary Income in 2023, notably due to two grants, one from the City Churches Fund through St Albans Diocese (£10,000) associated with the hall building project, and from the London Borough of Barnet (£1,000) to hold community celebrations of the

coronation. Income from planned giving also rose by over £1,000, and we were able to recover gift aid of £15,625.

Our fundraising activities continue to provide a welcome income stream, and this year the Christmas fayre at our church and at East Barnet village fayre raised an impressive £1,500 for our church.

As noted above, in 2023 we completed our building work and we were able to recover VAT of £13,484 on our expenditure. We also received £3,388 from the London Borough of Barnet as a contribution towards fencing works in the churchyard.

We also benefited from rent received in relation to 54 Church Hill Road for the first time in 2023. We also continue to receive rent in relation to the School House. The rent for 54 Church Hill Road is available for our charitable purposes. The rent for the School House is kept in a restricted fund for use solely in connection to that building.

Expenditure

Our expenditure on Church activities was significantly lower in 2023 as we paused on contribution for our Parish Share between March and August 2023. We resumed payments in September 2023 at a reduced rate of £3,000 per month for the four remaining months of the year.

The final payments to our contractors and for professional fees on the building of our community halls in 2023 amounted to £138,847. An amount of £7,615 remains unspent within our General fund designated by the PCC for building work.

Cash position

Overall we remain in a positive cash position, at a total balance of £130,490 at 31 December 2023 (£193,637 at 31 December 2022). Of the balance of £130,490 at 31 December 2023, £82,026 is in unrestricted funds (noting that £7,615 of this remains designated by the PCC for building works) and £48,464 is restricted to use in connection with the School House.

Anna Catasglioni

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	Total	Total
	<i>General</i>	<i>Designated</i>	funds	2023	2022 (restated)
	£	£	£	£	£
Income					
Voluntary income	77,207	-	-	77,207	71,639
Income from church activities	20,197	-	-	20,197	27,913
Interest received	2,137			2,137	1,422
Income for building project			26,873	26,873	165,000
Proceeds of the sale of the old church hall transferred from the Diocese of St Albans				-	686,500
Rent received for School House			8,400	8,400	8,400
Rent received for Curate's House	25,455			25,455	
Total income	124,997	-	35,273	160,269	960,874

Expenditure

Church activities	- 77,308			- 77,308	- 117,831
Cost of building the new church hall		- 65,747	- 73,100	- 138,847	- 810,681
Administration of School House			- 1,223	- 1,223	- 2,760
Administration of Curate's House	- 6,038			- 6,038	
Total expenditure	- 83,346	- 65,747	- 74,323	- 223,416	- 931,272
Net movement in funds	41,651	-65,747	-39,051	-63,147	29,602
Cash at bank at 1 January 2022	22,760	83,362	87,515	193,637	164,038
Cash at bank at 31 December 2023	64,411	17,615	48,464	130,490	193,637

Statement of assets and liabilities

	2023	2022
	£	(restated) £
Cash funds		
Cash at bank	130490	193,637
Other monetary assets		
Debtors - VAT recoverable	0	13,484
Liabilities		
Trade creditors	-	119,119

The attached notes form part of these accounts

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 10 May 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



The Revd Dr Alec Corio (Chair)

The attached notes form part of these accounts

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 (restated) £
Analysis of Income		
<i>Voluntary income</i>		
Planned giving	41,963	40,669
Regular donations	9,363	9,389
Other donations and grants	10,257	9,336
Bequests		1,000
Gift aid recovered	15,625	11,245
	<u>77,207</u>	<u>71,639</u>
<i>Income from church activities</i>		-
Phone mast	12,750	23,895
Fundraising	4,060	3,305
Rental income from church hall	1,950	-
Fees for weddings and funerals (net)	1,437	713
		<u>-</u>
	<u>20,197</u>	<u>27,913</u>

Analysis of Expenditure
Church activities

Parish share	- 23,510	67,958
	-	
Organist fees	9,700	9,700
Church running costs:		
	-	
Church services	2,035	2,519
	-	
Light, heat and power	25,692	22,038
	-	
Insurance	2,606	3,576
	-	
Repairs and maintenance	3,014	2,042
	-	
Organ maintenance	1,357	856
	-	
Printing, postage and stationary	1,221	2,983
	-	
IT costs	2,213	1,074
	-	
Telephone and internet	523	544
	-	
Rent	1,220	915
Support of mission	-	1,139
	-	
Subscriptions	167	169
	-	
Donations	56	-
	-	
Sundry expenses	3,635	1,996
	-	
Bank charges	358	322
	- 77,308	117,831

Designated funds

These funds have been designated by the PCC for the building project.

The movement of funds in 2023 is as follows:

	At 1.1.23	Income	Expenditure	At 31.12.23
	(restated)	in year	in year	
	<u>83,362</u>		<u>65,747</u>	<u>17,615</u>

Restricted funds

These funds can only be used for the administration of the school house and the building project.

The movement of funds in 2023 is as follows:

	At 1.1.23	Income	Expenditure	At 31.12.23
	(restated)	in year	in year	
School house	41,287	8,400	1,223	48,464
Building project	<u>46,228</u>	<u>26,873</u>	<u>73,100</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>87,515</u>	<u>25,273</u>	<u>64,323</u>	<u>48,464</u>

Related party transactions

The PCC members are considered the key management personnel of the church. No remuneration is paid directly to key management personnel, although the church contributes to the diocesan fund and the incumbent, who has overall responsibility for promoting the whole mission of the church, is remunerated directly by the diocese.

Income from planned giving includes £12,400 excluding gift aid (which would be £2,380) received from PCC members.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCC's, and with the Regulations 'true and fair view' provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP (FRS102).

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis as the income for the year is below £250,000. As a result, the comparative figures for 2022 have been restated as those accounts were prepared on the accruals basis, due to the higher level of income in 2022 in relation to funding the building of the church hall.

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 102.

Fund accounting

The general fund represents the unrestricted fund, which is available for use at the discretion of the PCC members in furtherance of the general objectives of the church, and which has not been designated for any other particular purpose.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by PCC members for a particular purpose.

Restricted funds represent funds which are to be used in accordance with specific instructions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the church for particular purposes.

Income

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) donated services and the time spent by volunteers, of which the church is heavily dependent in order to achieve its aims, are not included in income as the economic benefit cannot be measured reliably.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Neither the cost of the new church hall nor the curate's house have been treated as fixed assets. The church hall is attached to the church and title is held by the Incumbent.

The Curate's House, 54 Church Hill Road, is owned by St Mary's Church Hall (separate Charity Scheme) with the Diocese of St Albans serving as Custodian Trustee and The PCC as Managing Trustees.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PARISH OF EAST BARNET PCC

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 16 to 21.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

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.

Signed



Victoria Neil (Chartered Accountant)

19 May 2024

Methodist Minister's Report

During 2023 we have continued with the well-established pattern of our shared ministry and mission in the East Barnet Anglican Methodist Partnership, but also taken opportunities to be creative with new ways of working.

The annual memorial service, launch of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Sunday are established services much appreciated by the wider community and civic leaders. Moving the memorial service to a later time on a Saturday but earlier in October worked well for a service which continues to grow in attendance and appreciation. We continue to reflect on these services and find ways in which they can be meaningful to those who attend.

I was pleased that Brookside folk could share in the Sunday Eucharist to mark the opening of the new community halls at St Mary's. We give thanks for all the vision, planning and hard work which has gone into the new building over many years. It was also a delight to see former Rectors and many other friends back for the special service.

Our Lent course was hosted in the new halls. We studied the York Course, 'You can be serious – meeting Jesus afresh in John's Gospel' and were joined not only by friends from St Mary's and Brookside, but also Manor Drive Methodist Church and St John's United Reformed Church. We covered a variety of topics from the historical accuracy of the Gospels to what we yearn for in church and society. There was also a mention of *Brideshead Revisited* - which gave us the idea that we could read that novel at our book club.

The bi-monthly bookclub which met at the Prince of Wales during 2023 has discussed *The Garden of Evening Mists* by Tan Twan Eng, *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce, *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell, *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus and of course, *Brideshead Revisited* by Evelyn Waugh. All these books gave us a lot to discuss with conversation ranging over many topics over a pint or two at the Prince of Wales.

The pub's recent closure reminds us that nothing stays the same. On a personal note, I will be leaving East Barnet in the summer after eight years, in order to move to a new appointment in Walton-on-Thames. Although there will be a time for goodbyes nearer the time, I am very grateful to Alec and my friends at St Mary's for the many opportunities of fruitful worship, prayer, learning and service that we have shared during my time in Barnet.

Shaun Sanders

Parochial Church Council Report

Throughout the year, the Church Council convened six times to deliberate matters pertinent to our parish's well-being. Additionally, I am delighted to report that five new members joined our council at the Annual Meeting, bringing fresh enthusiasm and new perspectives to our collective leadership.

The completion of the new Community Halls at the start of 2023 was a major milestone both for the church and the Church Council. Having occupied much of our time for many years we are now more able to start focussing on other aspects of our church life beyond the building project. Our

2022 annual accounts were particularly complex due to the hall expenditure and required an additional, exceptional meeting to approve.

Our financial situation more generally has required many discussions and difficult decisions and I am grateful for the Church Council's guidance on this. Particular thanks are due to Roger Melling for his hard work in presenting a detailed picture of our finances that have enabled the Church Council to make decisions around expenditure and particularly the payment of the Parish Share.

As well as continuing to focus and promote our Mission Action Plan, the Church Council also discussed the fabric of the church building, our work with families and young children and our approach to sustainability: at the end of 2023 we gained Bronze Eco Church status.

We have encountered some difficulty in finding meeting times that accommodate all members of the Church Council. However, we remain committed to finding solutions and will continue to evolve our schedule of meetings to ensure the fullest participation of all members.

John Hawkins

Parochial Church Council
Mission Action Plan 2022–2023

We are aware of the blessings we have received as members of the church of St Mary the Virgin, and the signs of inclusivity, welcome, commitment and care that already exist within our congregational community.

Following the example of Mary, and learning from the words of the Magnificat, we are seeking to share them more effectively with our parish community, and become a people of God who are confident to speak words of hope and perform signs of service in the world.

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom we will communicate effectively with those resident in the parish of East Barnet by developing an integrated communications strategy

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers we will create a welcoming atmosphere in our church building and at congregational events by increasing sidesmen numbers by 50% and providing invitation and welcome training to lay volunteers

To respond to human need by loving service we will develop the use of our new community facilities by inviting community groups into partnership in them

To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation we will further develop St Mary's commitment to being an Inclusive Church by making a commitment as lay volunteers to pray for an ecumenical pioneer ministry on the NLBP housing development

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth we will reduce our consumption of resources, and our contribution to climate change by achieving Bronze eco church status

This Mission Action Plan was created in 2021, and we have updated the SMART goals for 2022–2023.

These goals will be a standing item on every Church Council agenda, so that our progress can be monitored. They will be renewed in 2024.

Partnership Enabling Group Report

The Enabling Group which oversees the East Barnet Anglican-Methodist Partnership has not met since before the Covid-19 pandemic, as we do not currently have the required number of lay members from our congregations to convene the Group. Liaison between our churches continues because of the close collaboration of our clergy, Churchwarden and Senior Stewards, and their presence within both Church Councils.

One important development within the partnership in 2023 was the ending of our Building Sharing Agreement under the Sharing of Church Buildings Act 1969. The 2021 Methodist Church Conference concluded its review of the report from the Marriage and Relationships Task Group and agreed that individual Methodist Churches could be registered to conduct same-sex marriages. Barnet Brookside Church Council met in 2022, and agreed that Brookside should apply for registration. To enable this to happen it was necessary to end the official building sharing agreement between Brookside and St. Mary's, because of the current position of the Church of England on equal marriage. This decision was supported by the Parochial Church Council which "supports the registration of Brookside Methodist Church to conduct equal marriages ... and will continue to deepen our partnership with Barnet Brookside Methodist Church through other ecumenical instruments, including the existing Local Ecumenical Cooperative Scheme that embraces our shared mission and ministry."

This has not affected how our churches work together and share in mission and ministry in any practical way.

Graham Wheeler

Safeguarding Report

Throughout 2023 St Mary's has followed the safeguarding guidelines laid down by the House of Bishops, and worked to create a safe environment for all who attend our church.

The Church Council adopted Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse Policies, which are in keeping with the relevant Church of England policies. Recruitment checks and safeguarding training are ongoing for everyone involved in leadership and ministry at St Mary's.

A new initiative in 2023 was to keep 26th March as a Safeguarding Sunday. Following my talk to highlight the importance of safeguarding, quite a few people spoke to me to discuss certain points, and also to say that they didn't realise that there were so many types of potential abuse.

As I always say, it is the responsibility of everyone to continue to be vigilant and report anything suspicious. Let us ensure we keep our community as safe as possible.

Chris Mears

Minutes of 2022 Annual Meeting of Parishioners
21 May 2023

1. The meeting opened with prayers and welcome.

2. Election of clerk to the AMP and APCM

Alison Blunt was elected as clerk (proposed by Bridget Bowden; seconded by Joyce Bailey; unanimously approved).

3. Apologies for absence

Steve Edwards, John Hawkins, Debbie Windeler

4. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 29 May 2022 were approved as a true record. Passed with two abstentions (due to absence at last year's meeting).

5. Election of Churchwardens

Roger Melling was elected as Churchwarden (proposed by Chris Mears; seconded by John Savage).

Alec Corio expressed his gratitude for Roger's willingness to continue to serve as Churchwarden for one more year and for his exceptional work in this role. The meeting recorded its thanks to Roger. We will need two people to stand for the roles of Churchwarden at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners in 2024.

Minutes of 2022 Annual Parochial Church Meeting
21 May 2023

1. Apologies for absence

Stephen Edwards, John Hawkins, Debbie Windeler

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 29 May 2022 were approved as a true record. Passed unanimously.

3. Annual reports: questions on the statutory reports

No questions were received

4. Annual reports: questions on the non-statutory reports

No questions were received.

5. An addendum to the Annual Report, on the church's progress in 2023 so far.

Alec Corio reflected briefly on 2022, which had been a very demanding year for St Mary's. We were still operating under pandemic conditions at the start of the year, and the long-term impact of the pandemic will continued to be significant long into the future. We were also limited in terms of what we could do on site in 2022 because of the halls building project.

There were some very important areas of progress. Considerable work has been undertaken to communicate more effectively with our wider parish area; we have made positive moves towards strengthening our lay leadership; and we are building strong foundations for our children's work.

There has also been a lot of 'unseen ministry', which continues into 2023, including pastoral work and increased numbers of home communion visits; administration (including financial administration); and our growing progress in working with schools since pandemic restrictions eased, particularly St Mary's School.

Alec then reflected on 2023 so far, which after such an emphasis on 'building up' has started to see more 'building out'.

One important development has been the transition into the use of our community halls, and how these facilities are already starting to permit a greater ambition in congregational and community formation work; and resource many more outreach and invitational events, particularly those focusing on work with children and families.

There is scope to further build on and extend our partnership with Brookside Methodist Church.

There is also the opportunity to deepen and grow our distinctive traditions of liturgy, where Alan Danson is leading the development of the musical life of the Church. Our choirs are small and there is scope for further growth of these.

Figures for Church attendance in 2022 were broadly static. In 2023 to date, there has been a small and steady increase in usual Sunday attendance; an increase in the size of our worshipping community; and an encouraging increase in the stability of Sunday attendance.

Whilst we are continuing to deal with some long-term issues and vulnerabilities – and have dealt with acute problems during the pandemic and the building project – there is a positive momentum to our life at St Mary's.

Roger Melling provided a brief update on the Church's financial position.

Chris Yates has stood down as Treasurer due to work commitments, and the processing of payments for the community halls project has made the preparation of annual financial statements more demanding than usual.

There has therefore been a delay in the process of preparing our annual financial statements, and we have received special permission from the Bishop of St Albans to approve the accounts not later than September (see below). There is no procedural issue or risk indicated by this delay.

Our financial resources are far from satisfactory. A stewardship campaign leaflet handout was provided to outline the operational deficit of the Church, and Roger asked us all to think about how we might be able to assist the Church to become financially stable.

6. Conduct of elections of representatives to Deanery Synod

There are two vacancies for representatives to Deanery Synod for the remaining one year of this three-year term. Our Deanery brings together parishes in Barnet, Borehamwood and Potters Bar.

John Savage has been nominated (proposed by John Hawkins; seconded by Alison Blunt). John was declared elected as one of our representatives.

7. Conduct of elections of representatives of the laity on the Parochial Church Council

There are six vacancies for representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council. Six nominations were received:

- Thomas Hodgson (proposed by Grant Fassett; seconded by Alison Blunt);
- Amy Louise Flannery (proposed by Heather Melling; seconded by Lesley Danson);
- Grant Fassett (proposed by Gail Phillips; seconded by Heather Melling);
- Bettina von Cossel (proposed by Roger Melling; seconded by Alison Blunt);
- Victor Ka Ming Chan (proposed by John Hawkins; seconded by Alison Blunt);
- Stephen Edwards (proposed by Roger Melling; seconded by Alison Blunt).

There were no additional nominations. All six nominees were elected.

8. Appointment of the Independent Examiner

The meeting approved the appointment of Victoria Neil (proposed by Roger Melling; seconded by John Savage; unanimously approved). Victoria is a qualified FCA and lives in the parish.

9. Any other business

- John Savage reported very positive examples about use of the new community halls (Thursday morning sewing circle; a child's birthday party; Barnet Collective – we are partnering with them on food distribution)
- Alan Danson asked about Christian witness: can we find a way for putting children's pictures up in the Church? If there is a need for people for urgent prayer, could an email be sent round to let people know?
- Margaret Cranfield noted that only 12 people attended the Maundy Thursday service, 10 of whom were on the rota to help with the service. She felt that all members of the congregation should make a commitment to attend midweek and seasonal services.
- Alec Corio said that he could provide more detailed figures about attendance on Sundays and other services if requested. Regular and special services on Sundays are building back and growing faster way than mid-week services.
- Steve Harris reported that we have been asking the Council to keep the churchyard safe over the past 18 months, including by raising the tree canopy. Steve asked members of the congregation to speak to new Councillors about the Council's commitment to this work.

10. Adjournment of the meeting until a later date at which financial reports will be available
Under rule M13 of the Church Representation Rules 2022 we have been given special permission for the APCM to be adjourned until no later than September 2023, to discuss the financial statements.

When available these will be provided as an insert to the 2022 Annual Report.

11. Adjourning prayers

12. The meeting ended at 12.15 with the loyal toast to the patron, His Majesty King Charles III.

Conclusion of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 13 August

1. The meeting opened with prayers and welcome.

2. Election of clerk to the conclusion of the APCM

Chris Mears was elected as clerk (proposed by Alec Corio; seconded by Alan Danson; unanimously approved).

3. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies recorded.

4. Annual reports: Comments and questions on the financial statements

Alec Corio explained that these accounts are presented in a different format and under more stringent auditing requirements than in previous years due to the large amount of money that passed through accounts in 2022 related to building works.

He said that there has been a great deal of effort given by various people in the preparation of the accounts; Roger Melling, Chris Yates, Roger Seaton and Victoria Neil - the Independent Examiner.

Roger Melling said that we face an additional payment to Ash for hall construction overrun costs, and that we have also been running an operational deficit for many years. Energy costs have also risen substantially since 2021. He said the Church Council had decided to temporarily pause Parish Share payments in February. He asked everyone to consider their financial giving to the church, and will be preparing a revised budget.

- Andrew Godleman asked why the figures had changed dramatically from those for the previous year. Alec explained that it is to do with the building project.
- Andrew Godleman asked if we could negotiate with the energy companies. He also asked if contributions could be requested from the congregation. Roger replied that a Stewardship Campaign is being planned for.

- Alec said that we are now receiving rental income from the new house. However, this additional income is sufficient to balance increased energy costs since 2021, so the operational deficit remains.
- Heather Melling said that many of the congregation use the Parish Giving Scheme to support the church financially. The Scheme automatically reclaims Gift Aid on donations. The Scheme can automatically increase donations in line with inflation, if permission is given. Heather also stressed that all planned giving is completely confidential. If anyone has any questions or wishes to discuss their giving, please speak to Heather in complete confidence.
- It has been recommended by the Church of England that its members give 5% of their net income to their church and a similar amount to other charities. Margaret Cranfield suggested that any Stewardship Campaign should also clarify what 5% is as, she suggested, some people think that 5% is in fact £5. We must also be aware that, as well as financial contributions, many people give of their time and talents, which are equally important.

5. Adoption of the financial statements

For the accounts to be adopted as an accurate record (proposed by Roger Melling; seconded by Gail Phillips; unanimously approved).

6. The meeting closed with prayer.

1374 Squadron Air Training Corps

I am still privileged to serve as chaplain to 1374 'East Barnet' squadron of the Air Training Corps.

During 2023, the squadron has had 2 further intakes of cadets aged between 13 and 17, and I have led their enrollments. Staffing levels have also increased and the level of ambitions for activities from flight simulator training to shooting is high. Parade nights are very busy as a result!

In addition to enrollments, I've visited the squadron on a monthly basis to conduct 'padre's hour', on a variety of different topics; and to offer pastoral support and a ministry of presence.

In 2023 the focus of padre's hours have been Just War theory; Human Rights; the New Enrollment Promise; and the Air Training Corps values – Resilience, Integrity, Service, Excellence.

Alec Corio

Barnet Collective

Barnet Collective is a group of local people who have witnessed the hidden poverty and isolation that exists within our borough, and have come together to explore creative solutions.

We try to model and nurture the creation of a network of small locally rooted 'cells' of one or more of the following types:

1. Dignified deliveries of food and essentials to people who fall through the gaps of existing provisions, such as some foodbanks.
2. Community allotments, food gardens, fridges and kitchens.
3. Food Co-operatives,

We have been in operation since 2020 and registered as a charity in 2021. Our long-term vision is to see a multiplication of these small mutually-sustaining and self-managed 'cells'.

We currently deliver a weekly crate of food to approximately 45 households locally, in addition to a group of careworkers, and a fledgling co-operative. Some recipients are also actively involved in our project providing the sustained assistance necessary to keep it running week after week.

We obtain most of this food from the Felix Project which distributes food otherwise destined for landfill. Thus, our project also contributes towards lessening food waste.



Since the spring 2023 we have been pleased to work with Alec to start using the small hall at St Mary's Church for our Thursday afternoon food packing and distribution activities, and to use the vestry to host our Community Fridge and Freezer.

To identify individuals and families for food deliveries, we engage with referrals from and build relationships with local schools, social workers, home visitors and community organisations. We work closely with these organisations, who already have existing relationships with individuals and families, but who may not have access to food. In this way, we hope to offer a sensitive and dignified response to food insecurity. As our network grows, so will our ability to reach those who would otherwise remain isolated.

We are very happy to be working with St Mary's, and look forward to speaking to any church members who would like to know more about us.

Karen Kiil

Chipping Barnet Foodbank

Firstly, a very big thank you to my predecessor, Christine Watson, for all her hard work and commitment as our church representative at Chipping Barnet Foodbank. She made taking over this role so much easier, for which I am grateful.

In 2023 the Foodbank provided food for over 6500 people, a 30% increase on the previous year. The most common reasons for people to come to the Food bank include: low income and not coping with the rising cost of essentials, mounting debt, unexpected sickness, benefit issues, domestic violence and housing insecurities.

You may be interested to know East Barnet residents were given the most support from the Foodbank, followed by Underhill and Barnet Vale.

To meet these growing needs, there have been some big changes and exciting developments at the Foodbank, including the appointment of a Manager, a Campaigning, Advocacy & Organising Lead, and a Signposting Lead. It has also been a great plus to the Foodbank to be able to reopen the Cafe area again (after covid restrictions) twice a week. Here the clients can be offered refreshments while waiting to process their vouchers and access the new services available, namely the Signposting Lead, a CAB advisor, IT support and reps from charities like the Shaw Trust (who help people back into employment).

I have been blown away over the past year by the generosity of the folk at St Mary's Church, by either your monetary or food donations each week to the Foodbank for which I thank you all. On record now, we have made it on to the top 30 donors to the Foodbank (in fact we are now the 15th highest!) which I think is fantastic for such a small church. I feel truly privileged to be a part of this service, that brings essential practical help, support, and hope to many very needy people in our locality.

Debbie Windeler

Christian Aid

On a chilly January evening, Kelly Sykes-Fassett and I attended the lighting of the Beacon of Hope by The Rt Revd Dr John Sentamu at Southwark Cathedral, which launched Christian Aid's work for 2023. Two days in March were then devoted to zoom meetings – a Changemakers' Conference and Christian Aid regional meetings – at which the theme for Christian Aid week 2023 was introduced, and supporting materials, ideas and events were discussed. The chosen theme for Christian Aid week 2023 was 'pigeon peas' – which required some explanation for all participants: pigeon peas are a hardy staple food crop in many parts of Africa.

May 14 – 21 was the official Christian Aid week, which kicked off with the London Freedom Walk, a sponsored 10k walk from St. James, Piccadilly to St. Paul's Cathedral. Sponsored by members of the congregation, the St. Mary's team of Alec, Kelly and her husband Grant, and I enjoyed a lovely walk on a sunny Spring day. A 'pea-green' themed Super Hero party was held for children and families one week-day afternoon, and on the final Sunday of the week we held a 'Hap-pea' bring and share lunch, during which Kathy Childress from Christian Aid gave a talk.

Together with donation envelopes which were available in church and distributed in the neighbourhood, these events raised £1026.75 for Christian Aid week 2023.

In November I also attended the last in the series of the St. Martins in the Field's autumn lectures, which was sponsored by Christian Aid and delivered by Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations.

Gail Phillips

Community Halls

Since St Mary's gained the use of our new community halls in January 2023, I have been forming a group of volunteers to oversee their operation, and I am grateful that Gail Phillips and Roger Melling have been assisting with this throughout the year. I was also delighted that Elizabeth Graham was able to assist us by taking halls bookings for most of 2023, but sadly she has now had to step back from her role. In addition, Victor Chan joined this group early in 2024.



Throughout the year, the halls have been used weekly for church events and hospitality around services. We have also used their spaces for meetings; as a base for our work with Barnet Collective; to establish the successful Sewing Circle; for study sessions and Lent groups; to hold children's outreach parties; to host Bring and Share lunches with speakers and the Harvest supper; for Table Top Sales; to have the Christmas Fair; and for our grand community coronation tea party.

The halls have also been rented for private and commercial hires, including parties hosted by members of the community; East Barnet Residents Association meetings; Barnet Labour Party private meetings; and a regular Tai Chi group.

In the coming year I would hope that we will advertise the halls and their facilities further, and therefore attract a small additional number of regular community and commercial hires. That will build up community use of the halls, and therefore grow the church's community outreach as well as our financial stability. In addition, it would be helpful to increase the size of the Halls Management Group into 2024.

Alec Corio

Fundraising Events at St Mary's

St. Mary's was able to start the year in our brand new hall by holding an 'opening' lunch for the community, attended by over 100 people. Shortly after, we held a family Pancake Party to celebrate Shrove Tuesday, when some parents 'christened' the new cooker and produced a steady flow of pancakes for all to enjoy.

Our biggest social event in 2023 was in May when, thanks to the award of a grant from Barnet Council, we were able to hold a free Coronation Tea Party for the community in honour of King Charles III. Local councillors and our MP attended, along with 120 members of the local community. In between toasting the new monarch and sampling the delicious goodies, the children were encouraged to sow the wild flower seeds in the churchyard, just before the commemorative rowan tree was planted. And the sun shone beautifully!

Through the year, we have held three Table Top Sales, one Plant Sale, two Quiz Nights and three children's parties, from which £2028 was raised for church funds.

I would like to thank very much the 'faithful few' for their continuing generous help, without which these events could not take place.

Gail Phillips

Music at St Mary's

The ending of pandemic restrictions and completion of the community hall building works has enabled the musical life of the church to return to greater strength in 2023.

The perseverance and commitment of our Church Choir deserves our heartfelt respect. They have continued to sustain the tradition of live vocal music in our services, and their skills and repertoire have both been developing well since the Covid-19 pandemic.

My greatest joy has been the steady growth of Young Voices – in number as well as in their skills. They have been learning how to read music, and elementary vocal technique, with great enthusiasm. In order for the tradition of choral music to continue at St Mary's Church, we will require a new generation of singers to join our ranks: Young Voices is just the beginning of that process.

On 26th February and 16th July, Alec introduced an enjoyable afternoon of congregational singing: *These are a few of my favourite hymns.*

We also introduced another congregational setting to our sung Eucharists: The St Helen's Service. This allows us to reflect a better sense of the seasons of the church's year in our worship, and it will be used in festive times and on feast days. We were delighted that the composer, Joanna Forbes l'Estrange, was able to attend our service on 25th June to explain and rehearse her setting with us all, and then talk with us about her work as a singer and composer – and her coronation anthem – over a Bring and Share lunch.

Special services, such as the opening of the community halls, Easter, Advent, and Christmas, were also enhanced by the presence of instrumentalists, and were all very well attended.

Alan Danson

Pioneer Ministry on the North London Business Park development

Throughout 2023, monthly prayer walks have continued on the North London Business Park site, involving ministers of local churches and some lay people too. Members of the congregation at St Mary's have attended these prayer walks occasionally, alongside members of other local churches.

The ministers have also worked to deepen the relationship between Comer Homes Ltd and CWC Livewell, in the hope that a community space within the new housing development could be devoted to an increase in local healthcare amenity. Comer's willingness to offer this kind of provision was an encouraging addition to their ongoing processes of planning and planning appeal. If an increase of amenity could be guaranteed, then this would obviously benefit and reconcile both the existing residents of Brunswick Park and new residents of the housing to be built on the Business Park.

Livewell has a unique approach to this kind of provision, since they have proved that it is possible, in a financially sustainable way, to co-locate GP services with social referral programmes that boost public health more generally. We have pushed forward planning for how a centre in our local area might operate in a very creative way, working out how to include the regular involvement of the churches in order to provide spiritual care – a kind of community chaplaincy – operating in an integrated manner within this kind of centre.

At the end of 2023, we were informed that Comer would include the offer to provide space and a shell for a centre of this kind in their planning appeal. That appeal was refused. The planning inspectorate inquiry that occurred early in 2024, as a follow up to that decision, has also refused Comer's appeal. In the light of those decisions, local government will have a duty to make alternative arrangements for an increase in amenity to serve the existing and residents of the area.

In the future the churches – including St Mary's as one of the parish churches covering the area – will need to consider again how best to minister in a ward with a rapidly increasing population with a distinct new housing estate, if that kind of amenity is not an option and yet the need for reconciliation, presence and community-building remain acute.

Alec Corio

St Mary's Sewing Circle

At the start of 2023 we launched a 'Sewing Circle' in our new community halls. The group began with an exploratory, democratic meeting to determine whether or not this would be a good idea, and if so, how it should be run.

The group is now well established, and open to the whole local community on the second and fourth Thursday of each month, from 10am to 1pm. A donation of £5 is suggested for each attendance. By year end, 32 people had 'enrolled' in the circle, with attendance varying between 12 and 17 each session. Donations amounted to £1265 for the year and make a contribution to halls running costs and church funds.

If you would like to come along one day, we would be delighted to see you and welcome you to the circle.

The Quilting Project

The quilt features 16 squares with the following designs:

- Row 1:**
 - Square 1: A green smartphone with the text "I can now use FaceTime" below it.
 - Square 2: A piece of lined paper with the handwritten text "Apud but together in a heart" and small floral doodles.
 - Square 3: A landscape with a rainbow, a blue sky, and green grass.
 - Square 4: A piece of patterned paper with a small, illegible printed label.
- Row 2:**
 - Square 1: A green woven fabric strip with the text "A long special time" above and "Remember during lockdown" below.
 - Square 2: A red fabric square with the text "arts BIG share your shapes" in white.
 - Square 3: A piece of yellow paper with a drawing of a yellow flower and some handwritten text.
 - Square 4: A piece of patterned paper with a small, illegible printed label.
- Row 3:**
 - Square 1: A piece of yellow fabric with the text "3 lockdowns 4 weeks time RI-4 Mosts Bubbles 400s Furlough" and "PHE" written vertically.
 - Square 2: A drawing of a person's face with a fish for a mouth.
 - Square 3: A drawing of a city street scene with buildings and cars.
 - Square 4: A blue fabric square with a red boat and a yellow smiley face.
- Row 4:**
 - Square 1: A black fabric square with the text "ZOOMS" in large yellow letters and a grid of small, colorful figures below.
 - Square 2: The text "Out of the depths" above a drawing of a blue and white fish.
 - Square 3: A drawing of a green and blue quilted square with the text "Duke Lockdown" and "Society" below.
 - Square 4: A drawing of a person lying down with the text "Don't be a hero" and "in 2020" below.
- Row 5:**
 - Square 1: A drawing of a large, orange, abstract shape.
 - Square 2: A black fabric square with the text "P.45 x 000's" in white.
 - Square 3: A drawing of a person wearing a white face mask and a yellow shirt.
 - Square 4: A piece of patterned paper with a small, illegible printed label.

Gail Phillips

The past year has been another eventful one for the community at St Mary's School. In March 2023, the school was inspected by Ofsted, who recognised how our Christian ethos contributes toward the children's 'personal development' and 'behaviour and attitudes'. Both of these areas were deemed to be 'outstanding' by inspectors.

The report describes how 'staff take every opportunity to celebrate diversity and to teach pupils about the views and experiences of others. Staff support pupils exceptionally well in understanding the importance of inclusion and respecting different cultures, beliefs, and values'. It also states that, 'pupils are taught about important values such as democracy, forgiveness and resilience.' The inspection also celebrated our commitment to individual needs, particularly to children who have various vulnerabilities.

Every term, we take an opportunity to 'look beyond ourselves' which reinforces the importance of service to others, whether this is contributing to the local food bank and Homeless Action in Barnet, singing at Goodwin Court, or writing Christmas cards to vulnerable adults through Barnet Age UK. We reflect on these activities in our Collective Worship services, and through other links with St Mary's and Brookside Methodist Church.

We have also taken time to look at the human impact on God's World and participated in a Christian Aid project on Climate Justice – we even had our own exhibition of posters, some of which were chosen to exhibit at the Houses of Parliament ahead of COP28. Our commitment to God's creation has spread as far as Madagascar too! In October, we raised funds to plant 278 trees in an area of deforestation on the island. This project will support local farming and habitats, and over the coming years, our trees will remove an estimated 85.62 tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

This academic year saw the introduction of a brand new school vision, capturing the essence of the parable of the mustard seed (Matthew 13:31–32), which is the theological underpinning for all that we do.



'Care, Grow and Flourish in God's Loving Hands'

Our Christian foundation, which this expresses, is undoubtedly our strength. From this comes our aspiration to live life in all its fullness, to care for one another, all people everywhere, all God's creatures and this wonderful planet.

Rooted in God's love, our ambition is for our nurturing ethos to enable all members of our school community to thrive and flourish. We tend to the academic, social, moral, physical and spiritual needs of our school family so that we grow into confident, respectful, aspirational and active citizens of our ever-changing modern world. We do all of this in God's trusted and loving hands.

We started 2024 with 'Hope-anuary', which was an initiative led by a group of children in Y6, who wanted to launch a whole school event to give hope to others. Outcomes included acts of kindness such as making bird boxes and bug hotels, washing up at home, volunteering their time for others,

learning signs of peace, and taking unwanted gifts and toys to a children's ward at Barnet Hospital. Every class now has a hope based 'class promise' to commit to for the remainder of the year.

We continue to pray for each other, our school families, our community and our church.

Maria Constantinou
Headteacher

Stephen Edwards
Chair of Governors

Together in Barnet

Following the pandemic, night shelters returned to their former arrangement, where a number of faith groups provide accommodation for homeless people on different days of the week.

Our local shelter returned to East Barnet Baptist Church on Saturday evenings for the winter period. St Mary's was able to provide some assistance to the Baptist Church who organised the shelter.

Roger Melling

Accounts



Annual Report 2022

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About St Mary's, East Barnet

The charity's full name is The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Barnet.

It is governed according to the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended. It operates according to the Church Representation Rules (2020).

At the time this report was issued, the Parochial Church Council consisted of:

The Revd Dr Alec Corio (Rector, PCC chair, ex officio member)
Mr Roger Melling (Churchwarden, PCC vice chair, ex officio member, and deanery synod representative)
Prof Alison Blunt (representative of the laity)
Mrs Margaret Cranfield (representative of the laity)
Mrs Katherine Duncan-Kerr (representative of the laity)
Mr Stephen Edwards (representative of the laity)
Mr John Hawkins (PCC secretary, representative of the laity)
Ms Gail Phillips (representative of the laity)
Rev Shaun Sanders (Methodist minister, ex officio observer)
Mr John Savage (representative of the laity)
Mrs Angela Stancar-Johnson (representative of the laity)
Mrs Christine Watson (representative of the laity)

The charity exists to advance the gospel in the ecclesiastical parish of East Barnet, according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, for the benefit of the public.

The charity cooperates with the Rector to provide and maintain a building used for religious purposes; provide and maintain a building as a local heritage asset; conduct public worship, including services marking life events; sponsor cultural and artistic events; support local community formation; support educational activities; further the ecumenical and interfaith engagement of the Church of England; and provide pastoral care to peoples of all faiths and none.

The parish church is located at:
The Church of St Mary the Virgin
Church Hill Road
East Barnet
Hertfordshire
EN4 8XD

The parish office (for all correspondence) is located at:
East Barnet Parish Office
Brookside Methodist Church
2 Cat Hill
East Barnet
Hertfordshire
EN4 8JB
Email: administrator@stmaryseastbarnet.org

The PCC's charity number is 1143134

The Independent Examiner of the PCC's financial reports was Ms Victoria Neil of 30 Cedar Avenue, East Barnet, EN4 8DX.

Rector's Report and Introduction

2022 was not a normal year in the life of St Mary's, although I must admit that I am not sure what a 'normal year' would look like! However, declining Covid-19 infection rates and the positive health-outcomes of mass vaccination programmes allowed us to make an appropriate relaxation in our risk assessments fairly early in the year.

This has permitted us to seek to expand the church's mission and ministry through more creative worship, a greater number of engaging events, and innovative community outreach work; all in order to create the right conditions for a sustainable improvement in the quality of our community life, and a more invitational approach that will allow its growth.

Our pattern of Sunday services was therefore re-stabilised, so that we now offer an All Age Messy Eucharist on the first Sunday of every month; the Parish Eucharist on other Sundays; and a sung Evensong on the first Sunday of every month.

In addition, the provision of special seasonal and festival services has grown in ambition across the year, and in 2022 these have included:

An All Age Messy Christingle; A Service of Music and Readings for Good Friday; A Good Friday Messy Church; A Festal Eucharist for Easter Day; Songs of Praise at the East Barnet Festival; A Farewell Eucharist for Mrs Mel Adams; A Memorial Service for Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; A Harvest Messy Church; Come and Sing: These are a few of my favourite hymns; Caring for Creation (with Brookside Methodist Church, at St John's United Reformed Church); The Memorial Service; The Launch of the Poppy Appeal in East Barnet (at Brookside Methodist Church); A short Act of Remembrance on Armistice Day (at East Barnet War Memorial); An interfaith Act of Remembrance on Remembrance Sunday (at East Barnet War Memorial); The Advent Carol Service; Community Christmas Carols (in the snow); Christmas Carols in the Prince of Wales; St Mary's School Carol Service; The Brunswick Park – Church Hill School Federation Carol Service; The Christmas Carol Service(s); and a Family Crib Service. Some of these were extremely well attended.

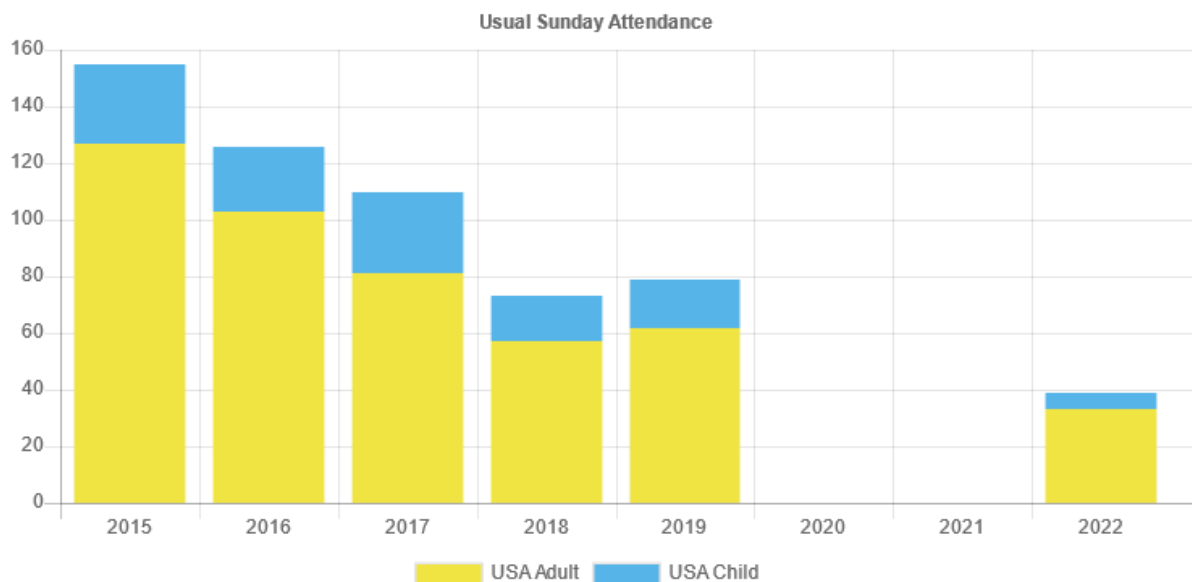


I am delighted that, because of relaxation in Covid-19 risk assessments, the scope for music in these services has expanded under Alan Danson's care: it's has been wonderful to have the Church Choir and Young Voices leading our worship in person; to welcome brass

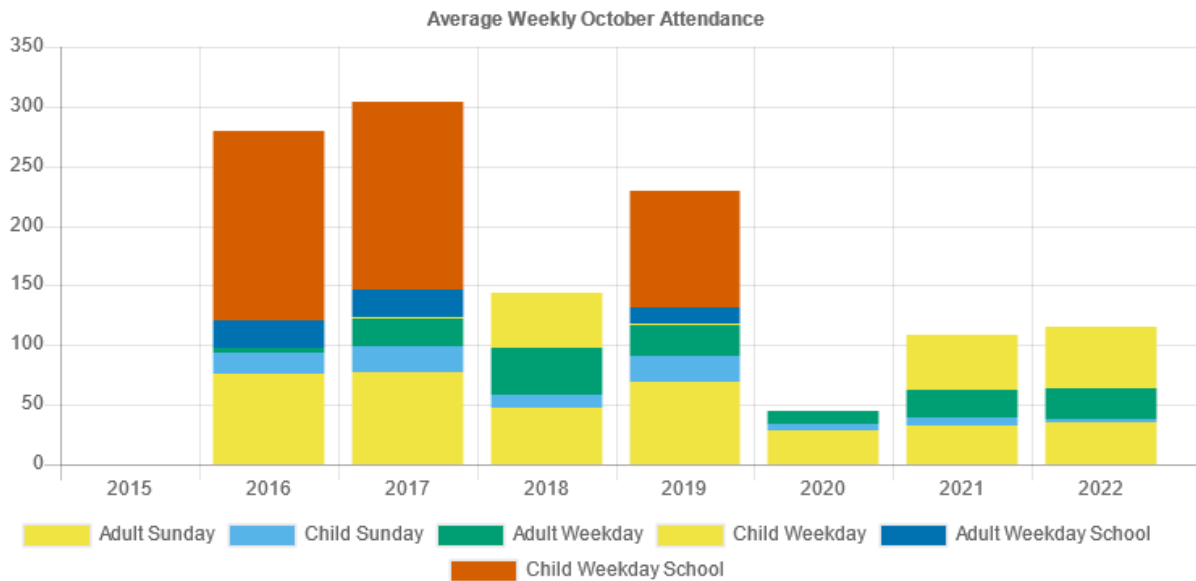
instrumentalists at celebratory services; and to try to squeeze a 27-piece orchestra into the chancel for Christmas Carols. Alan and I have worked closely together to create new formats for our Easter and Christmas services, which include more creative material. For example, the carol services have included poetry and drama, as well as readings from scripture and carols.

Alan has also worked with me to choose and embed a new sung setting for the Eucharist. Anne Foley has been able to coordinate a team to offer prayer during healing Eucharists, quarterly. And we have welcomed a number of guest preachers: Rev Dr Martin Wellings; Mr Nigel Wildish; The Revd Preb Marjorie Brown; and Dr Paula Gooder, to themed Sunday services. I am also very grateful to The Revd Brian Blackshaw who provided some cover for my August annual leave. The return of Collective Worship services to St Mary's Church, and the increasing use of musical elements within those services, has also been a great joy for everyone who values our special church-school connection.

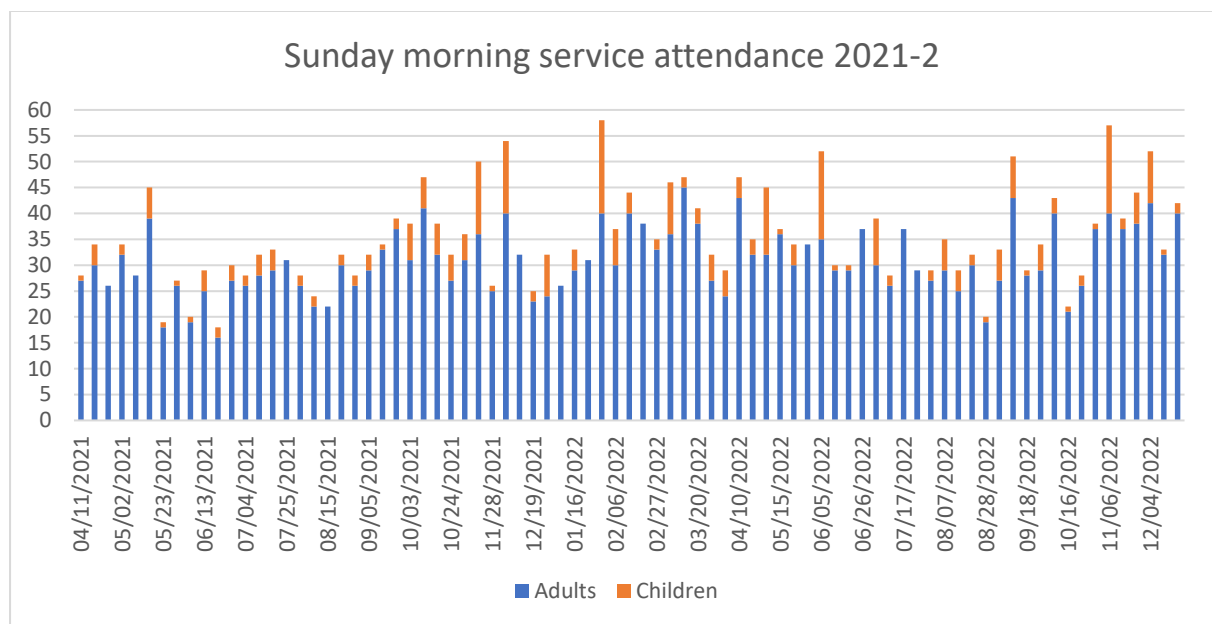
Diocesan figures for attendance at services are open to misinterpretation, and tend to flatten because they are taken on an annual basis. But usual Sunday attendance (USA), averaged across the year, has been recorded as 33 adults; 6 children.



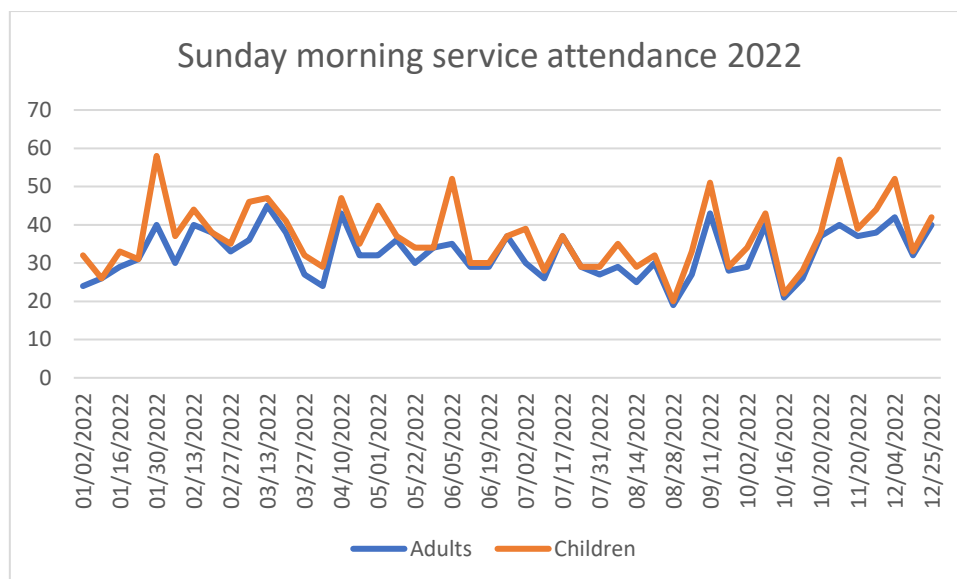
Average weekly attendance in October – which diocesan figures also measure – was averaged as 35 adults in Sunday attendance; 3 children in Sunday attendance and 26 adults in week day attendance; 51 children in week day attendance, because of occasional offices and the fortnightly timing of school Collective Worship (at present I lead Collective Worship in the church and the school hall on an alternating basis, and always in the school hall in bad weather).



If we map trends in adult and child attendance at 10am services from the resumption of public worship in April 2021 and then across 2022, removing special services and those where there is an obvious reason for exceptionally large or small attendance figures, then we can see a consolidation of attendance figures in 2022.

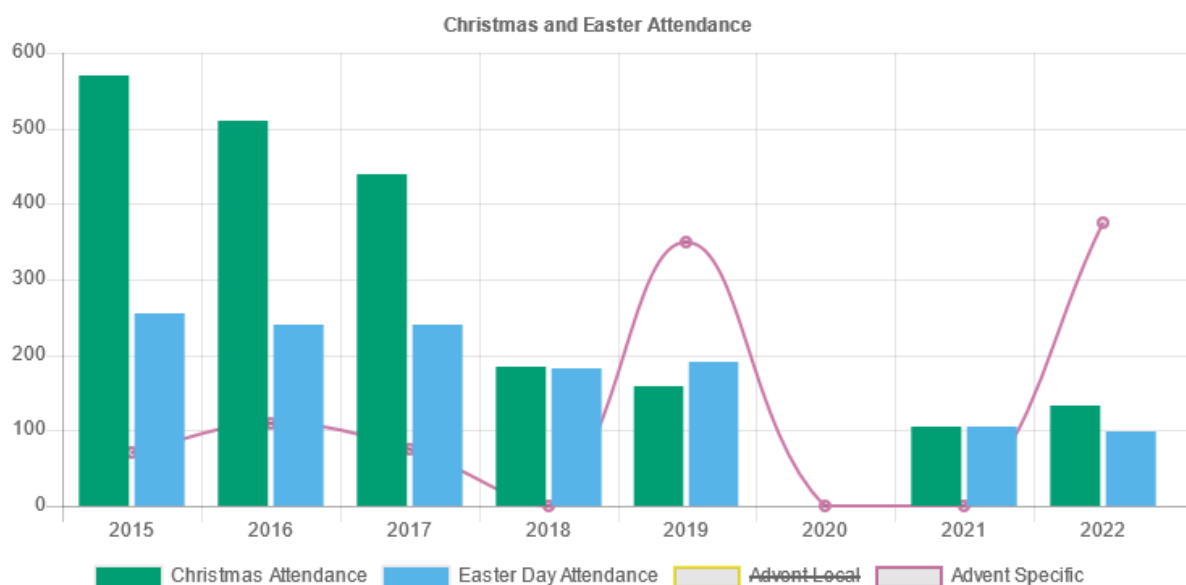


We can also map this in more detail, just for 2022. A best fit of average attendance shows a small increase across the year.



Overall, adult attendance at All Age Messy Eucharists and the Parish Eucharist was very similar in 2022: averaging 32.15 and 32.72, respectively; however, children's attendance was much higher at All Age Messy Eucharists compared to the Parish Eucharist in 2022, averaging 10.07 compared to 2.11, respectively.

Returning to diocesan figures, attendance at our Easter services was broadly in line with 2021, probably because of continued uncertainty regarding the pandemic. Attendance at Christmas services increased compared to 2021.



And Advent service attendance was higher than prior to the pandemic, because of the addition of school carol services to our pattern of worship.

It is difficult to take these figures as a complete reflection of the size of the worshipping community connected to St Mary's. While deaths among the congregation and departures from East Barnet over the last few years are reflected in the numbers, they also conceal a large element of continuity in our life together.

They conceal the fact that some members of the worshipping community cannot now attend church due to illness, but instead are receiving communion and visits at home on a regular basis. These are very special opportunities to make the Church's care for our community incarnate, in the places where people are. The figures also make it hard to see that many members of the worshipping community are attending services regularly, but now over a two or three week cycle, rather than weekly as before the pandemic.

What is clear is that there may have been a growth in the numbers composing the total worshipping community. The congregation certainly has new members. However there has not been a return to the patterns of attendance which were in place before the pandemic even among those who attend services regularly. The ongoing stresses of the pandemic continue to be a general factor here, as well as specific personal and familial circumstances.

There has also not been a 'return to normal' when it comes to occasional or sporadic church attendance, outside of Christmas Day services, among those on the fringes of the worshipping community. The pandemic may have led to a sense of detachment from community organisations and may even have accelerated secularisation trends in the general population.



Working with Maria Constantinou, the newly substantive Head at St Mary's School, and Stephen Edwards, the Chair of Governors, has been very satisfying for me. Our vision of education there has been advanced and its theological foundations have been well-laid. I feel that the school is seeing great continuing progress in its quality of leadership, and I am constantly amazed at the enthusiasm and skill of its teaching staff. As well as seeking to deepen the church-school relationship further through Collective Worship; governance; RE curricular support; and pastoral care; we have also continued to try to form links with other local schools, especially Church Hill School and Brunswick Park School, through educational visits and their carol services.

Children's work at St Mary's has also been advanced, thanks to the leadership of the Church Council, who placed the development of a strategy for children and youth work on their 2021-2022 Mission Action Plan. This has led to increased attendance and engagement among several young families.

Learning opportunities have also included a focus on work with children and young people, especially through courses of preparation for admission to Communion and Confirmation. In 2022 3 children were admitted to Communion, and although there were no Confirmations at St Mary's, 2 children were prepared for the deanery Confirmation service that occurred at St Peter's, Arkley, and 1 child was prepared for the Confirmation service at St Mary's that will occur in 2023. In addition, 9 babies and children were Baptised this year. There were also 10 funerals and a number of memorial services.

The important idea that St Mary's should be a community engaged in and formed by learning has been reflected in a continuing commitment – often shared with Brookside Methodist Church and now sometimes with other churches too – to seasonal courses, such as the Lent course on Luke's gospel; and the October course on Holy Places.



The aim of embedding learning in our community year-round has also been continued in monthly activities like the Book and Film Club and a series of conversations called Reflecting on the Readings. It's also been very satisfying for me, personally, to learn alongside Francesco Aresco during his period here as an ordinand on attachment; and to teach the liturgy module to ordinands and candidates for Licenced Lay Ministry as an Associate Tutor on the Eastern Region Ministry Course.

At St Mary's, our ability to hold community events has been limited for almost 30 years by the absence of appropriate facilities. In 2022, it was ironic that the work of building new community halls made this even more difficult as we lost access to parts of the church site and even - for a time - heating and water supplies. But this has been for a great long term gain in the form of those completed facilities. The Events Committee, and especially Gail Phillips, coordinated several really enjoyable social occasions, despite the obstacles of building works, including a barbeque (cooked - rather than burned - by Alastair and Katherine Duncan-Kerr) for Pentecost and the Platinum Jubilee; a summer picnic; and a Harvest Supper.

The community hall building project has required my constant engagement, legally, financially and on occasion structurally too. I've been generously supported in this – as in so much else – by Roger Melling. As we move from the construction of the halls to their use, I am keen to see how the Church Council envisions the new scope for outreach and wider public service they will give us; this will be a key feature of the 2022-2023 Mission Action Plan.

My videos showing different phases of the building works at St Mary's have proved very popular on social media, and there our engagement has grown across the year. Event promotion and news sharing on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter is now the normal way of building awareness of St Mary's and of inviting people into engagement with our work.

Across 2022, our Facebook page included over 300 posts, which reached 13685 people and the page has received a total of 544 likes and follows. That's an increase on the figures for 2021. We put less emphasis on use of Instagram, though there the page has grown in likes and follows slightly, so that it had 177 followers. On Twitter, posts were chiefly used for engagement with other organisations and professional bodies, and regrettably Twitter does not now supply analytical data on an annual basis.

Unfortunately financial pressures have disrupted the Church Council's plans to appoint an administrator, who it was intended would have a distinct focus on fulfilling a communications strategy. This work is important, and time-consuming, and at present sits with me.

More traditional forms of communication have retained their reach, however, and in 2022 the Church Council had to acknowledge with sadness that St Mary's was not capable of producing the East Barnet Herald any longer. Instead we have focussed on distributing News from St Mary's via email and distribution points in East Barnet Village and at church; on the production of eye-catching posters; on the erection of new banners at church; and on the delivery of Christmas Cards to circa 3000 homes in the centre of the parish. These were designed by a child at St Mary's School, and have been received very positively.



The completion of the community halls; the renovation of the school house; the construction of a house at 54 Church Hill Road; and the rebuilding of the Rectory means that over 4 years we will have completed those major capital projects necessary to establish a firm physical foundation for future mission in the local community.

It is my hope that in many ways 2022 has been a year of stabilisation, and that we will make steady and sustainable progress to grow a spirit of invitation and of deeper engagement which will be reflected in numerical growth into 2023.

Alec Corio

Methodist Minister's Report

We continued to rebuild our work together in 2022.

In order to allow Brookside Methodist Church to register to conduct same-sex marriages, our building sharing agreement with St Mary's had to come to an end. This was required in order to observe legal constraints on the position of the Church of England. However, we continue as a Local Ecumenical Co-operative Scheme with a shared Covenant and shared ministry and mission. Although there are feelings of loss, sadness and even anger in having to do this, we also rejoice that this new initiative by Brookside also enhances St Mary's mission as an Inclusive Church through our Partnership.

Luke's Gospel was the theme for our shared Lent group. We met in person in the afternoons at Brookside and in the evening on Zoom. Numbers varied, especially in the evenings, and so we need to continue to assess the format and venue of our meetings. The pandemic taught us that patterns of worship and gathering can change quite quickly. Mark Leach from Manor Drive Methodist Church led some sessions and is a reminder that our Partnership reaches out beyond East Barnet. Rev Julian Templeton from St John's United Reformed Church also led a session, which shows it even reaches beyond our denominations.

It was a joy that Rev Colin Smith led Brookside's anniversary service, which the congregation from St Mary's also joined us for. Many folk from Brookside and St Mary's also travelled to Cambridge in July for Colin's farewell service, to mark the end of 31 years of his active ministry, 14 of which were happily spent in Barnet. He is now retired in Chester but continues to lead worship there.

Our book (and film!) club continued on Zoom, where the group talked about a diversity of books and films such as Daphne du Maurier's Rebecca and a biography of Aretha Franklin.

For our October teaching course on 'Holy Places', we visited Barnet Synagogue, Wesley's Chapel and St Paul's Cathedral. The Revd James Milne, Canon Precentor at St Paul's, generously gave us a guided tour of the cathedral and remarked that the cathedral building is a place of transformation. That's something which all our churches and chapels can be in their own ways.

The annual Memorial Service, Launch of the Poppy Appeal service and Interfaith Act of Remembrance on Remembrance Sunday were also marked. These services continue to be especially appreciated by the wider community. They are a reminder of the impact of our shared mission and ministry in East Barnet, and beyond.

Shaun Sanders

Ordinand on Placement Report

I am writing to express my gratitude to you all for the experiences I had in my second year on placement at St Mary's. It was an excellent learning opportunity to be with you as I prepared to be ordained deacon.

The congregation gave me invaluable support and guidance all throughout my placement.

Their kind and compassionate nature have been a constant source of inspiration and motivation for me, and I am truly grateful for their friendship and help.

At St Mary's I learned so much about the importance of compassion, empathy, and selfless service. It has been an incredible journey of personal and spiritual growth to be with you, and I feel truly blessed to have gained such valuable insights into the work of a deacon.

I am also most grateful to the Rector for his wisdom and advice as I prepared for my ordination as a deacon. Working with him, I could explore new ways to engage with and offer spiritual care for those in need.

The Rector's good-humoured approach to guidance has made my time at St Mary's all the more enjoyable, and I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to learn from him and all the congregation.

Francesco Aresco

Churchwarden's Report

Those of us who have been members of the congregation at St Mary's for some years have had a recurring dream. Like many dreams, you don't seem to be able to get to where you want to be. There are obstacles blocking the way, or the route you want to take has changed. Sometimes this dream has turned into a nightmare and everything has seemed impossible. However in 2022 our dream came true: I am of course talking about the completion of our new community halls.

I have said before that a book could be written about the processes we have been through to have these halls built: the multiple surveys, the planning process, the legal complications, and the problems of raising finance. And by the way, the finances are still an issue.

The possibility of building a hall on the church site was first raised when Andrew Proud was the Rector, but the issue really came to a head when the heating system in the old parish hall failed, and was found to be beyond repair, in the summer of 2010. Prior to this, an extraordinary meeting of the Church Council in January 2008 had agreed that architects should be appointed to prepare a 'building development scheme' for St Mary's. In December of that year the architects presented their scheme to the Church Council. This was rather different from the hall we have today. Yes, 15 years have elapsed since this scheme was proposed, and I find that I am the only remaining member of the Church Council which took the decision to pursue it.

Many people, including successive Rectors, have put much time and effort into this project. However, I don't think we would have the new halls if it were not for David Howard. It is very sad that he never saw the fruit of his labours. Inevitably there were differences of opinion about plans for the halls within the Church Council, but David provided continuity for the project. He burnt the midnight oil dealing with many twists and turns as the project developed. He dealt with architects, surveyors, engineers and diocesan officials. This all took up much of his time when he was still in full time employment.

The development at the church was linked to the redevelopment of the old parish hall site. A detached house was also completed on the old hall site in 2022, and this will be a

“Curate’s House” for St Mary’s. We hope in the future to have an Assistant Curate again, but in the meantime that house has been let to provide essential funds for the Parish.

The period of lockdown has had a continuing impact on many organisations, including churches. We are creatures of habit and most churches have noticed that some people have lost the habit of attending church frequently. I am pleased to say that attendance at St Mary’s picked up during 2022 and it is most encouraging to see new members of the congregation, including young families, joining us and getting involved in our activities.

Sadly one longstanding member of our congregation, Philip Graham, died in September 2022. For many years he had been a very active member of our community. I still expect to see him walking to the village for his shopping.

On behalf of us all I would like to express our appreciation of all that our Rector, Alec, brings to St Mary’s. Hopefully things should ease for him by the end of 2023. The building project, which has taken a disproportionate amount of his time, will be completed. Covid, which I guess will always be with us, like flu, will no longer have the impact it did. And he will have moved into the rebuilt rectory, so cutting out the rather time consuming journey from Bells Hill. The appointment of an Administrator would also relieve him of a number of routine tasks, but this will be dependent on the state of our finances.

I could not do the job of Churchwarden without a huge amount of support. I must thank Heather again for this, and I am very grateful for the support and advice of the three Assistant Churchwardens and the Church Council. I am also very conscious of all the work undertaken by “Team St Mary’s”. Everything from music to cleaning, sidesmen to flowers, finance to catering, fundraising to Guides and Brownies, sacristy to churchyard maintenance, and others I have missed. Thank you, all of you.

This will be either my last or penultimate report as Churchwarden. I will stand for election at the APCM and if elected will serve until the 2024 APCM. However, I will be 81 by then and feel it will be time to stand down. So it is time for others to step forward to ensure that we continue the mission of St Mary’s. Please think about it. What about shadowing me to find out what the job entails?

My thanks to you all for your prayers, support, friendship and love.

Roger Melling

Parochial Church Council Report

We welcomed three new members to the Church Council this year: Margaret Cranfield, Angela Johnson and Katherine Duncan-Kerr, and we are very grateful for the contribution they have already made to the leadership of the church community. Chris Yates and Matthew Eade both stepped down from their Church Council roles in 2022, with our thanks for everything they have contributed. We remain grateful for the contribution made by all our current members, and for the leadership and ministry of Alec during a memorable year in the history of St Mary’s.

This year we were able to resume in-person Church Council meetings, although our Standing Committee meetings have remained online. We have continued to use email to

determine a number of resolutions, with the outcomes recorded and accepted at subsequent meetings. This, in part, has allowed us to move to a less demanding meeting schedule of four Church Council business meetings per year. Our first in-person meeting of the year allowed us to formally accept and record all resolutions that had been passed during the period when we had been unable to meet in person.

Whilst 2022 has allowed us to move on from the pandemic, the Church Council and standing committee still frequently reviewed our COVID-19 Risk Assessment, and will continue to do so for as long as is required. We aim to follow government guidance wherever this can be applied to our specific situation.

A key role of the Church Council is to define, review and track progress against our Mission Action Plan, which the Church Council has created to guide our ministry in East Barnet. Our November meeting gave us time to review what we had achieved against our plan and review new goals for the year ahead. A pledge to review our communications strategy; increase our welcoming team; and gain a bronze eco-church award all feature in the revised 2023 plan.

A major focus for 2022 was the completion of the community halls. The Church Council as a body provided oversight of all significant decisions on the building project especially where additional costs were incurred in-contract. During this time the Church Council has seen the enormous amount of co-ordination and persistence required from Alec and many others in order to see the project through to completion.

The Church Council maintained a strong focus on safeguarding, working to ensure all members had completed the required safeguarding training provided by the Church of England and that all required trustee and DBS checks were up to date. Chris Mears, our safeguarding officer, attended one of the meetings to give a detailed update on this important subject.

The brief of the Church Council is extraordinarily diverse and we consider all manner of church and community issues in order to further the mission of St Mary's in East Barnet. As always, we would like to encourage other members of the congregation to consider standing for the Church Council and remind them that it doesn't matter how long you have been worshipping at St Marys or how regularly you are able to attend. If you are interested, then any current member of the Church Council would be happy to share their experience with you and we would encourage you to consider what most find a very worthwhile and rewarding activity.

I would like to thank my predecessor Alison Blunt who stepped back from the role of Church Council Secretary, but remains a valued member of the team. My job has been made considerably easier by the handover provided and the professionalism with which she undertook the role.

John Hawkins

A vision of St Mary's

East Barnet Mission Action Plan 2022-2023

We are aware of the blessings we have received as members of the church of St Mary the Virgin, and the signs of inclusivity, welcome, commitment and care that already exist within our congregational community.

Following the example of Mary, and learning from the words of the Magnificat, we are seeking to share them more effectively with our parish community, and become a people of God who are confident to speak words of hope and perform signs of service in the world.

The Anglican 5 Marks of Mission, the PCC's related objectives within our parish, and SMART goals for the 2022-2023 Church Council year

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom we will communicate effectively with those resident in the parish of East Barnet by developing an integrated communications strategy

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers we will create a welcoming atmosphere in our church building and at congregational events by increasing sidesmen numbers by 50% and providing invitation and welcome training to lay volunteers

To respond to human need by loving service we will develop the use of our new community facilities by inviting community groups into partnership in them

To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation we will further develop St Mary's commitment to being an Inclusive Church by making a commitment as lay volunteers to pray for an ecumenical pioneer ministry on the NLBP housing development

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth we will reduce our consumption of resources, and our contribution to climate change by achieving Bronze eco church status

This Mission Action Plan was created in 2021, and we have updated the SMART goals for 2022-2023.

These goals will be a standing item on every Church Council agenda, so that our progress can be monitored. They will be renewed annually.

Electoral Roll Report

The Parish Electoral Roll is our list of all those entitled to vote on our electoral matters. Anyone over the age of sixteen who resides within our parish or who regularly worships at St Mary's may join the roll.

Our 2022 Electoral Roll contained 112 names.

In accordance with the Church Representation rules, our electoral roll will be updated again in 2023 and in 2024. In 2025 the list will be deleted, and a new roll compiled.

John Hawkins

Fabric Report

During 2022, maintenance work on the church's historic fabric continued at a low level, while dedicated attention was focussed on the community hall project.

Annual maintenance, inspections, and checks were conducted on the following areas of the historic building: the Lightning Conductor; Fire Safety Equipment; the Organ Blower and Humidifier; Portable Appliances; Boilers and Gas Appliances. The PCC is grateful to Roy Mears for organising these inspections. Shared Access also carried out maintenance work to the tower phone mast installation.

For a substantial part of 2022, the church's gas supply was cut off, to allow the community hall project to proceed. Since it has been reinstated, and Roy has recommissioned the boilers, he and the Rector have devoted considerable time to the adjustment of all heating controls, to try to balance the maintenance needs of the historic building with ecological and financial concerns.

The Rector was also able to arrange for the installation of a new media player, and the servicing of the church sound system, thanks to a small schools project grant from the Diocese of St Albans.



The Organ was also subject to maintenance, tuning, survey and safety visits. The Church Council is grateful to Alan Danson for his continuing care of the organ.

The Rector has been continuing to work with the London Borough of Barnet Council, which is statutorily responsible for the maintenance of the churchyard in good order and safety, to improve its condition. In addition to the process of repositioning gravestones and monuments that was connected with the community hall project, a number of gravestones and monuments that are in danger of collapse have been fenced off; the John Sharpe monument has been strapped and scaffolded. The south fence has also been fully replaced. Steve Harris has begun very helpful work to clear brush and bramble from the churchyard into a stick pile and slow compost heap.

The existing garden of remembrance, in which ashes are interred, was closed due to lack of space during the year; and so the Rector and Roger Melling have worked on plans for its extension and an additional garden of remembrance. The faculty procedure to extend the garden of remembrance has been worked through.



The rectory and its garage continued to degrade in condition throughout 2022, with the widening of large cracks in the walls aiding several burglaries in the spring: on one occasion, burglars found that the bricks were so loose that they just lifted them out of the wall to enter the building. Unfortunately for these industrious visitors they found that everything inside had already been stolen by previous burglars.

In the spring, the Diocesan property committee entered into negotiations with a contractor to have a new rectory built on the same site, but these failed. The Diocesan property subcommittee then appointed Ash – also contractors for the community hall - as their preferred contractor for the building of the new rectory.

Ash took over the rectory site in October, and the shell of the old rectory was demolished in December. Practical completion of the new rectory is predicted for June 2023.



On the site of the old parish hall, four houses have been built over the course of 2022. Three of these are due to be transferred to the developer, in exchange for a payment that provided the bulk of funding toward the community halls. The largest house, 54 Church Hill Road, will be retained in our use and held by the PCC as managing trustee. The Church Council will be able to house a minister there or let the property and apply its income to

our charitable objectives; and a tenant has been found for the next two years with an option to renew for a third year. There have been some difficulties in liaison with the developer and between the developer and site neighbours, but 54 Church Hill Road is now complete, with a certificate of practical completion due early in 2023.



The Church Council is still looking to transfer management of the schoolhouse, and its funds to the Diocese of St Albans as managing and custodian trustee. While that process has been ongoing through 2022, the renovation of the house's garden was completed; an electricity installation and energy efficiency test was carried out; and repairs to the shower were effected. The Church Council is grateful to John Savage for organising these works.

Alec Corio

Community Hall Building Project Report

Over 2022, the community hall project came to fruition: the halls were constructed. The project management of this work has placed a heavy and continuous burden on the Rector's time, but these facilities will release the church as a whole into many new possibilities for our common life and mission.

In January, the Church Council's preferred contractors – Ash – occupied the area of the churchyard designated as the hall site, and began their set up work. The actual start date that they had planned to observe was subject to unexpected delays due to the finalisation of contractual terms; the issue of planning permission; and utilities disconnection. Ash therefore actually began works in February, and this delay – as well as increases in labour and material costs – has led to an increase in costs beyond the original budget over the course of the year.

In the spring and early summer, excavation, foundations and framing for the hall was completed. As the project advanced, access to the church for services was maintained only through the north door, down its steep steps. This dramatically limited the accessibility of the building. The disconnection of utilities supplies at various points during the project has also been a temporary inconvenience: particularly during the month when the church's only working WC was a portaloos by the lych gate.



During the summer, beams and brickwork were erected. Throughout the whole year the Rector has reported on progress with the halls to the congregation and wider local community through videos shot under, on, in and above the building site. These videos have built considerable interest and emotional investment in the project – and other aspects of the church’s mission and ministry .



In the Autumn, the hall was roofed and made water tight, and first fix work was being undertaken on its interior. The landscaping and accessibility works outside the halls were also completed, so that the historic building now has a fully accessible path and entrance. Second fix work was undertaken as we rushed toward a deadline for the formal opening of the halls, on a date that had been arranged for us by Martin Russell, His Majesty’s Representative Deputy Lieutenant, as part of a royal visit to Barnet.



In November the halls were formally opened in a small ceremony by HRH Richard, Duke of Gloucester. Prince Richard inaugurated a plaque marking this important occasion, and a much larger celebration and service of dedication will follow early in 2023.



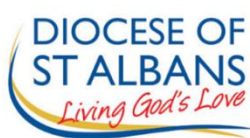
Following his visit, the floors were carpeted, and remaining electrical and fit out work was completed. A certificate of practical completion was then issued, and while Ash have been fixing a series of snags the building has come into use. It has already hosted Christmas hospitality, and plans for its use to underpin future community-building work can now also progress.



The project's costs have been supported by the sale of part of the site of the old parish hall; funds from Church Council controlled trusts; historic congregational fundraising; the Garfield Weston Foundation; the Benefact Trust; the Diocese of St Albans; the City Churches Fund; and the London Borough of Barnet. The Diocese of St Albans and the City Churches Fund have made an additional contribution to the Church Council because of cost increases in 2022. The PCC is extremely grateful to these funders.

There are still some further costs that still need to be met, which will be finalised in 2023. The Church Council will be seeking an appropriate settlement of these costs, and determining a strategy to meet all those which are legitimate.

We are grateful for financial assistance from the following organisations who have made grants to support this project:



The Church Council is also very thankful to all those whose dedication and wisdom, imagination and prayer, have supported this project over its long history. This includes many current and former members of the staff and congregation of St Mary's; the Diocesan Advisory Committee; Alastair Woodgate; JKBS Architects; Ridge and Partners LLP; Ash Construction Ltd, and other advisors and contractors.

Alec Corio

Partnership Enabling Group Report

The East Barnet Anglican–Methodist Partnership Enabling Group did not meet in 2021 or 2022. Following Roger's wish to stand down as chair I took on the role of chair in early 2023.

Both churches need to refresh the membership of the group and when we are back up to strength we can call a new Partnership meeting and review the objectives of the group in the situation in which we now find ourselves.

Graham Wheeler

Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Synod met on three occasions in 2022.

In February Rachel Johnson, the Diocesan Environmental Officer, spoke on the theme of Christian responsibility for the natural world and the challenge to find a theology that enables us to live in harmony with creation and to restore God's world.

She explained that the Diocese was aiming to be an 'Eco' Diocese and that churches were encouraged to become 'Eco' churches. There are three levels of attainment: bronze, silver and gold. There is an extensive questionnaire to determine whether a church qualifies for any of these awards.

In June Synod had three presentations:

- The work of the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust
- The Deanery Mission Action Plan
- David White, who had been appointed Deanery Secretary in October 2021, spoke to Synod about his role and his aims for the future

The October Synod was a social occasion so representatives from churches across the Deanery could get to know each other and share their different experiences. In the course of the evening Synod also heard reports on:

- The 'Hike and Bike' event, to raise funds for the Historic Churches Trust
- The Deanery Youth Programme
- The operation of the Deanery website

Roger Melling
Deanery Synod Representative

Safeguarding Report

As in previous years, St Mary's has followed the Church of England's safeguarding guidelines in 2022 and has worked to create a safe environment for all who attend.

The PCC adopted Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse Policies, which are in keeping with the relevant Church of England Policies.

Safeguarding training is ongoing for everyone involved in leadership and ministry activities at St Mary's.

As I always say, it is the responsibility of everyone to continue to be vigilant and report anything suspicious. Let us ensure that we keep our community as safe as possible.

Chris Mears

Minutes of 2021 Annual Meeting of Parishioners 29th May 2022

- 1 The meeting opened with prayers, and a welcome to all attending.
- 2 Chris Mears was elected as clerk to the APM and APCM – proposed by Alec Corio, seconded by Roger Melling, and unanimously approved.
- 3 Apologies for absence were received from: Margaret Cranfield, Graham Cranfield, Roy Mears, Ann Savage, John Savage, Brian Gregory.
- 4 The minutes of the 2021 APM were accepted as a true record, with one abstention.
- 5 Election of Churchwarden: Roger Melling was nominated by Chris Mears, seconded by Gail Phillips and unanimously approved.

Roger was thanked for his amazing work throughout the year. Alec said Roger does a great deal for St Mary's, way beyond what is absolutely required by his role as Churchwarden, and thanked him for agreeing to stand for another year.

Minutes of 2021 Annual Parochial Church Meeting
29th May 2022

1 Apologies for absence were received from: Margaret Cranfield, Graham Cranfield, Roy Mears, Ann Savage, John Savage, Brian Gregory.

2 The minutes of the 2021 APCM were accepted as a true record, with one abstention.

3 Annual Reports

Alec invited questions on the 2021 Statutory Reports.

Georgina Oliver pointed out that receiving the Report just before the service didn't give people sufficient time to read it through and consider the contents. Alec apologised, saying that he had needed to wait for the Independent Examiner to sign off the accounts before printing the Report.

Alan Danson said that nowhere in the MAP was there a mention, by name, of Jesus. Alec said this should be noted and considered for inclusion in the next MAP.

Barbara Campbell wanted to know what progress was being made with the community hall project. Alec said the information for last year was in the Report, but that since then progress had been made rather more slowly than was desirable. However, thanks to works over the last couple of months, the foundations have now been completed. Due to the council and utilities work delaying the project's start date, there could possibly be add on costs. It is hoped that the work will be completed by the end of October or beginning of November.

Alec said that community groups have already been contacted, and it is hoped that the hall will be in use from the opening date.

4 Alec invited questions regarding strategies for the future:

A visitor named Raven spoke at length about the need for more sustainable food production. He mentioned in particular an organisation called "Organically". Land owned by the council has been given over to the group in order to aid food production to be given to those in need. Other organisations he mentioned were "Food Matters" and "Sustain". Raven said there is an ecological crisis, huge price rises for food and there are so many displaced communities throughout the world in desperate need. Raven was willing to speak with anybody who wished following the meeting.

Alec said that if anyone wished to know more about the life of St Mary's, they could seek information from him at any time, not just at the APCM.

5 Conduct of elections to Deanery Synod: There were no nominations at this time and Alec said that the vacancies could be filled during the coming year if anyone came forward.

6 Conduct of elections to the PCC: Four of the five possible vacancies were filled:

Katherine Duncan-Kerr
Margaret Cranfield
Angela Johnson
Gail Phillips

proposed by Roger Melling, seconded by John Savage
proposed by Graham Cranfield, seconded by Roger Melling
proposed by Roger Melling, seconded by Chris Mears
proposed by Lesley Danson, seconded by Alan Danson

7 Alison Blunt was thanked for her hard work, diligence and help as PCC secretary over the last year.

Chris Yates was also thanked for his work as PCC treasurer. It was stressed that his financial reporting had been very clear, making everything much easier to understand.

8 The meeting ended in prayer, followed by a loyal toast to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

1374 Squadron Air Training Corps

1374 'East Barnet' squadron of the Air Training Corps currently has two flights, comprising nearly 40 cadets between the ages of 13 and 17.

I has taken just over two years, but my appointment as squadron chaplain has now been formally approved.



As squadron chaplain, I've been given the privilege of visiting the unit on a monthly basis for 'padre's hour', where I help the cadets to deepen their character education and explore ethical issues; and of visiting on other occasions to provide pastoral support and a ministry of presence.

In 2022 the focus of padre's hours have been Getting to know you...; the Nolan Principles of Leadership in public life; Military Ethics; and Developing resilience.

Alec Corio

2nd East Barnet Brownies

At the start of 2022 we had 13 girls attending our Brownies group, mostly aged 9 and over. We were assisted in leading them by our helper, Stephanie Wennell.

In our weekly meetings we ran a mix of different Skill Builders, designed to stretch and challenge girls of all abilities, and enable them to develop core skills throughout their Guiding journey. These are all fun, ready-to-go unit activities of varying lengths and styles, to add balance and variation.

We completed the Live Smart SB 'Tool School', identifying DIY tools.

Then we started the Have Adventures SB 'Explore', stage 2. We made a compass to find north, and the other points of the compass, and learned how grid references help find your way. In 'Custom of Customs' we learned what different countries permit, or not, in your baggage. 'A Country Walk' was a challenge about the Country Code. Another popular activity was 'Indicator Navigator', and we added extra elements because in January 2022 the Highway Code for road users changed.

We completed 'Network', stage 2 which involved various activities such as teams of girls building a tower of playing cards, which is a lot harder than anyone would think. Everyone persevered, accepting that it is "ok to fail". We also did a planets and solar system activity that involved a lot of circling the sun.

World Thinking Day was celebrated on 22 February. It's the day when 10 million girls and young women in 152 countries explore how we're part of a bigger movement: the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. We taught each girl how to light a candle with a safety match, so then they were all able to light their own candle to remember a country in the global family of Girlguiding.

We learned the national anthem to sing on Thursday 21 April, the late Queen Elizabeth II's birthday, and spent the run up to the Platinum Jubilee planning a party and designing a banner.



Each Unit in Middlesex East County was invited to make a banner for display at the Beacon Lighting event at Northern Heights campsite. They made a grand display.



We also tried a couple of the jubilee challenges like 'Doggie Language' which taught how to be confident around strange dogs, and learned how to put on an arm sling.

Over the summer term weeks we welcomed two new girls to the unit, and played hockey using the indoor set. In the hottest weather we wanted something quiet to do, so our final week was spent using the Hama Beads craft. At end of term four 10 year olds said farewell to the Unit, two joining the Guide Unit; Stephanie also stepped down from the Unit.

The start of the autumn term on 8 September coincided with the sad news that Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, had died. The Queen had been our patron from 1953 until her death. She was a Guide and a Ranger, and loved guiding.

Following the popularity of indoor hockey earlier in the year, we spent the next few weeks playing with the various other sports equipment: hoops, balls, ropes and bean bags.

Each term we need to remind the Brownies about the fire evacuation procedures, so also did the UMA about fire safety. This taught us how to escape safely from a building on fire. A simple obstacle course was set up in the hall to help use plenty of imagination power and add a physical element.

The new Brownies made their promises in early October. However, regular meetings were then interrupted by the need to repeat our mandatory (leader) first aid qualifications, and the partial incapacity of Elaine. That meant that we only managed to meet for some Christmas crafting on 15 December. That was also when a community carol singing evening was held outside the church. It was bitterly cold outside, but a few braved it.

In 2023 we experienced a sad reduction in Unit membership, to a level that meant we are unable to offer the full Girlguiding experience. Therefore the Unit has been closed, but we are pleased to say that three Brownies have transferred to another unit and one has decided to join the scout movement.

On a personal note, you may know that both Elaine and Anne have been leaders at 2nd East Barnet Brownies since 13 January 2000, but our leadership in Girlguiding has stretched back another couple of decades. We have seen many changes over the years. We would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported us during our time leading the Unit, and those who offered their backing to all the former leaders of the 2nd East Barnet Brownies dating back to its foundation on 23 April 1932.

Incredibly, one of the Unit's first brownies is still in the area, now aged 97: Olive Kettle.

2nd East Barnet Brownies
St Mary's
1932 – 2023

Elaine Eyles and Anne Malloy

2nd East Barnet Guides

In 2022 our numbers unfortunately dropped a bit, despite being open all year post-Covid. That said we still managed to do a fair bit across the year: we tried our hands at some experiments which didn't go off with the expected bang, but more successfully the Guides turned their hands to making coasters and then selling them back to the leaders, to then make more whilst learning the art of bartering. We also did a litter pick around the local area which got many a "Thank You" from the local community.

We did our usual visit to the park for some water-based activities, and a general run around.

In the summer we joined 3,500 other guiding members at Foxlease Guide Camp site in the New Forest for "Wellies & Wristbands" which is a 3 night camp. During the day, the Guides got to take part in all sorts of activities including high ropes, abseiling and archery; then in the evening they got to attend live music concerts.

We also had 2 of our members attend the Kent International Jamboree, where they spent a week with other Guide and Scout members from across the world. Around 6,500 members attended in total and again, they did various adventurous activities including microlight flying and driving.

In October we ran our own camp at Northern Heights in Elstree with a Christmas theme where they did Christmas crafts, Christmas baking, and had a Christmas dinner.

At the end of 2022 our County, Middlesex East, were responsible for the Guiding Float in the Lord Mayors Show and one of our Guides took part in the parade along with 39 other representatives.

Hopefully our numbers will improve as we move into 2023.

Karen Binns

Chipping Barnet Foodbank

The Foodbank's main expense this year has been to supply vouchers to most of their needy clients and organisations. Vouchers have been delivered via Solace Women's Refuge Centre; Citizen's Gateway; Jim's Cafe (at St James Church); and individual clients. They have supported Christmas Angel bags and Easter Bunny treats; young people leaving care; refugees; and fuel bill payments.

In this way, the Foodbank has spent far more than in any previous year. This was intentional: at the year's outset the board pledged to ensure that as much of their assets should be distributed to local people in need as possible. In 2022, over £13,000 was spent on supermarket and school uniform vouchers, with an additional £10,000 worth of vouchers purchased for Easter and Christmas support schemes. Over £20,000 was spent on fuel vouchers; and over £3,900 on food purchases.

Greater use was made of the Barnet Food Hub (in the old East Barnet Library) for which they are very grateful. It means that more can be provided in the way of fresh produce and

to clients, including fresh bread and pastries. Over the year well over 4,000 people were fed.

The Foodbank has also received hundreds of Vodafone SIM cards in the past year, and over 500 cards have now been distributed to refugees in the borough, supported by Citizens Gateway. SIM cards offer clients unlimited calls and texts and 20GB of data, for six months, free of charge. To build on this work to combat digital poverty further the Foodbank are looking to establish an Internet cafe during Foodbank opening hours and are hoping to start receiving donated mobile handsets through a partnership with the Good Things Foundation.

Last year saw huge changes in the way the Foodbank operates. Most significant was the appointment of their first paid manager, in June. The Foodbank received a generous grant from the Trussell Trust to fund the strategic development element of the manager's role. The aim of this investment is to eliminate poverty, making Chipping Barnet a poverty-free zone, in collaboration with other similarly minded organisations.

Sadly, due to the worsening financial climate, the Foodbank experienced a significant increase in demand towards the end of 2022, and they are preparing for a very busy time ahead.

A Citizen's Advice Service is now operating during Foodbank opening times. Staff from the Citizen's Advice Bureau worked tirelessly to ensure that the right people were allocated appropriate vouchers.

The Foodbank has now been able to resume their normal training schedule and has 193 volunteers, spread across four rotas and ancillary roles.

Last year Debbie Windeler from St Mary's joined the team and has now become our new church representative. St Mary's is one of 7 local churches who originally established the Chipping Barnet Food Bank, along with Brookside Methodist Church, Christ Church, St Gregory's Roman Catholic Church, St John's United Reformed Church, St Peter's Roman Catholic Church and Barnet United Reformed Church. Each church has a representative with voting rights at General Meetings. This year St James Church has also been added to that list.

Chris Watson

Christian Aid

Volunteers to help with Christian Aid collections were very thin on the ground in 2022, and this was reflected in the low amount we were able to collect and donate to Christian Aid in their Christian Aid Week appeal. It became clear there were insufficient volunteers available to run 'street collections' or 'station collections'.

So two thousand 'deliver only' envelopes were distributed in the community, all individually stamped with instructions as to how to make contactless donations, or where to deposit a return envelope at the parish office.

Through an e-mail to the many people on our church contact list, details of our Just Giving page, which was set to receive CA donations, were distributed.

Through social media the details were also well publicised.

However, only a few donations were made through church envelopes and only four responses were received through the Just Giving page. The total amount raised for Christian Aid was £251 through 'deliver only' envelopes, £287.12 through church envelopes, £97.50 (including gift aid) through Just Giving, making a total of £645.62.

Gail Phillips

Fundraising Events at St Mary's

A variety of fundraising events were held throughout the year, despite the last restrictions of the Covid-19 risk assessment and building works.

In March, the ever popular Quiz Night raised £178; followed by a Table Top Sale in April resulting in £568. May saw a spring Plant Sale in the churchyard, which contributed £381.60 to our coffers. To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, St. Mary's offered a free barbeque to the community, from which donations amounted to £43.31. The annual East Barnet Fair in July was its usual successful week end with £429 being raised through a bottle tombola. A Harvest Supper was celebrated in October, which made a contribution to church funds of £96. To round off the year, the annual Christmas Fayre was enjoyed at church on Friday 2 December and raised £1078.10. It was followed the next day by St Mary's participation in the East Barnet Village Fair where a further £136 was taken.

As always, our grateful thanks go to all the people who continue to help to make these events successful. Your combined efforts raised £2910.01 for St Mary's in 2022.

Gail Phillips

Green Christians Barnet

Green Christians Barnet has relaunched its meetings at St John's United Reformed Church. Meetings in 2022 have included sessions on:

- Reports and Ideas from A Rocha
- Support for Good Samaritan School for the Deaf, and what climate change looks like in Africa
- Work with Incredible Edible on the community garden there

A major focus of shared activity across the churches was an ecumenical service that Julian Templeton and the Rector led in September, where I preached on 'the Hope of Creation'.

The service – its liturgy, readings via Zoom from Uganda, excellent music, and my talk – all focussed on the relationship between Genesis 1 and Romans 8: which tell us that creation is good, but creation is groaning. We are called to celebrate God's good creation but also recognise the environmental crises we face, and take action to preserve creation.

God's ultimate restoration of all things is our eternal hope, but in the meantime we are called to live lives of hope including taking action, like:

- Praying
- Ethical financial practices
- Green consumer choices
- Pushing for corporate and government accountability

Sarah Edwards

Music at St Mary's

As the Covid-19 risk assessment has developed, our major musical services at Easter, Advent, and Christmas, were able to take place with the addition of the instrumentalists who had regularly played for these events before the pandemic.

At Easter, we also introduced a service of Music and Readings for Good Friday. 2022 also saw the introduction of a new sung setting for the Parish Eucharist, The Mass of St Thomas by David Thorne, with which the congregation is becoming familiar.

Our Advent Carol Service included the 'back-up' sound of two industrial-sized heaters provided by Ash, because due to building works there was no heating in the church.

Our Christmas Carol Services were very well attended. The twenty-seven orchestral musicians, eight Church Choir members and four Young Voices members were able to enjoy refreshments in the new community halls between services.

The loyal commitment of members of the Church Choir has enabled the congregation to hear anthems sung at services throughout the year, including at resumed services of Evensong. I am very grateful to their hard work, patience and enthusiasm.

The members of Young Voices excelled themselves, especially in part in the Christmas Carol Services, singing with clear diction, projection and confidence accompanied by the orchestra. Well Done!

Currently, Young Voices has two loyal members, and I am taking the opportunity to enlist and encourage children from local schools to join.

I pray that 2023 will see more members of the congregation encouraged to support the choirs to keep live music a prominent part of our worship at St Mary's Church.

Alan Danson

Pioneer Ministry on the North London Business Park development

Throughout 2022, monthly prayer walks have been conducted on the North London Business Park site, to pray for the current users of the site; those now living around it; its flora and fauna; the residents who will come to live there following its development; and the flourishing and reconciliation of all their many different needs.

Members of the congregation at St Mary's have attended these prayer walks occasionally, alongside members of other local churches. We have also been joined in prayer by local civic leaders, and by church leaders active on a deanery, diocesan or equivalent level in different denominations.



These prayer walks have also provided a natural forum for the discussion of the proposed development there among local church members, and with representatives of the developer, Comer Group UK.

Ministers from Brookside Methodist Church, St John's United Reformed Church, St Mary's, and St Paul's, New Southgate, have become increasingly committed to working together to support a pioneer approach to ministry on the site as it is developed.

Having built an honest and effective relationship with Comer's team, the ministers have even been offered the chance for their churches to curate a community space on the developed site. This possibility then led to a more developed discussion about the site's requirements for community space, and the key resources necessary to serve the wellbeing of its residents (including, but not limited to, their spiritual care).

The ministers therefore began working with CWC Livewell, a charitable organisation which has established a delivery model for GP healthcare services and social prescription services together. With Livewell, we have been exploring advanced and ambitious plans, to see whether a wellbeing centre could be established on this site, with the churches' involvement but operating as a sustainable independent concern. This kind of centre would provide both services and community space for the site.

Comer Group UK have offered the space and building shell necessary for this kind of provision, dependent on them gaining an additional planning permission, which would also increase the number of housing units on site. At the end of 2022 they were refused this additional planning permission. It is not clear how they will proceed with development, or whether this form of community space will still be a possibility.

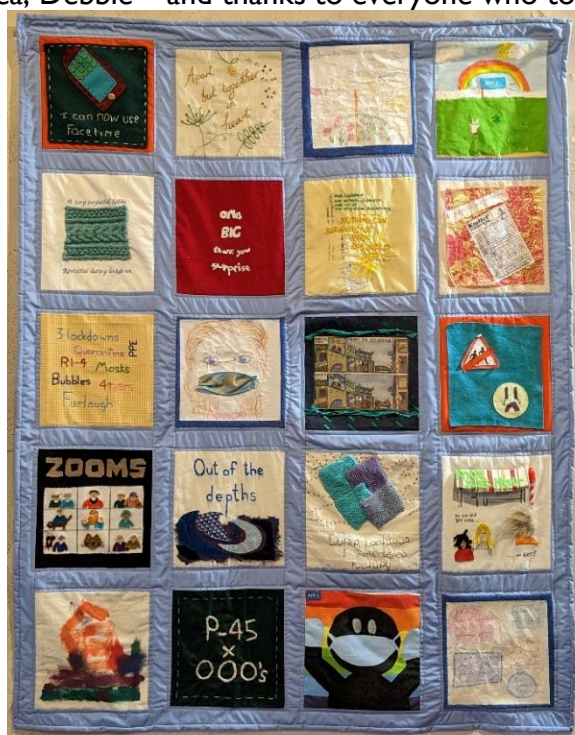
The churches are still committed to continuing to work to support pioneer ministry on the site, and in 2023 there will be discussions about whether this can be resourced with diocesan or equivalent funds, as well as how we will relate to the revision of Comer Group

UK's plans for the scale of site development, as these affect the possibility of a wellbeing centre being created on the site.

Alec Corio

The Quilting Project

During the second Covid-19 lock-down of 2020, Debbie Windeler had the idea that St Mary's should invite people in the community to contribute a 'square' to a quilt depicting life during the pandemic. Over time, twenty contributions were received. These efforts have now been combined into a wall hanging, and the resulting decorative piece now hangs in the church's nave. Great idea, Debbie – and thanks to everyone who took part!



Gail Phillips

St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Aided School

The past year has been another eventful one for the school community at St Mary's. We have really enjoyed being able to have in person events in school again, including nativity plays, bi-weekly collective worship in church, Christmas and Summer Fayres and of course the infamous St. Mary's school May Day. This normality has brought great enthusiasm and joy to school life once more.

At the end of last academic year, we formally said goodbye to Mel Adams who has dedicated 26 years of her life to headship at St. Mary's school. In July, we celebrated Mel's significant contribution to the school with a special church service and a farewell party in school.

This academic year saw the introduction of a brand new school logo, capturing the essence of the parable of the mustard seed, which is the theological underpinning of our school vision.



‘At St. Mary’s, inspired by Christian values, we are excited by our learning, proud of our achievements, determined to be the best we can be and caring for all of God’s creation.’

We chose this particular parable as it demonstrates so much of what our mission is at St. Mary’s school. We are so committed to the flourishing of children wholly and providing them with growing knowledge and understanding of the world, as they grow too! We are also proud to provide a safe and secure place to learn so that in time, the children can provide this safety and security to others; through their words and actions.

Mark 4:30-32 - The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Then Jesus said, “How can I show you what the kingdom of God is like? What story can I use to explain it? The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. The mustard seed is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. But when you plant this seed, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants. It produces large branches. Even the wild birds can make nests in it and be protected from the sun.”

Our Christian foundation is undoubtedly our strength. From this comes our aspiration to live life in all its fullness, to care for one another, all people everywhere, all God’s creatures and this wonderful planet. We have learned that even in the most challenging of times, our St. Mary’s School family is united and strong, bound by the greatness of God’s love. We continue to pray for each other, our school families, our community and our church.

Maria Constantinou
Headteacher

Stephen Edwards
Chair of Governors

Together in Barnet

In 2022 the Covid-19 pandemic led to the Night Shelter operating in a hotel in Golders Green. Faith groups were again requested to provide a main evening meal and a packed breakfast to be delivered to the hotel.

St Mary's continued to work with East Barnet Baptist Church to provide meals for the homeless. Many thanks to those who were able to assist with this important charitable work.

Roger Melling

THE PARISH OF EAST BARNET PCC
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Unrestricted funds General	Designated	Restricted funds	Total 2022	Total 2021 (restated)
	£	£	£	£	£
Income					
Voluntary income	71,639			71,639	86,074
Income from church activities	28,534			28,534	21,572
Interest received	1,422			1,422	599
Income for building project			178,484	178,484	22,724
Proceeds of the sale of the old church hall transferred from the Diocese of St Albans			686,500	686,500	
Rent received for School House			8,400	8,400	8,400
Total income	101,595		873,384	974,979	139,369
Expenditure					
Church activities	118,788			118,788	103,587
Cost of building the new church hall		50,477	870,393	920,870	17,315
Administration of School House			2,760	2,760	10,138
Total expenditure	118,788	50,477	873,153	1,042,418	131,040
Net movement in funds	(17,193)	(50,477)	231	(67,439)	8,329
Total funds brought forward at 1 January 2022	30,753	83,632	41,056	155,441	147,112
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2022	13,560	33,155	41,287	88,002	155,441

The attached notes form part of these accounts

THE PARISH OF EAST BARNET PCC
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022	2021
	£	(restated)
		£
Current assets		
Debtors - VAT recoverable	13,484	
Short term deposits		65,000
Cash at bank	193,637	99,038
	<u>207,121</u>	<u>164,038</u>
Liabilities: amounts falling due		
within one year - creditors - outstanding bills	119,119	8,597
	<u></u>	<u></u>
Net assets	<u>88,002</u>	<u>155,441</u>
Parish funds:		
Unrestricted;		
General	13,560	30,753
Designated	33,155	83,632
	<u>46,715</u>	<u>114,385</u>
Restricted	41,287	41,056
	<u>88,002</u>	<u>155,441</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 9 July 2023
and signed on its behalf by:

Revd Alec Corio (Chair)

The attached notes form part of these accounts.

**THE PARISH OF EAST BARNET PCC
ACCOUNTING POLICIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCC's, and with the Regulations 'true and fair view' provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP (FRS102).

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention on an accruals basis as the income for the year, even with the allowed exclusion of the proceeds of sale of the old church hall, is over £250,000. As a result, the comparative figures for 2021 have been restated as those accounts were prepared on a receipts and payments basis. The comparative figures have also been restated to correct inaccuracies in the 2021 accounts.

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 102.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

Fund accounting

The general fund represents the unrestricted fund, which is available for use at the discretion of the PCC members in furtherance of the general objectives of the church, and which has not been designated for any other particular purpose.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by PCC members for a particular purpose.

Restricted funds represent funds which are to be used in accordance with specific instructions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the church for particular purposes.

Income

All income is recognised once the PCC has entitlement to the income, it is probable the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when the income to which they relate is received. Legacies are accounted when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts are readily quantifiable. Dividends and interest are accounted for when received.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) donated services and the time spent by volunteers, of which the church is heavily dependent in order to achieve its aims, are not included in income as the economic benefit cannot be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure headings. Support costs are those costs

**THE PARISH OF EAST BARNET PCC
ACCOUNTING POLICIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the church. However, the support costs are considered negligible and difficult to determine.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

The cost of the new church hall has not been treated as a fixed asset. It is attached to the church and title is held by the Diocese of St Albans as Diocesan Authority with the PCC having the role of Managing Trustee.

Debtors

Debtors are included in the accounts at the amount owing to the PCC at the balance sheet date.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised at their settlement amount where the church has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

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THE PARISH OF EAST BARNET PCC
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Unrestricted General	funds Designated	Restricted funds	Total 2022	Total 2021 (restated)
	£	£	£	£	£
Income					
Voluntary income					
Planned giving	40,669			40,669	40,212
Regular donations	9,389			9,389	11,663
Other donations and grants	9,336			9,336	3,077
Bequests	1,000			1,000	19,608
Gift aid recovered	11,245			11,245	11,514
	<u>71,639</u>			<u>71,639</u>	<u>86,074</u>
Income from church activities					
Phone mast	23,895			23,895	16,048
Fundraising	3,305			3,305	1,436
Fees for weddings and funerals (net)	1,334			1,334	1,418
Advertising income					2,670
	<u>28,534</u>			<u>28,534</u>	<u>21,572</u>
Expenditure					
Church activities					
Parish share	67,958			67,958	68,308
Organist fees	9,700			9,700	9,408
Church running costs:					
Church services	2,309			2,309	1,380
Light, heat and power	23,263			23,263	12,016
Insurance	3,576			3,576	2,203
Repairs and maintenance	2,042			2,042	1,579
Organ maintenance	881			881	832
Printing, postage and stationary	3,390			3,390	3,432
IT costs	1,074			1,074	825
Telephone and internet	544			544	561
Travel - national	839			839	413
Entertainment	149			149	-
Licences and membership	47			47	203
Advertising and marketing	165			165	19
Rent	1,220			1,220	1,220
Support of mission	1,139			1,139	416
Subscriptions	169			169	220
Fundraising costs					184
Sundry expenses					90
Bank charges	322			322	278
	<u>118,787</u>			<u>118,787</u>	<u>103,587</u>

THE PARISH OF EAST BARNET PCC
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Designated funds

These funds have been designated by the PCC for the building project.

The movement of funds in 2022 is as follows:

At 1.1.22	Income in year	Expenditure in year	At 31.12.22
83,632	-	50,477	33,155

There was no movement in 2021.

Restricted funds

These funds can only be used for the administration of the school house and the building project.

The movement of funds in 2022 is as follows:

	At 1.1.22	Income in year	Expenditure in year	At 31.12.22
School house	35,647	8,400	2,760	41,287
Building project	5,409	864,984	870,393	-
	41,056	873,384	873,153	41,287

The movement in funds in 2021 was as follows:

	At 1.1.21	Income in year	Expenditure in year	At 31.12.21
School house	37,385	8,400	10,138	35,647
Building project	-	22,724	17,315	5,409
	37,385	31,124	27,453	41,056

Analysis of net assets by fund

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
Current assets	97,192	109,929	207,121
Current liabilities	50,477	68,642	119,119
	46,715	41,287	88,002

Related party transactions

The PCC members are considered the key management personnel of the church. No remuneration is paid directly to key management personnel, although the church contributes to the diocesan fund and the incumbent, who has overall responsibility for promoting the whole mission of the church, is remunerated directly by the diocese.

Income from planned giving includes £9,889 received from PCC members.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PARISH OF EAST BARNET PCC

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 6.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; 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.

VICTORIA NEIL

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

1 AUGUST 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PARISH OF EAST BARNET PCC

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VICTORIA NEIL

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

1 AUGUST 2023

Accounts

EAST BARNET 
PARISH CHURCH
St Mary the Virgin



Annual Report 2021

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About St Mary's, East Barnet

The charity's full name is The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Barnet.

It is governed according to the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended. It operates according to the Church Representation Rules (2020).

At the time this report was issued, the PCC consisted of:

The Revd Dr Alec Corio (Rector, PCC chair, ex officio member)

Mr Roger Melling (Churchwarden, PCC vice chair, ex officio member, and deanery synod representative)

Prof Alison Blunt (PCC secretary, representative of the laity)

Dr Chris Yates (PCC treasurer, Electoral Roll officer, representative of the laity)

Mr Matthew Eade (deanery synod representative)

Mr Stephen Edwards (representative of the laity)

Mr John Hawkins (representative of the laity)

Ms Gail Phillips (representative of the laity)

Rev Shaun Sanders (Methodist minister, ex officio observer)

Mr John Savage (representative of the laity)

Mrs Christine Watson (representative of the laity)

The charity exists to advance the gospel in the ecclesiastical parish of East Barnet, according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, for the benefit of the public.

The charity cooperates with the Rector to provide and maintain a building used for religious purposes; provide and maintain a building as a local heritage asset; conduct public worship, including services marking life events; sponsor cultural and artistic events; support local community formation; support educational activities; further the ecumenical and inter-faith engagement of the Church of England; and provide pastoral care to peoples of all faiths and none.

The parish church is located at:

The Church of St Mary the Virgin

Church Hill Road

East Barnet

Hertfordshire

EN4 8XD

The parish office (for all correspondence) is located at:

East Barnet Parish Office

Brookside Methodist Church

2 Cat Hill

East Barnet

Hertfordshire

EN4 8JB

Email: administrator@stmaryseastbarnet.org

The PCC's charity number is 1143134

The Independent Examiner of the PCC's financial reports was Ms Victoria Neil of 30 Cedar Avenue, East Barnet, EN4 8XD.

Rector's Report and Introduction

During 2021 the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Barnet has continued to faithfully fulfil its charitable objects, and to respond to the blessings we have received as a community called by God to his work in the world. The circumstances under which we have operated during 2021 have been extremely difficult, and I would like to begin my report by thanking all those who have supported this work: from the congregation, PCC and Standing Committee. In particular, acting as sole Churchwarden, and much more beside, Roger Melling has been constant in his availability, support and advice during this challenging period.

Toward the end of 2020, the PCC and I decided that the declaration of a state of emergency in London and a high local rate of Covid-19 infection necessitated the closure of St Mary's for public worship. That meant that our pattern of worship remained online only until Holy Week 2021, when it was judged appropriate for in-person services to resume, as well as maintaining the provision of online services. St Mary's was able to remain open for periods to facilitate personal prayer, with printed resources available in the church building and for download online.

Some positive developments resulted from the sad restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic: for example, even as early as January we were able to pack and deliver bags of Christingle-making supplies to all of the families connected with St Mary's, so that they then made Christingles while watching a recorded service. That provided an opportunity to visit many families and to catch up with them, from a Covid-safe distance, as well as offering them a liturgical experience to close the Christmas season.

Throughout 2021, St Mary's broadcast 139 videos on YouTube and Facebook – including services, sermons, collective worship for schools, discussions, and a short digital evangelism course. This course was coordinated by our ordinand on placement, Francesco Aresco, and featured guests from our local community such as Sarah Edwards, Maria Constantinou and Alan Danson, and Alan Smith, Bishop of St Albans, talking about finding truth, goodness and beauty as signs of God's presence in the world. Our videos have together received 2 934 unique views, with large civic and seasonal services achieving the highest viewing figures, and videos within the digital evangelism course being shared the most through social media. These have therefore boosted our visibility as a community. Viewing figures have varied in relation to the progression of the Covid-19 pandemic and public health restrictions: in the early part of the year, viewing figures for Sunday services and their sermons were in the 30s every week; these dropped when in-person services became possible, and declined further as in-person services became better attended. By the end of the year, viewing figures for videos of Sunday services were in the teens.

The promotion of events and sharing of news through our monthly email list, *News from St Mary's*, our new website and social media channels was further developed in 2021; and to coincide with Holy Week, new fence banners were obtained to highlight the church site and improve its visibility. We were also able to produce two editions of the East Barnet Herald, under Matthew Eade's careful editorship, and to distribute 3 500 parish Christmas cards, in an effort organised by Roger and Chris Yates. Communication work has become a much larger element of parish administration than ever before, and yet unfortunately we have not been able to finance the employment of a parish administrator in succession to Margaret Cranfield, who retired in 2020.

That is because our operational expenditure has been pruned to the minimum to support the development of the new community hall; and we have engaged in some creative fundraising for the same purpose, most enjoyably our collaboration with the Urban Alchemy Brewery to produce a St Mary's Ale. Though our increased emphasis on communication has been prompted by the pandemic, this work is probably the beginning of a long-term trend, seeking to reach people better wherever they are: it will need dedicated resourcing by a new parish administrator, when the Church's financial situation makes that possible.

We were able to further develop the use of music – especially choral music – within online services in the early spring. Our Church Choir faithfully persevered with their rehearsals over zoom; and Alan, our Director of Music, developed new techniques to teach and record a larger repertoire in this period. The concentration of the Church Choir's efforts during lockdown has been obvious in the standard of their recorded music, and in their confidence providing live music in services when that became possible again, later in the year.

January saw the beginning of a monthly book club on zoom, in partnership with Brookside Methodist Church, where each month there is a discussion of an accessible and enjoyable piece of writing. Zoom was also used to offer a course for adults exploring confirmation, 'This is My Faith', and of the five who were regularly attending, two candidates were confirmed by Michael Beasley, Bishop of Hertford, on 16 May. A group for children and young people exploring baptism, communion and confirmation was able to meet in-person in the Autumn, with their baptisms, admissions to communion and confirmations planned for 2022.

We were also able to use zoom to facilitate Lent and October learning courses, 'In the Beginning God Created the Heavens and the Earth' and 'Exploring the Bible: Different Ways of Reading', in partnership with Brookside Methodist Church and now also working closely with St John's United Reformed Church. Our shared focus on ecology and theology – inspired by 'In the Beginning...' – and overlapping membership of Barnet Green Christians with our congregations also led to a joint Celebration of Creation service in April.

Online social events have included regular meetings for coffee on a Sunday morning, tea parties, and times for conversation. The level of engagement with in-person social events, however, was much higher when these were possible. Two outdoor plant sales, held under the lych gate, were very enthusiastically received by the local area; and the Harvest supper – our first in-person social event since the start of the pandemic – was brilliantly organised by Gail Phillips and the events team including Heather Melling and Lesley Danson.

The relatively low attendance at online social events has emphasised the importance of the ministerial and Pastoral Team, including Francesco, Roger, Brian Gregory, Chris Mears, Debbie Windler, Bridget Bowden and Helen Ball, in keeping networks connected within the congregational community; in offering telephone support and befriending; and in providing means of practical help where necessary. Since September, I and some members of the Pastoral Team have also been able to perform home visits and to take communion to the housebound, operating within a Covid-19 risk assessment. A number of acute pastoral situations within our congregational community have also been responded to, safely and appropriately. Informal friendship and support networks also operate among the congregational community, and the level of care and communication these provide has been sustaining for a number of people.

When in-person services resumed for Holy Week, it was wonderful to observe those traditional services and then to celebrate Easter in our church building with a festal Eucharist. In the following development of in-person services again, we have prioritised the provision and growth of an All Age Messy Eucharist. This is now celebrated as the main act of worship on the first Sunday of the month. It has been designed to appeal to children, families, and their friends, and within the confines of our Covid-19 risk assessment it offers a crafty, noisy, messy and informal approach to a Eucharistic celebration. We have also resumed the celebration of a Parish Eucharist on other Sundays in the month, and have gradually increased the musical elements of that service, slowly aiming to build toward what would have been normal before the Covid-19 pandemic. As well as this being made possible by Alan working intensely with the existing Church Choir, our music and our work with children and young people have both been enriched by the launch of Young Voices: the youth choir of St Mary's in September.

Children and youth work has also continued through the close relationship St Mary's has with its parish school, and the provision of governance and support to school leaders. Stephen Edwards has proved a dedicated and effective Chair of Governors there; he has supported Maria Constantinou and Mel Adams in their excellent working relationship as joint Headteachers. Under their leadership, the school has adapted throughout 2021 to a series of severe challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, prioritising always the development and needs of our pupils. Toward the end of the year, Mel announced her retirement, following 26 exemplary years as a Headteacher at St Mary's School, and a special service of thanksgiving for her work will be arranged in 2022. School collective worship, which has long been a recognised strength of St Mary's School, has continued online, or in-person whenever possible, throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our links with other schools and nurseries in the parish have also been deepened, despite the circumstances of the pandemic, as I have visited or received visits to St Mary's from children at Brunswick Park Primary School and Church Hill Primary School. We maintain links with St Mary's Brownies and Guides, who have also returned to their meetings at Brookside Methodist Church. And I have become Chaplain to 1374 Squadron of the Air Training Corps, and begun to visit them on a monthly basis for 'Padre's hour', which is part of their programme of character development and pastoral care.

Attendance figures for in-person services at St Mary's grew very slowly but steadily from Holy Week to November, so that average weekly attendance in October reached 57 adults and 52 children. The resurgence in Covid-19 infection rates in November has lowered attendance figures since then. It is difficult to take these figures as a reflection of the size of the worshipping community connected to St Mary's: they are much more an indication of the progress the Church has made to maintain its ministry during the changing conditions of the pandemic, and the ongoing stresses of the pandemic. While some members of the congregational community have moved away or died in 2021, new members have of the community have also been attracted to St Mary's, especially by its Inclusive Church identity.

There have been a small number of pastoral offices performed in the church building during 2021, consisting of 4 weddings, 2 funerals, 5 christenings (one within a wedding), and special memorial and remembrance events. I would like to thank those clergy who visited us to enrich our services with their diverse voices and preaching: Brian Blackshaw, John Bradbury, Ayla Lepine, Laurence Price and Martin Wellings. I am also grateful for those occasions

when Francesco, Roger, Chris Mears or John Savage were able to take a leading role on Sundays, when I was forced to self-isolate or was ill with Covid-19.

Seasonal services, such as the Memorial Service for All Souls; the Act of Remembrance; the Advent Carol Service; Crib Services; and the Christmas Carol Services; were creatively and imaginatively reimagined for the current conditions. They were also relatively well attended, and outdoor services such as the Act of Remembrance and a gathering to sing Christmas Carols at the nativity scene at Brookside Methodist Church and outside the Prince of Wales pub drew large crowds. The nativity scene, built for the second year by a team from both St Mary's and Brookside Methodist Church including John, Roger and Derrick Setchell, was a fantastic focus of public art and theology within our community, and Francesco's design continues to communicate the incarnation's theme simply and elegantly.

An important area of the Church's mission has been our engagement with the planned development of the North London Business Park for residential housing, through the creation of regular prayer walks and the establishment of creative relationships with the site developer, Comer Homes Ltd. Along with civic leaders and colleagues from St Paul's, New Southgate; Brookside Methodist Church; St John's United Reformed Church; and other denominational representatives; I believe that a welcoming and community focussed ministry on the site could enrich the local area and enhance its wellbeing. Plans for possible pioneer ministry on the site, and to highlight the need for community facility provision, will be taken forward in 2022.

In terms of our charity's governance, the PCC has held its meetings on zoom throughout 2021, and its focus has been on the strategic direction of our Church. Very prayerful and productive sessions of reflection have led to the creation of a new Mission Action Plan, which will guide the PCC in the coming year and provide clear criteria for the work we are called to do. To resource the PCC for this work, and deal with urgent issues such as the revision of Covid-19 risk assessments, the Standing Committee has developed further in the direction of being a problem solving group; and Roger, Chris Yates and John have, as a separate group, assisted me in meetings related to the construction of our new community hall. Chris and John Hawkins have also completed a church building energy use audit, to encourage greater responsibility in our use of natural resources.

2021 has been an extremely demanding year in the history of St Mary's. But it has not been the end of our life together as a Church, or of our mission and ministry together in Christ. Indeed, though there have been struggles, disappointments and many reasons for lament, there have also been seeds of the kingdom sown in ways and places that we could not have anticipated, which are already growing. These may bear good fruit that will challenge and transform us further, into the future.

Alec Corio

Methodist Minister's Report

Despite the difficulties and challenges of 2021, our Partnership has continued to find different ways of working.

Our monthly Book Club is an example of how we are strengthened by the opportunities to work together. Books we have focussed on have included 'Luminaries: Twenty lives that

illuminate the Christian Way' by Rowan Williams, and the novel 'Slaughterhouse Five' by Kurt Vonnegut based on his experiences as a prisoner of war in the Second World War. With a new lockdown in place from January 2021, we met on zoom to allow people to join us from many other places.

After our Lent course was interrupted in the first lockdown of 2020, we restarted the course in 2021 on zoom. It was based on the book 'Saying Yes to Life' by Ruth Valerio, and we talked about our care for the creation which God has entrusted to us. We concluded this course with a shared online service with St Johns United Reformed Church, New Barnet.

Our October Teaching Course looked at different ways of reading the Bible. We were back in-person for the annual Memorial Service and Poppy Appeal launch in October, and outside for Remembrance Sunday services.

My colleague and the Circuit Superintendent Minister Rev Dr Martin Wellings became a school governor at St Mary's School.

Much of our shared work goes beyond our two Churches to include other Churches, faith traditions and community groups. It's a reminder that God's presence doesn't end at the church doors but extends through all creation.

Shaun Sanders

Churchwarden's Report

In my report for 2020 I commented 'What a year!' and talked about how our Church life and personal lives had been disrupted. Fortunately, as 2021 has progressed we were able to take small steps towards 'normality'. At church we were able to hold services in-person – albeit initially using a booking system, have coffee after the service, and get back to singing hymns. Hopefully in 2022 we will be able to get back to 'full normality'. The numbers attending church have not yet returned to pre-lockdown levels. It is understandable that some people are still cautious about gathering in groups, and so there are still a few who follow our worship online.

I could not do the job of Churchwarden without a huge amount of support. First of all I must thank Heather who keeps me on the straight and narrow, reminds me when I forget things, makes very helpful suggestions and proof reads the rotas! I am also very grateful for the support of the three assistant Churchwardens (the three wise persons!) Chris Mears, John Savage and John Hawkins. When I need help they are always there with their time and their advice. I am also grateful for the support I receive from Alison Blunt, our PCC Secretary, Chris Yates, our Treasurer, and members of the PCC.

We are very grateful to all those people who are prepared to be sidesmen, read in church, make the coffee, organise the flowers, undertake sacristy duties, clean the church, tidy the churchyard, welcome St Mary's School to collective worship, support Young Voices rehearsals, open the church on Saturday afternoons, organise fundraising activities, and run Brownies and Guides. The list of your names is too long to include here, but your work is so important to the functioning of our Christian community – even when your duties are not necessarily visible. Music is very important at St Mary's and I would want to express our

appreciation of the work undertaken by Alan Danson during these difficult times, including launching Young Voices. Many thanks to the choir who mastered the technology to bring us music during lockdown. We are also grateful to Francesco Aresco for his invaluable contribution to our worship.

Sadly I have to report that due to pressure of work Matthew Eade has stood down as Editor of the East Barnet Herald. We are very grateful for all the time and effort Matthew has put into the Herald becoming a first class magazine, that is much appreciated throughout the local community. Until we find a successor to Matthew it will not be possible to publish the Herald.

The Churchwarden's report of 2020 made reference to the stream of difficulties we have encountered in progressing our building project. I am sad to say that further obstacles arose in 2021, in spite of Alec's tremendous efforts to get the project off the ground. We must all be very grateful for the grip he has maintained on these projects, despite the many frustrations he has encountered. There is a separate report on the projects, below.

A number of long standing members of the congregation who in the past have made a big contribution to the work of St Mary's are no longer with us. Tony Ure, a past Churchwarden, has moved to Ware to be near his daughter. Pauline Hayes now lives with her daughter on the Isle of Man. Pauline had spent her whole life at St Mary's undertaking a range of activities including running Brownies and the Monday Club. Pauline sends us all her best wishes. Sadly, Kathy Horton died on Christmas Eve. Kathy had been deeply involved for many years in activities at St Mary's and until lockdown had taken care of flower arranging in the church.

I have already commented on the considerable effort that Alec puts into the building project, which frankly takes up a disproportionate amount of his time. Our finances prevent us from employing an administrator, so part of this role falls on Alec's shoulders, again eating into his available time. In spite of these demands he is diligent in carrying out his duties as Rector. On behalf of the congregation I would like to express our appreciation of all he brings to St Mary's.

Finally, an appeal: I have paid tribute to all the people (apologies to anyone I have left out by accident) who make a contribution to our community. But you may have noticed that many of these people are, shall we say, 'not as young as they were'! If St Mary's is to continue as a thriving community it is essential that younger people step forward into leadership of our activities. We 'oldies' will be very happy to support you. On a personal note there is a vacancy for a second Churchwarden!

My thanks to you all for your prayers, support, friendship and love.

Roger Melling

PCC Report

All meetings of the PCC and Standing Committee have continued to be held online (via zoom) over the past year because of the Covid-19 pandemic. As online PCC meetings are not legally binding, resolutions have been communicated by correspondence and their

outcomes have been recorded in the minutes of the subsequent meeting. These will be accepted as an accurate record in the first in-person PCC meeting of 2022.

The PCC has continued to play a crucial role in providing collective leadership for the Church during the pandemic, including the regular review of Covid-19 risk assessments after the church building reopened for services.

Over the past year, PCC meetings have also focused on mission and ministry, including the development of a new Mission Action Plan, and work with other Churches to partner on a pioneer ministry project at North London Business Park. The PCC has also overseen the sale of the old hall land and the new hall building project, including the finances, exchange of contracts, and progress of work. An Extraordinary PCC meeting in October 2021 authorised the exchange of contracts. PCC meetings have also discussed communications; St Mary's School; fabric and building maintenance; finance; fundraising; safeguarding; the East Barnet Anglican-Methodist Partnership; and deanery and diocesan news.

The PCC has agreed that over the next year (from September) it will hold four business meetings and two or three reflection and social sessions, to help the PCC set strategy and think creatively and for the Standing Committee to focus on more operational matters. This will be reviewed after a year.

Dick Selby stood down from the PCC at the APCM in 2021. The PCC thanked him for all of his work as a member and previously as Treasurer. The PCC also thanked Jenny King for her ministry at St Mary's as she stepped back from her role as Assistant Priest.

The Standing Committee has also met regularly over the year, with an expanded membership consisting of the Churchwarden (Roger Melling), Secretary (Alison Blunt), Treasurer (Chris Yates) and two Assistant Churchwardens (John Hawkins and John Savage).

The PCC would like to express its sincere thanks to the Rector for his ministry, leadership and work during the pandemic and in ensuring progress on the development project.

Alison Blunt

A vision of St Mary's

East Barnet Mission Action Plan 2021-2022

We have reflected on our vision for the future relationship between our Church and parish community as a PCC during the first part of 2021.

We are aware of the blessings we have received as members of the Church of St Mary the Virgin, and the signs of inclusivity, welcome, commitment and care that already exist within our congregational community.

Following the example of Mary, and learning from the words of the Magnificat, we are seeking to share them more effectively with our parish community, and become a people of God who are confident to speak words of hope and perform signs of service in the world.

The Anglican 5 Marks of Mission, the PCC's related objectives within our parish, and SMART goals for the 2021–2022 PCC year

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom we will communicate effectively with those resident in the parish of East Barnet by seeking to recruit a larger team to produce the East Barnet Herald

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers we will create a welcoming atmosphere in our church building and at congregational events by formulating a clear plan to develop our work with children and young people

To respond to human need by loving service we will provide facilities for Church outreach and community use activities by delivering a new community use hall at St Mary's

To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation we will further develop St Mary's commitment to being an Inclusive Church by working with ecumenical partners to create an Inclusive, ecumenical pioneer ministry on the North London Business Park

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth we will reduce our consumption of resources, and our contribution to climate change by conducting a church building energy use audit

These goals will be a standing item on every PCC agenda, so that our progress can be monitored. The MAP will be renewed annually.

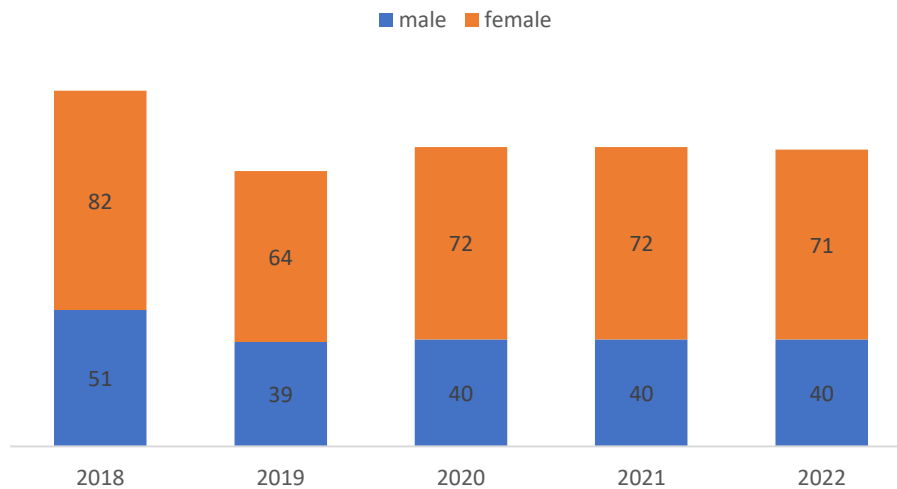
Electoral Roll Report

The Parish Electoral Roll is our list of all those entitled to vote on our electoral matters. Anyone over the age of sixteen who resides within our parish or who regularly worships at St Mary's may join the roll.

Our 2022 Electoral Roll comprised of 111 names which is an 1% decrease from 2021 Electoral Roll that contained 112 names. The gender balance of those listed on the Electoral Roll remained largely unchanged with the female to male balance being roughly 64% to 36% respectively.

In accordance with the Church Representation rules, our electoral roll will be updated again in 2023 and each subsequent year until 2025 when the list will be deleted, and a new roll compiled.

St Mary's Electoral Roll



Chris Yates

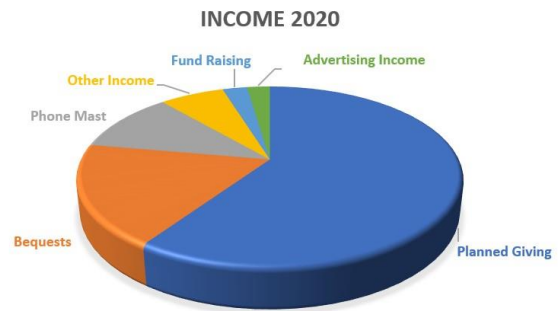
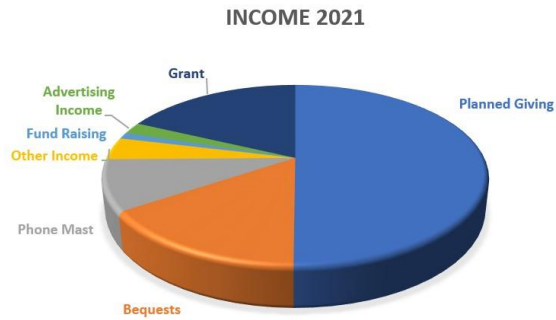
Treasurer's Report

Throughout another difficult year, we have made good progress with our mission and have continued to take the actions required to place our finances on a better ongoing footing. Further reductions have been made to our cost base allowing us to protect our limited reserves through a further lockdown period where we have been unable to generate fundraising income.

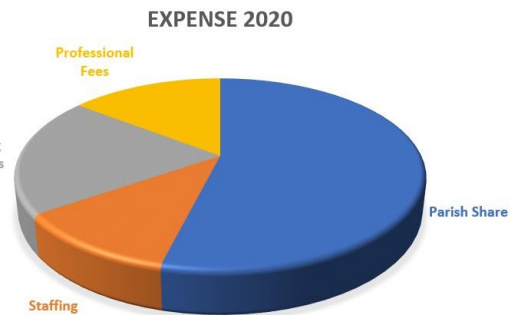
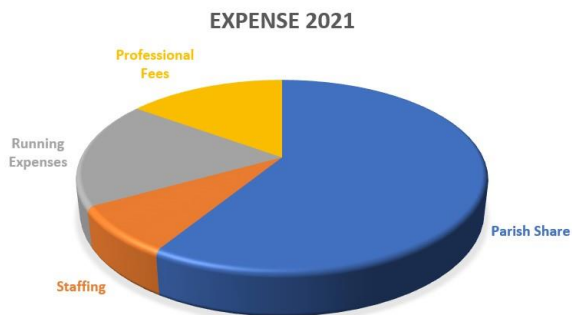
2021 Income exceeded expense by £10 281 allowing the Church to build additional resilience ahead of the financial uncertainty presented by our new hall building project.

Receipts (excluding the schoolhouse fund) increased by £11 279 to £126 471. However, the Church benefited from two one-off items: a generous bequest of £20 000 and a grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation of £20 000.

Planned giving was relatively stable year on year with a slight decline being recorded in the accounts due to the timing differences of gift aid reclaims between the two periods. Income from housing the mobile phone mast in our tower remains an important and stable part of our income and provided £11 500. Fees earned from weddings, baptisms and funerals remained stable year on year as did the advertising income received from the parish newspaper (The East Barnet Herald).



In 2021 the parish share payable to the Diocese, to cover items such as the Rector's stipend, pension and central costs decreased by 4.7% to £68,308. The parish share will be reduced by a further 0.5% to £67,958 for 2022. Against a background of inflation and rising costs this represents significant work by our Diocese to reduce expenditure through this period of pandemic uncertainty. Overall expenditure was reduced to £116,190 from last years expense of £133,019 (2.7%).



Exceptional expense items in 2021 included higher than budgeted electricity costs due to historical billing issues. Professional services payments for the hall building project were £17 405 down 10% from 2020.

I would like to thank Victoria Neil for her support in acting as an independent examiner for these accounts.

Chris Yates

Financial Statements

Statement of Assets As at 31 December 2021 Cash Basis

	31 DEC 2021	31 DEC 2020	VARIANCE
Current Assets			
Cash at bank and in hand			
CBF2 - Deposit	65,000.00	65,000.00	-
Current Account	500.00	1,051.22	(551.22)
Fees Account	2,316.48	1,872.58	443.90
High Interest Account (Tracker	0.52	0.52	-
Savings Account	96,221.49	36,515.95	59,705.54
Total Cash at bank and in hand	164,038.49	104,440.27	59,598.22
Mutual Fund Investments	-	43,536.98	(43,536.98)
Total Current Assets	164,038.49	147,977.25	16,061.24
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Rounding	(0.04)	-	(0.04)
Fees Payable [2]	621.00	865.00	(244.00)
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	620.96	865.00	(244.04)
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	163,417.53	147,112.25	16,305.28
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	163,417.53	147,112.25	16,305.28
Net Assets	163,417.53	147,112.25	16,305.28
Capital and Reserves			
General Fund - Unrestricted	32,810.77	26,094.91	6,715.86
Building Project Fund [3] - Designated	95,173.35	83,631.87	11,541.48
School House Fund [4] - Restricted	35,433.41	37,385.47	(1,952.06)
Total Capital and Reserves	163,417.53	147,112.25	16,305.28
Current Year			
Current Year Earnings	16,305.28	(40,828.60)	57,133.88
Earnings Allocated to Funds	(16,305.28)	40,828.60	(57,133.88)
Total Current Year	-	-	-

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations of 2006 using the receipts and payments basis.

2. Fees Payable

The PCC collects statutory fees for services such as weddings, funerals, and baptisms on behalf of the diocese of St Albans which are remitted quarterly.

3. Building Project Fund

In 2020 the assets held by the St Martins Church Hall fund were transferred to St Mary's PCC and have been designated for the Building Project Fund, established to create a new Church Hall annexed to the Church building. The PCC designated an additional £30,000

4. School House Fund

The PCCs bank accounts are currently used to assist the administration of the School House, the funds are fully restricted and cannot be used for other Church activities.

Receipts and Payments Accounts

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Barnet

For the year ended 31 December 2021

	2021	2020	VARIANCE
Receipts			
Voluntary Receipts			
Planned Giving			
Parish Giving Scheme	40,212	40,081	131
Regular Donations	11,663	12,458	(795)
Gift Aid	11,514	16,049	(4,536)
Total Planned Giving	63,389	68,589	(5,200)
Bequests	19,608	21,000	(1,392)
Other Donations	3,078	2,853	225
Total Voluntary Receipts	86,074	92,442	(6,367)
Church Activities			
Phone Mast	11,550	12,550	(1,000)
Fundraising [2]	1,436	2,881	(1,445)
Fees for Weddings and Funerals	1,418	1,594	(176)
Advertising Income	2,670	2,657	13
Total Church Activities	17,074	19,682	(2,608)
Investment Income			
Interest Income	599	1,331	(732)
Other Receipts			
Other Receipts [3]	22,724	1,738	20,987
Total Receipts	126,471	115,192	11,279
	2021	2020	VARIANCE

Payments			
Church Activities			
Parish Share	68,308	71,700	(3,392)
Clergy and Staffing Costs [4]	9,408	15,210	(5,802)
Church Running Expenses			
Church Services [5]	1,380	2,823	(1,443)
Buildings [6]	11,918	11,303	615
Printing & Stationery	3,402	6,735	(3,333)
Administration [7]	2,051	4,433	(2,381)
Rent	1,220	1,165	55
Total Church Running Expenses	19,971	26,459	(6,488)
Total Church Activities	97,688	113,369	(15,681)
Hall Building Project			
Professional Services [8]	17,405	19,313	(1,908)
Subscriptions	219	-	219
Mission Giving and Donations			
Home Missions	416	-	416
Total Mission Giving and Donations	416	-	416
Other Payments			
Bank Fees	278	338	(60)
Fundraising Costs	184	-	184
Total Payments	116,190	133,019	(16,830)
Investment Revaluation ^[9]			
Investment Revaluation	-	11,143	(11,143)

I. Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations of 2006 using the receipts and payments basis.

2. Fundraising

The PPC is grateful for the fundraising efforts made during such a difficult year, the main activities are broken down as:

	2021	2020	Variance
Quiz Evening		£208.05	(£208.05)
Table Top Sale		£420.25	(£420.25)
Concerts		£102.65	(£102.65)
Masks & Preserves	£663.67	£1,288.00	(£624.33)
Fundraising Beer		£560.82	(£560.82)
Plant Sale	£362.07		£362.07
Harvest Supper	£410.00		£410.00
Other		£301.00	(£301.00)
Total	£1,435.74	£2,880.77	(£1,445.03)

3. Other Receipts

Other receipts for 2021 included a grant of £20,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation and £2,724 grant claim from the Listed Place of Worship VAT reclaim scheme.

4. Clergy and Staffing Costs

Throughout 2021 we have managed the church without the assistance of a part-time parish administrator leading to a reduction of cost with respect to the prior year.

	2021 VARIANCE	2020	
5. Service Expenses			
Service Expense Candles	548	303	245
Service Expense Coffee	108	104	4
Service Expense Other	724	2,036	(1,311)
Service Expense Flowers	-	249	(249)
Sunday School Expenses	-	132	(132)
Total Service Expenses	1,380	2,823	(1,443)
	2021	2020	VARIANCE

6. Building Expenses

Light, Power, Heating	7,517	2,315	5,202
Insurance	1,990	1,556	434
Repair & Maintenance	1,579	6,106	(4,527)
Organ Expense	832	1,292	(460)
Cleaning	-	33	(33)
Total Building Expenses	11,918	11,303	615

Electricity costs in 2021 were significantly more than the prior year's expenses. Our electricity provider had billed us based on estimates for a number of years leading to a significant under-payment for electricity costs. New processes are in place to ensure meter readings are submitted frequently.

	2021 VARIANCE	2020	
7. Administration			
IT Software and Consumables	825	1,211	(387)
Telephone & Internet	561	1,685	(1,124)
Travel - National	413	602	(189)
licenses and memberships	203	442	(239)
Advertising & Marketing	19	237	(218)
Postage, Freight & Courier	30	101	(71)
Entertainment-100% business	-	144	(144)
Staff Training	-	10	(10)
Total Administration	2,051	4,433	(2,381)

8. Professional Services

The Church made significant progress with the hall building project through 2020 and made payment to professional service providers in line with budgeted amounts:

	2021	2020	Variance
Quantity Surveyors	£6,120	£9,468	(£3,348)
Architects	£7,571	£4,967	£2,604
Solicitors		£3,456	(£3,456)
Accountants	£1,290	£1,392	(£102)
Structural Engineers	£1,140		£1,140
Archaeology	£1,140		£1,140
Planning Costs	£144		£144
Total	£17,405	£19,313	(£1,908)

9. Investment Revaluation

In preparation for the hall-building project, the mutual fund investments were liquidated in 2020. As stock markets had been affected by the global pandemic our investments were worth less than the 2019 year end valuations leading to a loss.

Independent Examiner's Report

The report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2021, which are set out on the above pages is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("The Regulations") and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("The Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

Members of the PCC are responsible in the preparation of the accounts to consider the audit requirement of the Regulations and s144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records, it also includes considering any unusual items of disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations for you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act, and
- b. To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met. Or to which in my opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Dated

22.04.2022

VICTORIA NEIL ACA
NEIL + CO

Fabric Report

During 2021 maintenance work on the church's historic fabric was minimal, continuing the pattern of sustaining the building's current condition to permit the focus of dedicated attention on the community hall project.

However, in one innovation, a children's chapel has been established at the East end of the South aisle, necessitating some minor temporary reordering.

Shared Access carried out maintenance work to the tower phone mast installation; and Roy Ensom quoted for roof works, including the installation of soakers to the nave-chancel abutment where there is a long-term leak. If grant applications against the costs of this work are successful, it will be scheduled for Spring 2022.

Also at high altitude, the Rector fitted new flag halyards and equipment, and this allowed the church to fly its flag at half-mast, following the death of the Duke of Edinburgh.

Annual maintenance, inspections, and checks were conducted on the following areas: the Lightning Conductor; Fire Safety Equipment; the Organ Blower and Humidifier; Portable Appliances; Boilers and Gas Appliances. All these works were carried out according to current regulations and British Standards, and all items inspected are currently in good condition. The PCC is grateful to Roy Mears for organising these inspections, and many other tasks which he has completed to care for our historic building. The Organ was also tuned. The PCC is grateful to Alan Danson for his continuing care of the organ.

In the churchyard, the Rector held a number of meetings with representatives of the London Borough of Barnet Council, which is statutorily responsible for the maintenance of the churchyard in good order and safety, as it is a closed churchyard. As a result of these meetings, a number of monuments were fenced off to prevent them from injuring people if they should collapse. The Council is currently processing quotations for their repair. The Council will also be repairing fencing. The Rector also assisted the Council in establishing a document outlining their procedures for the care of closed churchyards.

Related to the community hall building project, gravestones in the area of the new hall's construction and its site access have been moved by Memorial Masters. These are to be relocated within the churchyard, respectfully.

The rectory and its garage have been burgled several times during 2021, and it continues to degrade in condition because of subsidence and the effect of temporary flooding after the theft of pipes and sanitaryware. The Rector has been involved in a series of meetings of the Diocesan property subcommittee, which aims to move toward appointment of a building contractor early in 2022. The rectory will then be demolished and a new rectory built on the same site.

It has been determined that trustee responsibility for the St Mary's School schoolhouse lies with the Diocese of St Albans, but in order to best serve the interests of the current tenant the PCC has managed substantial renovation works there over 2020 and 2021. Once these are completed, the PCC will transfer regular management of the house to a professional agent nominated by the Diocese. In 2021, new carpeting was installed in the schoolhouse

hall; ground floor works outside improved the appearance of the brickwork of the schoolhouse and its front wall; the derelict shed was removed; and new gates and fencing were installed to enhance the tenant's privacy and safety. The PCC is grateful to John Savage for organising these works, his constant enthusiasm for the repairs necessary, and his care of the tenant.

Alec Corio

Community Hall Building Project Report

During 2021 the progress of this project – to provide a new community use facility at the church site – has suffered a number of unexpected delays and setbacks that threatened its very existence. However, by the close of the year, contracts for its construction and associated works had been signed; gravestones covering the area of the new hall's construction and site access had been cleared by Memorial Masters; and Ash Construction Ltd had scheduled a projected start date for their works to construct the hall of 1 February 2022. We can therefore look forward to the completion of the new hall in Autumn 2022.

In January, Stanley and Ingram demolished the dilapidated old church hall in East Barnet village, in order to begin construction of houses on its site. The proposed contract with Stanley and Ingram was for the construction of 1 detached house and 3 terraced houses on the site of the old church hall; of which the Church would retain ownership only of the detached house, to accommodate an assistant minister, or be rented and its income applied to the PCC's charitable purposes. The purchase sum for the remainder of the site was to cover the cost of constructing a new hall at St Mary's.

In beginning demolition and construction work on the site in January, Stanley and Ingram complicated the PCC and Diocesan Board of Finance's legal processes involved in this project, as the PCC had not issued building licences permitting this work, or yet exchanged contracts for sale of the land.

As the Diocese required the PCC to show that we had completed all planning for the construction of the new hall before any contracts could be exchanged, a great deal of pressure was applied to complete all the preliminaries for the sale of old hall land and the construction of the new hall as quickly as possible.

Stanley and Ingram's actions in demolishing the old church hall also triggered the London Borough of Barnet Council's section 106 agreement on the sites of both the old and new hall, setting deadlines for construction progress to be achieved at both sites; and a demand from the Council that Community Infrastructure Levy be paid by the PCC on works on the old hall site. The level and terms of the Council's CIL demand were unexpected, and they led the Rector to find and consult a specialist CIL advisor, to limit the PCC and Diocese's liability in the event that the level and terms had been incorrectly assessed. This process was extremely time consuming.

A long period of negotiation between the Rector, the Diocese, and Stanley and Ingram as to the precise terms of their contract and its projected exchange date followed. After many false starts and several threats from Stanley and Ingram to pull out of the deal as agreed because of delays caused by preliminaries, a contract between the PCC and Stanley and Ingram on agreed terms was exchanged on 29 October.

Further to the value engineering conducted on Ash Construction Ltd's original tender for the construction of the new hall in 2020, another value engineering process was being conducted in parallel to these negotiations with Stanley and Ingram. This was because the effects of BREXIT and Covid-19 led to a huge increase in projected material and labour costs, and a consequent increase in the tender that was far above the PCC's capacity to meet them.

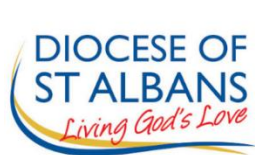
This second process led to the decision not to include the construction of a meeting room above the existing vestries (as in the original design for the new hall) at this stage, and to the omission of a number of other minor features from the original design of the new hall. These ranged from limiting the depth of the oak cladding to its corner posts, to the removal of hand driers from the WCs, and JBKS were very creative in their suggestions of possible value engineering options such as these. The progress toward completion of these plans, upon which the Diocese would allow an exchange of contract also included the consultation on and production of redesigned drainage plans, heating plans, mechanical and electrical engineering plans, and a new framing structure plan.

The feasibility of entering into a contract for the construction of the new hall was eventually guaranteed through this value engineering, and an increase in the PCC's building fund. This already comprised historic congregational fundraising; the contents of the St Martin's and St Mary's Hall trusts; and the (projected) net proceeds from the sale of the old hall site of £686 646.

In addition, the PCC transferred some operational funds to the project, and we received grants from the Diocese of St Albans, the City Churches Fund, and the Garfield Weston Foundation, which realised a further of £113 000 to the building fund. As well as the applications he made to these, the Rector has applied for other grants, and we are currently awaiting the results of two more of these applications.

The PCC was therefore able to exchange contracts with Ash Construction Ltd for the construction of the new hall on 10 November, on the basis of a contract sum of £738 241 within a total budget of c£900 000 and a real term project size of considerably over £1 million.

We are grateful for financial assistance from the following organisations who have made grants to support this project:



Following the exchange of contracts, plans then proceeded for works on the new hall to be scheduled and to prepare the ground for construction. JBKS submitted pre-commencement paperwork to the Council, and Ash Construction Ltd put in place their site access and safety arrangements. The preparation of the ground has already involved our separate contractor Memorial Masters relocating 54 gravestones, monuments and tombs – some of

which are very substantial in weight. These will be respectfully relocated within the churchyard, when the hall is complete.

The PCC thanks Roger Melling, John Savage and Chris Yates for their assistance to the Rector in progressing this project. We are also very grateful for the expert advice we have received from the Diocesan Advisory Committee, Alastair Woodgate, JKBS Architects, Ridge and Partners LLP, Ash Construction Ltd, and other advisors and contractors.

Alec Corio

Partnership Enabling Group Report

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic the East Barnet Anglican-Methodist Partnership Enabling Group did not meet in 2021. Partnership issues have been dealt with at the weekly team meetings, normally held on zoom.

Having been chair of the Partnership Enabling Group for the last 7 years, I wish to stand down as chair. The chair rotates between the two Churches, so our next chair will be nominated from Barnet Brookside Methodist Church. The Partnership Enabling Group will meet again as soon as conditions permit.

Roger Melling

Deanery Synod Report

The Barnet Deanery Synod met on three occasions in 2021.

In February, Diocesan Lay Ministry Officer, the Revd Phil Bryson spoke about changes in the licensed and authorised lay ministry training programmes. The Diocese offers training to encourage a more diverse range of ministries, and is now promoting the following courses:

- A Foundation Course covering the Bible, Christian belief and exploring issues in modern society that the hope of Christ can shine a light on.
- A Church Mission Society course for pioneer ministers. This course is for people who want to take a leading role in projects to reach new people with the gospel.
- Lay Leader of Worship training
- Reader training, which requires two further years of study in addition to the Foundation course. Readers are lay people who are trained to preach and lead a range of services.

In June, the Revd Will Gibbs, Diocesan Advocate for Living in Love and Faith explained that this is a national exploration of the changing pattern of relationships in modern society, and what this process means for the Church. Will highlighted how issues of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage affect everyone, and that opinions on these issues are deeply held.

In October, Christian Cole, Diocesan Youth Missioner, spoke about the research that has been commissioned by the Diocese to establish 'the scale and scope of youth work in the Diocese and to identify the challenges and opportunities facing Churches'. The findings are too detailed to set out in detail in this report, but they reflect our experiences at St Mary's:

- a decline in youth work, exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic

- a focus on children rather than young people
- few paid Church youth workers
- that there are opportunities for every person in every Church to engage with youth ministry

Please don't hesitate to ask me if you would like any more information about these subjects.

Roger Melling

Safeguarding Report

2021 has been a strange year, due to the continuance of the Covid-19 pandemic. St Mary's has continued to take all necessary steps to maintain a safe environment for all who attend. We have followed the Church of England's safeguarding guidelines for face to face and online activities throughout the year.

The PCC also adopted Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse Policies, which are in keeping with the relevant Church of England Policies.

Safeguarding training is ongoing for all people involved in leadership and ministry activities at St Mary's. In November 2021 the Diocese issued details of new courses which come into effect from January 2022. Training may, in some cases, come under a slightly different heading. The courses previously completed by individuals and for which a certificate has been received are still valid.

There were two safeguarding reports logged during 2021. Neither concerned an immediate risk; nor did they meet the threshold for action or reporting set by the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor.

As I always say, it is the responsibility of everyone to continue to be vigilant and report anything suspicious. Let us ensure we keep our community as safe as possible.

Chris Mears

Minutes of 2020 Annual Meeting of Parishioners 23 May 2021 (on zoom)

1. The meeting opened with prayers and a welcome to all attending.
2. Alison Blunt was elected as clerk to the APM and APCM (proposed by Alec Corio and unanimously approved).
3. Apologies for absence had been received from Alan Danson, Lesley Danson, Anne Foley, Chris Mears, Roy Mears and Ann Savage.
4. The minutes of the last APM (5 October 2020) were unanimously accepted as a true record.
5. Election of Churchwardens: Roger Melling had been nominated as Churchwarden (nominated by Chris Yates, seconded by Alison Blunt) and was declared elected. AC

expressed his thanks to RM for his willingness to continue to serve as Churchwarden and, particularly, as the only Churchwarden at the present time. AC also said that we collectively need to support RM in this role and try to seek other candidates to stand as the other Churchwarden. John Savage, John Hawkins and Chris Mears will continue as Assistant Churchwardens. JS suggested occasional meetings between AC, RM and the Assistant Churchwardens with the view to providing further support.

Minutes of 2020 Annual Parochial Church Meeting
23 May 2021 (on zoom)

1. Apologies for absence were received from Alan Danson, Lesley Danson, Anne Foley, Chris Mears, Roy Mears, and Ann Savage.

2. The minutes of the last APCM (5 October 2021) were unanimously accepted as a true record, subject to one spelling correction (changing 'Caulfield' to 'Cranfield').

3. Annual report:

Questions were invited on the 2020 statutory reports.

- On the financial statements on p.15: Heather Melling asked about the figures reported for the Parish Giving Scheme and the different headings used in the 2019 and 2020 financial reports. Chris Yates explained that this year he has updated the presentation of the accounts. The heading 'Parish Giving Scheme' refers solely to this scheme. The meeting was asked to note that there has been a change between the accounting lines used in the 2019 and 2020 financial reports.

- P.13 – change 'Victorian' to 'Victoria.'

- CY was thanked for preparing such a clear and full financial report.

Questions were invited on the 2020 non-statutory reports.

- John Savage asked about the plans for different organizations to resume. The Guides have been active online and have started meeting in person again. Plans are in place for the Brownies to meet in person again. AC hopes that Sunday Club will resume but plans for returning to in-person Sunday Club is a heavy load for parents of young children, particularly in the context of the challenges of the last year. AC can be involved in planning Sunday Club sessions, but would need others to lead it.

4. AC noted that, whilst the meeting was about 2020, he invited questions on how we are doing as a Church and a community in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic since the start of 2021. There were no questions.

5. AC would welcome the involvement of parishioners in discussing Church engagement with the planned redevelopment of the North London Business Park.

6. Building projects: AC reported that we are still waiting for contracts with Stanley & Ingram to be finalized. The community infrastructure levy (CIL) should have been paid in January. We are unable to pay it until Stanley & Ingram sign the contract and we have access to funds. RM asked whether we will be charged for communications sent by the Diocesan solicitor to Stanley & Ingram. We have a guarantee of the costs from the Diocesan solicitor, which are less than their standard charges.

7. Conduct of elections to Deanery Synod:

- There was a vacancy for one Deanery Synod member for the remaining two years of the three year term. Our current representatives are Roger Melling and Matthew Eade. No nominations had been received.

8. Conduct of elections to the PCC:

- There were vacancies for six PCC members for the term of three years. Nominations had been received for:

James Baker (proposed by John Savage, seconded by Stephen Edwards);
Alison Blunt (proposed by Roger Melling, seconded by Chris Yates);
John Hawkins (proposed by John Savage, seconded by Heather Melling);
Chris Watson (proposed by Roger Melling, seconded by Alison Blunt)

all for three-year terms. The criteria for serving as a member on the PCC legally include being on the electoral roll for at least the previous six months. As James Baker is not on the 2020 electoral roll, he will therefore be admitted to the PCC as an observer, able to contribute but not able to vote. James will put in an electoral roll application and once he has been on it for six months he can be formally elected to join the PCC as a full member. James agreed with this way forward.

Alison Blunt, John Hawkins and Chris Watson were duly elected and James Baker will be co-opted onto the PCC.

9. Appointment of the Independent Examiner.

Ron and Victoria Neil acted as independent examiners for the 2020 Annual Report. The meeting agreed to approach them for the 2021 Annual Report (proposed by Alec Corio; seconded by Gail Phillips; passed, with one abstention (CY – Treasurer)).

10. The meeting ended with a prayer at 6pm, followed by the loyal toast to Her Majesty the Queen.

2nd East Barnet Brownies

We were not able to meet as a Brownie unit before Easter, and instead provided a couple of spring and Easter crafts for the girls to do at home. After careful thought, we resumed indoor meetings in mid-May and our group of 15 girls eased back into a familiar routine with some Promise activities. All of them made a flag window poster to support our Euro 2020 team. We also learnt new songs for our socially distanced singalong led by Leaders from 4th East Barnet unit.

With the prospect of being able to go out more we did a Country Code awareness session, finding out how to keep our families and local green spaces safe. For our end of term meeting the girls made purses and we had time to chat to Alec when he came to visit us.

In Autumn 2021 we had fewer girls with us than in the summer (13) so made a fresh start by voting for new 'sixes'. A few older girls joined the 4th on their week end away days; and we welcomed three more enthusiastic new girls, to add to our two summer joiners.

For our end of term meeting the girls decorated Advent calendars, played Christmas themed games, and joined in the Church carol singing outside Brookside Methodist Church.

We are grateful there is still lots of flexibility in the Girlguiding programme for working on badges. The Unit decided to continue with 'Skills for my future', 'Skills builder', and 'Live Smart – Stage 2'. Challenges completed included 'Indicator navigator' (road safety), 'Shop 'til you drop' (money/coinage), and 'Girls can do anything!' (job opportunities).

Our group has the good fortune to have three volunteer adults most weeks now as Stephanie (Puffin) has graduated from Young Leader to adult status, with her milestone birthday in the autumn. We thank her and sister Rachel (Robin) for their staunch support and enthusiasm within the Unit alongside myself and Anne Malloy (Brown Owl).

Elaine Eyles (Tawny Owl)

2nd East Barnet Guides

In 2021 we had a number of Brownies transfer up to us, but sadly at the same time lost a number of our older Guides. It was good to get back to face to face meetings and we did a couple of hikes round the local area, including one that culminated in a taste test to decide on the best chips from all the takeaways in East Barnet, and another taste test with pizza.

During the summer we were able to get out even more, and played crazy golf in Trent Park and went kayaking at the Welsh Harp reservoir. We even held a promise ceremony out on the water!

We did a lots of crafts, including painting candle holders, mandala paintings of Xmas tree ornaments, fireworks in a jar, pumpkin cupcakes, and carving carrots. We were given a number of old LPs and made them into clocks and earring hangers. At one session we made bird feeders from oranges, which turned out to be much harder than the activity card made it sound, but everyone managed to take a finished feeder home.

The girls tried their hand at Crime Scene Investigation which included acidity testing, ink testing and then questioning a number of suspects. 3 out of the 4 teams were able to identify the guilty party. We took part in the East Barnet Remembrance Parade and laid a wreath.

We finished the year with a Christmas party which included old style games like penny in the bottle, musical chairs and flip a fish. We also had the pleasure of presenting our first Silver awards and Gold award, which is the top award the Guides can gain through programme work.

We are looking forward to 2022 and hopefully have the opportunity to go away on a residential.

Karen Binns

Chipping Barnet Foodbank

The Covid-19 pandemic has continued to present the Foodbank with significant challenges, which have been met by the generosity of local Churches, synagogues, schools, businesses, community groups, and many individuals, who have offered donations of food and financial support. Thanks to the dedicated work of the Foodbank team (all volunteers) a total of 5,500 people have been supported during 2021, a 40% increase on figures for 2019.

Regrettably, it is envisaged that the demand for emergency food will remain high, due to the end of the furlough scheme, the removal of the universal credit uplift, the increase in National Insurance contributions, and the predicted rise in food prices.

Last year foodbanks across the country started working to develop a roadmap for the future. This means tackling the causes of food insecurity, rather than functioning solely to combat its symptoms. It is no longer the case that foodbanks provide emergency food parcels only. They are now diversifying the range of support on offer to meet the challenges clients face in their day-to-day lives. At Chipping Barnet Foodbank they supply emergency food, fresh fruit and vegetables, toiletries and household cleaning items, Aldi vouchers and Pay-Point/Post Office fuel vouchers. These items are in place to allow clients greater freedom to spend money where it matters. The fuel voucher scheme provided nearly £4000 to foodbank clients in 2021.

The Foodbank continued to support other organisations in the borough with food, including Gratitude Borehamwood, Solace Women's Aid, Oak Lodge School, Leaving Care Team, Giuseppe Conlon House, and Hens Medics Food Hub.

Looking towards the future, the Foodbank will attempt to develop systems allowing clients better access to technology, as well as funding for energy efficient product installation. They aim to continue working with local and national partners to broaden their services to meet client needs and respond to calls from the Trussell Trust for 'a more dignified, compassionate, and just society where foodbanks are no longer needed'.

Chipping Barnet Foodbank
Charity Number: 1163042
Address: St Peter's Roman Catholic Church Centre
63 Somerset Road
New Barnet
EN5 1RF

The charity's object is 'the prevention or relief of poverty in Chipping Barnet and surrounding areas, in particular by providing food supplies to individuals in need'. We aim to ensure that all clients presenting with official vouchers during foodbank opening hours receive appropriate food parcels in line with Trussell Trust and local policies.

Chris Watson

Christian Aid

On Sunday 9 May, Christian Aid week was launched at St Mary's by Kathy Childress who works at Christian Aid's central office, giving an enthusiastic address to the congregation about the work of the charity and its specific goals for the year. Christian Aid donations were collected at this service.

Kathy also wrote a follow-up article for the next edition of The East Barnet Herald, which provided us with a way to reach more people with her message. That edition of the Herald included an advert and QR code which linked to a specially set up 'Just Giving' page. Similarly, the 'Just Giving' page was promoted through Alec's weekly e-mail, to allow local residents to make donations easily.

A plant sale was held in the churchyard at the end of Christian Aid week, on Saturday 15 May. Thanks to the help of several strategically placed posters, it was so well attended that we completely sold out of plants within two hours.

During Christian Aid week the money raised was £1 161.85, including Gift Aid.

Just before Christmas, and at very short notice, Christian Aid advised us of their launch of their Disaster Emergency Committee Afghanistan Appeal. To respond to this, Alec decided that the retiring collections at our Christmas services would all be donated to this appeal. In this way, St. Mary's was able to contribute a further £600 to Christian Aid.

Gail Phillips

Fundraising Events at St Mary's

For another year, Covid-19 restrictions have limited our activities.

Heather Melling has produced a constant supply of jams and preserves, mainly from fruit grown in her own garden, for which we are extremely grateful. These have been sold and, together with sales of handmade cotton masks and packets of donated coffee, raised £663.67 for Church funds.

A plant sale was held on Saturday 2 October in the churchyard. Despite this being a very wet day proceeds totalled £362.07.

The following Saturday, 9 October, we held our Harvest Supper. This was a 'sold out' event, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants: for most of us this was the first social gathering in a rather long time! It was lovely to see several family groups amongst the guests. £410 was contributed to the Church coffers from this event.

Gail Phillips

Green Christians Barnet

Last Lent, St Mary's organised an ecumenical Lent course on creation-care with Brookside Methodist Church, St John's United Reformed Church and the Green Christian group, culminating in a creation themed service in April.

Throughout the year members of St Mary's have continued to play a role in Green Christians Barnet, and our group has held several meetings. These included 'Food – it is not just about diet' which noted that though our food system is a major factor in causing climate change, each of us can take action to make it better. We heard about COP26 and had time to discuss opportunities and dangers. We had a session on 'Our Money and Sustaining the Planet'. We also received regular updates from the Good Samaritan School for Deaf Children in Uganda, and their water challenge.

Green Christians Barnet is starting to plan for new events in 2022, including outdoor activities such as litter-picking in our local area.

Sarah Edwards

Music at St Mary's

At the close of 2020 and the beginning of 2021, strict restrictions were put in place nationally. Music for Advent and Christmas services was provided through online services for St Mary's, and our choir members recorded their individual parts via mobile phones and tablets. These were then mixed to provide a finished product.

As the national vaccination programme progressed, providing greater protection from the virus, we began to see ways of reintroducing live music to our services. Nevertheless, it was not until 12 September that the choir was able to contribute an anthem, 'Come Ye Servants of the Lord', at a Parish Eucharist. Congregational singing then started a little later.

From the close of the school summer term, we began to advertise the formation of a children's choir, called Young Voices. The first rehearsal took place on Wednesday 6 October, and although the number of children attending has varied, they have made great progress and their confidence enabled them to participate in Advent and Christmas carol services. We are hoping to recruit enough members to continue Young Voices into the future.

Holding Advent and Christmas carol services, with instrumental accompaniment, brought a welcome sense of normality. I am extremely grateful for the faithfulness of the choir, and for their continued service and commitment throughout this challenging time.

At the time of writing, weekly choir rehearsals and a full programme of anthems have been reinstated, and we are hopeful that the coming year will be less disruptive than 2021.

Alan Danson

Pioneer Ministry on the North London Business Park development

The North London Business Park lies across the southern edge of the parish of East Barnet. In April 2021 it became known that the site's owners, Comer Homes Ltd, would be seeking planning permission for a substantial development there, beyond that which they currently have planning permission for.

Since 2020 Comer Homes has held planning permission to provide 1 350 residential units on the site, in the form of a small number of houses and 9 storey blocks of flats; they are

currently in the process of applying for permission to extend this scheme to 2 428 residential units in 9–13 storey blocks of flats on the site. If completed, this larger scheme will lead to an estimated total site population of 7–10 000, about half of whom will be resident in this parish. The site plans also include the extension of St Andrew the Apostle Greek Orthodox High School; retail and childcare space; community facilities; and landscaped park areas.

After viewing planning documents and attending online consultations at which community facilities were hardly mentioned, the Rector contacted Comer Homes to set up meetings advocating for the provision of locally engaged community facilities on the site. A number of positive meetings have followed with representatives of Comer Homes. Through these, the Rector has been able to bring other civic, local political and Church leaders into dialogue with Comer Homes, and Comer Homes is now very eager to work with these stakeholders in the design and provision of some indoor community space at the heart of the site.

The Rector also contacted their colleagues in other local Churches to discuss how best to collaborate in creating a community–building pioneer ministry to the North London Business Park. Monthly prayer walks have been held on the site since May, and these have brought together civic and local political leaders and congregation members to pray for the health of the future site community, and for reconciliation between the needs of existing residents of the Brunswick Park ward and those residents who will move in to the future development. They have deepened relationships between Church leaders, and allowed discussions of future shared projects to develop.

This is innovatory in two important respects: it is based on the prayerful belief that this form of community–centred pioneer work can draw Churches into closer ecumenical relationships; and that pioneer ministry can effectively serve both as a focus for a distinctive Christian presence in an area of new housing, and provide an inclusive hospitality that underpins the common good of a new community.

The Rector is now working with their colleagues from St Paul’s Church, New Southgate; Barnet Brookside Methodist Church; and St John’s United Reformed Church, New Barnet to form proposals for the use and governance of a community centre, and the support and oversight of a pioneer minister on the site. The clergy from all our Churches have also met with consultants from the Church of England’s national Fresh Expressions team; the Diocese of London; the Diocese of St Alban’s Reaching New People team; Churches Together in Britain and Ireland; The Methodist Connexion’s Pioneer Ministry officer; and HeartEdge, to support this planning effort.

Alec Corio

St Mary’s Church of England Voluntary Aided School

The past year has been another eventful one for the community at St Mary’s School. At just this time last year, we were looking forward to welcoming all of the children back into school, following the lockdown in January 2021 during which the children and the staff worked incredibly hard to maintain their learning from home. Through the wonders of technology, the children were all able to engage with their learning and enjoy collective worship each day, which included a weekly contribution from Alec.

This academic year has also seen a formal change in headship at the school with Mel Adams retiring in December 2021 after 26 years as a headteacher at St. Mary's School. I have had the privilege of working very closely with Mel over many years, and her legacy in the school will continue to live on for many more years to come. Mel's commitment to the school and in particular her Church school leadership has led the school through consecutive successful SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) and OFSTED (Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills) inspections, and over time Mel has built highly effective relationships with our local Churches to create a rich tapestry of worship experiences for our children.

We look forward to celebrating Mel's significant contribution to the school towards the end of the summer term 2022.

We have been eagerly looking forward to the day when we could wend our way up the hill on a Thursday to hold collective worship services at St Mary's Church once again, which were sadly suspended due to various Covid-19 control measures. We have been delighted to reintroduce weekly church services very recently. We are very grateful to the Rector, the Churchwarden Roger Melling and congregation members for making church-based collective worship possible each week.

I am immensely proud to say that the children and staff at St. Mary's are the living embodiment of our school vision:

At St. Mary's, inspired by Christian values, we are excited by our learning, proud of our achievements, determined to be the best we can be and caring for all of God's creation.

Our faith foundation is undoubtedly our strength. From this comes our aspiration to live life in all its fullness; to care for one another, all people everywhere, all God's creatures and this wonderful planet. And in times of great adversity, such as those we have experienced over the last two years, we have learned that even in the most challenging of times, our St. Mary's School family is united and strong, bound together by the greatness of God's love.

We continue to pray for each other, our school families, our community and our Church. God Bless them all.

Maria Constantinou

Together in Barnet

It has not been possible to continue to provide local night shelters organised by different faith groups during the Covid-19 pandemic. Together in Barnet, the charity previously coordinating night shelters in the Borough, have therefore rented a hotel in Golders Green where clients can be accommodated safely. Faith groups have been asked to provide a main evening meal and packed breakfasts to be delivered to the hotel, and St Mary's has continued to work with East Barnet Baptist Church to provide these meals for the homeless.

Many thanks to all those who have been able to provide meals.

Roger Melling

Statement of Assets

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Barnet

As at 31 December 2021

Cash Basis

	31 DEC 2021	31 DEC 2020	VARIANCE
Current Assets			
Cash at bank and in hand			
CBF2 - Deposit	65,000.00	65,000.00	-
Current Account	500.00	1,051.22	(551.22)
Fees Account	2,316.48	1,872.58	443.90
High Interest Account (Tracker	0.52	0.52	-
Savings Account	96,221.49	36,515.95	59,705.54
Total Cash at bank and in hand	164,038.49	104,440.27	59,598.22
Mutual Fund Investments	-	43,536.98	(43,536.98)
Total Current Assets	164,038.49	147,977.25	16,061.24
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Rounding	(0.04)	-	(0.04)
Fees Payable [2]	621.00	865.00	(244.00)
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	620.96	865.00	(244.04)
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	163,417.53	147,112.25	16,305.28
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	163,417.53	147,112.25	16,305.28
Net Assets	163,417.53	147,112.25	16,305.28
Capital and Reserves			
General Fund - Unrestricted	32,810.77	26,094.91	6,715.86
Building Project Fund [3] - Designated	95,173.35	83,631.87	11,541.48
School House Fund [4] - Restricted	35,433.41	37,385.47	(1,952.06)
Total Capital and Reserves	163,417.53	147,112.25	16,305.28
Current Year			
Current Year Earnings	16,305.28	(40,828.60)	57,133.88
Earnings Allocated to Funds	(16,305.28)	40,828.60	(57,133.88)
Total Current Year	-	-	-

1. Accounting Policies.

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations of 2006 using the receipts and payments basis.

2. Fees Payable

The PCC collects statutory fees for services such as weddings, funerals, and baptisms on behalf of the diocese of St Albans which are remitted quarterly.

3. Building Project Fund

In 2020 the assets held by the St Martins Church Hall fund we're transferred to St Mary's PCC and have been designated for the Building Project Fund, established to create a new Church Hall annexed to the Church building. The PCC designated an additional £30,000 from general funds in 2020.

4. School House Fund

The PCCs bank accounts are currently used to assist the administration of the School House, the funds are fully restricted and cannot be used for other Church activities.

Accounts prepared by:

_____ CHRISTOPHER YATES - TREASURER

Independent Examiner's Report on the 2021 Accounts to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Barnet.

The report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2021, which are set out on the above pages is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("The Regulations") and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("The Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts they consider the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records, it also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations for you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

- I. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act, and
 - b. To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met. Or
- II. To which in my opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Signed



Dated

22-04-2022

VICTORIA NEIL ACA
NEIL + CO