THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESTICAL PARISH OF LITTLE PAXTON

England & Wales · Charity number 1144292

Details

Other names	ST JAMES PCC, LITTLE PAXTON
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2011-10-17
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	46 High Street Little Paxton St. Neots PE19 6EY
Phone	01480 211048
Email	admin@thepaxtonsbenefice.org
Website	www.thepaxtonsbenefice.org

Activities

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

Activities: Activities as laid down by Church of England

Classification

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

Geography

- Cambridgeshire

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Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£77,159	£89,660	-	-
2023-12-31	£67,564	£64,923	-	-
2022-12-31	£47,473	£58,460	-	-
2021-12-31	£88,905	£74,017	-	-
2020-12-31	£47,756	£48,580	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Daniel Dennis Konadu		2024-09-24
Glen Henry Doick		2021-09-13
Graeme Anness		2021-05-16
HELEN CHRISTINE YOUNG		2013-04-30
Iris Ellen Slade		2022-06-27
JUNE GRIFFIN		2015-04-12
Jean Anne Matheson		2020-09-20
Kate Bywater		2017-01-01
MR KEN HELEY		2011-10-17
Marilyn Harris		2021-05-16
Nicholas Gellatly		2025-01-13
Nicola Jones		2015-04-12
REV ANNETTE REED BA		2011-10-17
Sandra Macrow		2025-01-13

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England & Wales - Charity number 1144292

Accounts

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ending 31st December 2024



St James' Church, Little Paxton

ST JAMES' CHURCH
LITTLE PAXTON

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Canon Annette Reed introduces the Annual Report for the year to 31 December 2024 and looks forward to the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to look back to 2024.

Once again it was a very busy year in all respects for the St James Community and looking through the report you will see a summary of the number of Sunday services we held along with the much appreciated occasional offices: baptisms, weddings and funerals.

As you will see from the statistics in the report, we held 82 acts of worship including occasional offices during 2024. The total adult footfall from those services was 3245 people. The average number of people at the 9.15am service of Holy Communion was 32 and at the 1st Sunday in the month 10.45am all age worship service 38.

Many of our Sunday services were also live streamed and these are watched either live or recorded by a varying number of people and the total increases for each recording as the weeks go by and people click on the You Tube site. Most services register well over 50 hits. Of course we are very happy when people can come along in person but understand that for some that isn't possible due to a variety of reasons. We even have a family who regularly watch from Kenya!

Alongside all of these services of course, the church continued to host a large and varied number of community and social events which have now become well established in the daily calendar of events. Our ever popular Tots and Carers Group and Friday morning Drop In have been running since Autumn 2012 and it is always lovely to welcome new people. Although not introduced until early 2024, Winter Warmer Soup lunches have also proved very popular which transform into Spring Brunches in warmer weather.

Social media has also continued to be a useful way of keeping in touch for those who use Facebook and online websites. We have 815 followers on our Facebook Page which we try to keep updated with news and pictures. Our website page also carries current news and receives a good number of hits.

The benefice Quartet magazine continues to be well received and is printed by a local printer, enabling us to have some quality colour pages. In Little Paxton village it is distributed to c 170 households who ask for it to be hand delivered and pay £5.00 a year for the 10 editions.

The 'Keeping in Touch' leaflet originated from Covid times and goes out by email every Saturday evening to a large number of people on our mailing list as well as about 25 copies being delivered by hand. We appreciate the positive feedback which we receive about KIT. We also aim to have regular articles in the various village magazines.

During the year several fund raising events took place which brought in essential income for the parish, not least our Paxfest involvement, Race Night and the May plant Sale in the churchyard.

It goes without saying that offering such a busy programme of events and services needs an energetic and efficient team to make sure arrangements are in order and everyone who comes into church is safe. Our annual meeting is an opportunity to thank everyone involved in enabling the St James' community to flourish and who often go the extra mile to offer hospitality and kindness to everyone who comes through the south porch door. Taking of which, we were able at last to dedicate a new south porch door in December after years of design negation and permissions.

It is never a very good idea to thank everyone by name as it risks missing someone out but the roles of Community Space manager and Benefice Administrator undertaken so well by Graeme Anness and Nicci Jones respectively are a vital factor in the efficient running of St James. Our thanks of course as well to Nicci Jones and Helen Young, serving for a further year as our church wardens. Thanks to Kate Bywater for continuing to look after our accounts with much diligence and care.

I'm sure all of us at St James appreciated the ministry of LLM Mel Eyeons who decided in March 2024 to move to pastures new and explore some new avenues in her spiritual and church life. We welcomed LLM Sandra McCrow from Gamlingay Church towards the end of the year and she is preparing to be licensed to the benefice in June 2025.

Our ever appreciative thanks to our esteemed bell ringers with their tower captain Mary Parnham. They ring most Sundays and for special occasions when asked. Their ringing is most appreciated, as is their availability for weddings and for the tolling of a single bell for a funeral.

Outside, our lovely churchyard continues to be cared for by the Churchyard Team – and you will find a report from Dave Gutteridge on page 17. Our thanks to the Parish Council for their financial support with churchyard maintenance, given as it has been a closed churchyard for full burials since 1989. We are still able to inter ashes in the churchyard but as space in the current area has been diminishing rapidly, the PCC put together a proposal in 2024 to create a new ashes area on the north east side of the churchyard.

This was passed by a Faculty measure on 22nd July 2024. Reservations will not be possible in this newly created area.

The Vicar's retirement – July 29th 2025.

It is well known that I will be retiring in July when I will be 71. I have been very grateful for the extra year I was granted by the Bishop.

When I retire, I will have served Great Paxton, Little Paxton and Diddington for nearly 19 years. In 2006 when I arrived, it was just three parishes and Southoe was added in June 2015. In all the very many wonderful times and occasional challenges, it has been a great privilege to have served as Vicar in Little Paxton.
I will find it hard to leave when the time comes as this will have been my home for so long and to leave home, neighbourhood and friends upon retirement can be quite a challenge for clergy. As retirement isn't a word that makes much sense to me, I will refer to it as leaving one type of ministry for another. I'm sure that God will find me something useful to do!

If anyone asks what I would like as a leaving gift, its simple.

To know that when I leave it will be possible for this post to be advertised as a full time post so that the four parishes can be sufficiently supported in such a way that leads to growth in all areas of Christian life and ministry. For this to happen, the Benefice as a whole needs to continue to find a large amount of ministry share every year, with the burden of that falling on the biggest of the four churches, Little Paxton. I know just how great a challenge this can be.

My last service as Vicar will be at Little Paxton on Sunday 27th July at 10.30am.

I would like it to be a time of gratitude for our time together and an opportunity to commend the future of the benefice churches and its people into God's safe keeping.

In the meantime, I will give my very best in these closing months to serve you all and have some more fun along the way.

I will round off this introduction to the annual report
with the Ely Diocesan Prayer.
We praise and thank you, God of the journey,
for all your gifts to us in the past.
We look to you as fellow-traveller and faithful companion on the way ahead.
Shelter and protect us from all harm and anxiety.
Give us grace to let go of all that holds us back.
And grant us courage to meet the new life
You have promised us in Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Canon Annette Reed
April 2025

ST JAMES' CHURCH
LITTLE PAXTON

Administrative information
St James' Church of England parish church is situated in the village of Little Paxton, Cambridgeshire. It is within the Deanery of St Neots (Diocese of Ely), and is part of a benefice of four churches with St Laurence's Church, Diddington; Holy Trinity Church, Great Paxton; and St Leonard's Church in Southoe and Midloe. The Pastoral Scheme creating this benefice came into force on 1 June 2015.

Charity Registration
During 2011, the Church registered with the Charity Commission. (Registration No. 1144292)

The PCC

Aims and Purposes

St James' Church PCC has the responsibility of working with and supporting our incumbent, The Reverend Canon Annette Reed, in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St James' Church.

The PCC members who have served from 1 January 2024 until the date this report was approved are as follows:
please note * denotes an ex-officio member):

Incumbent:

The Reverend Canon Annette Reed*	Chair

Churchwardens:

Helen Young*	Elected from APCM 24 March 2024
Nicci Jones* (*Safeguarding Officer*)	Elected from APCM 24 March 2024

Deputy Churchwardens:

Ken Heley

LLMs

Mel Eyeons	Stepped down from 24 March 2024

Representatives on the Deanery Synod for three years from their election date:

Nicci Jones* (Churchwarden)	Elected from APCM 20 September 2020
Graeme Anness	Elected from APCM 24 March 2024

Elected PCC Members:

Ken Heley	Elected from APCM 24 March 2024
June Griffin	Elected from APCM 24 March 2024
Lyn Harris	Stepped down from 24 March 2024
Jean Matheson	Elected from APCM 24 March 2024
Anita Bailey	Stepped down from 24 March 2024
Graeme Anness	Elected from APCM 24 March 2024
Glen Doick	Elected from APCM 24 March 2024
Iris Slade	Elected from APCM 24 March 2024
Kate Bywater (Treasurer)	Elected from APCM 24 March 2024
Dennis Konadu	Elected at PCC meeting 24th September 2024

Co-opted Members:

None

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At the APCM on 21 April 2013 it was agreed that all PCC members should stand for a period of one year only and then stand for re-election year by year. This policy will be reviewed by the APCM at least once every six years and will be reviewed again by 2025.

A new Benefice Administrator, Nicci Jones, was appointed in 2017 and due to the continual growth in the benefice, the PCC of St James' Church, (meeting on the 20 March 2019), with the support of Diddington, Southoe and Great Paxton PCCs, agreed to increase the hours of this role to 12 hours per week with effect from 1 April 2019 and this arrangement continues.

The Community Space Manager for St James' Church, Graeme Anness, was appointed in April 2021 and is now a strategic member of the St James' team.

In 2024

PCC meetings held on:

23rd January 2024
6th March 2024
24th March 2024 (APCM)
26th June 2024
24th September 2024
5th November 2024
8th December 2024

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is the foundation of the whole structure of synodical government in the church. It contains the names and addresses of everyone who can vote at the Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM). As at 31 December 2024 there were 112 people on St James' Church Electoral Roll. The Electoral Roll is revised annually. A notice announcing the revision of the Roll is displayed on or near the church door for at least two weeks before the commencement of the revision. The only people required to fill in an application form are those who have recently moved into the parish, joined the church or reached the age of 16. The revision should be completed between 15 and 28 days before the annual meeting. Every six years the Roll has to be renewed. March 2025 would be six years since the current roll was renewed. As at the meeting in April 2025, there were 85 people on St James' Church Electoral Roll.

The PCC would like to thank Nicci Jones for her work as Electoral Roll Officer in 2024.

Church attendance

The world opened up again in 2022 and the total footfall rose to 3734 adults. The total footfall for 2024 was at 3283. The numbers at All Age Worship are still particularly encouraging. We began livestreaming our Sunday services in January 2022 with Annette continuing to do some additional YouTube videos during the year. We continued to provide live streamed services during 2024 which are well received. Numbers remain positive moving into 2025.

* Attendance which was limited by various Covid restrictions	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	2024
Number of services	157	*64	*91	120	91	82
Total footfall of adults attending services	4692	*1503	*2232	3734	3384	2784
Total footfall of children attending all services	1027	*54	*359	719	723	461
Average number of people at main 9.15 am Holy communion service (*only 5 were held in 2021*)	38	*31	*26	29	31.5	31.9
Average number of communicants at main 9.15 am Holy communion service	36	*31	*19	28	30.5	30.2
Number of home communions	30	5	*0	0	3	4
Number of weddings	3	4	*1	5	4	1
Number of funerals	10	9	9	13	8	6
Graveside service	-	-	1	0	0	2
Services held at crematorium & FD Premises	-	-	5	11	7	5
Interment of ashes	-	-	7	7	10	5
Memorial Services (*for the Queen 2022)	-	-	-	1	1	2
Number of children baptised	13	1	10	15	6	5
Average number of adults at 1st Sunday All Age Worship) (only 2 held in 2021)	32	*40	*30	39	41	38
Average number of children at All Age Worship	6	*7	*0	3	4.5	4
Number of Morning Prayer services on Sundays	-	-	27	13	12	17
Average number at Sunday Morning Prayer services	-	-	23	28	28.25	28.4
Christingle, Christmas Eve & Christmas Day in-person services **(*2020 & 2021 include viewing figures for YouTube Christmas services and 2022/2023 for Outdoor carols)***	290	260	213	270	276	225
Easter Day attendance **(+ *viewing figures for YouTube Easter Sunday 2020 & 2021. (2022/2023 without YouTube)***	70	231	213	72	53	45
Wed a.m. Holy Communion average attendance (2021 from June) (monthly in 2023/2024)	7	5	5	6	5	4

Church Attendance Cont'd ..
Some random examples of YouTube statistics for numbers engaged with our livestreaming/ recordings during 2024. You will see from the figures that our on-line presence is highly valued. Most of these views take place subsequent to the services.

Date	Service	YouTube Viewing
21st January 2024	Morning Prayer	142
21st April 2024	Holy Communion	70
16th June 2024	Morning Prayer	42
14th July 2024	Holy Communion	30
22nd September 2024	Holy Communion	65
20th October 2024	Morning Prayer	101
8th December 2024	Carols by Candlelight	101

During 2024 our livestreaming facility continued to be used frequently for Baptisms, Funerals and Weddings together with many services having photograph presentations being projected onto a screen.

Social Media outreach

The Paxtons Benefice Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/thepaxtonsbenefice

The Benefice Facebook page was created on 21 October 2012 and carries a lot of Great Paxton news.

Since then, the Facebook page has reported on hundreds of benefice events and services, offered some prayer space and reflections and frequently shares thoughtful pictures from across our four churches.
We now have 816 followers and naturally, have to be mindful of obtaining permission from people to post their picture and hope that we are always sensitive to this important safeguard.
We are always pleased when we receive positive comments about the page. It is a very good vehicle to use when commending our YouTube videos and we are grateful that there is no cost in having a Facebook Page account.

If you do engage with our Facebook Page, please do post or comment on something and say 'hello'!

Roughly every 28 days a post is viewed 4,000 times plus. Of these views, c 5% engage by commenting.
Of those engaging, 77% are women and 22% are men. Of these women, the two highest categories who engage are 65+ closely followed by the 35-44 age range. These are mostly from the St Neots or Huntingdon areas.

The Benefice Website
Another source of news about events is the benefice website which is maintained by our administrator, Nicci Jones. There is a wealth of information about our benefice churches along with publicising the many activities which happen across the benefice. Among the pages, you will find a calendar with benefice events and a library of the Keeping in Touch weekly newsletters and back issues of the Quartet magazine.

KIT (Keeping in Touch) Weekly Newsletter
Keeping in Touch (KIT) was another product of lockdown. The first edition came out on 28 March 2020 as a way to keep in touch with one another as we faced what we hoped would be a few weeks of restrictions on meeting together.

Covering four sides of A5 in a leaflet format, originally produced to accompany the Sunday YouTube service, it contains prayers, readings, reflections and news. Distributed via email to folk on our parish database and, indeed, to anyone who expressed an interest in receiving it! 25+ copies are also hand delivered to folk in Little Paxton. We developed the design and incorporated some colour pictures and generally followed the bible themes of any particular Sunday.

KIT has consistently been produced since 2020 and was particularly helpful in keeping in touch with those who were needing to stay at home.

Thank you to those who have written articles for the KIT and Helen Young for formatting the Vicar's text and printing off the colour copies. At this point I would also like to thank Helen and also Angie Small for preparing our Pews News during 2024.

Quartet – Monthly Benefice Newsletter
Several people from across the benefice contribute regularly to the Quartet magazine across for which we are again grateful. Our thanks go to Ken and Alison Bowles who kindly distribute Quartet to the deliverers and for the efforts of those delivering around Little Paxton. Quartet is delivered to folk in Little Paxton who have signed up to receive the Newsletter at a cost of £5 per year. It can also be read on our benefice website. It is also sent out to households in our other three church communities and 450 copies are produced each month.

Community use of Church building
Throughout the year St James' Church is used by many different groups and we frequently receive requests for new bookings.

The Groups who benefit from use of the church are:
Line-dancing group (Tuesday mornings)
Tots and carers group (Wednesday mornings)
Chair Pilates (Monday evenings & Tuesday mornings, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons)
K-fit group - Pilates (Thursday mornings)
Bell Ringing practice (Thursday evenings)
Tea, Coffee and chat group (Friday mornings)
Souper Monday (Community food - first Monday of the month)
Local History Group (monthly)
Fish and chip lunches (monthly)
Little Paxton W.I. (3rd Monday of the month)
Little Paxton Pictures Cinema (last Tuesday of the month)
Simply Saturday – for those who like company on a Saturday (1st Saturday of the month)
Little Paxton Pre-School Committee Meetings
Little Paxton School Concerts and Harvest services
Occasional choir practice nights
Children's parties for church linked families
One off meetings for village groups, e.g. AGMs, Brownie events
Deanery Synod meetings
Deanery Chapter meetings
Diocese meetings and trainings

Our community space was additionally used for the following events:
Clergy Chapter meetings—where a St James team provided refreshments.
Catering for Funerals as and when required for church linked families
Plant Sale & Ploughman's Lunch
Religious Education visits from Little Paxton Primary School
DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) Meeting
Bingo Nights (whilst the Village Hall was out of action)
Race Night (fundraising night)
Book & Puzzle Sale

As you can see from the extensive list … our church is busy on most days!

All bookings are managed by our Benefice Administrator (Nicci Jones) and there is an on-line calendar which can be viewed on our benefice website.

Events, Films and special services that took place in 2024

26 January	Religious Education visist by Little Paxton Primary School
27 January	Special Service—Affirmation of Vows
30 January	Film - Forrest Gump
4 February	All Age Worship with Puppets
27 February	Film - The Bodyguard
21 March	Diocesan Advisory Committee Meeting
22 March	Bingo (every Friday until 19 April)
26 March	Film - Ghost
28 March	Passover Meal
29 March	Devotional Hour for Holy Week
30 March	Children's Easter Singalong
24 April	Deanery Synod Meeting
30 April	Film - The Sixth Sense
2 May	Church space used for Polling Station
18 May	Greater Chapter Meeting
25 May	Plant Sale & Ploughman's Lunch
28 May	Film - The Talented Mr Ripley
29 May	Coffee Pot Film
19 June	Deanery Synod Meeting
25 June	Film - Elizabeth
13 July	PAXFEST
28 July	Benefice Service All Age Worship celebration of Annette's 70th
30 July	Film - Pitch Perfect
27 August	Film - Young Victoria
24 September	Film - My Best Friend's Wedding
28 September	Benefice Book & Puzzle Sale
7 October	Little Paxton Primary School Harvest Services
18 October	Race Night
23 October	Deanery Synod
27 October	All Souls Service
29 October	Film - Cabaret
10 November	Annual Remembrance Service
13 November	Deanery Synod
26 November	Film - Bridget Jones' Diary
8 December	Carols by Candlelight
11 December	Deanery Synod Meeting
14 December	Outdoor Carol Service
16/17 December	Little Paxton Primary School Carol Concert
18 December	Scout's Christingle Service
24 December	Christingle & First Communion of Christmas Services
25 December	Christmas Service with Communion for Christmas Day

No church community can thrive without steady financial support.

Kate reported although there was a large difference between last years' income and expenditure, there had been expenditure on the new door and the QI repair works. By the end of 2024, we had held around £5,500 in the general account, with £26,000 in the Restoration account. It was clear that the money coming in from our special events during 2024 had made a huge contribution to our ability to pay the majority of our ministry share last year. The 100 Club was also looking very healthy at the moment, and Simply Saturday currently have around £4,500 in the general account.

The accounts up to 31st December 2024 were agreed at the March PCC meeting

Kate confirmed that the £20,000 Grant from the National Lottery Awards had been received. In agreement with the Standing Committee, she had opened a new account and the Grant was currently in that account earning some much needed interest. It was felt this would be a better way of managing the money in order that it was not mixed in with the ministry share funds.

Kate confirmed that the first payment of the ministry share had been paid. She suggested that if we are able to maintain £4,200 per month over the year we will have paid the true cost of ministry by the end of the year.

Kate reported that the Parish Giving Scheme was currently bringing in around £700 per month. It was agreed by the PCC that it would be worth re-advertising the £1 challenge during 2025.

The PCC thanked Kate for all her hard work over the past year and for her continued work and assistance in maintaining our financial position.

We do want to also say a big thank you to:

Alison Bowles for completing the Gift Aid returns.

Helen Young for running the 100 Club and to everyone who subscribes to it – it
continues to provide a valuable source of income for the maintenance and upkeep of the church building, appliances and equipment. The 100 Club had 102 members by the end of 2024.

Sarah Symonds for auditing our accounts.

Parish Giving Scheme

A small number of our regular congregation have signed up for the Parish Giving Scheme - a form of tax efficient giving by Direct Debit - and we are hoping to continue this during 2025 by continuing to push our £1 Challenge promotion. We have been trying to make people within the Village, who don't use the church regularly but do still enjoy the benefits of our community space, aware that we require continued funding to maintain the space and to provide all the wonderful events and services on a regular basis. We have made a positive start so far. All applications can now be completed on-line.

Church Fabric Report

The PCC began investigating and considering a suitable replacement for the South Porch Door which has become warped and difficult to lock from 2020. This has been an involved process with architects, the Diocesan Advisory Committee and Huntingdonshire District Council, including a Faculty application Church of England. We are pleased to report that a new door has now been installed.

Item(s) inspected	Inspection Frequency	Inspection Date	Notes
Clock	Annual	12 May 2023	Maintenance survey carried out by Ken Heley and Eric Young. PCC keeping under annual review the possible need for a professional inspection.
Effluent Pump	5 yearly	12 June 2019	Due in 2024
Bells and Bell Frame		25 May 2022	Service not required annually
PAT Testing	Annual	21 June 2023	Collins Electrical
Gutters	Annual	13 Jan 2023	Checked outside soakaway drains
Electrics	5 yearly	12 June 2023	Due in 2028
Boiler Service	Annual	20 Feb 2023	New boiler installed 6 February 2021
Lightning Conductors	5 yearly	7 June 2021	Due in 2026
Fire Extinguishers	Annual	11 Jan 2024	New extinguishers installed
Drains, Gulleys & lighting	Unofficial	Not inspected	Drains and accessible gulleys cleaned Jan 2023.
Copper Strip on Nave Roof		July 2023	Abbey Roofing fixed length of copper strip on nave roof which was insecure. No charge

Safeguarding Report for the Benefice of the Paxtons with Diddington and Southoe
Prepared by Benefice Safeguarding Officer Nicci Jones assisted by Graeme Anness.

Our work is based on the House of Bishops statement:
The Church of England safeguarding policy statement is based on five foundations and offers six overarching policy commitments:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Church
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

Nicci Jones is our named benefice Safeguarding Officer.
During 2024, Nicci Jones & Graeme Anness (DBS Administrator) have continued to make sure that all PCC members across the benefice have been DBS checked. At this stage, Nicci and Graeme have confirmed that 90% of all PCC members have been checked. All Great Paxton PCC members are currently DBS checked up to date. Nicci has set up a spreadsheet to now monitor renewals as they occur. We continue to use the Diocesan Parish Safeguarding Dashboard for monitoring and recording safeguarding practices required of each church community. The team endeavours to keep up-to-date and deal with any action requests from Ely Diocese.
Every three years, all Church officers are required to repeat their highest level of training course completed and training has continued to take place across the benefice during 2024. Safeguarding is on every agenda of all benefice PCC Meetings and APCMs to ensure we are all very conscious of this important caring responsibility. Safeguarding contact details are available in all four of our benefice churches. It is a requirement of all PCC members and Church Officers to undertake the Basic & Foundation training. This can be done online or within a training course. Nicci and Graeme endeavour to run training courses for all benefice PCC members and make it as convenient as possible. The PCC would like to take this opportunity to thank Nicci Jones and Graeme Anness for their work in the essential roles of Benefice Safeguarding Officer and DBS Administrator. We are currently looking for a person (or persons) who might like to be involved with this very important work of safeguarding. If you are interested in assisting, or know of someone who may be interested please do get in touch with one of the team.

The Deanery Synod report for 2024 by Catherina Griffiths, Deanery Synod Secretary
The Synod has met four times during the year at Little Paxton Church to discuss matters of interest for the parishes of the deanery. Ruth New, Development Officer for Children and Families, attended the April meeting to explain her role in supporting work with children and families in the diocese. The Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech, Ven Richard Harlow attended the November meeting and spoke about the importance of safeguarding and also future allocation of clergy in the deanery. The latter and concerns over the payment of Ministry Share prompted an extra meeting in December. Parishes are finding it increasingly difficult to pay the share and if it is not paid in full by the end of the year there is no deanery rebate and there is likely to be an even higher increase in requested share to pay for ministry. This will impact on the desire to fund a part time priest in St Neots East. The PCC would like to thank Nicci Jones & Graeme Anness for continuing to represent Little Paxton at the Deanery meetings.

Churchyard Maintenance
Notes from Dave Gutteridge.

There is always plenty to do for the churchyard team!

We keep the grave areas tidy, there is always plenty of weeding, strimming, mowing plus the thousands of leaves to clear at the year's end. We are very pleased to have some new mowers and rakes – a great help for sure!

We also clear the guttering when needed. All in all the churchyard is a very nice place to keep tidy. And we always have tea and biscuits at half time.
We would be delighted to welcome any new volunteers so do give me a ring on 07895390400 if you would like to know more.
Dave Gutteridge

The PCC and congregation are extremely grateful to the churchyard team. Thanks and all good wishes to Dave Gutteridge and the team. The churchyard gives much pleasure to us all.

Tower Captain's report – March 2025

2024 was a busy year for the bellringers. We have rung for most Sunday services and continued with our practice sessions on Thursday evenings.
A bell has been tolled for 4 funerals and rung for 1 wedding. The bells were rung half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday.
We had 1 visiting band this year, coming from Chester.
The spliced tenor rope was replaced with a used rope. The 3rd rope became very frayed, and a splice was put in the tail to enable us to continue ringing it, although it is not very satisfactory. The rope on the 5th is also fraying. We applied to the PCC for a set of new ropes, which was granted and we are very pleased to have been given the go-ahead to place an order with Ellis Ropes. The ropes were due to arrive in January. We are very grateful to all the sponsors who have enabled this to happen.

We would like to recruit some new ringers, as our numbers are depleting. We manage to ring most Sundays still, although you may only hear 4 or 5 bells instead of the 6.

I would like to finish by saying thank you to all the ringers who support St James and dedicate their time to the Thursday practice and service ringing. It is important to keep the art of ringing alive and to give service to the church in this way.

Mary Parnham
Tower Captain/Ringing Master

The PCC and congregation are extremely grateful to Mary and her team.

SIMPLY SATURDAY ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024

At our monthly Simply Saturday meetings (with a 'bring and share' lunch followed by entertainment) the numbers have continued to grow over the past year.

ENTERTAINMENT:
We have had a mixture of Talks and Singers over the past year which have proved very popular. We again continued to provide a catered Christmas lunch which our members continue to look forward to each year and this has been made possible by grants and donations to the group.

We again involved our members in Paxfest in the Summer, asking for donations to make up hampers, to be raffled off to raise funds so we could continue the group, this has proved very popular as members continue to be involved.

We have a full and varied list of Entertainment booked for 2025 which we hope will be very popular. Our members look forward to coming each month and interacting with each other and making new friends too.

Leisa Hunt

Contact details:

The Reverend Canon Annette Reed
The Vicarage, 24 St James' Road, Little Paxton, PE19 6QW
Tel: 01480 211048
Email: canonannettereed@gmail.com

Churchwarden
Helen Young
10 Little Paxton Lane, Little Paxton, PE19 6EP
Tel: 01480 216255
Email: young_paxton@ntlworld.com

Benefice Administrator (Churchwarden, PCC Secretary and Safeguarding Officer)
Nicci Jones
c /o The Vicarage, 24 St James' Road, Little Paxton, PE19 6QW
Tel: 01480 877215
Email: admin@thepaxtonsbenefice.org

Treasurer
Kate Bywater
Email: kbywater.church@gmail.com

Community Space Manager
Graeme Anness
Email: graemeanness@gmail.com

Benefice Website www.thepaxtonsbenefice.org

Facebook www.facebook.com/ThePaxtonsBenefice

(All information contained in this report is correct at the time of printing)

St James Church 2024









ST JAMES' CHURCH
LITTLE PAXTON



£1 Challenge!

We have created a challenge to help us continue to provide a warm comfortable space for community use. Can you help us achieve our goal of finding 500 people to donate £1 per month?

In addition to holding regular church services, weddings, baptisms and funerals, our community space is available for local groups and is currently used for:

- Fish and Chip Lunch
- Tots Group
- Cinema
- Dance and Exercise Groups
- Coffee Mornings
- Saturday Lunch Group
- History Group

If you would like to be part of our efforts by donating £1 (or more) per month please see the information opposite. Thank you!

To Donate By Phone:

Simply call 0333 002 1271, Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm, to set up a Direct Debit.

You will need to have your personal bank account details, church name (St James' Little Paxton) and our Parish Giving Scheme code 140614221.

To Donate Online:

Simply scan the QR code below or go to: www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/little-paxton-st-james-st-neots/













St James Little Paxton PCC

Accounts for Year to 31st December 2024

		2024			2023		
Income							
Collections				4,798.04			5,089.06
Donations				5,445.27			4,876.30
Covenants /Regular Giving				12,565.81			9,790.34
100 Club				10,000.00			8,197.42
Loans received				0.00			0.00
Ely DB Gift Aid Refund				5,943.56			4,367.29
CBF Income Fund				2,060.57			1,831.94
		Net	Gross		Net	Gross	
Special Events	Garden Plants & Tools Sale	1,238.00	1,238.00		801.00	801.00	
	Soup Kitchen	3,592.14	3,657.14		0.00	0.00	
	Amazon Smile	0.00	0.00		19.94	19.94	
	Paxfest	1,706.53	2,067.18		1,423.19	1,423.19	
	Quiz Night	0.00	0.00		245.36	279.01	
	Tombola at The Anchor	0.00	0.00		(20.00)	0.00	
	Books, Cards, Preserves, Puzzles & Tower	302.05	302.05		80.75	80.75	
	Race Night	438.65	438.65		0.00	0.00	
	Preserves	0.00	0.00		19.00	19.00	
	Puzzles	0.00	0.00		17.00	17.00	
	Open Day	196.71	196.71		42.05	42.05	
	Film Shows	712.07	1,049.92		796.83	1,245.35	
	Book & Puzzle Sale	553.06	553.06		0.00	0.00	
	Carols Around the Tree	0.00	0.00		(26.93)	174.54	
	Total	**8,739.21**		**9,502.71**	**3,398.19**		**4,101.83**
Sundry	Other - Benefice contributions			2,204.27			2,310.99
	Grant			4,550.00			9,550.00
	Grave reservation fee			600.00			900.00
Fees	Diocese fees		3,633.00			3,895.00	
	Statutory retained fees		1,730.00			3,274.00	
	Heating, flowers etc		470.00			750.00	
	Total			**5,833.00**			**7,919.00**
Parish Council				837.16			717.43
Rent				1,522.90			1,522.90
Quartet/printing/stall				584.00			720.00
Church Use				8,324.59			5,669.88
VAT Reclaimed				2,386.65			0.00
Sub total				**77,158.53**			**67,564.38**
General account balance at 1st January				10,661.87			10,489.97
Bank account 1 at 1st January			0.00			0.00	
General a/c	Interest		0.00			0.00	
	Transfers in		19,921.57			0.00	
	Transfer out		(12,426.48)	7,495.09		0.00	0.00
Projects Account balance at 1st January			2,565.68			95.92	
	Interest		0.00			0.00	
	Transfers in		0.00			0.00	
	Transfer out		(2,565.68)	0.00		0.00	95.92
Restoration account at 1st January			31,240.03			31,240.03	
61412003D	Transfer in/donations		12,426.48			0.00	
	Grants		0.00			0.00	
	Payments		(17,355.89)			0.00	
	Interest		0.00	26,310.62		0.00	31,240.03
100 Club balance at 1st January			10,612.67			15,040.00	
	Donations		4,673.99			5,948.99	
	Transfer out		(10,000.00)			(8,226.32)	
	HDC Lottery Licence		(20.00)			0.00	
	Draw payments		(1,530.00)	3,736.66		(2,150.00)	10,612.67
Simply Saturday money held by PCC				4,133.59			0.00
Total				**129,496.36**			**120,002.97**

			2024			2023	
Expenditure			£	£		£	£
Ministry	Ministry share		41,288.91			34,113.69	
	Vicar's Expenses		1,409.04			1,836.71	
	Lay Minister (LLM) Expenses		153.20			218.70	
	Copying/admin		1,110.34			761.10	
	Quartet magazine		1,480.00			1,300.00	
	Wafers/Candles/Bibles/Certs/Crosses		300.68			484.78	
	Benefice Gathering		0.00			0.00	
	Benefice administrator		4,928.13			4,766.74	
	Total			**50,670.30**			**43,481.72**
Fabric & Maintenance	Restoration		17,639.09			2,530.24	
	Caretaker		4,814.14			4,314.91	
	Insurance		2,094.62			1,893.93	
	Churchyard Maintenance		865.25			100.00	
	Electricity		2,329.26			1,429.71	
	Gas		2,908.19			1,004.10	
	Anglian Water		237.39			313.96	
	Boiler		204.00			204.00	
	Sundry Maintenance		415.50			1,153.18	
	Housekeeping		1,041.71			476.08	
	Toilet Evacuation service		0.00			0.00	
	Copier/Toner		0.00			82.84	
	Flowers		386.14			254.85	
	Total			**32,935.29**			**13,757.80**
	Fund raising expenses		801.77			703.64	
Sundry Donations	Jimmy's Night Shelter		300.00			100.00	
	Royal British Legion		200.00			120.00	
	Children's Society		175.00			115.00	
	Sue Ryder Hospice		175.00			200.00	
	Cambs Historic Churches		50.00			50.00	
	Parish Giving		0.00			198.14	
	Total			**1,701.77**			**1,486.78**
Sundry Payments	Fees Ely DBF		3,633.00			5,396.00	
	Defib Pads & Battery		0.00			397.74	
	Tots Group Equipment & expenses		692.10			394.91	
	The Goodbox Co. & SumUp		27.84			7.78	
	Sundry		0.00			0.00	
	Total			**4,352.94**			**6,196.43**
Sub total				**89,660.30**			**64,922.72**
General Account balance				11,765.83			15,866.02
Accruals				(1,977.05)			(5,204.15)
Projects Bank Account				0.00			2,565.68
CCLA Account 4 - Restoration Fund				26,310.62			31,240.03
100 Club Account				3,736.66			10,612.67
Total				**129,496.36**			**120,002.97**
	Check Total:			0.00			0.00

CCLA Account CB3025111-001 / 6141420015 - Church Lands

1,031 shares at 2312.27 pence per share £23,839.50

St. James' Church Little Paxton PCC

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2024

Total income for the year			77,158.53
General account balance at 1st January		10,661.87	
	Transfers in	19,921.57	
	Transfer out	12,426.48	18,156.96
Projects Account balance at 1st January		2,565.68	
	Interest	0.00	
	Transfers in	0.00	
	Transfer out	2,565.68	0.00
Restoration account at 1st January		31,240.03	
61412003D	Transfer in/donations	12,426.48	
	Grants	0.00	
	Payments	(17,355.89)	
	Interest	0.00	26,310.62
100 Club balance at 1st January		10,612.67	
	Donations	4,673.99	
	Transfer out	(10,000.00)	
	HDC Lottery Licence	(20.00)	
	Draw payments	(1,530.00)	3,736.66
Total			**£125,362.77**

Total expenditure for the year	89,660.30
General Account balance at 31st December	5,655.19
Projects Account balance at 31st December	0.00
Restoration Fund	26,310.62
100 Club at 31st December	3,736.66
Total	**£125,362.77**

CCLA Account CB3025111-001 / 6141420015 - Church Lands

No of shares @ 31.12.24
1031 @ 23.1227 = £23,839.50

Accounts prepared by Kate Bywater; Honorary Treasurer

Signed and dated K Bywater. 27/2/25

Accounts Independently Examined by Sarah Symonds

Signed and dated 27th FEBRUARY 2025

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St James Little Paxton

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out on pages 1 and 2, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and examiner

As a member of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43 (2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements 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.43 (7) (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 financial statements and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
   b. To prepare financial statement, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations, have not been met:

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Sarah Symonds

Sarah E Symonds
6 Elm Croft
Little Paxton

Date: 27th February 2025

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESTICAL PARISH OF LITTLE PAXTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1144292

Accounts

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ending 31st December 2023



St James' Church, Little Paxton

ST JAMES' CHURCH
LITTLE PAXTON

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Canon Annette Reed introduces the Annual Report for the year to 31 December 2023 and looks forward to the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to look back to 2023. Once again it was a very busy year in all respects for the life of St James' Church. Looking through the report you will see a summary of the number of Sunday services we held along with the much appreciated occasional offices: baptisms, weddings and funerals.

As you will see from the statistics in the report, we held 91 acts of worship including occasional offices during 2023. The total adult footfall from those services was 3384.

Many of our Sunday services were also live streamed and these are watched either live or recorded by a varying number of people and the total increases for each recording as the weeks go by and people click on the You Tube site. For the 1st August Sunday service in 2023 at the time of writing there have been 158 views and most services receive over 50 views. Of course we are very happy when people can come along in person but understand that for some that isn't possible due to a variety of reasons. We even have a family who regularly watch from Kenya!

Alongside all of these services of course, the church continued to host a large number of community and social events which have now become well established in the daily calendar of events. Our ever popular Tots and Carers Group and Friday morning Drop In have been running since Autumn 2012 and it is always lovely to welcome new people. Although not introduced until early 2024, Winter Warmer Soup lunches have also proved very popular.

Social media has also continued to be a useful way of keeping in touch for those who use Facebook and online websites. We have 782 followers on our Facebook Page which we try to keep updated with news and pictures. Our website page also carries current news and receives a good number of hits.

The benefice Quartet magazine continues to be well received and is printed by a local printer, enabling us to have some quality colour pages. In Little Paxton village it is distributed to households who ask for it to be hand delivered and pay £5.00 a year for the 10 editions.

The 'Keeping in Touch' leaflet originated from Covid times and goes out by email every Saturday evening to a large number of people on our mailing list as well as about 25 copies being delivered by hand. We appreciate the positive feedback which we receive about KIT. We also aim to have regular articles in the various village magazines.

2023 of course saw a very memorable occasion nationally with the Coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6th May at Westminster Abbey. The event was broadcast live in church with some Coronation refreshments.

During the year several fund raising events took place which brought in essential income for the parish, not least our PaxFest involvement, Quiz Night and the May plant Sale in the churchyard.

It goes without saying that offering such a busy programme of events and services needs an energetic and efficient team to make sure arrangements are in order and everyone who comes into church is safe. Our annual meeting is an opportunity to thank everyone involved in enabling the St James' community to flourish and who often go the extra mile to offer hospitality and kindness to everyone who comes through the south porch door.

It is never a very good idea to thank everyone by name as it risks missing someone out but the roles of Community Space manager and Benefice Administrator undertaken so well by Graeme Anness and Nicci Jones respectively are a vital factor in the efficient running of St James. Our thanks of course as well to Nicci Jones and Helen Young, serving for a further year as our church wardens. Thanks to Kate Bywater for continuing to look after our accounts with much diligence and care.

I'm sure all of us at St James have been appreciating the ministry of LLM Mel Eyeons who often helps to lead worship at St James. Mel decided in March 2024 to step down from her role as an LLM here and explore some new avenues in her spiritual and church life. We are all deeply grateful for all her input into our worship, not least her thoughtful preaching and preparation of service texts.

Our ever appreciative thanks to our esteemed bell ringers with their tower captain Mary Parnham. They ring most Sundays and for special occasions when asked. Their ringing is most appreciated, as is their availability for weddings and for the tolling of a single bell for a funeral.

Outside, our lovely churchyard continues to be cared for by the Churchyard Team – and you will find a report from Dave Gutteridge on page 17. Our thanks to the Parish Council for their financial support with churchyard maintenance, given as it has been a closed churchyard for full burials since 1989. We are still able to inter ashes in the churchyard but as space in the current area has been diminishing rapidly, the PCC are putting together proposals for a new ashes plot area along the north end of the east boundary wall. This will require a faculty from the Ely Diocesan Registry.

When is the Vicar retiring?

As I write, it is nearly 18 years since I came to be Vicar in the benefice. Then , it was just three parishes and Southoe was added in June 2015. The time has gone by so quickly. But, in all the very many wonderful times and occasional challenges, it has been a great privilege to have been part of the village community at Little Paxton and to have seen exciting growth in all aspects of church and community life.

I will be 70 years old on 29th July this year and normally it is mandatory that a vicar retires when they reach 70. However, I began a dialogue in January 2023 with the archdeacon to explore whether I could be granted a year's extension. After quite a lengthy process, and after each PCC was consulted in January 2024, it seems very likely that I will be granted an extension to my license as incumbent until 29th July 2025. Not least, I hope to work with the Southoe Church and village community to raise £500,000 for their new re-ordering project and see this to completion. I am very grateful for this extension of time and know there is a lot still that I would like to reach fruition but am realistic to know that in church life things are never really finished.

I will find it very hard to leave when the time comes as this will have been my home for nearly 20 years and to leave home, neighbourhood and friends upon retirement can be quite a challenge for clergy. As retirement isn't a word that makes much sense to me, I will refer to it as leaving one type of ministry for another. I'm sure that God will find me something useful to do!

If anyone asks what I would like as a leaving gift, its simple. To know that when I go it will be possible for this post to be advertised as a full time post so that the four parishes can be sufficiently supported in such a way that leads to growth in all areas of Christian life and ministry.

In the meantime, I will give my very best in these closing months to serve you all and have a lot of fun along the way.

I will round off this introduction to the annual report
with the Ely Diocesan Prayer.
We praise and thank you, God of the journey,
for all your gifts to us in the past.
We look to you as fellow-traveller and faithful companion on the way ahead.
Shelter and protect us from all harm and anxiety.
Give us grace to let go of all that holds us back.
And grant us courage to meet the new life
You have promised us in Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Canon Annette Reed
March 2024

ST JAMES' CHURCH
LITTLE PAXTON

Administrative information
St James' Church of England parish church is situated in the village of Little Paxton, Cambridgeshire. It is within the Deanery of St Neots (Diocese of Ely), and is part of a benefice of four churches with St Laurence's Church, Diddington; Holy Trinity Church, Great Paxton; and St Leonard's Church in Southoe and Midloe. The Pastoral Scheme creating this benefice came into force on 1 June 2015.

Charity Registration
During 2011, the Church registered with the Charity Commission. (Registration No. 1144292)

The PCC

Aims and Purposes

St James' Church PCC has the responsibility of working with and supporting our incumbent, The Reverend Canon Annette Reed, in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St James' Church.

The PCC members who have served from 1 January 2023 until the date this report was approved are as follows:
please note * denotes an ex-officio member):

Incumbent:

The Reverend Canon Annette Reed*	Chair

Churchwardens:

Helen Young*	Elected from APCM 30 April 2023
Nicci Jones* (*Safeguarding Officer*)	Elected from APCM 30 April 2023

Deputy Churchwardens:

Ken Heley

LLMs

Mel Eyeons

Representatives on the Deanery Synod for three years from their election date:

Anita Bailey (PCC Secretary) (stepped down 5th February 2023)	Elected from APCM 20 September 2020
Nicci Jones* (Churchwarden)	Elected from APCM 20 September 2020
Graeme Anness	Stepped in from Spring 2023; (Elected from APCM 24 March 2024)

Elected PCC Members:

Ken Heley	Elected from APCM 30 April 2023
June Griffin	Elected from APCM 30 April 2023
Lyn Harris	Elected from APCM 30 April 2023
Jean Matheson	Elected from APCM 30 April 2023
Anita Bailey	Elected from APCM 30 April 2023
Graeme Anness	Elected from APCM 30 April 2023
Glen Doick	Elected from APCM 30 April 2023
Iris Slade	Elected from APCM 30 April 2023

Co-opted Members:

Kate Bywater (Treasurer)	Co-opted member from APCM 30 April 2023

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At the APCM on 21 April 2013 it was agreed that all PCC members should stand for a period of one year only and then stand for re-election year by year. This policy will be reviewed by the APCM at least once every six years and will be reviewed again by 2025.

A new Benefice Administrator, Nicci Jones, was appointed in 2017 and due to the continual growth in the benefice, the PCC of St James' Church, (meeting on the 20 March 2019), with the support of Diddington, Southoe and Great Paxton PCCs, agreed to increase the hours of this role to 12 hours per week with effect from 1 April 2019 and this arrangement continues.

The Community Space Manager for St James' Church, Graeme Anness, was appointed in April 2021 and is now a strategic member of the St James' team.

In 2023

PCC meetings held on:

9th January 2023
20th March 2023
30th April 2023 (APCM)
23rd May 2023
10th July 2023
25th September 2023
21 November 2023

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is the foundation of the whole structure of synodical government in the church. It contains the names and addresses of everyone who can vote at the Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM). As at 31 December 2023 there were 108 people on St James' Church Electoral Roll. The Electoral Roll is revised annually. A notice announcing the revision of the Roll is displayed on or near the church door for at least two weeks before the commencement of the revision. The only people required to fill in an application form are those who have recently moved into the parish, joined the church or reached the age of 16. The revision should be completed between 15 and 28 days before the annual meeting. As at the meeting in March 2024, there were 112 people on St James' Church Electoral Roll.

The PCC would like to thank Nicci Jones for her work as Electoral Roll Officer in 2023.

Church attendance

The world opened up again in 2022 and the total footfall rose to 3734 adults. The total footfall for 2023 was at 3384. The numbers at All Age Worship are still particularly encouraging. We began livestreaming our Sunday services in January 2022 with Annette and Mel doing some additional YouTube videos during the year. We continued to provide live streamed services during 2023 which are well received. Numbers look positive moving into 2024.

* Attendance which was limited by various Covid restrictions	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**
Number of services	167	157	*64	*91	120	91
Total footfall of adults attending services	5004	4692	*1503	*2232	3734	3384
Total footfall of children attending all services	1097	1027	*54	*359	719	723
Average number of people at main 9.15 am Holy communion service (*only 5 were held in 2021*)	39	38	*31	*26	29	31.5
Average number of communicants at main 9.15 am Holy communion service	38	36	*31	*19	28	30.5
Number of home communions	47	30	5	*0	0	3
Number of weddings	8	3	4	*1	5	4
Number of funerals	5	10	9	9	13	8
Graveside service	-	-	-	1	0	0
Services held at crematorium & FD Premises	-	-	-	5	11	7
Interment of ashes	-	-	-	7	7	10
Memorial Services (*for the Queen 2022)	-	-	-	-	1	1
Number of children baptised	10	13	1	10	15	6
Average number of adults at 1st Sunday All Age Worship) (only 2 held in 2021)	37	32	*40	*30	39	41
Average number of children at All Age Worship	6	6	*7	*0	3	4.5
Number of Morning Prayer services on Sundays	-	-	-	27	13	12
Average number at Sunday Morning Prayer services	-	-	-	23	28	28.25
Christingle, Christmas Eve & Christmas Day in-person services **(*2020 & 2021 include viewing figures for YouTube Christmas services and 2022/2023 for Outdoor carols)***	312	290	260	213	270	276
Easter Day attendance **(+ *viewing figures for YouTube Easter Sunday 2020 & 2021. (2022/2023 without YouTube)***	42	70	231	213	72	53
Wed a.m. Holy Communion average attendance (2021 from June) (monthly in 2023)	8	7	5	5	6	5

Church Attendance Cont'd ..
Some random examples of YouTube statistics for numbers engaged with our livestreaming/ recordings during 2023. You will see from the figures that our on-line presence is highly valued. Most of these views take place subsequent to the services.

Date	Service	YouTube Viewing
15 January 2023	Morning Prayer	133
15 February 2023	Funeral	141
26 February 2023	Holy Communion	118
2nd July 2023	All Age Worship	255
16 July 2023	Morning Prayer	141
10 December 2023	Carols by Candlelight	90

During 2023 our livestreaming facility continued to be used frequently for Baptisms, Funerals and Weddings together with many services having photograph presentations being projected onto a screen.

Social Media outreach

The Paxtons Benefice Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/thepaxtonsbenefice

The Benefice Facebook page was created on 21 October 2012. It first appeared just after the CHUFT Project was completed and St James opened again after the re-ordering.

Since then, the Facebook page has reported on hundreds of benefice events and services, offered some prayer space and reflections and frequently shares thoughtful pictures from across our four churches.

As mentioned in Annette's introduction, we now have over 780 followers and, for reasons which are hard to fathom, some posts reach over 1000 people and others just over 200. We, naturally, have to be mindful of obtaining permission from people to post their picture and hope that we are always sensitive to this important safeguard.

We are always pleased when we receive positive comments about the page. It is a very good vehicle to use when commending our YouTube videos and we are grateful that there is no cost in having a Facebook Page account.

If you do engage with our Facebook Page, please do post or comment on something and say 'hello'!

In an average month of posts - roughly every 28 days a post reaches around 2,500 people. Of these, in terms of people, at least 500 people engage with these posts, according to Facebook statistics.

Of those engaging, 77.80% are women and 22.20% are men. Of these women, the two highest categories who engage are 65+ closely followed by the 35-44 age range. The majority of people who engage are from the St Neots/Huntingdon areas but not all.

The Benefice Website

Another source of news about events is the benefice website which is maintained by our administrator, Nicci Jones. There is a wealth of information about our benefice churches along with publicising the many activities which happen across the benefice. Among the pages, you will find a calendar with benefice events and a library of the Keeping in Touch weekly newsletters and back issues of the Quartet magazine.

KIT (Keeping in Touch) Weekly Newsletter

Keeping in Touch (KIT) was another product of lockdown. The first edition came out on 28 March 2020 as a way to keep in touch with one another as we faced what we hoped would be a few weeks of restrictions on meeting together.

Covering four sides of A5 in a leaflet format, originally produced to accompany the Sunday YouTube service, it contains prayers, readings, reflections and news. Distributed via email to folk on our parish database and, indeed, to anyone who expressed an interest in receiving it! 25+ copies are also hand delivered to folk in Little Paxton. We developed the design and incorporated some colour pictures and generally followed the bible themes of any particular Sunday.

KIT was produced throughout 2021 and 2022 and was particularly helpful in keeping in touch with those who were needing to stay at home. Annette continues to produce KIT, and has done throughout 2023. It is always well received.

Thank you to those who have written articles for the KIT and Helen Young for formatting the Vicar's text and printing off the colour copies. At this point I would also like to thank Helen and also Angie Small for preparing our Pews News during 2023.

We have no plans to stop its production and appreciate the positive feedback we have received. By April 2024, we will have hit our 200th edition.

Quartet – Monthly Benefice Newsletter

Several people from across the benefice contribute regularly to the Quartet magazine across for which we are again grateful. Our thanks go to Ken and Alison Bowles who kindly distribute Quartet to the

deliverers and for the efforts of those delivering around Little Paxton. Quartet is delivered to folk in Little Paxton who have signed up to receive the Newsletter at a cost of £5 per year. It can also be read on our benefice website. It is also sent out to households in our other three church communities and 450 copies are produced each month.

Community use of Church building
Throughout the year St James' Church is used by many different groups and we frequently receive requests for new bookings.

The Groups who benefit from use of the church are:
Line-dancing group (Tuesday mornings)
Tots and carers group (Wednesday mornings)
Chair Pilates (Wednesday and Thursday afternoons)
K-fit group - Pilates (Thursday mornings)
Bell Ringing practice (Thursday evenings)
Tea, Coffee and chat group (Friday mornings)
Local History Group (monthly)
Fish and chip lunches (monthly)
Little Paxton W.I. (3rd Monday of the month)
Little Paxton Pictures Cinema (last Tuesday of the month)
Coffee Pot Memory Café members – Film (every 5th Wednesday of the month)
Simply Saturday – for those who like company on a Saturday (1st Saturday of the month)
SWITCH Group – Film shows when their timetable allows
Little Paxton Pre-School Committee Meetings (every six weeks)
Little Paxton School Concerts and Harvest services
Occasional choir practice nights
Children's parties for church linked families
One off meetings for village groups, e.g. AGMs, Brownie events
Deanery Synod meetings
Deanery Chapter meetings
Diocese meetings and trainings

Our community space was additionally used for the following events:
Clergy Chapter meetings—where a St James team provided refreshments.
Catering for Funerals as and when required for church linked families
Refreshments and live broadcast for King Charles III Coronation.

As you can see from the extensive list … our church is busy on most days!

All bookings are managed by our Benefice Administrator (Nicci Jones) and there is an on-line calendar which can be viewed on our benefice website.

Moving forward in 2024, we are providing more community based events, including a Winter Warmer session providing hot lunches on two Mondays of the month during winter/spring. This will adapt to a brunch club moving into Spring/Summer. We are exploring our options with regards to food hygiene etc so watch this space.

Events, Films and special services that took place in 2023

24 January	Film – Downton Abbey (2022)
28 February	Film – Grease
28 March	Film - Philadelphia
29 March	Coffee Pot Café Film – Downton Abbey (2022)
30 March	Clergy Chapter Meeting
8 April	Children's Easter Singalong
25 April	Film – The Wedding Singer
6 May	King's Coronation Live Streaming with refreshments
20 May	Plant Sale
30 May	Film – Sabrina
23 June	David Duker history talk 'One of our Own' about Battle of Britain Squadron Leader Victor Ekins
27 June	Film – Blue Hawaii
28 June	Deanery Synod Meeting
29 June	Visit by Little Paxton School
6 July	Clergy Chapter Meeting
8 July	PAXFEST
25 July	Film - Remains of the Day
29 August	Film - Chicago
8 September	Quiz Night
26 September	Film - Notting Hill
30 September	Morning Tea Chapter Meeting
1 October	All Age Harvest Thanksgiving
2 October	Little Paxton School Harvest services x 3
5 October	Pre School Harvest service
11 October	Deanery Synod Meeting
29 October	Annual All Souls Benefice Service
31 October	Film - Dead Poet's Society
12 November	Annual Remembrance Service
28 November	Film - The Full Monty
2 December	Simply Saturday Christmas Meal
10 December	Carols by Candlelight
11 December	Little Paxton School Christmas Concert
12 December	Little Paxton School Christmas Concert
18 December	Scouts Christingle
20 December	Outdoor Carol Singing with refreshments
21 December	Carol Singing at Paxton Hall with Southonian Singers
31 December	Benefice Songs of Praise with Communion

No church community can thrive without steady financial support.

As in previous years, in 2023 St James Church was able to pay its requested Ministry Share in full and you can see the statements of income and expenditure in the report.

We give our ongoing thanks to everyone who supports us financially including supporting fundraising activities such as the 100 club administered by Helen Young.

However, it needs now to be stated that over the years, The Paxton's Benefice, whilst always paying what was requested by the Deanery, has been subsidised to some extent by other Deanery churches. Pre Covid we were paying about 85% of the true costs of having a full time priest looking over the four churches. Since Covid, we have fallen behind that figure and in real terms, the benefice is only paying the equivalent of a 0.8 post.

To put it in simple terms, unless the benefice pays 100% of the true costs of a full time vicar, when Annette retires at the end of July 2025, it is very unlikely that there will be another full-time minister. Every benefice PCC is aware of this, but the burden of finding extra funding falls mainly on Little Paxton Church Community being the largest of the four churches.

Little Paxton PCC has agreed to pay £3,547.00 per month in ministry share from February to November 2024 but even with that amount we would still need to find an additional £4,000.00 to reach our target for the year.

It will be essential by this autumn 2024 to be able to demonstrate that the benefice can raise their share sufficiently to warrant a full time vicar. We have been told clearly that if we can, then a full time appointment will be offered. It is unfortunate that we have to stress financial matters so much at this time, but we need to be realistic about the challenge so that the benefice can continue to offer an effective Christian ministry which seeks in a compassionate and creative way to respond to the ever expanding village community.

The PCC have been promoting the £1 challenge over the past few months –seeking 500 new regular givers to each give £1.00 per month using the Parish Giving Scheme. Although we haven't got 500 new givers yet, we are a third of the way towards the target we set as many of those new givers are giving more than £1.00 per week. If you would like to know more about the challenge or the Parish Giving Scheme, do see Kate our treasurer.

We do want to say a big thank you to:

Kate Bywater for her much appreciated work as our Treasurer.

Alison Bowles for completing the Gift Aid returns.

Helen Young for running the 100 Club and to everyone who subscribes to it – it continues to provide a valuable source of income for the maintenance and upkeep of the church building, appliances and equipment. The 100 Club had 102 members by the end of 2023.

Sarah Symonds for auditing our accounts.

Parish Giving Scheme

A small number of our regular congregation have signed up for the Parish Giving Scheme - a form of tax efficient giving by Direct Debit - and we are hoping to continue this during 2024 by continuing to push our £1 Challenge promotion. We have been trying to make people within the Village, who don't use the church regularly but do still enjoy the benefits of our community space, aware that we require continued funding to maintain the space and to provide all the wonderful events and services on a regular basis. We have made a positive start so far. All applications can now be completed on-line.

Church Fabric Report

2022 saw the PCC begin investigating and considering a suitable replacement for the South Porch Door which has become warped and difficult to lock. This is an involved process with architects, the Diocesan Advisory Committee and Huntingdonshire District Council, including a Faculty application Church of England. We are pleased to report that a new door is currently being produced and we are hoping it will be installed in May/June 2024. With a grand opening ceremony to come…

Item(s) inspected	Inspection Frequency	Inspection Date	Notes
Clock	Annual	12 May 2023	Maintenance survey carried out by Ken Heley and Eric Young. PCC keeping under annual review the possible need for a professional inspection.
Effluent Pump	5 yearly	12 June 2019	Due in 2024
Bells and Bell Frame		25 May 2022	Service not required annually
PAT Testing	Annual	21 June 2023	Collins Electrical
Gutters	Annual	13 Jan 2023	Checked outside soakaway drains
Electrics	5 yearly	12 June 2023	Due in 2028
Boiler Service	Annual	20 Feb 2023	New boiler installed 6 February 2021
Lightning Conductors	5 yearly	7 June 2021	Due in 2026
Fire Extinguishers	Annual	11 Jan 2024	New extinguishers installed
Drains, Gulleys & lighting	Unofficial	Not inspected	Drains and accessible gulleys cleaned Jan 2023.
Copper Strip on Nave Roof		July 2023	Abbey Roofing fixed length of copper strip on nave roof which was insecure. No charge

Safeguarding Report for the Benefice of the Paxtons with Diddington and Southoe

Our work is based on the House of Bishops statement:

The Church of England safeguarding policy statement is based on five foundations and offers six overarching policy commitments:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Church
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others

Nicci Jones kindly agreed to be our named Safeguarding Officer. During 2022/2023 Graeme Anness has been assisting Nicci in carrying out the required three yearly DBS checks for benefice PCC members. We continue to use the Diocesan website Safeguarding Dashboard for monitoring and recording safeguarding practices required of each church community. The team endeavours to keep up-to-date and deal with any action requests from Ely Diocese.

Every three years, all Church officers are required to repeat their highest level of training course completed and training has been taking place across the benefice during 2023. Safeguarding is on every agenda of all benefice PCC Meetings and APCMs to ensure we are all very conscious of this important caring responsibility. Safeguarding contact details are available in all four of our benefice churches.

The PCC would like to take this opportunity to thank Nicci Jones and Graeme Anness for their work in the essential roles of Benefice Safeguarding and DBS Administrator.

The PCC are currently looking for a person (or persons) who might like to be involved with this very important work of safeguarding. If you are interested, or know of someone who may be interested, in being our DBS Checker or Safeguarding Officer, please do get in touch with one of the team.

Deanery Synod

The synod met 3 times during 2023. In March Archdeacon Richard Harlow led a discussion about where we are as churches. The June meeting focused on finance and Fiona McGregor was elected as Deanery Treasurer.

Prof Nigel Bastin has been co-ordinating the Deanery Plan which was approved at the October meeting, to which parish treasurers and churchwardens were invited. The Archdeacon was also present at this meeting and parish representatives expressed their particular concerns about finances and resources.

Our thanks to Nicci Jones and Anita Bailey for serving as our representatives on the Deanery Synod during 2023. Anita Bailey stepped down as Deanery Synod Representative in February 2023. We would like to thank Graeme Anness for stepping in as our second representative during the rest of 2023 and into 2024.

Churchyard Maintenance
Notes from Dave Gutteridge.

There is always plenty to do for the churchyard team of four who are:
Mary, Dave, Winston and Gary.

We keep the grave areas tidy, there is always plenty of weeding, strimming, mowing plus the thousands of leaves to clear at the year's end. We are very pleased to have some new mowers and rakes – a great help for sure!

We also clear the guttering when needed. All in all the churchyard is a very nice place to keep tidy. And we always have tea and biscuits at half time.
We would be delighted to welcome any new volunteers so do give me a ring on 07895390400 if you would like to know more.
Dave Gutteridge

The PCC and congregation are extremely grateful to the churchyard team. Thanks and all good wishes to Dave Gutteridge and the team. The churchyard gives much pleasure to us all.

Tower Captain's report – January 2024
2023 has been a busy year for the bellringers. We have rung for most Sunday services and continued with our practice sessions on Thursday evenings. We have tolled a bell for 7 funerals and rung for 1 wedding, and also for the wedding blessing for our ringer David & his wife Nellie, which was a lovely occasion. We had 3 visiting bands, 2 of which rang quarter peals, and St James hosted the Hunts District Bell Ringers meeting on 18th February.
On 6th May the bells were rung to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Also to celebrate the coronation, the bells were rung on 16th May, with 600 changes of Plain Bob Doubles, and on 30th May a quarter peal (1260 changes) was rung. I am delighted to say that 4 members of our band were ringing for the latter. A great achievement for us. Nicci, Alex, Eric and I rang, supported by Jane & Richard. We have a board in the ringing room to commemorate this.
In September we had to splice a replacement tail end to the tenor rope as it was badly fraying and becoming dangerous. We also have fraying issues on a couple more ropes and will be looking to replace them sometime soon.
Also in September we had a cleaning session in the belfry, hoovering up the cobwebs, dusting down the frames and generally checking the bells over and tightening nuts and bolts. Thank you to everyone who helped.
Once again, I would like to finish by saying thank you to all the ringers who support St James and dedicate their time to the Thursday practice and service ringing. It is important to keep the art of ringing alive and to give service to the church in this way.
We are very sad to have had to say goodbye to two of our ringers in January 2024. Dick Saw and Phil Baines, both of whom were enthusiastic and dedicated members of our band, both sadly passed away; and we were honoured to be able to ring the bells at Southoe and Great Paxton, to celebrate their lives. Dedications have been put into three of our towers in the benefice.
Mary Parnham
Tower Captain/Ringing Master

The PCC and congregation are extremely grateful to Mary and her team.

SIMPLY SATURDAY ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023

At our monthly Simply Saturday meetings (with a 'bring and share' lunch followed by entertainment) we have seen the numbers of attendees growing steadily over the past year.

ENTERTAINMENT:
We have had a mixture of Singers, Talks and Bingo over the year, all of which proved very popular. At the end of December we had a catered Christmas lunch with the Southonian Singers singing Christmas Carols which all members enjoyed.

We involved our members in Paxfest in the Summer, asking for donations to make up hampers, to be raffled off to raise funds so we could continue the group, this proved very popular.

We have a full and varied list of Entertainment booked for 2024 which we hope will be very popular. Our members look forward to coming each month and interacting with other members too.

Leisa Hunt

Contact details:

The Reverend Canon Annette Reed
The Vicarage, 24 St James' Road, Little Paxton, PE19 6QW
Tel: 01480 211048
Email: canonannettereed@gmail.com

Churchwarden
Helen Young
10 Little Paxton Lane, Little Paxton, PE19 6EP
Tel: 01480 216255
Email: young_paxton@ntlworld.com

Benefice Administrator (Churchwarden, PCC Secretary and Safeguarding Officer)
Nicci Jones
c /o The Vicarage, 24 St James' Road, Little Paxton, PE19 6QW
Tel: 01480 877215
Email: admin@thepaxtonsbenefice.org

Treasurer
Kate Bywater
Email: kbywater.church@gmail.com

Community Space Manager
Graeme Anness
Email: graemeanness@gmail.com

Benefice Website www.thepaxtonsbenefice.org

Facebook www.facebook.com/ThePaxtonsBenefice

(All information contained in this report is correct at the time of printing)

St. James' Church Little Paxton PCC			
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2023			
Total income for the year			67,564.38
General account balance at 1st January		10,489.97	
	Transfers in	0.00	
	Transfer out	0.00	10,489.97
Projects Account balance at 1st January		95.92	
	Interest	0.00	
	Transfers in	0.00	
	Transfer out	0.00	95.92
Restoration account at 1st January		31,240.03	
61412003D	Transfer in/donations	0.00	
	Grants	0.00	
	Payments	0.00	
	Interest	0.00	31,240.03
100 Club balance at 1st January		15,040.00	
	Donations	5,948.99	
	Transfer out	(8,226.32)	
	HDC Lottery Licence	0.00	
	Draw payments	(2,150.00)	10,612.67
Total			**£120,002.97**

Total expenditure for the year	64,922.72
General Account balance at 31st December	10,661.87
Projects Account balance at 31st December	2,565.68
Restoration Fund	31,240.03
100 Club at 31st December	10,612.67
Total	**£120,002.97**

CCLA Account 6141420015 - Church Lands

No of shares @ 31.12.23
1031 @ 22.6053 = £23,306.06

Accounts prepared by Kate Bywater; Honorary Treasurer

Signed and dated K Bywater 29/2/24

Accounts Independently Examined by Sarah Symonds

Signed and dated 1st March 2024

St James Church 2023











ST JAMES' CHURCH
LITTLE PAXTON

£1 Challenge!

We have created a challenge to help us continue to provide a warm comfortable space for community use. Can you help us achieve our goal of finding 500 people to donate £1 per month?

In addition to holding regular church services, weddings, baptisms and funerals, our community space is available for local groups and is currently used for:

- Fish and Chip Lunch
- Tots Group
- Cinema
- Dance and Exercise Groups
- Coffee Mornings
- Saturday Lunch Group
- History Group

If you would like to be part of our efforts by donating £1 (or more) per month please see the information opposite. Thank you!

To Donate By Phone:

Simply call 0333 002 1271, Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm, to set up a Direct Debit.

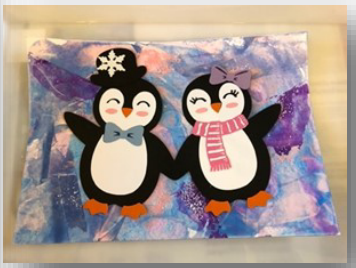
You will need to have your personal bank account details, church name (St James' Little Paxton) and our Parish Giving Scheme code 140614221.

To Donate Online:

Simply scan the QR code below or go to: www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/little-paxton-st-james-st-neots/













St. James' Church Little Paxton PCC

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2023

Total income for the year			67,564.38
General account balance at 1st January		10,489.97	
	Transfers in	0.00	
	Transfer out	0.00	10,489.97
Projects Account balance at 1st January		95.92	
	Interest	0.00	
	Transfers in	0.00	
	Transfer out	0.00	95.92
Restoration account at 1st January		31,240.03	
61412003D	Transfer in/donations	0.00	
	Grants	0.00	
	Payments	0.00	
	Interest	0.00	31,240.03
100 Club balance at 1st January		15,040.00	
	Donations	5,948.99	
	Transfer out	(8,226.32)	
	HDC Lottery Licence	0.00	
	Draw payments	(2,150.00)	10,612.67
Total			**£120,002.97**

Total expenditure for the year	64,922.72
General Account balance at 31st December	10,661.87
Projects Account balance at 31st December	2,565.68
Restoration Fund	31,240.03
100 Club at 31st December	10,612.67
Total	**£120,002.97**

CCLA Account 614142001S - Church Lands

No of shares @ 31.12.23
1031 @ 22.6053 = £23,306.06

Accounts prepared by Kate Bywater; Honorary Treasurer

Signed and dated K Bywater 29/2/24

Accounts Independently Examined by Sarah Symonds

Signed and dated 1st March 2024

St James Little Paxton PCC
Accounts for Year to 31st December 2023

		2023			2022		
Income							
Collections	Sunday Worship		4,267.49			4,515.47	
	Weddings		0.00			10.00	
	Funerals and Mem Svc		90.00			0.00	
	Baptisms		113.12			817.39	
	Harvest		288.92			291.10	
	Christingle		217.27			172.96	
	Christmas		28.00			191.10	
	Easter		84.26			0.00	
	Total			**5,089.06**			**5,998.02**
Donations				4,876.30			2,434.90
Covenants /Regular Giving				9,790.34			9,488.70
100 Club				8,197.42			0.00
Loans received				0.00			0.00
Ely DB Gift Aid Refund				4,367.29			4,158.76
CBF Income Fund				1,831.94			841.69
		Net	Gross		Net	Gross	
Special Events	Garden Plants & Tools Sale	801.00	801.00		0.00	0.00	
	Christmas Bazaar/Market	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
	Amazon Smile	19.94	19.94		18.09	18.09	
	Paxfest	1,423.19	1,423.19		1,475.62	1,475.62	
	Co-op Local Community Fund	0.00	0.00		1,241.48	1,241.48	
	Quiz Night	245.36	279.01		245.00	245.00	
	Gilbert & Sullivan Society Concert	0.00	0.00		412.70	565.00	
	Recycle 4 Charity	0.00	0.00		2.50	2.50	
	Tombola at The Anchor	(20.00)	0.00		168.00	168.00	
	Tower Fund	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
	Books & Cards	80.75	80.75		38.20	38.20	
	Preserves	19.00	19.00		0.00	0.00	
	Puzzles	17.00	17.00		0.00	0.00	
	Open Day	42.05	42.05		0.00	0.00	
	Film Shows	796.83	1,245.35		321.77	768.84	
	Carols Around the Tree	(26.93)	174.54		156.64	156.64	
	Total	**3,398.19**		**4,101.83**	**4,080.00**		**4,679.37**
Sundry	Other - Benefice contributions			2,310.99			1,938.30
	Grant			9,550.00			600.00
	Grave reservation fee			900.00			0.00
Fees	Diocese fees		3,895.00			5,385.00	
	Statutory retained fees		3,274.00			3,606.00	
	Heating, flowers etc		750.00			350.00	
	Total			**7,919.00**			**9,341.00**
Parish Council				717.43			797.50
Rent				1,522.90			2,284.35
Quartet/printing/stall				720.00			825.00
Church Use				5,669.88			4,085.54
Village Views delivery				0.00			0.00
Sub total				**67,564.38**			**47,473.13**
General account balance at 1st January				10,489.97			21,476.77
Bank account 1 at 1st January			0.00			0.00	
general a/c	Interest		0.00			0.00	
	Transfers in		0.00			0.00	
	Transfer out		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
Projects Account balance at 1st January			95.92			95.92	
	Interest		0.00			0.00	
	Transfers in		0.00			0.00	
	Transfer out		0.00	95.92		0.00	95.92
Restoration account at 1st January			31,240.03			31,240.03	
61412003D	Transfer in/donations		0.00			0.00	
	Grants		0.00			0.00	
	Payments		0.00			0.00	
	Interest		0.00	31,240.03		0.00	31,240.03
100 Club balance at 1st January			15,040.00			13,715.00	
	Donations		5,948.99			4,805.00	
	Transfer out		(8,226.32)			(480.00)	
	HDC Lottery Licence		0.00			(20.00)	
	Draw payments		(2,150.00)	10,612.67		(2,980.00)	15,040.00
Fish & Chips Club money held by PCC				0.00			0.00
Simply Saturday money held by PCC				0.00			0.00
Total				**120,002.97**			**115,325.85**

St James Little Paxton PCC
Accounts for Year to 31st December 2023

			2023			2022	
Expenditure			£	£		£	£
Ministry	Ministry share		34,113.69			32,783.81	
	Vicar's Expenses		1,836.71			963.48	
	Lay Minister (LLM) Expenses		218.70			0.00	
	Copying/admin		761.10			1,293.52	
	Quartet magazine		1,300.00			992.00	
	Wafers/Candles/Bibles/Certs/Crosses		484.78			506.08	
	St Neots Deanery Synod		0.00			0.00	
	Benefice Gathering		0.00			0.00	
	Benefice administrator		4,766.74			4,058.25	
	Total			**43,481.72**			**40,597.14**
Fabric & Maintenance	Restoration		2,530.24			1,489.92	
	Caretaker		4,314.91			3,383.64	
	Insurance		1,893.93			1,788.12	
	Churchyard Maintenance		100.00			478.38	
	Electricity		1,429.71			772.07	
	Gas		1,004.10			1,321.84	
	Anglian Water		313.96			20.78	
	Boiler		204.00			170.00	
	Sundry Maintenance		1,153.18			269.34	
	Housekeeping		476.08			672.36	
	Bell Maintenance		0.00			252.00	
	Toilet Evacuation service		0.00			0.00	
	Copier/Toner		82.84			262.84	
	Flowers		254.85			253.00	
	Total			**13,757.80**			**11,134.29**
Loan repayments				0.00			0.00
	Fund raising expenses		703.64			599.37	
Sundry Donations	Jimmy's Night Shelter		100.00			120.10	
	Royal British Legion		120.00			185.74	
	Children's Society		115.00			0.00	
	Sue Ryder Hospice		200.00			186.00	
	Cambs Historic Churches		50.00			50.00	
	Scout Jamboree		0.00			50.00	
	Temporary support		0.00			0.00	
	Parish Giving		198.14			1,070.00	
	Total			**1,486.78**			**2,261.21**
Sundry Payments	Fees Ely DBF		5,396.00			3,884.00	
	Culture Recovery Fund Grant spending		0.00			0.00	
	Fridge		0.00			0.00	
	Defib Pads & Battery		397.74			0.00	
	Tots Group Equipment & expenses		394.91			450.70	
	The Goodbox Co. & SumUp		7.78			2.59	
	First Aid Training		0.00			130.00	
	Sundry		0.00			0.00	
	Total			**6,196.43**			**4,467.29**
Sub total				**64,922.72**			**58,459.93**
General Account balance				15,866.02			10,958.69
Accruals				(5,204.15)			(468.72)
Projects Bank Account				2,565.68			95.92
CCLA Account 4 - Restoration Fund				31,240.03			31,240.03
100 Club Account				10,612.67			15,040.00
Total				**120,002.97**			**115,325.85**

	Check Total:	0.00

CCLA Account 6141420015 - Church Lands

1,031 shares at 2260.53 pence per share £23,306.06

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St James Little Paxton

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on pages 1 and 2, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and examiner

As a member of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43 (2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements 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.43 (7) (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 financial statements and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
   b. To prepare financial statement, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations, have not been met:

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Sarah Symonds

Sarah E Symonds
6 Elm Croft
Little Paxton

Date: 1st March 2024

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESTICAL PARISH OF LITTLE PAXTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1144292

Accounts

Annual Report
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the year ending 31 December 2022



St James' Church
Little Paxton

ST JAMES' CHURCH
LITTLE PAXTON

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Appendix
Balance Sheet for year to 31 December 2022

Income and Expenditure Accounts for year to 31 December 2022 are available to view in church

Canon Annette Reed introduces the Annual Report for the year to 31 December 2022

Thank you for the opportunity to look back to 2022; it was certainly a very busy year in all respects for the life of St James' Church. Our service provision had returned to a regular weekly pattern in 2021 following the Covid pandemic and, as you will see from the statistics in the report, we held 120 acts of worship and occasional offices throughout 2022.

Side by side with Christian worship, St James offers a full programme of community and church events week by week which are very much appreciated by all who come along.

Some of the groups, like the Wednesday morning Tots and Carers Group and the Friday morning open church coffee mornings have been running since 2012 when the church re-opened with its flexible space. It was during the Covid pandemic that we were able to secure funding to purchase equipment to livestream services on YouTube. During 2022 many of the occasional offices, the funerals, weddings and baptisms were livestreamed, along with

Sunday services, which of course enables people who are unable to get to church to engage with what is happening.

Social media has also continued to be a useful way of keeping in touch for those who use Facebook and online websites. We have over 700 followers on our Facebook Page and try to keep the page updated with news and pictures. The benefice Quartet magazine continues to be popular and is now printed by a local printer, enabling us to have some quality colour pages. The 'Keeping in Touch' leaflet, which was started during Covid, goes out by email (thanks Anita!) every Saturday evening to a large number of people on our mailing list as well as about 25 copies being delivered by hand. We also aim to have regular articles in the various village magazines.

2022 saw three very memorable occasions nationally and locally and for two of these events we were able to use our big screen to watch together; the celebration in church of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022 and then, very sadly, the funeral service of Her Majesty the Queen on 19 September. We were also in church on 11 September to host the live reading of the Proclamation of the Accession of His Majesty King Charles III. It is at such national occasions that our bellringers are particularly appreciated as they rang both for the Platinum celebrations and the Queen's passing.

It goes without saying that offering such a busy programme of events and services needs an energetic and efficient team to make sure arrangements are in order and everyone who comes into church is safe. Our annual meeting is an opportunity to thank everyone involved in enabling the St James' community to flourish and who often go the extra mile to offer hospitality and kindness to everyone who comes through the south porch door.

It is never a very good idea to thank everyone by name as it risks missing someone out but the roles of Community Space manager and Benefice Administrator undertaken so well by Graeme Anness and Nicci Jones respectively are a vital factor in the efficient running of St James. Our thanks of course as well to Nicci and Helen Young, serving for a further year as our church wardens; to Kate Bywater for looking after our accounts and Anita Bailey for being our PCC Secretary.

No church community can thrive without steady financial support. We did have more challenges financially in 2022 which our treasurer Kate explains in this report, but we were well able to pay our ministry share for the year and cover all our other commitments. We give our ongoing thanks to everyone who supports us financially or supports essential fund raising activities including the 100 club.

The PCC will continue to explore ways of making sure our income is sufficient to enable us to be a church which interacts in a compassionate and creative way to the ever expanding village community.

Our thanks to Licensed Lay Minister Mel Eyeons for her dedicated support and input into our Sunday worship with her insightful homilies and worship leading. Unlike most of us, Mel has to travel from Papworth and is always on time!

At this point I would also like, on behalf of us all, to formally record our sincere thanks to Leslie Tennant for his many years of dedicated service to St James' Church as a churchwarden, PCC member and Lay Minister.

In April 2022 our archdeacon Hugh McCurdy retired having been a regular visitor to St James' Church and giving us much encouragement. Our new archdeacon, The Venerable Richard Harlow was appointed and he was introduced to the Diocese at his collation at St Peter and St Paul's Church in Wisbech in September 2022. We look forward to working with Richard in the future.

Thank you to everyone who is part of the St James' story; it has been especially good to welcome some new people who have more recently moved into the village.

As I write, it is nearly 17 years since I came to the village. The time has gone by so quickly. But, in all the very many wonderful times and occasional challenges, it has been a great privilege to have been part of the village community at Little Paxton and to have seen exciting growth in all aspects of church life.

Thank you to everyone for your love and support and we look forward to continuing to share the Good News of Jesus Christ during 2023.

I will round off this introduction with the Ely Diocesan Prayer.

We praise and thank you, God of the journey,
for all your gifts to us in the past.
We look to you as fellow-traveller and faithful companion on the way ahead.
Shelter and protect us from all harm and anxiety.
Give us grace to let go of all that holds us back.
And grant us courage to meet the new life
You have promised us in Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Canon Annette Reed
26 February 2023

Administrative information

St James' Church of England parish church is situated in the village of Little Paxton, Cambridgeshire. It is within the Deanery of St Neots (Diocese of Ely), and is part of a benefice of four churches with St Laurence's Church, Diddington; Holy Trinity Church, Great Paxton; and St Leonard's Church in Southoe and Midloe. The Pastoral Scheme creating this benefice came into force on 1 June 2015.

Charity Registration

During 2011, the Church registered with the Charity Commission. (Registration No. 1144292)

The PCC

Aims and Purposes

St James' Church PCC has the responsibility of working with and supporting our incumbent, The Reverend Canon Annette Reed, in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St James' Church.

The PCC members who have served from 1 January 2022 until the date this report was approved are as follows: (please note * denotes an ex-officio member):

Incumbent:

The Reverend Canon Annette Reed* Chair

Churchwardens:

Helen Young* Elected from APCM 15 May 2022
Nicci Jones* (*Safeguarding Officer*) Elected from APCM 15 May 2022

Deputy Churchwardens:

Ken Heley
Leslie Tennant (Church Army Evangelist Officer Ret'd) Stepped down 14 February 2022

LLMs

Mel Eyeons
Leslie Tennant (Church Army Evangelist Officer Ret'd) Stepped down 14 February 2022

Representatives on the Deanery Synod for three years from their election date:

Anita Bailey (PCC Secretary) Elected from APCM 20 September 2020
Nicci Jones* (Churchwarden) Elected from APCM 20 September 2020

Elected PCC Members:

Leslie Tennant	Stepped down w.e.f. 14 February 2022
Ken Heley	Elected from APCM 15 May 2022
June Griffin	Elected from APCM 15 May 2022
Lyn Harris	Elected from APCM 15 May 2022
Jean Matheson	Elected from APCM 15 May 2022
Anita Bailey	Elected from APCM 15 May 2022
Graeme Anness	Elected from APCM 15 May 2022
Glen Doick	Elected from APCM 15 May 2022
Iris Slade	Elected from APCM 15 May 2022

Co-opted Members:

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At the APCM on 21 April 2013 it was agreed that all PCC members should stand for a period of one year only and then stand for re-election year by year. This policy will be reviewed by the APCM at least once every six years and will be reviewed again by 2025.

A new Benefice Administrator, Nicci Jones, was appointed in 2017 and due to the continual growth in the benefice, the PCC of St James' Church, (meeting on the 20 March 2019), with the support of Diddington, Southoe and Great Paxton PCCs, agreed to increase the hours of this role to 12 hours per week with effect from 1 April 2019 and this arrangement continues.

The Community Space Manager for St James' Church, Graeme Anness, was appointed in April 2021 and is now a strategic member of the St James' team.

In 2022

PCC meetings held on:	**Standing Committee meetings held on:**
14 February 2022	14 January 2022
9 March 2022	
27 June 2022	
17 October 2022	
27 November 2022	

In 2016 the Diocese of Ely encouraged PCCs to work closely with their ministers to create a Development Action Plan (DAP). The plan was for growth in all areas of church life within the Diocesan Strategy 'Towards 2025'. **The Development Action Plan (DAP) Group** was set up and have continued to organise events and activities in line with the Diocesan Strategy.

Achievements and Performance

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is the foundation of the whole structure of synodical government in the church. It contains the names and addresses of everyone who can vote at the Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM). As at 31 December 2022 there were 108 people on St James' Church Electoral Roll. The Electoral Roll is revised annually. A notice announcing the revision of the Roll is displayed on or near the church door for at least two weeks before the commencement of the revision. The only people required to fill in an application form are those who have recently moved into the parish, joined

the church or reached the age of 16. The revision should be completed between 15 and 28 days before the annual meeting.

The PCC would like to thank Nicci Jones for her work in this role in 2022.

Church attendance

The world opened up again in 2022 and the total footfall rose to 3734 adults and 719 children. The numbers at All Age Worship are particularly encouraging and we were very busy with occasional offices and special services such as the Platinum Jubilee and then the Queen's commemoration service. We began livestreaming our Sunday services in January 2022 with Annette and Mel doing some additional YouTube videos during the year. Mel also carried out 4th Sunday bible study sessions on-line.

* Attendance which was limited by various Covid restrictions	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**
Number of services	167	157	*64	*91	120
Total footfall of adults attending services	5004	4692	*1503	*2232	3734
Total footfall of children attending all services	1097	1027	*54	*359	719
Average number of people at main 9.15 am Holy communion service (*only 5 were held in 2021*)	39	38	*31	*26	29
Average number of communicants at main 9.15 am Holy communion service	38	36	*31	*19	28
Number of home communions	47	30	5	*0	0
Number of weddings	8	3	4	*1	5
Number of funerals	5	10	9	9	13
Graveside service	-	-	-	1	0
Services held at crematorium	-	-	-	5	11
Interment of ashes	-	-	-	7	7
Memorial Services (*for the Queen)	-	-	-	-	1
Number of children baptised	10	13	1	10	15
Average number of adults at 1st Sunday All Age Worship) (only 2 held in 2021)	37	32	*40	*30	39
Average number of children at All Age Worship	6	6	*7	*0	3
Number of Morning Prayer services on Sundays	-	-	-	27	13
Average number at Sunday Morning Prayer services	-	-	-	23	28
Christingle, Christmas Eve & Christmas in-person services ***(2020 & 2021 include viewing figures for YouTube Christmas services and 2022 for Outdoor carols)***	312	290	260	213	270
Easter Day attendance ***(+ viewing figures for YouTube Easter Sunday 2020 & 2021. (2022 without YouTube)***	42	70	231	213	72
Wed a.m. Holy Communion average attendance (2021 from June)	8	7	5	5	6

Church Attendance Cont'd ..

Some random examples of YouTube statistics for numbers engaged with our livestreaming/ recordings during 2022 in comparison to those attending Holy Communion or Morning Prayer in person. You will see from the figures that our on-line presence is highly valued.

Date	**Service**	**In person**	**YouTube Viewing**
16 January 2022	Morning Prayer	28	121
13 March 2022	Holy Communion	35	120
25 September 2022	Holy Communion	30	60
23 October 2022	Holy Communion	21	82
11 December 2022	Holy Communion	24	51

During 2022 our livestreaming facility was used frequently for Baptisms, Funerals and Weddings together with many services having photograph presentations being projected onto a screen.

YouTube mid-week services produced by LLM Mel Eyeons

During 2022 Mel produced some more mid-week YouTube services for us – all of high quality and with regular viewing figures of 20-25. Mel's services come with downloadable/readable resources and are very well planned and delivered. We are very grateful to Mel for providing this invaluable way of reaching out to people online.

Social Media outreach

The Paxtons Benefice Facebook Page

The Benefice Facebook page was created on 21 October 2012. It first appeared just after the CHUFT Project was completed and St James opened again after the re-ordering.

Since then, the Facebook page has reported on hundreds of benefice events and services, offered some prayer space and reflections and frequently shares thoughtful pictures from across our four churches.

As mentioned in Annette's introduction, we now have over 700 followers and, for reasons which are hard to fathom, some posts reach over 1000 people and others just over 200! We, naturally, have to be mindful of obtaining permission from people to post their picture and hope that we are always sensitive to this important safeguard.

We are always pleased when we receive positive comments about the page. It is a very good vehicle to use when commending our YouTube videos and we are grateful that there is no cost in having a Facebook Page account.

If you do engage with our Facebook Page, please do post or comment on something and say 'hello'! Address for our Facebook Page is on Page 17.

The Benefice Website

Another source of news and events is the benefice website which is maintained by our administrator, Nicci Jones. There is a wealth of information about our benefice churches along with publicising the many activities which happen across the benefice. Among the pages, you will find a calendar with benefice events and a library of the Keeping in Touch weekly newsletters and back issues of the Quartet magazine. (Website details on Page 17)

KIT (Keeping in Touch) Weekly Newsletter

Keeping in Touch (KIT) was another product of lockdown. The first edition came out on 28 March 2020 as a way to keep in touch with one another as we faced what we hoped would be a few weeks of restrictions on meeting together.

Covering four sides of A5 in a leaflet format, originally produced to accompany the Sunday YouTube service, it contains prayers, readings, reflections and news. Distributed via email to folk on our parish database and, indeed, to anyone who expressed an interest in receiving it! 25+ copies are also hand delivered to folk in Little Paxton. We developed the design and incorporated some colour pictures and generally followed the bible themes of any particular Sunday.

KIT was produced throughout 2021 and 2022 and was particularly helpful in keeping in touch with those who were needing to stay at home.

Thank you to those who have written articles for the KIT and Helen Young for formatting the Vicar's text and printing off the colour copies. At this point I would also like to thank Helen for preparing our Pews News during 2022.

In March 2022 we hit the 100th edition, and we have no plans to stop its production and appreciate the positive feedback we have received.

Quartet – Monthly Benefice Newsletter

Several people contribute to the magazine regularly from across our benefice for which we are again grateful. Our thanks go to Ken and Alison Bowles who kindly distribute Quartet to the deliverers and for the efforts of those delivering around Little Paxton. Quartet is delivered to folk in Little Paxton who have signed up to receive the Newsletter at a cost of £5 per year. It can also be read on our benefice website. It is also sent out to households in our other three church communities and 450 copies are produced each month.

Community use of Church building

Throughout the year St James' Church is used by many different groups and we frequently receive requests for new bookings.

<u>The Groups who benefit from use of the church are</u>:

Line-dancing group (Tuesday mornings)
Tots and carers group (Wednesday mornings)
Chair Pilates (Wednesday and Thursday afternoons)
K-fit group - Pilates (Thursday mornings)
Bell Ringing practice (Thursday evenings)
Tea, Coffee and chat group (Friday mornings)
Local History Group (monthly)
Fish and chip lunches (monthly)
Jubilee Knitters Group (monthly) (discontinued before the end of 2022)
Little Paxton W.I. (3rd Monday of the month)
Little Paxton Pictures Cinema (last Tuesday of the month)
Coffee Pot Memory Café members – Film (every 5th Wednesday of the month)
Simply Saturday – for those who like company on a Saturday (1st Saturday of the month)
SWITCH Group – Film shows when their timetable allows
Little Paxton Pre-School Committee Meetings (every six weeks)
Occasional choir practice nights
Children's parties for church linked families
One off meetings for village groups, e.g. AGMs, Brownie events
Deanery Synod meetings
Deanery Chapter meetings
Diocese meetings and trainings

<u>Our community space was additionally used for the following events</u>:

15 January 2022 – Hosted the Gransdens Group for their annual away-day
11 February 2022 – Hosted the Grandparent Quilt display to raise awareness of grandparents unable to see their grandchildren.
March 2022 – Hosted as collection point for donations for the people of Ukraine. This was wonderfully supported by all in the benefice and a shipment was sent on Sunday 6 March.

As you can see from the extensive list … our church is busy on most days! With this in mind, at the PCC meeting on 9 March 2022 it was agreed that our Community Space Manager be able to claim up to 40 hours per month during busy times in the booking calendar.

All bookings are managed by our Benefice Administrator (Nicci Jones) and there is an on-line calendar which can be viewed on our benefice website.

Events, Films and special services that took place in 2022

25 January	Film – Finding your Feet
22 February	Film – Brief Encounter
29 March	Film - Downton Abbey 2019
30 March	Coffee Pot Café Film – Doctor in the House
12 April	Easter Film - Risen
24 April	All Age Worship with Puppeteers Glenn and Maggie Coiley
26 April	Film – The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance
13 May	Spring Concert with Stewartby Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society
31 May	Film – Miss Congeniality
3 June	Screen used to show Queen's Platinum Jubilee service
5 June	Special service with Parish Council, Southoe singers and film screen used to show photographs of the Queen in celebration of her Platinum Jubilee
28 June	Film – Sense and Sensibility
29 June	Coffee Pot Café Film – Some like it Hot
9 July	PAXFEST – Village Fete theme
26 July	Film – Dirty Dancing
30 August	Film – Death on the Nile
10 September	Book of condolence for her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II available in church for villagers to sign
11 September	Villagers invited to hear live the reading of the Proclamation of the Accession of His Majesty King Charles III

18 September	Service in commemoration of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
19 September	Funeral service of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II shown live on big screen
21 September	1st night of Deanery five week evening Course discussing 'Living in Love and Faith'.
27 September	Film – Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy
30 September	Quiz night
3 October	Harvest Services for Little Paxton School
25 October	Film - Oceans Eleven
26 October	Film - Monsters Inc (first specific film for children since pre-covid)
31 October	Annual All Souls Benefice Service
11 November	Tombola Stall at The Anchor to support Cystic Fybrosis
13 November	Annual Remembrance Service
29 November	Film – Sleepless in Seattle
30 November	Coffee Pot Café Film – It's a Wonderful Life
7 December	Christingle - Scouts
11 December	Carols by Candlelight
22 December	Carols around the Christmas Tree supported by Little Paxton pre-school
27 November	Christingle – District Guides

Funding the mission of St James' Church – Treasurer's Report

From a financial perspective, 2022 has not been a good year. Although we managed to meet all our commitments (including paying our Ministry Share) this meant that our expenses for the year were £11,000 more than our income. Obviously this is not a pattern that can continue so we must either increase our income or reduce our expenditure to ensure future financial stability.

Our regular givers continued to give generously and we received a grant of £600 from the Diocese towards rising energy costs. The grants relating to Covid have all ended so we could have expected to be £18,500 down in 2022 but with our User Groups returning to pre-Covid usage, the income they provided was significantly higher than in 2021 and together with small increases in collection monies, fee income, Gift Aid and rent we have managed to reduce the loss to £11,000.

We are hoping to encourage the whole community to help us balance our books as so many are using our building and I look forward to delivering a more positive statement next year.

The Balance Sheet can be found in the Appendix to this Report. Please feel free to view the Income and Expenditure Report – copies are available in church.

Kate Bywater

Treasurer

A big thank you to:

- Kate Bywater for her much appreciated work as our Treasurer.
- Alison Bowles for completing the Gift Aid returns.
- Helen Young for running the 100 Club and to everyone who subscribes to it – it continues to provide a valuable source of income for the maintenance and upkeep of the church building, appliances and equipment. The 100 Club had 96 members by the end of 2022 (after some moved away during the year). The total profit for the year was a brilliant £2,805.
- Sarah Symonds for auditing our accounts.

Mission Giving

In 2022, we were very pleased to donate a total of £1000, split between Little Paxton Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, Little Paxton Scouting, Caring for Cambridgeshire's Homeless Project, Ely Diocesan Association of Bell Ringers, Save the Children, St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger, Church Army Explore and Cambridge Emmaus.

However, as can be seen in the accounts, additional donations were made to:

- Jimmy's Night Shelter (£120 from the Harvest Service)
- St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger (£186 from the All-Souls Service)
- Children's Society (£115 from the Christingle Service)

Thank you to everyone who contributed to these charities.

Parish Giving Scheme

A small number of our regular congregation have signed up for the Parish Giving Scheme - a form of tax efficient giving by Direct Debit - and we are hoping to expand this during 2023 by involving our local community in a new way. Watch this space! All applications can now be completed on-line.

Church Fabric Report

In February 2022 a new water heater for making drinks and washing up was installed in the kitchen with funds from the 100 Club being used to help cover the cost.

2022 saw the PCC begin investigating and considering a suitable replacement for the South Porch Door which has become warped and

difficult to lock. This is an involved process with architects, the Diocese Advisory Committee and Huntingdonshire District Council, including a Faculty application to the church. *As this Annual Report is prepared, we have submitted a Faculty application to the Diocese and the Registry and we hope to have a new door in 2024!*

Item(s) inspected	**Inspection Frequency**	**Inspection Date**	**Notes**
Clock	Annual	6 May 2022	Maintenance survey carried out by Ken Heley, Eric Young and Alan Smith. PCC keeping under annual review the possible need for a professional inspection.
Effluent Pump	5 yearly	12 June 2019	Due in 2024
Bells and Bell Frame		25 May 2022	Service not required annually
PAT Testing	Annual	21 June 2022	
Gutters	Annual	Feb 2019	To be done in 2023
Electrics	5 yearly	17 Sept 2018	Due in 2023
Boiler Service	Annual	21 Feb 2022	New boiler installed 6 February 2021
Lightning Conductors	5 yearly	7 June 2021	Due in 2026
Fire Extinguishers	Annual	23 Feb 2022	Also carried out 25 Nov 2022
Drains, Gulleys & lighting	Unofficial	Not inspected	Drains and accessible gulleys cleaned 22 February 2022. Thank you to Ken Heley, Eric Young and Alan Smith for looking after.

Safeguarding Report for the Benefice of the Paxtons with Diddington and Southoe

Our work is based on the House of Bishops statement:

The Church of England safeguarding policy statement is based on five foundations and offers six overarching policy commitments:

• Promoting a safer environment and culture

• Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Church

• Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation

• Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons

• Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons

• Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others

Nicci Jones kindly agreed to be our named Safeguarding Officer. During 2022 Graeme Anness has been assisting Nicci in carrying out the required three yearly DBS checks for benefice PCC members. We continue to use the Diocesan website Safeguarding Dashboard for monitoring and recording safeguarding practices required of each church community. The team endeavours to keep up-to-date and deal with any action requests from Ely Diocese.

Every three years, all Church officers are required to repeat their highest level of training course completed and training is taking place in the Spring of 2023. Safeguarding is on every agenda of all benefice PCC Meetings and APCMs to ensure we are all very conscious of this important caring responsibility. Safeguarding contact details are available in all four of our benefice churches.

The PCC would like to take this opportunity to thank Nicci Jones and Graeme Anness for their work in the essential roles of Benefice Safeguarding and DBS Checker. We would also like to thank Nicci Jones for being our interim named Benefice Safeguarding Officer.

The PCC are currently looking for a person (or persons) who might like to be involved with this very important work of safeguarding. If you are interested, or know of someone who may be interested, in being our DBS Checker or Safeguarding Officer, please do get in touch with one of the team.

Deanery Synod Report

In 2022, St Neots Deanery Synod met on the following dates:

<u>8 March at Great Staughton Church</u>

The main topic was social media and how we are now using it, including live streaming.

Other issues included the forthcoming visit of Bishop Stephen to the Deanery in April and how we were handling Holy Communion post lockdown.

25 May at Buckden Church

Mike Kelly, Youth and families development officer, led the main topic 'Growing Faith with young people'. Lay Chair Janet Perrett introduced Prof Nigel Baston who had taken on responsibility for co-ordinating parish responses to the St Neots Deanery Plan process.

13 July at Little Paxton

Martin MacFarlene, Deanery Treasurer, gave a thorough financial report. Martin was presented with a farewell card and the Deanery's thanks for serving as Deanery Treasurer.

Rural Dean Nicki Bland advised people of when the Living in Love and Faith Groups would be running in Little Paxton Church. There was an opportunity for parishes to share what was going well and Annette commended the September 2022 CHCT Ride and Stride event.

9 November at Gamlingay Church

The Rural Dean explained that there was currently a shortfall in the total amount that Deanery parishes had paid in ministry share. Various solutions to this problem were discussed.

Regarding the Deanery plan, there was now an extension till September 2023 for each Deanery to submit their findings. Nigel Bastin gave an update on the planning process.

On 2 April, 2022, Little Paxton hosted a meeting for Clergy and Deanery Synod members with Bishop Stephen to discuss the Deanery Plan and the best way forward with that process.

Ven Hugh McCurdy retired in April 2022 as Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech and a Deanery Farewell Service was held for him at Great Paxton Church with a gathered choir from across our four churches. Rev Nicholas Thistlethwaite was appointed as an interim archdeacon until the Ven Richard Harlow was introduced to the Diocese at his collation in September 2022.

St James' Church, Little Paxton, hosted five weekly meetings in September and October for PCCs and Electoral Roll members to discuss 'Living in Love and Faith' which explored identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage in the contexts of the Christian faith, changes in society, and disagreements in the church. A response from the General Synod was due after their meeting in February 2023.

Our thanks to Nicci Jones and Anita Bailey for serving as our representatives on the Deanery Synod during 2022

Churchyard Team Report

After the record breaking temperatures of the summer of 2022, the churchyard grass is now back to its luscious green, and has already had a couple of trims.
Whilst the grass was dormant, the team kept on top of the fallen leaves and Mary continues to keep the graves tidy and free from weeds.
The team has unfortunately gotten smaller yet again. Mick left last year, and I have had to give up, due to ill health. Dave and the boys will soldier on, keeping our churchyard a pleasure to walk through. Roll on spring!

Frankie Lovelock (Jan 23)

The PCC and congregation have been extremely grateful to Frankie, Barbara and the team and for the wonderful way they have looked after our churchyard. We shall really miss Frankie and Barbara as they have worked so hard for so many years. Thank you Frankie and team. Thanks and all good wishes to Dave Gutteridge and the team. The churchyard gives much pleasure to us all.

Tower Captain's report

2022 has been a busy year for the bellringers. We have rung for most Sunday services and continued with our practice sessions on Thursday evenings.

The 3rd of June saw the Platinum Jubilee celebrations begin and we joined in with the rest of the country in ringing the bells to mark 75 years on the throne for our Queen, Elizabeth II. The bells were also rung on 5th June to end the celebrations.

On 9th September, the half-muffled tenor was tolled for 1 hour, in mourning for our Queen, Elizabeth II. 3 of our ringers took it in turns to toll.

On 11th September we rang open (i.e. no muffles) rounds on 4 bells following the Proclamation of King Charles, successor to the throne.

On 18th September the half-muffled bells were rung for the service of commemoration for our Queen and also on 19th September preceding the state funeral, which was shown in the church.

A bell has been tolled for 10 funerals and bells rung for 4 weddings.

We had 3 visiting bands, 1 of which rang a quarter peal.

In May the bells, frame and working parts had their service by Taylors, and everything was passed as good.

Once again, I would like to finish by saying thank you to all the ringers who support St James and dedicate their time to the Thursday practice and service ringing. It is important to keep the art of ringing alive and to give service to the church in this way.

Mary Parnham Tower Captain/Ringing Master

The PCC and congregation are extremely grateful to Mary and her team.

‘Simply Saturday’ Report

2022 was very busy for ‘Simply Saturday’ as we returned to normal meetings.

We had a stall at Paxfest to reintroduce ourselves and the group and we had a ‘Guess the sweet game’ and a raffle to win a Tesco £15 voucher. This event gave us the opportunity to let people know who we were and the entertainment coming up for the rest of the year.

Meetings started in January with a porcelain flower demonstration. We had a full programme of entertainment for 2022 and had a busy couple of months which were well attended and, to name a couple of the entertainers …. Sandy Ukulele Group and Chris Bylett Ventriloquist towards the end of the year. We had our Christmas lunch at the end of November with a solo singer singing Christmas songs.

We have a full packed programme of events booked for 2023!

Simply Saturday Report Contd ..

Simply Saturday meetings are usually held on the first Saturday of each month, 12.30 – 2.30pm, and start with a ‘bring & share’ lunch followed by some entertainment or games/activities from around 1.30pm. Posters are displayed and information shown in various publications, detailing any variations to the meeting dates and what entertainment and activities there will be. You are welcome to come for the activity time only if you prefer. We ask for a £2 donation towards costs, and also usually have a raffle which costs £1 per strip.

We have been very grateful for various grants to help towards providing entertainment and for our Christmas lunch this year we were fortunate to receive a grant from Kingfisher Funeral Services and we were very grateful to have had a Parish council grant to help provide funds for our entertainment from the start of the year.

Leisa Hunt

Contact details:

The Reverend Canon Annette Reed
The Vicarage, 24 St James' Road, Little Paxton, PE19 6QW
Tel: 01480 211048
Email: canonannettereed@gmail.com

Churchwarden
Helen Young
10 Little Paxton Lane, Little Paxton, PE19 6EP
Tel: 01480 216255
Email: young_paxton@ntlworld.com

Benefice Administrator (Churchwarden and Safeguarding Officer)
Nicci Jones
c /o The Vicarage, 24 St James' Road, Little Paxton, PE19 6QW
Tel: 01480 877215
Email: admin@thepaxtonsbenefice.org

Treasurer

Kate Bywater
Email: kbywater.church@gmail.com

PCC Secretary
Anita Bailey
15 Jubilee Close, Little Paxton, PE19 6QG
Tel: 01480 535002
Email: ajlbailey@aol.com

Community Space Manager
Graeme Anness
Email: graemeanness@gmail.com

Benefice Website www.thepaxtonsbenefice.org

Facebook www.facebook.com/ThePaxtonsBenefice

(All information contained in this report is correct at the time of printing)

Appendix

St. James' Church Little Paxton PCC

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2022

Total income for the year			47,473.13
General account balance at 1st January		21,476.77	
	Transfers in	0.00	
	Transfer out	0.00	21,476.77
Projects Account balance at 1st January		95.92	
	Interest	0.00	
	Transfers in	0.00	
	Transfer out	0.00	95.92
Restoration account at 1st January		31,240.03	
61412003D	Transfer in/donations	0.00	
	Grants	0.00	
	Payments	0.00	
	Interest	0.00	31,240.03
100 Club balance at 1st January		13,715.00	
	Donations	4,805.00	
	Transfer out	(480.00)	
	HDC Lottery Licence	(20.00)	
	Draw payments	(2,980.00)	15,040.00
Total			**£115,325.85**

Total expenditure for the year	58,459.93
General Account balance at 31st December	10,489.97
Projects Account balance at 31st December	95.92
Restoration Fund	31,240.03
100 Club at 31st December	15,040.00
Total	**£115,325.85**

CCLA Account 6141420015 - Church Lands

No of shares mid value @ 31.12.22
1031 @ 23.4181 = £21,301.90

Accounts prepared by Kate Bywater; Honorary Treasurer

Signed and dated K Bywater 7/3/23

Accounts Independently Examined by Sarah Symonds

Signed and dated 15/3/23

St James Little Paxton PCC
Accounts for Year to 31st December 2022

Income		2022			2021		
Collections	Sunday Worship		4,515.47			3,998.09	
	Weddings		10.00			0.00	
	Funerals and Mem Svc		0.00			43.93	
	Baptisms		817.39			572.81	
	Harvest		291.10			376.56	
	Christingle		172.96			0.00	
	Christmas		191.10			48.40	
	Easter		0.00			0.00	
	Total			**5,998.02**			**5,039.79**
Donations				2,434.90			34,273.08
Covenants /Regular Giving				9,488.70			9,880.50
Loans received				0.00			0.00
Ely DB Gift Aid Refund				4,158.76			3,918.96
CBF Income Fund				841.69			624.56
		Net	Gross		Net	Gross	
Special Events	Bedford Brass Concert	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
	Christmas Bazaar/Market	0.00	0.00		696.67	916.96	
	Amazon Smile	18.09	18.09		34.11	34.11	
	Paxfest	1,475.62	1,475.62		1,237.45	1,636.30	
	Co-op Local Community Fund	1,241.48	1,241.48		1,274.65	1,274.65	
	Quiz Night	245.00	245.00		0.00	0.00	
	Gilbert & Sullivan Society Concert	412.70	565.00		0.00	0.00	
	Recycle 4 Charity	2.50	2.50		0.00	0.00	
	Tombola at The Anchor	168.00	168.00		0.00	0.00	
	Tower Fund	0.00	0.00		4.27	4.27	
	Books	38.20	38.20		21.80	21.80	
	Preserves	0.00	0.00		6.25	6.25	
	Puzzles	0.00	0.00		10.00	10.00	
	Children's Workshops/Parties	0.00	0.00		(383.68)	0.00	
	Film Shows	321.77	768.84		189.91	491.42	
	Carols Around the Tree	156.64	156.64		0.00	0.00	
	Total	**4,080.00**		**4,679.37**	**3,091.43**		**4,395.76**
Sundry	Other - Benefice contributions			1,938.30			2,424.57
	Grant			600.00			18,600.00
	Grave reservation fee			0.00			300.00
Fees	Diocese fees		5,385.00			2,878.00	
	Statutory retained fees		3,606.00			2,526.00	
	Heating, flowers etc		350.00			210.00	
	Total			**9,341.00**			**5,614.00**
Parish Council				797.50			667.50
Rent				2,284.35			761.45
Quartet/printing/stall				825.00			815.00
Church Use				4,085.54			1,589.89
Village Views delivery				0.00			0.00
Sub total				**47,473.13**			**88,905.06**
General account balance at 1st January				21,476.77			19,104.32
Bank account 1 at 1st January			0.00			0.00	
general a/c	Interest		0.00			0.00	
	Transfers in		0.00			0.00	
	Transfer out		0.00	0.00		(12,515.20)	(12,515.20)
Projects Account balance at 1st January			95.92			95.92	
	Interest		0.00			0.00	
	Transfers in		0.00			0.00	
	Transfer out		0.00	95.92		0.00	95.92
Restoration account at 1st January			31,240.03			9,500.00	
61412003D	Transfer in/donations		0.00			21,740.03	
	Grants		0.00			0.00	
	Payments		0.00			0.00	
	Interest		0.00	31,240.03		0.00	31,240.03
100 Club balance at 1st January			13,715.00			10,905.00	
	Donations		4,805.00			5,810.00	
	Transfer out		(480.00)			0.00	
	HDC Lottery Licence		(20.00)			(20.00)	
	Draw payments		(2,980.00)	15,040.00		(2,980.00)	13,715.00
The Children's Society money held by PCC				0.00			0.00
Simply Saturday money held by PCC				0.00			0.00
Total				**115,325.85**			**140,545.13**

St James Little Paxton PCC
Accounts for Year to 31st December 2022

			2022			2021	
Expenditure			£	£		£	£
Ministry	Ministry share		32,783.81			32,235.56	
	Vicar's Expenses		963.48			1,682.40	
	Lay Minister (LLM) Expenses		0.00			292.05	
	Copying/admin		1,293.52			1,189.60	
	Quartet magazine		992.00			180.00	
	Wafers/Candles/Bibles/Certs/Crosses		506.08			607.60	
	St Neots Deanery Synod		0.00			0.00	
	Benefice Gathering		0.00			0.00	
	Benefice administrator		4,058.25			3,748.50	
	Total			**40,597.14**			**39,935.71**
Fabric & Maintenance	Restoration		1,489.92			(89.24)	
	Caretaker		3,383.64			1,957.50	
	Insurance		1,788.12			1,707.72	
	Churchyard Maintenance		478.38			1,408.96	
	Electricity		772.07			480.40	
	Gas		1,321.84			664.62	
	Anglian Water		20.78			0.00	
	Boiler		170.00			4,476.00	
	Sundry Maintenance		269.34			318.00	
	Housekeeping		672.36			123.74	
	Bell Maintenance		252.00			0.00	
	Toilet Evacuation service		0.00			0.00	
	Copier/Toner		262.84			0.00	
	Flowers		253.00			175.86	
	Total			**11,134.29**			**11,223.56**
Loan repayments				0.00			5,000.00
	Fund raising expenses		599.37			1,454.33	
Sundry Donations	Jimmy's Night Shelter		120.10			230.00	
	Royal British Legion		185.74			125.00	
	Children's Society		0.00			35.00	
	Sue Ryder Hospice		186.00			255.00	
	Cambs Historic Churches		50.00			50.00	
	Scout Jamboree		50.00			0.00	
	Temporary support		0.00			(2,430.65)	
	Parish Giving		1,070.00			1,535.00	
	Total			**2,261.21**			**1,253.68**
Sundry Payments	Fees Ely DBF		3,884.00			2,878.00	
	Culture Recovery Fund Grant spending		0.00			12,707.70	
	Fridge		0.00			199.99	
	Streaming Cupboard		0.00			307.31	
	Tots Group Equipment & expenses		450.70			358.61	
	The Goodbox Co. & SumUp		2.59			152.85	
	First Aid Training		130.00			0.00	
	Sundry		0.00			0.00	
	Total			**4,467.29**			**16,604.46**
Sub total				**58,459.93**			**74,017.41**
General Account balance				10,958.69			23,677.23
Accruals				(468.72)			(2,200.46)
Projects Bank Account				95.92			95.92
CCLA Account 4 - Restoration Fund				31,240.03			31,240.03
100 Club Account				15,040.00			13,715.00
Total				**115,325.85**			**140,545.13**

Check Total:	0.00

CCLA Account 614142001S - Church Lands

1,031 shares at 2066.14 pence per share (mid price) £21,301.90

St. James' Church Little Paxton PCC

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2022

Total income for the year			47,473.13
General account balance at 1st January		21,476.77	
	Transfers in	0.00	
	Transfer out	0.00	21,476.77
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	Interest	0.00	
	Transfers in	0.00	
	Transfer out	0.00	95.92
Restoration account at 1st January		31,240.03	
61412003D	Transfer in/donations	0.00	
	Grants	0.00	
	Payments	0.00	
	Interest	0.00	31,240.03
100 Club balance at 1st January		13,715.00	
	Donations	4,805.00	
	Transfer out	(480.00)	
	HDC Lottery Licence	(20.00)	
	Draw payments	(2,980.00)	15,040.00
Total			**£115,325.85**

Total expenditure for the year	58,459.93
General Account balance at 31st December	10,489.97
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100 Club at 31st December	15,040.00
Total	**£115,325.85**

CCLA Account 614142001S - Church Lands

No of shares mid value @ 31.12.22
1031 @ 23.4181 = £21,301.90

Accounts prepared by Kate Bywater; Honorary Treasurer

Signed and dated K Bywater 7/3/23

Accounts Independently Examined by Sarah Symonds

Signed and dated 15/3/23

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St James Little Paxton

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 and 2, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and examiner

As a member of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43 (2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements 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.43 (7) (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 financial statements and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
   b. To prepare financial statement, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations, have not been met:

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Sarah Symonds

Sarah E Symonds
6 Elm Croft
Little Paxton

Date: 15th March 2023

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESTICAL PARISH OF LITTLE PAXTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1144292

Accounts

Annual Report
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the year ending 31 December 2021



St James' Church
Little Paxton

ST JAMES' CHURCH
LITTLE PAXTON

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Appendix

Balance Sheet for year to 31 December 2021

Income and Expenditure Accounts for year to 31 December 2021 are available to view in church

Canon Annette Reed introduces the Annual Report for the year to 31 December 2021

An end of year report is always an opportunity to take some time out to reflect back on the previous year in the life of our church community. In the introduction to the 2020 report, I wrote about the effects that the Covid pandemic was having on our lives and, of course, the hope that it would all be over by summer 2020 proved not to be the case.

2021 was a year when despite the challenges of ongoing restrictions life began to get back to a 'normal' we were more familiar with. Our first in-person services started again at Easter 2021 and then as we moved into summer and early autumn, many of the much-loved community events returned to St James. Slowly at first, folk came back, getting confident about being with others although we had to live still with face coverings.

It seems that many of our regular groups are flourishing more than ever as we move into spring 2022 and bookings for our community space keep Nicci, our Benefice Administrator and Graeme, our Community Space Manager, on their toes.

Reflecting back, many new ideas and initiatives came out of lockdown and the pandemic.
As you will read in other articles in the report, our online presence flourished with the use of YouTube videos. The Keeping in Touch leaflet was born and the number of people who engaged with the Benefice Facebook page grew. St James PCC were able to secure a Covid Recovery Grant to live-stream services and record them so that they could be watched subsequently on YouTube. The grant also gave a new lease of life to the Tots and Carer's group with their purchase of new and hygienic play equipment. With a predicted growth in number of people using the community space, the PCC decided to create the post of Community Space Manager and Graeme Anness was appointed in April 2021. He hasn't stopped moving chairs and carrying out many other tasks since. He also bakes a mean cake!

It needs to be said that we have an extraordinary team of committed people at St James who give countless hours to making things happen safely. I know just how dedicated they are, and I can't begin to name individuals for fear of missing anyone out. It is probably true to say that sometimes we can feel there is too much to do and not enough time to do it in. But somehow, after a particularly enjoyable community session or event or service, the smiles of those who have taken part says it all; and it's on to the next challenge!

No thriving church community can exist without generous financial giving. A big thank you must go to everyone who gives regularly to St James to allow us to pay our annual ministry share and meet our many other regular costs. That thank you extends to those who give a donation at a coffee morning just as much as those who give through a monthly direct debit. With many items increasing in price, we need to take care that our income meets our expenditure in the coming months and that we can comfortably continue to be a church which reaches out in love and friendship to the ever-growing community around us.

I would like once again to thank by name our LLM Mel Eyeons for her constant support in leading worship and her calm and thoughtful input into our church life. Unlike most of us who live in Little Paxton, Mel has to travel over from Papworth and is always on time!

Do enjoy reading this report and as you read the names of the different people who have contributed to the text or who are involved in various events at St James, give thanks for them and all that they give to the church community at St James Little Paxton.

May we also pray for our Bishop Stephen who, in 2022, is covering both Ely and Peterborough Diocese in his duties and for Bishop Dagmar who has additional responsibilities now in Ely Diocese. Farewell to Archdeacon Hugh as he steps down as Archdeacon of Huntingdon after 17 years in post at Easter 2022. He has been a great encourager of our vision and mission at St James over the years.

Thank you to each and every one of you who is part of the St James story. We continue on a journey together and have much to look forward to. So, as with last year, I will round off this introduction with the Ely Diocesan Prayer.

Canon Annette Reed
22 February 2022

An Ely Diocesan Prayer.

We praise and thank you, God of the journey,
for all your gifts to us in the past.
We look to you as fellow-traveller and faithful companion
on the way ahead.
Shelter and protect us from all harm and anxiety.
Give us grace to let go of all that holds us back.
And grant us courage to meet the new life
You have promised us in Jesus Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

Administrative information

St James' Church of England parish church is situated in the village of Little Paxton, Cambridgeshire. It is within the Deanery of St Neots (Diocese of Ely), and is part of a benefice of four churches with St Laurence's Church, Diddington; Holy Trinity Church, Great Paxton; and St Leonard's Church in Southoe and Midloe. The Pastoral Scheme creating this benefice came into force on 1 June 2015.

Charity Registration

During 2011, the Church registered with the Charity Commission.
(Registration No. 1144292)

The PCC

Aims and Purposes

St James' Church PCC has the responsibility of working with and supporting our incumbent, The Reverend Canon Annette Reed, in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St James' Church.

The PCC members who have served from 1 January 2021 until the date this report was approved are as follows: (please note * denotes an ex-officio member):

Incumbent:

The Reverend Canon Annette Reed*	Chair

Churchwardens:

Helen Young*	Elected from APCM 16 May 2021
Nicci Jones*	Elected from APCM 16 May 2021

Deputy Churchwardens:

Leslie Tennant (Church Army Evangelist Officer Ret'd)
Ken Heley

LLMs

Barbara Evans (Moved away September 2021)
Mel Eyeons
Leslie Tennant (Church Army Evangelist Officer Ret'd)

Representatives on the Deanery Synod for three years from their election date:

Anita Bailey (PCC Secretary)	Elected from APCM 20 September 2020
Nicci Jones (Churchwarden)	Elected from APCM 20 September 2020

Elected PCC Members:

Leslie Tennant	Elected from APCM 16 May 2021
Ken Heley	Elected from APCM 16 May 2021
June Griffin	Elected from APCM 16 May 2021
Lesley Werb (Safeguarding Officer)	Stepped down w.e.f. APCM 16 May 2021
Lee Duncan	Elected from APCM 16 May 2021
Lyn Harris	Elected from APCM 16 May 2021
Jean Matheson	Elected from APCM 16 May 2021
Anita Bailey	Elected from APCM 16 May 2021
Graeme Anness	Elected from APCM 16 May 2021
Glen Doick	Elected at PCC Meeting 13 September 2021

Co-opted Members:

Kate Bywater (Treasurer)	Co-opted member from APCM 16 May 2021

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At the APCM on 21 April 2013 it was agreed that all PCC members should stand for a period of one year only and then stand for re-election year by year. This policy will be reviewed by the APCM at least once every six years and will be reviewed again by 2025.

A new Benefice Administrator was appointed in 2017 and due to the continual growth in the benefice, the PCC of St James' Church, (meeting on the 20 March 2019), with the support of Diddington, Southoe and Great Paxton PCCs, agreed to increase the hours of this role to 12 hours per week with effect from 1 April 2019 and this arrangement continues.

A new Community Space Manager for St James' Church, Graeme Anness, was appointed in April 2021 and has become a strategic member of the St James' team.

In 2021

PCC meetings held on:	**Standing Committee meetings held on:**
20 January (via zoom)	6 January (via zoom)
17 March (via zoom)	10 March (via zoom)
28 April (via zoom)	19 April (via zoom)
30 June	9 June
13 September & 22 November	

In 2016 the Diocese of Ely encouraged PCCs to work closely with their ministers to create a Development Action Plan (DAP). The plan was for growth in all areas of church life within the Diocesan Strategy 'Towards 2025'. A small group identified areas for growth and have been working on this project since January 2018. The group continue to monitor their work and also meet to organise events and activities. **The Development Action Plan (DAP) Group** had zoom meetings on 25 March and 13 April, with the PCC being kept fully updated.

Achievements and Performance

Electoral Roll

The electoral roll is the foundation of the whole structure of synodical government in the church. It contains the names and addresses of everyone who can vote at the Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM). In 2021 there were 101 people on St James' Church Electoral Roll. The Electoral Roll is revised annually. A notice announcing the revision of the Roll is displayed on or near the church door for at least two weeks before the commencement of the revision. The only people who need to fill in an application form are those who have recently moved into the parish, joined the church or reached the age of 16. The revision should be completed between 15 and 28 days before the annual meeting.

The PCC would like to thank Nicci Jones for her work in this role in 2021.

Church attendance

With the Covid-19 pandemic still with us in 2021 and the resultant subsequent national lockdowns, there were far fewer services in church than were held in pre-pandemic years.

We cautiously opened our church doors again on 31 March 2021 when we were open for quiet time and then, with reserved seating, on the 2 April (Good Friday) open for Reflections with Music, followed by Morning Prayer with music on the 4 April (Easter Sunday). We then opened for regular services of Morning Prayer on Sundays at 9.15am. From the 2 June we re-introduced Holy Communion on Wednesday mornings and on Sundays alternated between Morning Prayer and Holy Communion. Our All Age worship returned on Sunday 7 November.

* Attendance which was limited by various Covid restrictions	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**
Number of services	167	157	*64	*91
Total footfall of adults attending services	5004	4692	*1503	*2232
Total footfall of children attending all services	1097	1027	*54	*359
Average number of people at main 9.15 am Holy communion service (*only 5 were held in 2021*)	39	38	*31	*26
Average number of communicants at main 9.15 am Holy communion service	38	36	*31	*19
Number of home communions	47	30	5	*0
Number of weddings	8	3	4	*1
Number of funerals	5	10	9	9
Graveside service	-	-	-	1
Services held at crematorium	-	-	-	5
Interment of ashes	-	-	-	7
Memorial Service	-	-	-	1
Number of baptisms	10	13	1	10
Average number of adults at 1st Sunday Forty Minutes) (only 2 held in 2021)	37	32	*40	*30
Average number of children at 1st Sunday Forty Minutes	6	6	*7	*0
Number of Morning Prayer services	-	-	-	27
Average number at Morning Prayer services	-	-	-	23
Mothering Sunday Service YouTube viewing figures	-	-	430	194
Christingle, Christmas Eve & Christmas in-person services **(*2020 & 2021 include viewing figures for YouTube Christmas services)***	312	290	260	213
Easter Day attendance **(*with viewing figures for YouTube Easter Sunday 2020 and 2021*)**	42	70	231	213
Wed a.m. Holy Comm. average attendance (2021 from June)	8	7	5	5

Church Attendance Cont'd ..

A few YouTube statistics:

Since March 2020 Annette and her son Mike have produced 80 YouTube Benefice services with total viewing numbers of 14,743 – that's an average viewing number of 189! 75% of the audiences are from the UK. From January 2022, Annette and Mike are producing one video for the first Sunday of each month.

With the introduction of the St James' media equipment, it is now possible to live-stream in-person services and also send out recordings on YouTube. Statistics for those viewings will no doubt appear in the 2022 Annual Report!

Extra statistics for 2021 YouTube Benefice services:

		Viewing Figures
31 January	-	236
14 March (Mothering Sunday)	-	194
4 April (Easter Sunday)	-	177
22 August	-	128
10 October (School Harvest theme)	-	138
Christmas	-	105

YouTube mid-week services produced by LLM Mel Eyeons

Mel has been producing a regular mid-week YouTube service of high quality since Palm Sunday 2020. As at February 2022, Mel has produced 54 videos with regular viewing figures of 20-25. Mel's service comes with downloadable/readable resources and are very well planned and delivered. We are very grateful to Mel for providing this invaluable way of reaching out to people online.

Social Media outreach

The Paxtons Benefice Facebook Page

The Benefice Facebook page was created on 21 October 2012. It first appeared just after the CHUFT Project was completed and St James opened again after the re-ordering.

Since then, the Facebook page has reported on hundreds of benefice events and services, offered some prayer space and reflections and frequently shares thoughtful pictures from across our four churches.

We now have 701 followers and, for reasons which are hard to fathom, some posts reach over 1000 people and others just over 200! We, naturally, have to be mindful of obtaining permission from people to post their picture and hope that we are always sensitive to this important safeguard.

We are always pleased when we have positive comments about the page. It is a very good vehicle to use when commending our YouTube videos and we are grateful that there is no cost in having a Facebook Page account.

If you do engage with our Facebook Page, please do post something and say 'hello'! Address for our Facebook Page is on Page 18.

The Benefice Website

Another source of news and events is the benefice website which is maintained by our administrator, Nicci Jones. There is a wealth of information about our benefice churches along with publicising the many activities which happen across the benefice. Among the pages, you will find a calendar with benefice events and a library of the Keeping in Touch weekly newsletters and back issues of the Quartet magazine. (Website details on Page 18)

KIT (Keeping in Touch) Weekly Newsletter

Keeping in Touch (KIT) was another product of lockdown. The first edition came out on 28 March 2020 as a way to keep in touch with one another as we faced what we hoped would be a few weeks of restrictions on meeting together.

Covering four sides of A5 in a leaflet format, originally produced to accompany the Sunday YouTube service, with prayers, readings, reflections and news. Distributed via email to folk on our parish data base and, indeed, to anyone who expressed an interest in receiving it! About 25 copies are also hand delivered to folk in Little Paxton. We developed the design and incorporated some colour pictures and generally followed the bible themes of any particular Sunday.

KIT was produced throughout 2021 and was particularly helpful in keeping in touch with those who were needing to stay at home.

Thank you to those who have written articles for the KIT and Helen Young for formatting the Vicar's text (often challenging!) and printing off the colour copies.

In March 2022 we hit the 100th edition, have no plans to stop its production and appreciate the positive feedback we have received.

Quartet – Monthly Benefice Newsletter

As with many local church magazines, our run of Quartets stopped abruptly with the March 2020 edition and didn't reappear until October 2020, only to stop again at the Christmas edition. Copies were next produced from April 2021 onwards as restrictions began to be eased and the deliverers felt able to assist with the vital work of getting the magazine out to our readers.

Thank you to Nicci's husband, Dave Jones, for printing the Quartet at his school and to Ken and Alison Bowles who distribute it to the deliverers and for their efforts walking the streets of Little Paxton. Several people contribute to the magazine regularly from across our benefice for which we are again grateful. Quartet is delivered to folk in Little Paxton who have signed up to receive the Newsletter at a cost of £5 per year. It can also be read on our benefice website. It is also sent out to households in our other three church communities and 450 copies are produced each month.

Community use of Church building

Throughout a 'normal' year St James' Church is used by many different groups.

The Groups who normally benefit from use of the church are:

Line-dancing group (Tuesday mornings)
Tots and carers group (Wednesday mornings)
K-fit group - Pilates (Thursday mornings)
Bell Ringing practice (Thursday evenings)
Tea, Coffee and chat group (Friday mornings)
Local History Group (monthly)
Fish and chip lunches (monthly)
Jubilee Knitters Group (2nd Monday of the month)

Little Paxton W.I. (3rd Monday of the month)
Little Paxton Pictures Cinema (last Tuesday of the month plus extra in school holidays)
Simply Saturday – for those who like company on a Saturday (1st Saturday of the month)
Coffee Pot Memory Café members – Film (every 5th Wednesday of the month)
SWITCH Group – Film nights (2 held in 2021)
Occasional choir practice nights
Children's parties for church linked families
One off meetings for village groups, e.g. AGMs, Brownie events
Deanery Synod meetings
Deanery Chapter meetings
Diocese trainings

As you can see from the extensive list … our church is normally busy on most days and from the middle of 2021 we started to gently begin opening up. In July 2021, we opened up for our Friday morning coffee group and Little Paxton Pictures with our Tots and Simply Saturday group starting back in the September.

It is hoped that in 2022 we shall be able to further increase the use of our church for the benefit of the community. All bookings are managed by our Benefice Administrator (Nicci Jones) and there is an on-line calendar which can be viewed on our benefice website.

Events, Films and special services that took place in 2021

2021	
22 June	'SWITCH' group film show
10 July	PAXFEST
27 July	First Film Show for public - Hairspray
31 Aug	Film – South Pacific
28 September	Film - Casablanca
29 September	Coffee Pot Café Film – Seven Brides for Seven Brothers
3 October	Harvest Thanksgiving Service (collected non-perishable items for Jimmy's Night Shelter)
19 October	'SWITCH' group film show
18 October	Presentation by St Neots Museum for W.I. group
26 October	Film – Calendar Girls
31 October	Annual Benefice All Souls service
14 November	Remembrance Sunday service
30 November	Film – The Man Who Knew Too Much
10 December	Christmas Cheer Pop-op Event with Bedford Brass Band, Carols around the tree, mulled wine, pizzas, 'snow' fun, tombola and the sale of seasonal treats.
12 December	Carols by Candlelight
20 December	Two Children's Christmas Parties with Jazzy the Elf!
21 December	Film – The Nativity Story
24 December	Christingle and evening Holy Communion

Funding the mission of St James' Church

Our Treasurer, Kate Bywater, reports that we had another challenging financial year but, thanks to the generosity of so many people and with the receipt of grants, we have managed to stay afloat and balance our books at the year end. During the year we had received two more grants totalling £6,000 from Huntingdon District Council to help us keep going through the pandemic. We also received a grant of £12,600 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund; this was specifically to support organisations to make the transition towards full reopening during Spring/Summer 2021. This grant had extremely tight criteria, both in timelines and how the money must be spent but, our team put in a huge effort that allowed us to replace the carpet, install the streaming systems, buy equipment for the Tots group and stock up on face masks, hand sanitiser etc.

The Balance Sheet can be found in the Appendix to this Report. Please feel free to view the Income and Expenditure Report – copies are available in church.

Regular giving remains an essential element to our annual financing and helps us to cover our Ministry Share. In 2021 we paid our Ministry Share.

A big thank you to:

- Kate Bywater for her much appreciated work as our Treasurer.
- Helen Young for running the 100 Club and to everyone who subscribes to it – it continues to provide a valuable source of income for the maintenance of the church building. The 100 Club had 97 members in 2021, (*some members had moved away during the year*) which brought in a brilliant profit for the year of £2840.
- Alison Bowles for completing the Gift Aid returns.
- Sarah Symonds for auditing our accounts.

In 2020, due to the challenging circumstances, we were unable to allocate funds for the benefit of all our usual charities but, in 2021 we were very pleased to reinstate our Missing Giving totalling £1000, split between Little Paxton Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, Little Paxton Scouting, Caring for Cambridgeshire's Homeless Project, Ely Diocesan Association of Bell Ringers, Save the Children, St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger, Church Army Explore and Cambridge Emmaus.

However, as can be seen in the accounts, additional donations were made to:

- Jimmy's Night Shelter (£230 from Harvest Service)
- St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger (£255 from the All-Souls Service)
- Children's Society (£35 from the Christingle Service)

Thank you to everyone who contributed to these charities.

Parish Giving Scheme

A small number of our regular congregation have signed up for the Parish Giving Scheme - a form of tax efficient giving by Direct Debit and we are hoping to expand this during 2022 - all applications can now be completed on-line.

The PCC would like to say a very big 'THANK YOU' to the many wonderful people who work hard to make the usual weekly life of our church possible – you are all very much appreciated.

Church Fabric Report

Repair work to the churchyard wall between the church and St James' Cottage was completed in 2021, with a Faculty received for the section where part of the wall needed to be rebuilt to accommodate the tree that was currently in its path. Once again, we would like to express our appreciation to the Parish Council, who had to cover the cost of this very necessary work. A new boiler was installed in the Spring which has greatly improved the reliability of having a warm church and new 'Live-streaming' equipment was installed and an oak housing cabinet designed and built by Alan Smith and Eric Young – we are very grateful to both of them.

Item(s) inspected	Inspection Frequency	Inspection Date	Notes
Clock	Annual	5 Aug 2020	Maintenance survey carried out by Ken Heley, Eric Young and Alan Smith. PCC keeping under review the need for an annual inspection.
Effluent Pump	5 yearly	12 June 2019	Due in 2024
Bells and Bell Frame		17 May 2018	Service not required annually
PAT Testing	Annual	7 July 2021	
Gutters	Annual	Feb 2019	To be done in 2022
Electrics	5 yearly	17 Sept 2018	Due in 2023
Boiler Service	Annual	*21 Feb 2022*	New boiler installed 6 February 2021
Lightening Conductors	5 yearly	7 June 2021	
Fire Extinguishers	Annual	3 Feb 2020	Delayed due to church not being in use and carried out 23 February 2022

Deanery Synod Report

In 2021, St Neots Deanery Synod met physically on 7 July and virtually, via zoom, on the 11 March, 19 October and 10 November.

Anita Bailey and Nicci Jones served as our elected Deanery Representatives.

In early 2021, Rev Nikki Bland of the Staughtons and Hail Weston became our Rural Dean.

In March 2021 we had a presentation on 'Inherited Church and Fresh Expressions' – given by Revd Phil Marsh, Mission and Ministry Development Officer and Revd Mark Rodel, Fresh Expressions and Pioneer Adviser. The meeting took the form of benefice breakout rooms to discuss 3 questions which referred to the previous 12 months of lockdown. The questions: What are you celebrating? What are our challenges? What are our hopes? The discussions highlighted that the Diocesan Strategy had been upended by Covid and that God had other ideas. We have to change and move on and constantly rethink our path. The things we had learned during Covid would hold the keys for the time ahead.

Deanery Synod members were advised that in early 2022 there would be a meeting for Clergy and Deanery Synod members with Bishop Stephen to discuss the Deanery Plan for the way forward. *The meeting took place at St James' Church on Saturday 2 April 2022.*

<u>Finance – Ministry Share</u> - The Deanery Treasurer, Martin MacFarlane, thanked all parishes for their efforts in ensuring the Deanery Share was being met in full for 2021. He also confirmed that The Ministry Share increase for 2022 was to be 1.5%.

During 2020 St James' Church PCC had reviewed its Ministry Share to see how it could best help our benefice churches. St James' Church agreed that with effect from 2021 it would increase the percentage of its benefice share and ministerial expenses, in line with the percentage increase in population numbers in Little Paxton. Anita Bailey (Deanery Synod Representative)

Churchyard Team Report

The churchyard team are very grateful for the new lawnmowers, bought towards the end of last season. We had a few teething problems with them, hopefully now sorted, and they will be back in action very soon, weather permitting!

We are pleased to say we gained a new team member this year, Richard, who is in charge of strimming. But, we will probably be a man down for mowing, so are always on the look-out for willing volunteers.

The bulbs have started to flower by the headstones. We had planted more at the end of last year, so looking forward to them appearing soon as well.

Frankie Lovelock
(Feb 2022)

The PCC and congregation are extremely grateful to Frankie, Barbara and the team and for the wonderful way they continue to look after our churchyard; and doing so even during lockdowns. Villagers who walk through the churchyard tell us what a lovely picture of colour it is and how much pleasure it gives to us all. Thank you Frankie and team!

Tower Captain's report

The 20 May 2021 saw the return to ringing all our 6 bells since the lockdown began. We have managed to ring for most Sunday services, sometimes with masks and then without as the restrictions were lifted. We have also been able to continue with our practice sessions on Thursday evenings.

On 27 February, 100 half muffled blows were rung at each of our towers to mark the funeral of Captain Sir Thomas Moore, who died aged 100 years. We tolled at all our towers on 23 March at 12.01 to mark the National Day of Reflection.
On 10 April, 99 half muffled blows were rung on the tenor to mark the death of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and on 17 April the tenor was tolled for 5 minutes to mark the funeral of Prince Philip.

On 5 July, along with towers across the country, we rang rounds on 3 bells to celebrate 73 years of the NHS.

The bells have been rung for 6 funerals, a confirmation service, a baptism service and to celebrate our very own bellringer, June, on the occasion of her 90th birthday.
We have 2 new recruits this year. Graeme has been learning to ring since September and, in November, Michael joined us from St Neots/Hilton. We have also had a couple of visitors to our practice nights.

A quarter peal was rung on 27 November to mark the 10th anniversary of the bells being reinstated. Nicci and Alex both rang in the band and are to be congratulated on achieving their 1st quarter peal. There will be a plaque in the ringing room to commemorate this.
I would like to finish by saying thank you to all the ringers who support St James and dedicate their time to the Thursday practice and service ringing. It is important to keep the art of ringing alive and to give service to the church in this way.

Mary Parnham
Tower Captain/Ringing Master

The PCC and congregation are very grateful to Mary and her team.

Safeguarding Report for the Benefice of the Paxtons with Diddington and Southoe

Our work is based on the House of Bishops statement:
The Church of England safeguarding policy statement is based on five foundations and offers six overarching policy commitments:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Church
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others

In 2021 our Benefice Safeguarding team were: Lesley Werb (DBS Checker), our Church Wardens, Helen Young and Nicci Jones with our vicar, Annette Reed. Nicci Jones kindly agreed to be our named Safeguarding Officer when Lesley requested to step down from this role. However, Lesley kindly continued as our DBS Checker. During 2021 the team continued to use the Diocesan website Dashboard for monitoring and recording safeguarding practices required of each church community. The team endeavoured to keep up-to-date with all the regular Safeguarding matters, and deal with any requests for action from Ely Diocese. Two members of our team completed the Ely Diocese Safer Recruitment training early in 2021 that led to the safe recruitment of our new Community Space Manager.
Every three years, all Church officers are required to repeat their highest level of training course completed. Safeguarding is on every agenda of all benefice PCC Meetings and AGMs to ensure we are all very conscious of this important caring responsibility. Safeguarding contact details are available in all four of our benefice churches.

From 2022 all PCC members will have to have a DBS check every 3 years, rather than the previous 5 yearly renewal process.

The PCC would like to take this opportunity to thank Lesley Werb for her all work in the essential roles of Benefice Safeguarding Officer and DBS Checker. We would also like to thank Nicci Jones for being our interim named Officer.

The PCC are currently looking for a person (or persons) who might like to be involved with this very important work of safeguarding. If you are interested, or know of someone who may be interested, in being our DBS Checker or Safeguarding Officer, please do get in touch with one of the team.

Simply Saturday Report

The past year and a half have been challenging for Simply Saturday as we were unable to meet for many months due to the Covid 19 restrictions.

During lockdown we maintained contact with the Group by keeping in touch with cards and Newsletters, our own Christmas card with goody bags were delivered at Christmas, a potted plant for Mothering Sunday for all the ladies who attended Simply Saturday and a specially designed card for Easter.

We relaunched with a stall at Paxfest in July with a game, a board showing the previous year's entertainment and leaflets. This gave an opportunity to tell people who we were and what was planned for the rest of the year.

Meetings started again in August 2021 with Trevor Gunton, giving a talk on Paxton Pits Nature Reserve; we had a Quiz in September; a Men's Voice Chorus in October; a solo singer in early November; and at the end of November our Christmas Lunch with an Entertainment Group.

We have a full year's entertainment booked for 2022 many of which have been transferred from 2021.

Simply Saturday meetings are usually held on the first Saturday of each month, 12.30 – 2.30pm, and start with a bring & share lunch followed by some entertainment or games/activities from around 1.30pm. Posters are displayed and information shown in various publications, detailing any variations to the meeting dates and what entertainment and activities there will be. You are welcome to come for the activity time only if you prefer. We ask for a £2 donation towards costs, and also usually have a raffle to help raise funds. We have been very grateful for various grants to help towards providing entertainment, most recently one from Tesco's 'Bags of Help' scheme; and one from the Parish Council which also helped towards deliveries made during the lockdown.

The PCC would like to take this opportunity to thank Leisa Hunt and Sheila Cooper for this report and all their hard work organising entertainment for the Simply Saturday group.

Development Action Plan (DAP) Group

The DAP Group continued to plan, keeping in mind the **five 'Levers of Change'**, part of the Diocesan Strategy 'Towards 2025'.

- Nurture a confident people of God
- Develop healthy churches and leaders
- Serve the community
- Re-imagine our buildings (*St James' Church had already completed this*)
- Target support to key areas

In 2021, ensuring relevant Covid restrictions complied with, we:

- provided the refreshments in the village hall for Paxfest in July
- re-opened Little Paxton Pictures in the summer
- Hosted Village Pop-up Christmas Carols event
- Rebranded and arranged the production of new church logo and feather banners
- Successfully applied for third round of Co-op Community Funding for our 'Warm Welcome' project – bringing members of our community, who are often unable to access community events, together for social and shared activities including events for young people with learning difficulties; older people with dementia and others with particular special needs.

  We are very grateful to the Co-op for the wonderful support of our projects over the last three years.

Anita Bailey
(DAP Chair)

Contact details:

The Reverend Canon Annette Reed
The Vicarage, 24 St James' Road, Little Paxton, PE19 6QW
Tel: 01480 211048
Email: canonannettereed@gmail.com

Churchwarden
Helen Young
10 Little Paxton Lane, Little Paxton, PE19 6EP
Tel: 01480 216255
Email: young_paxton@ntlworld.com

Benefice Administrator (and Churchwarden)
Nicci Jones
c /o The Vicarage, 24 St James' Road, Little Paxton, PE19 6QW
Tel: 01480 877215
Email: admin@thepaxtonsbenefice.org

Treasurer
Kate Bywater
Email: kbywater.church@gmail.com

PCC Secretary
Anita Bailey
15 Jubilee Close, Little Paxton, PE19 6QG
Tel: 01480 535002
Email: ajlbailey@aol.com

Benefice Website www.thepaxtonsbenefice.org

Facebook www.facebook.com/ThePaxtonsBenefice

(All information contained in this report is correct at the time of printing)

St. James' Church Little Paxton PCC
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2021

Total income for the year			88,905.06
General account balance at 1st January		19,104.32	
	Transfers in	0.00	
	Transfer out	12,515.20	6,589.12
Projects Account balance at 1st January		95.92	
	Interest	0.00	
	Transfers in	0.00	
	Transfer out	0.00	95.92
Bank account 2 balance at 1st January		4,727.00	
Robins	Transfer out	(4,728.86)	
	Transfers in	0.00	
	Interest	1.86	(0.00)
Bank account 3 balance at 1st January		4,496.06	
Johnston	Transfer out	(4,497.83)	
	Transfers in	0.00	
	Interest	1.77	(0.00)
Restoration account at 1st January		9,500.00	
61412003D	Transfer in/donations	21,740.03	
	Grants	0.00	
	Payments	0.00	
	Interest	0.00	31,240.03
100 Club balance at 1st January		10,905.00	
	Donations	5,810.00	
	Transfer out	0.00	
	HDC Lottery Licence	(20.00)	
	Draw payments	(2,980.00)	13,715.00
Total			**£140,545.13**

Total expenditure for the year	74,017.41
General Account balance at 31st December	21,476.77
Projects Account balance at 31st December	95.92
Bank account 2 at 31st December	0.00
Robins Bequest	
Bank account 3 at 31st December	0.00
Johnston Bequest	
Restoration Fund	31,240.03
100 Club at 31st December	13,715.00
Total	**£140,545.13**

CCLA Account 6141420015 - Church Lands

No of shares mid value @ 31.12.21
1031 @ 23.4181 = £24,144.06

Accounts prepared by Kate Bywater; Honorary Treasurer

Signed and dated K. Bywater 1/3/22

Accounts Independently Examined by Sarah Symonds

Signed and dated 1/3/2022

Appendix

St. James' Church Little Paxton PCC
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2021

Total income for the year			88,905.06
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CCLA Account 614142001S - Church Lands

No of shares mid value @ 31.12.21
1031 @ 23.4181 = £24,144.06

Accounts prepared by Kate Bywater; Honorary Treasurer

Signed and dated K. Bywater 1/3/22

Accounts Independently Examined by Sarah Symonds

Signed and dated 1/3/2022

St James Little Paxton PCC
Accounts for Year to 31st December 2021

		2021			2020		
Income							
Collections	Sunday Worship		3,998.09			4,796.10	
	Weddings		0.00			33.47	
	Funerals and Mem Svc		43.93			288.00	
	Baptisms		572.81			0.00	
	Harvest		376.56			188.28	
	Christingle		0.00			0.00	
	Christmas		48.40			0.00	
	Easter		0.00			0.00	
	Total			**5,039.79**			**5,305.85**
Donations				34,273.08			5,133.69
Covenants /Regular Giving				9,880.50			9,841.45
Loans received				0.00			500.00
Ely DB Gift Aid Refund				3,918.96			4,800.16
CBF Income Fund				624.56			644.55
		Net	Gross		Net	Gross	
Special Events	Bedford Brass Concert	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
	Christmas Bazaar/Market	696.67	916.96		0.00	0.00	
	Amazon Smile	34.11	34.11		0.00	0.00	
	Paxfest	1,237.45	1,636.30		0.00	0.00	
	Co-op Local Community Fund	1,274.65	1,274.65		1,243.28	1,243.28	
	Recycle 4 Charity	0.00	0.00		15.00	15.00	
	CHUFT Chairs	0.00	0.00		(14.00)	0.00	
	Tower Fund	4.27	4.27		2.11	2.11	
	Books	21.80	21.80		6.00	6.00	
	Preserves	6.25	6.25		31.00	31.00	
	Puzzles	10.00	10.00		12.74	12.74	
	Children's Workshops/Parties	(383.68)	0.00		(50.00)	0.00	
	Film Shows	189.91	491.42		365.81	539.07	
	Face Masks	0.00	0.00		50.00	50.00	
	Total	**3,091.43**		**4,395.76**	**1,661.94**		**1,899.20**
Sundry	Other - Benefice contributions			2,424.57			1,591.24
	Grant			18,600.00			7,000.00
	Grave reservation fee			300.00			600.00
Fees	Diocese fees		2,878.00			5,247.00	
	Statutory retained fees		2,526.00			2,497.00	
	Heating, flowers etc		210.00			270.00	
	Total			**5,614.00**			**8,014.00**
Parish Council				667.50			450.00
Rent				761.45			761.45
Quartet/printing/stall				815.00			0.00
Church Use				1,589.89			1,214.32
Village Views delivery				0.00			0.00
Sub total				**88,905.06**			**47,755.91**
General account balance at 1st January				19,104.32			19,928.51
Bank account 1 at 1st January			0.00			0.00	
general a/c	Interest		0.00			0.00	
	Transfers in		0.00			0.00	
	Transfer out		(12,515.20)	(12,515.20)		0.00	0.00
Projects Account balance at 1st January			95.92			95.92	
	Interest		0.00			0.00	
	Transfers in		0.00			0.00	
	Transfer out		0.00	95.92		0.00	95.92
Bank account 2 balance at 1st January			4,727.00			4,707.01	
Robins	Transfer out		(4,728.86)			0.00	
	Transfers in		0.00			0.00	
	Interest		1.86	(0.00)		19.99	4,727.00
Bank account 3 balance at 1st January			4,496.06			4,477.04	
Johnston	Transfer out		(4,497.83)			0.00	
	Transfers in		0.00			0.00	
	Interest		1.77	(0.00)		19.02	4,496.06
Restoration account at 1st January			9,500.00			9,500.00	
61412003D	Transfer in/donations		21,740.03			0.00	
	Grants		0.00			0.00	
	Payments		0.00			0.00	
	Interest		0.00	31,240.03		0.00	9,500.00
100 Club balance at 1st January			10,905.00			12,730.00	
	Donations		5,810.00			6,175.00	
	Transfer out		0.00			(5,000.00)	

St James Little Paxton PCC
Accounts for Year to 31st December 2021

	HDC Lottery Licence		(20.00)			(20.00)	
	Draw payments		(2,980.00)	13,715.00		(2,980.00)	10,905.00
Simply Saturday money held by PCC				0.00			0.00
Total				**140,545.13**			**97,408.40**
			2021			**2020**	
Expenditure			£	£		£	£
Ministry	Ministry share		32,235.56			28,691.88	
	Vicar's Expenses		1,682.40			1,783.79	
	Lay Minister (LLM) Expenses		292.05			0.00	
	Copying/admin		1,189.60			577.13	
	Quartet magazine		180.00			120.00	
	Wafers/Candles/Bibles/Certs/Crosses		607.60			(63.49)	
	St Neots Deanery Synod		0.00			0.00	
	Benefice Gathering		0.00			0.00	
	Benefice administrator		3,748.50			3,114.00	
	Total			**39,935.71**			**34,223.31**
Fabric & Maintenance	Restoration		(89.24)			(518.68)	
	Caretaker		1,957.50				
	Insurance		1,707.72			1,658.84	
	Churchyard Maintenance		1,408.96			168.02	
	Electricity		480.40			956.08	
	Gas		664.62			1,280.25	
	Anglian Water		0.00			233.00	
	Boiler		4,476.00			324.00	
	Sundry Maintenance		318.00			337.20	
	Housekeeping		123.74			70.47	
	Bell Maintenance		0.00			0.00	
	Toilet Evacuation service		0.00			0.00	
	Copier/Toner		0.00			0.00	
	Flowers		175.86			66.63	
	Total			**11,223.56**			**4,575.81**
Loan repayments				5,000.00			0.00
	Fund raising expenses		1,454.33			237.26	
Sundry Donations	Jimmy's Night Shelter		230.00			150.00	
	Royal British Legion		125.00			0.00	
	Children's Society		35.00			0.00	
	Sue Ryder Hospice		255.00			0.00	
	Southoe PCC		0.00			0.00	
	Cambs Historic Churches		50.00			50.00	
	Temporary support		(2,430.65)			2,430.65	
	Parish Giving		1,535.00			1,767.20	
	Total			**1,253.68**			**4,635.11**
Sundry Payments	Fees Ely DBF		2,878.00			5,247.00	
	Culture Recovery Fund Grant spending		12,707.70			0.00	
	Fridge		199.99			0.00	
	Streaming Cupboard		307.31			0.00	
	Tots Group Equipment		358.61			0.00	
	The Goodbox Co. & SumUp		152.85			(101.13)	
	Sundry		0.00			0.00	
	Total			**16,604.46**			**5,145.87**
Sub total				**74,017.41**			**48,580.10**
General Account balance				23,677.23			20,602.79
Accruals				(2,200.46)			(1,498.47)
Projects Bank Account				95.92			95.92
CCLA Account 2 - Robins				0.00			4,727.00
CCLA Account 3 - Johnstone				0.00			4,496.06
CCLA Account 4 - Restoration Fund				31,240.03			9,500.00
100 Club Account				13,715.00			10,905.00
Total				**140,545.13**			**97,408.40**

Check Total:		0.00	0.00

CCLA Account 614142001S - Church Lands

1,031 shares at 2341.81 pence per share (mid price) £24,144.06

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St James Little Paxton

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2021, which are set out on pages 1 and 2, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and examiner

As a member of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43 (2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements 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.43 (7) (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 financial statements and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
   b. To prepare financial statement, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations, have not been met:

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Sarah E Symonds
6 Elm Croft
Little Paxton

Date: 1st March 2022

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESTICAL PARISH OF LITTLE PAXTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1144292

Accounts

Annual Report
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the year ending 31 December 2020



St James' Church
Little Paxton

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Appendix

Balance Sheet for year to 31 December 2020
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Canon Annette Reed introduces the Annual Report for year ending 2020

It is always a pleasure to commend an end of year report for Little Paxton PCC's Annual Meeting and doing so as we reflect back on 2020 is no exception.

2020 was, as none of us need to be reminded, a most difficult year for people not just in this country, but across the world as the Covid-19 pandemic took hold and we slowly realised how serious the consequences were for all aspects of our lives.

I remember hearing people say, "it will all be over by the summer". As we know only too well, it wasn't. Not only were many lives lost and the health of those who caught the virus severely compromised in many cases, but our economy took a huge hit, businesses and charities struggled and the emotional effects of families and friends not being able to meet ran deep.

Church wise, we had to very quickly adapt to a new world. So much of what we do and are at St James revolves around people being together. That might be in worship or in a whole range of community activities. Just before lockdown in March 2020, the building was being used every day either for a church-based event or by a community group enjoying the space. It was all about people enjoying each other's company and not having to think twice about social distancing. But with human contact severely limited and our buildings shut, we did our best to seize the opportunities that an online social media presence can offer.

The weekly YouTube videos began just before Easter and I would like to thank everyone who took part in them during the year indoors and outdoors, even if sometimes folk were a bit camera shy. We have had really good viewing numbers and the advantage of them is that you can go back and watch more than once! None of them would have happened without my son Michael editing them, and himself learning on the job with clever cuts and editing tools! Mel Eyeons, our LLM, also started producing mid-week services on YouTube and I know how much these have also been appreciated.

Alongside our YouTube presence and the benefice Facebook Page which was, and is, frequently updated, we began to produce a leaflet called Keeping in Touch, or KIT as it is known now. That ran throughout the lockdowns and will still continue as it enables folk not online to keep in touch. We deliver several hard copies to folk in their homes, and it also goes out by email every Saturday. None of these initiatives would have happened without a team of people working behind the scenes, often in front of their computer screens, working to deadlines.

Alongside these ways of keeping in touch, I know that during the long months of lockdown, there have been countless phone calls and practical assistance given to those who have struggled most. We can't log all of these, but the amount of kindness given and shared has been remarkable.
During 2020 sadly, I officiated at many funerals of people who had a Little Paxton connection. There were 29 in total and 4 interment of ashes. Some of these were at local crematoria where

numbers were severely limited. For a while we couldn't hold any funerals in church, several families having just a graveside service at our local cemetery. A number of these were Covid related and for me were some of the saddest times of 2020.

On a happier note, we squeezed in four weddings (one in a home environment with a special license due to circumstances) and just one baptism in December. With baptisms either not possible or severely restricted in numbers, families have opted to wait until they can be joined by more guests.

Who had heard of zoom before March 2020? I for one certainly hadn't! Gradually, zoom became a big part of some of our lives – being an online facility to hold virtual meetings. It meant that PCC and Standing Committee meetings could go ahead and allow folk to meet online if needs be. Eye strain might have been one result, but it has been better than not being able to meet at all.

Behind the scenes, during 2020, our building was looked after and kept clean. During the periods that it was used, a lot of cleaning down of surfaces had to done and the logistics of using service sheets and hymn books caused some furrowed brows. The churchyard continued to be loved by Frankie and his team which must have cheered a lot of people up as they walked through. I have been so grateful too that our benefice ringers haven't missed an opportunity to pull a single bell, when they have been allowed, to remind us that the church community is very much alive. We look forward to hearing 6 bells again soon!

There was understandable anxiety about how the parish, indeed the benefice might meet its 2020 ministry share, a concern shared by parishes across the country. As the Accounts tell us, we were able to meet our target amount and cover the deficit from two of our other churches in the benefice so that our benefice share was paid in full. This was done on trust that the majority of the amounts covered would be repaid in 2021. Our sincere thanks to everyone who continued to support us financially whilst so many of our income streams dried up.

There were times of course when we could meet for worship, despite there being three periods of lockdown. We met between July and early November and even started sharing communion together, wafer only, but by the end of December we chose to stop in house services again. But we will never forget the wonderful outdoors carol service on a mild night on 20 December. Bravely, we attempted to zoom the Christmas Eve midnight service.

May I thank particularly our wardens Helen and Nicci for their constant support and encouragement in all sorts of ways over the year and Anita for producing some wonderful backdrops to the YouTube videos and kitting out our St James' Teddy Bear, Jimmy. Also, for sending out the Saturday night email without fail which includes KIT and the link to our YouTube services. Kate does a great job looking after our finances and keeping us briefed as to where we are at with our income and expenditure. We are very lucky to have such a great team of church officers.

Keeping everyone safe with a robust Safeguarding Policy has been the job of Lesley Werb as our Benefice Safeguarding Officer and meetings for all Ely Diocesan Safeguarding Officers have continued online during the Covid-19 restrictions.

Finally, my grateful thanks to Mel Eyeons for all her assistance leading worship in various settings during the year and her calm and thoughtful input into our church life. We very much value as well, the contributions of all those who read lessons in church, offer intercessions and prior to lockdown have acted as servers and prepared the altar for communion.

What 2021 will bring us as summer approaches we can't be too sure, but let's journey on together in faith and hope that our loving God is with us every step of the way.

I will conclude this report with the prayer I concluded with last year; it remains just as relevant 12 months on!

Canon Annette Reed
22 April 2021

An Ely Diocesan Prayer.

We praise and thank you, God of the journey,
for all your gifts to us in the past.
We look to you as fellow-traveller and faithful companion
on the way ahead.
Shelter and protect us from all harm and anxiety.
Give us grace to let go of all that holds us back.
And grant us courage to meet the new life
You have promised us in Jesus Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

Administrative information

St James' Church of England parish church is situated in the village of Little Paxton, Cambridgeshire. It is within the Deanery of St Neots (Diocese of Ely), and is part of a benefice of four churches with St Laurence's Church, Diddington; Holy Trinity Church, Great Paxton; and St Leonard's Church in Southoe and Midloe. The Pastoral Scheme creating this benefice came into force on 1 June 2015.

Charity Registration

During 2011, the Church registered with the Charity Commission.
(Registration No. 114429)

The PCC

Aims and Purposes

St James' Church PCC has the responsibility of working with and supporting our incumbent, The Reverend Canon Annette Reed, in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St James' Church.

The PCC members who have served from 1 January 2020 until the date this report was approved are as follows: (please note * denotes an ex-officio member):

Incumbent:

The Reverend Canon Annette Reed*	Chair

Churchwardens:

Helen Young*	Elected from APCM 20 September 2020
Nicci Jones*	Elected from APCM 20 September 2020

Deputy Churchwardens:

Leslie Tennant (Church Army Evangelist Officer Ret'd)	
Ken Heley	
Justyna Shirley	Stepped down at APCM 20 September 2020
Lesley Werb	

LLMs

Barbara Evans
Mel Eyeons
Leslie Tennant (Church Army Evangelist Officer Ret'd)

Representatives on the Deanery Synod for next three years:

Anita Bailey (PCC Secretary)	Elected from APCM 20 September 2020
Nicci Jones (Churchwarden)	Elected from APCM 20 September 2020

Elected PCC Members:

June Griffin	Elected from APCM 20 September 2020
Lesley Werb (Safeguarding Officer)	Elected from APCM 20 September 2020
Lee Duncan	Elected from APCM 20 September 2020
Lyn Harris	Elected from APCM 20 September 2020
Jean Matheson	Elected from APCM 20 September 2020
Anne Hooton	Elected from APCM 20 September 2020
Alf Gower	Stepped down w.e.f. APCM 20 September 2020
Martin Ede	Stepped down w.e.f. APCM 20 September 2020
Leisa Hunt	Stepped down w.e.f. APCM 20 September 2020

Co-opted Member:

Kate Bywater (Treasurer)	Co-opted member from APCM 20 September 2020

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At the APCM on 21 April 2013 it was agreed that all PCC members should stand for a period of one year only and then stand for re-election year by year. This policy will be reviewed by the APCM at least once every six years and will be reviewed again by 2025.

A new Benefice Administrator was appointed in 2017 and due to the continual growth in the benefice, the PCC of St James' Church, (meeting on the 20 March 2019), with the support of Diddington, Southoe and Great Paxton PCCs, agreed to increase the hours of this role to 12 hours per week with effect from 1 April 2019 and this arrangement continues.

In 2020

PCC meetings held on:	**Standing Committee meetings held on:**
12 February	11 May 2020 (via zoom)
11 November (via zoom)	9 June 2020 (via zoom)
	29 June (via zoom)
	9 July 2020 (via zoom)
	13 July 2020 (via zoom)
	27 August 2020
	14 October 2020

In 2016 the Diocese of Ely encouraged PCCs to work closely with their ministers to create a Development Action Plan (DAP). The plan is for growth in all areas of church life within the Diocesan Strategy 'Towards 2025'. A small group identified areas for growth and have been working on this project since January 2018. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic there are no updates to advise since the previous DAP Report detailed in the December 2019 Annual Report.

The Development Action Plan (DAP) Group met on the following occasion, with the PCC being kept fully updated of progress and events.

DAP Meeting held on: 20 January (no further meetings held during the year)

Achievements and Performance

Electoral Roll

The electoral roll is the foundation of the whole structure of synodical government in the church. It contains the names and addresses of everyone who can vote at the Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM). In 2020 there were 105 people on St James' Church Electoral Roll. The Electoral Roll is revised annually. A notice announcing the revision of the Roll is displayed on or near the church door for at least two weeks before the commencement of the revision. The only people who need to fill in an application form are those who have recently moved into the parish, joined the church or reached the age of 16. The revision should be completed between 15 and 28 days before the annual meeting.

The PCC would like to thank Helen Young for her many years of work in co-ordinating the Electoral Roll and to Nicci Jones for taking on this role in 2020.

Church attendance

The outbreak of Covid-19 and the three subsequent national lockdowns resulted in far fewer services in church than usual.

Services ran as normal from January to 11 March 2020, when the first national lockdown began. During that period, we had 30 services in church, following the usual monthly pattern including mid-week communions. We opened again for public worship on 5 July and from then until the 1 November had 27 services, mostly Morning Prayer. On the 1 November we re-introduced Holy Communion, but then the second national lockdown struck, and we chose to cease worship again. Public worship commenced once more on the 6 December for a few weeks but, due to rising infection rates, we stopped after a live-streamed Holy Communion on Christmas Eve.

The total number of services during the year totalled 64. Of these, 38 were on Sundays.

Of the 38 services, 14 were Holy Communion, and the rest were Morning Prayer.

The last Wednesday mid-week service in church was on 11 March 2020.

When the church was open, we had a mixture of mid-week Morning Prayer and Holy Communion.

During the lockdowns, we also had the church open for a few weeks on Wednesday afternoons.

* Denotes attendance before and in between Lockdowns	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of services	177	167	157	*64
Total footfall of adults attending services	5306	5004	4692	*1503
Total footfall of children attending all services	1024	1097	1027	*54
Average number of people at main 9.15 am Holy communion service	38	39	38	*31
Average number of communicants at main 9.15 am Holy communion service	36	38	36	*31
Number of home communions	60	47	30	5
Number of weddings	2	8	3	4
Number of funerals	15	5	10	9
Number of baptisms	15	10	13	1
Average number of adults at 1st Sunday Forty Minutes	36	37	32	*40
Average number of children at 1st Sunday Forty Minutes	9	6	6	*7
Mothering Sunday Service YouTube viewing figures	-	-	-	430
VE Day Service YouTube viewing figures	-	-	-	502
Remembrance Service YouTube viewing figures	-	-	-	233
Christmas Eve & Christmas services ***(with viewing figures for YouTube Service Christmas 2020)***	285	312	290	260
Easter Day attendance **(with viewing figures for YouTube Easter Sunday 2020)**	75	42	70	231
Wednesday a.m. Holy Communion average attendance	9	8	7	5
Average Number of regular 'Views' for YouTube Services throughout 2020	-	-	-	225

Community use of Church building

Throughout a normal year St James' Church is used by many different groups.

<u>The Groups who would normally benefit from use of the church are</u>:

Line-dancing group (Tuesday mornings)

Tots and carers group (Wednesday mornings)

Active Seniors Exercise group (Thursday afternoons)

K-fit group - Pilates (Thursday mornings)

Bell Ringing practice (Thursday evenings)

Tea, Coffee and chat group (Friday mornings)

Craft group run by June Griffin (2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons)

Local History Group (monthly)

Fish and chip lunches (monthly)

Jubilee Knitters Group (2nd Monday of the month)

The Groups who would normally benefit from use of the church (Cont'd)

Little Paxton W.I. (3rd Monday of the month)
Little Paxton Pictures Cinema (last Tuesday of the month plus extra in school holidays)
Simply Saturday – for those who like company on a Saturday (1st Saturday of the month)
Coffee Pot Memory Café members – Film (every 5th Wednesday of the month)
Occasional choir practice nights
Children's parties for church linked families
One off meetings for village groups, e.g. AGMs, Brownies' Craft Day
Deanery Synod meetings
Deanery Chapter meetings
Diocese trainings

As you can see from the extensive list above … our church would be busy on most days and it is hoped that in 2021 we can slowly return to some normality and be able to further increase the use of our church for the benefit of the community. All bookings are managed by our Benefice Administrator (Nicci Jones) and there is an on-line calendar which can be viewed by all on our benefice website.

Benefice Website
Has a wealth of information about our benefice churches along with publicising the many activities which happen across the benefice. (Website details on page 23)

Social Media outreach
Over 2020 the benefice Facebook page has truly come into its own and gained in popularity and there are now 650 listed as following the page. It gives frequent updates as to what is happening across our benefice, also includes prayers, service details and light-hearted fun. This method of communication has been, more than ever in 2020, an enormously vital resource.
(Facebook details on page 23)

During 2020, weekly Sunday and Wednesday YouTube services were provided on our benefice website and Facebook page and emailed out with a YouTube link, to benefice PCC members, Electoral Roll members and those wishing to receive the services. A total of 140 regularly receive this email which we know is also forwarded on to friends and family as far away as Australia! The email also includes the KIT (see below) and news from around the benefice.

KIT (Keeping in Touch) Weekly Newsletter
Produced to accompany the Sunday YouTube service, with prayers, readings, reflections and news. The newsletter is emailed out (as detailed above) and also hand delivered to many villagers.

Quartet – Monthly Benefice Newsletter

This publication is delivered around the village and, like our website, contains a wealth of information. Unfortunately, due to so many restrictions in 2020, only a few issues of the Quartet were distributed.

Events, Films and special services that took place in 2020 and, in blue, those that were planned but could not take place!

28 January	Afternoon Film – An Affair to Remember
29 January	Film for Coffee Pot Memory Café group
18 February	Half Term film - Trolls
24 February	Defibrillator Training
25 February	Afternoon Film – The English Patient
2 March	Diocese Safeguarding Training
9 March	Lent Study Group Film – Patch Adams
31 March	Afternoon Film
6 April	Film for private party
11 April	Children's Enchanted Wood Spring Party
14 April	Children's film
25 April	Stewartby Operatic and Dramatic Society evening
28 April	Afternoon Film
29 April	Coffee Pot Memory Café Film Afternoon
9 May	Parish Council VE Day Service
26 May	Afternoon & Evening Films
30 June	Afternoon & Evening Films
11 July	Paxfest
28 July	Afternoon & Evening Films
29 July	Coffee Pot Memory Café Film Afternoon
25 August	Afternoon Film
29 September	Afternoon Film
30 September	Coffee Pot Memory Café Film Afternoon
27 October	Half-Term Afternoon Film
1 November	All Souls Service
8 November	Remembrance Service
24 November	Afternoon Film
5 December	Christmas Tree Festival replaced with Village Lights switch-on – Lights around the church and Christmas trees decorated outside
9 December	Christingle ZOOM service for Scouts
19 December	Children's Christmas Workshop/Party with Puppet show
20 December	Outdoor Community Carols by Torchlight

Funding the mission of St James' Church

Our Treasurer, Kate Bywater, will report on the church's 2020 financial year. We have had a challenging year, whilst our church has been closed but, thanks to the generosity of so many people when we requested help during Pentecost, and with the receipt of grants from Huntingdon District Council, we have managed to stay afloat. The PCC felt it inappropriate to carry out any fundraising activities during such a difficult time for so many people in the community. The Balance Sheet together with Income and Expenditure Accounts can be found in the Appendix to this Report.

Funding the mission of St James' Church Cont'd

Regular giving remains an essential element to our annual financing and helps us to cover our Ministry Share. In 2020 we increased our Ministry Share by 3% and, as a benefice, we are now paying approx. 92% of the true costs of having a full-time parish priest**.**

A big thank you to:

- Kate Bywater for her work as our Treasurer.
- Helen Young for running the 100 club and to everyone who subscribes to it – it continues to provide a valuable source of income for the maintenance of the church building. The 100 Club had 100 members in 2020, which brought a brilliant profit for the year of £3020.
- Alison Bowles for completing the Gift Aid returns.
- Sarah Symonds for auditing our accounts.

In 2020, due to challenging circumstances, we were unable to allocate funds for the benefit of all our usual charities, but hope to reinstate in 2021 as soon as our financial position allows.
However, as can be seen in the accounts, donations were made to Jimmy's Night Shelter (£150) and St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger (£80 from the All-Souls Service)

This is also an opportunity to thank Martin and Denise Ede for their work with the Children's Society. Unfortunately, in 2020, our 60 collection boxes could not be emptied, and we were requested to make donations on-line.

A small number of our regular congregation have signed up for the Parish Giving Scheme - a new form of tax efficient giving by Direct Debit and we are hoping to expand this during 2021 - all applications can now be completed on-line.

The PCC would like to say a very big 'THANK YOU' to the many wonderful people who work hard to make the usual weekly life of our church possible – you are very much appreciated.

Church Fabric Report

Repointing - where the South Aisle meets the Nave. Work carried out by A.M. Strickland Builders and completed in September 2020.

Repair work to the churchyard wall between the church and St James' Cottage received List B approval. Faculty requested for section where part of the wall needed to be rebuilt to accommodate the tree that was currently in its path. We are very grateful to the Parish Council, who are responsible for covering the cost of this work and are arranging for it to be carried out in the late Spring/Summer of 2021.

Item(s) inspected	Inspection Frequency	Inspection Date	Notes
Clock	Annual	5 Aug 2020	Maintenance survey carried out by Ken Heley, Eric Young and Alan Smith. PCC keeping under review the need for an annual inspection.
Effluent Pump	5 yearly	12 June 2019	Due in 2024
Bells and Bell Frame		17 May 2018	Service not required annually
PAT Testing	Annual	10 July 2020	
Gutters	Annual	Feb 2019	In hand for 2021
Electrics	5 yearly	17 Sept 2018	Due in 2023
Boiler Service	Annual	Dec 2020	Amicus advised boiler needed replacing – proved right shortly after when it packed up altogether!
Lightening Conductors	5 yearly	14 Oct 2016	Due in 2021
Fire Extinguishers	Annual	3 Feb 2020	

Deanery Synod Report

In 2020, St Neots Deanery Synod met virtually, via zoom, on 1 July and 4 November.

Anita Bailey and Anne Hooton had served as our Deanery Reps for the last 3 years.

Topics at meetings included:

Finance – Ministry Share - The Deanery Treasurer, Martin MacFarlane, provided updates on the payment of Ministry Share. The Ministry Share increase for 2020 was 2.5% and will be 2.1% in 2021 and 2022. Parishes had been meeting their Ministry Share until Covid-19 hit the country. In November, our deanery faced a £32,700 deficit for the year, but were fortunate to have this shortfall covered with the kind help from a parish in South Cambridgeshire.

The Diocese had collected 94% of expected parish share and so the deficit for the Diocese had been less than predicted. We were advised that cost cutting had taken place in the Diocesan office and 40% of staff had been furloughed. 2021 is expected to be a challenging year also.

The Diocese had expressed their gratitude and congratulations for the way all parishes had worked hard to ensure that giving was maintained throughout such a difficult year.

During 2020 St James' Church PCC reviewed its Ministry Share to see how it could best help our benefice churches. St James' Church agreed that with effect from 2021 it would increase its benefice share from 61.3% to 69%, with Great Paxton, Southoe and Diddington slightly reducing each of their shares. This now means that St James' Church will pay £32,305 for 2021 rather than £28,700. Additionally, to ensure we, as a benefice, paid our full Ministry Share, we assisted Great Paxton and Southoe with individual loans which they are repaying.

The Parish Giving Scheme had helped parishes as it ensured a steady income despite church buildings being closed. Some parishes had had to reduce payments but Treasurer asked them to pay what they could afford.

Deanery Synod Report (Cont'd)

Revised Deanery Plan – The diocese expressed concern about the state of the church when normality returned. To help the diocese have a good understanding of what is going on in parishes they will be arranging for an audit on every aspect of church life, its leadership and work in the community. The diocese requested that we look at resources, difficulties, challenges and also positive outcomes. The survey has been completed.

On the 3 July 2019, Rev Canon Dagmar Winter was consecrated bishop in St Paul's Cathedral. Since then she had been visiting Deaneries to meet people and get to know the diocese. Bishop Dagmar visited St James' Church on Tuesday 28 January 2020.

Cyber Security - At the meeting on 4 November 2020, there was a presentation entitled 'Cyber Security' to raise awareness of how criminals are able to steal information. The use of strong passwords was considered to be one of the most important safeguards.

Rural Dean - In early 2021, we learned that our recently appointed Rural Dean, Grant Fellows had had to stand down due to ill health but, Rev Nikki Bland of the Staughtons and Hail Weston had kindly taken on the position of Rural Dean.

Anita Bailey (Deanery Synod Representative)

Churchyard Team Report

All five lawnmowers have had their annual check-ups, and have been put to work already. When the full compliment of volunteers attend, we are a merry band of six. Many people comment on the appearance of the churchyard as they walk through, so we must being doing something right!

As far as 2021 is concerned, we are looking forward to a good, long summer.....

Frankie Lovelock

The PCC and congregation are extremely grateful to Frankie, Barbara and the team – Mick, Trevor, Dave and Winston, for the wonderful way they have continued to look after our churchyard, even during all lockdowns. Frankie is absolutely right, people walking through the churchyard tell us what a picture of colour it is and how much pleasure it gives us all, especially when we were out on our daily 'allowed' walks during lockdowns! Thank you Frankie and team!

Tower Captain's report - Bell ringing in lockdown

Along with everyone else lockdown came as a huge shock and took some getting used to. The church was closed to us all and we fell into a routine of staying indoors, working from home and going for a small amount of exercise once a day.

A couple of American ringers built the Ringing Room (a virtual belltower) and the Stretham Ringing Education Centre started virtual ringing meetings which I joined. Immediately I saw this as a great opportunity to keep our band together and to meet once a week. I opened our virtual St James belltower and started experimenting. Our first virtual meeting was held on 30 April 2020. This was all very new to us and to get a zoom meeting open on one screen and the virtual tower open on another proved challenging in the early days. The ringing was also challenging as it involves pressing keys on the keyboard rather than pulling a rope. However we have persevered. Eric took over as zoom host from May 2020. Thanks to the commitment of the band, we have a regular practice every Thursday evening and we have stayed together as a band. I am hopeful that in the near future we will be able to go back into the tower for real and start ringing our lovely bells once more.

The bells were silent from 12 March 2020 and on 8 May 2020 it was announced a single bell could be rung to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE day. A single bell was rung in each of our 4 churches before and after the 2 minutes silence at 11.00.

We continued to ring a single bell at Little Paxton (10.00), Great Paxton (10.30) and Southoe (11.00) every Sunday morning.

In August it was allowed to ring 3 bells socially distanced and on Saturday 15 August the 3 bells were rung to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE day at Lt and Gt Paxton. 2 bells were rung at Southoe.

On Sunday 8 November a single half muffled bell was rung at each of our towers to mark Remembrance Day.

We continued to ring 3 bells at Lt & Gt Paxton on Sunday mornings until November when we were restricted to one bell once more.

Into 2021 …. On 27 February, 100 half muffled blows were rung at each of our towers to mark the funeral of Captain Sir Thomas Moore, who died aged 100 years. We tolled at all our towers on 23 March at 12.01 to mark the National Day of Reflection.

I would like to finish by saying a big thank you to our band – Eric, Sarah, Alan, Nicci, Alex and Dick, without whom our bells would be silent. We are looking forward to getting back to our bells but apologies for being rusty in the early days!

Mary Parnham, Tower Captain/Ringing Master

The PCC and congregation are very grateful to Mary and her team and so look forward to hearing all the bells ring in 2021!

Safeguarding Report from the Safeguarding Officer for the Benefice of the Paxtons with Diddington and Southoe

Our work is based on the House of Bishops statement:

The Church of England safeguarding policy statement is based on five foundations and offers six overarching policy commitments:

• Promoting a safer environment and culture

• Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Church

• Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation

• Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons

• Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons

• Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others

Over the last year the Safeguarding team, which includes our Church Wardens, our Vicar and myself, have met regularly via the 'Zoom' process every 2 to 3 weeks. We use the Church Dashboard website to guide us through the monitoring and recording of a range of safeguarding practices required of each church community. Our SG meetings enable us to keep up-to-date with all the regular Safeguarding matters, such as updates on the covid guidance changes and deal promptly with requests for action from Ely Diocese. Most recently this included two members of our team completing the Ely Diocese Safer Recruitment training earlier in 2021 that led to the safe recruitment of our new Co-ordinator for Occasional Offices/Caretaker. All of our Diocesan Safeguarding courses regime has been changed and improved, see Diocese of Ely / Training and Development (elydiocese.org) All Church officers are required to repeat only the highest level of training course they completed every 3 years. Work continues with monitoring the use of our churches with covid safe practices planned, developed, shared and adhered to. Safeguarding is on the agenda of each of the PCC/Standing Committees Church Meetings and our AGMs as a way of keeping us all conscious of this important caring responsibility. Safeguarding contact details are available in all four of our Benefice Churches.

As the nominated Church Safeguarding Officer I have been proud to be associated with the wonderful people who quietly go about the everyday care of our Churches and their communities.

Thank you so much for all your support, especially during such challenging times.

Lesley Werb

Benefice Safeguarding Officer

The PCC would like to take this opportunity to thank Lesley for carrying out the essential role of Safeguarding Officer for the benefice.

Simply Saturday Annual Report

The year began with our usual shared lunch followed by our January entertainment provided by Buffalo. February's after lunch entertainment was very different with a talk about Essential Oils which included audience participation guessing the different oils by their fragrance. In March we had a Quiz which was great fun.

During lockdown the Planning Group met via Zoom and it was decided to keep in touch with everyone by sending a card and Newsletter. The first of these was sent in May and a second in July.

For Mothering Sunday every lady who attended Simply Saturday received a gift of a Primula plant and at Easter all received an Easter card.

In the interval between the lockdowns Simply Saturday took part in the Flower and Vegetable Show run by the Little Paxton Parish Council by having an Information Stall with photographs of past events and leaflets.

Once in lockdown again a further newsletter was sent out in October.

At Christmas gift of a "Christmas Goodies Bag" and card was delivered to everyone.

FUTURE ENTERTAINMENT PLANNED

Subject to the lifting all restrictions on 21 June, the following events are planned for 2021 but, are subject to confirmation in line with Government guidelines.

July	PAXFEST Information stall plus a Children's game
August	Welcome back party
September	Quiz/Chat and Games
October	Ouse Valley Chorus
November	Tom Bryans 40s/50s music
November 27th	Christmas lunch followed by "Merry Makers" Christmas Show

The Simply Saturday group was proposed by Leisa Hunt towards the end of 2017. It began early in 2018 and was aimed at those who would like some company at weekends. Usually begin with a 'bring & share' lunch followed by games/activities or some entertainment. We only ask for a £1 donation towards costs.

Sheila Cooper, Simply Saturday Secretary

The PCC would like to take this opportunity to thank Leisa Hunt for getting this project started and the work of all the supporting team, who plan events throughout the year. This project is much appreciated by so many and going from strength to strength.

Development Action Plan (DAP) Report

Development Action Plan incorporating the five **'Levers of Change'**:

- Nurture a confident people of God
- Develop healthy churches and leaders
- Serve the community
- Re-imagine our buildings (*St James' Church has already completed this*)
- Target support to key areas

The objectives and proposals were originally agreed at the PCC meeting held on 16 January 2018 and then confirmed at The Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 8 April 2018.

Lever of Change task	**Outline Objective**	**Plan**	**Update**
Serve the community	Increase our working with families. Avoid event clashes with other organisations/ churches	Propose changes to our current Easter and Advent children's Workshop format by having three new style events during the year.	2020 saw our plans, to build on format established in 2018, halted. However, we will reinstate these plans in 2021 as soon as we are able with more themed party/workshop events. In 2019 each themed party/workshop attracted approx. 40+ children, many accompanied by families.
Serve the community	Enable adults of all ages to have some company on a Saturday lunchtime	'Simply Saturday' held on the first Saturday of each month from 1230 – 1430.	This project has gone from strength to strength – please see the 'Simply Saturday' Report on Page 17 for full details.

Lever of Change task	Outline Objective	Plan	Update
Serve the community	Provide a venue with a good quality large screen and associated equipment for use by our church, a new Film Club and our local community.	Films to: - encourage people out of their homes, to meet others in a warm, welcoming and safe place. - be discussed by our study groups/ congregation - entertain specialist groups, i.e. autistic or dementia.	Little Paxton Pictures began 2020 with lots of plans on how we build this facility for the community. As well as regular film shows on the last Tuesday of the month, our aims, to show films for specialist groups will continue in 2021 (when permitted) including the booking of the 5th Wednesdays throughout the year for Coffee Pot Memory Café group (those suffering from memory loss and their carers). In 2020 we had also arranged to put on regular film nights for a teenage Special Needs group and we plan to do this in 2021. The big screen, although proved to be a success in the village, is also particularly useful for our church based needs. To enable us to increase the free events we can offer to the community, we again applied to the Co-op Local Community Fund in 202O, this time specifically for Little Paxton Pictures, and were successful in being chosen as one of three local good causes which our local store customers can support. As well as being grateful to the Co-Op, we are also particularly grateful to Little Paxton Parish Council who initially supported this community venture with a grant of £3500.

Lever of Change task	Outline Objective	Plan	Update
Develop healthy churches and leaders	We currently have a Benefice Administrator working 35 hours per month which is greatly helping our incumbent and freeing her to carry out many tasks not previously possible.	Explore part-funding from the Diocesan Mission Fund so this post can be expanded in the near future.	Benefice Administrator hours increased from 8 to 12 from April 2019. Diocesan Mission funding not currently available.
Develop healthy churches and leaders	Strengthen links between our benefice PCC members	Propose informal benefice get-togethers	Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 we were unable to physically meet in 2020, but hope to rectify this in 2021. Held first PCC benefice gathering in 2018 to get to know each other. Further gathering held in January 2019 to build on relationship and working together for the future of the benefice. All of the benefice were invited to Annette's 65th birthday celebration at The Vicarage. We will continue working together on the Benefice Parish Profile.

Lever of Change task	**Outline Objective**	**Plan**	**Update**
Develop healthy churches and leaders	Assist our church members and visitors to be kept fully informed of the PCC, its work and activities.	(a) Display noticeboard in church showing PCC member photos, their names and roles. (b) Display PCC Minutes on church noticeboard. (c) Publish PCC Minutes in Quartet Magazine.	(a) Completed. (b) Agreed it would be more accessible if we put a master copy, together with copies available to be taken away, in a file rather than display on noticeboard. Completed. (c) Agreed to publish PCC Minutes on website as more widely available to community and saves an increase in costs. Completed.
Develop healthy churches and leaders and Nurture a confident people of God	Enable us to explore our faith	Hold workshops for Christian mindfulness and exploring faith. The workshops can, if wished, lead to confirmation.	Unable to hold any workshops in 2019 or 2020.
Nurturing a confident people of God	Maintain contact with families after baptism	Keep in touch by sending Baptism Anniversary cards	With the appropriate permission given by baptism families (conforming to the General Data Processing Requirement – GDPR, 25 May 2018) we send out Baptism Anniversary cards.
Re-imagine our building	Ensure the integrity of the church fabric for many years to come.	Complete a major repair project to exterior masonry of the building.	We achieved a major reordering of the interior of the building in 2012 and it is now extensively and successfully used by community groups every day. During 2018 we completed the (WOW project) major repairs to the exterior masonry at a cost of £97,500 – money raised through grants and fundraising.

Lever of Change task	Outline Objective	Plan	Update
During a DAP progress review in January 2019 – we also explored:			
Develop healthy churches and leaders and Nurture a confident people of God	*Extend our engagement with families and young people*	*Explore changing the format and re-branding of our 40 minute 'All age' services to better connect with young families*	Considerable research carried out in 2019 as to how we extend our engagement with families and young people. However, the commitment of time and energy was at the forefront of deciding and, for the present time, we will continue to build on what we are already doing. In 2019 we introduced the following: - Refreshments to be served after 1st, 3rd and 4th Sunday services to provide an opportunity for friendship and fellowship. - Children's craft activities on every 1st Sunday. Unfortunately during 2020 these plans were halted, but we will re-engage as soon as we are able. In 2021 we will be introducing new branding and upright pennants for church events.

As soon as we are able we shall be advertising 2021 events/films and activities!

Contact details:

The Reverend Canon Annette Reed
The Vicarage, 24 St James' Road, Little Paxton, PE19 6QW
Tel: 01480 211048
Email: canonannettereed@gmail.com

Churchwarden
Helen Young
10 Little Paxton Lane, Little Paxton, PE19 6EP
Tel: 01480 216255
Email: young_paxton@ntlworld.com

Benefice Administrator (and Churchwarden)
Nicci Jones
c /o The Vicarage, 24 St James' Road, Little Paxton, PE19 6QW
Tel: 01480 877215
Email: admin@thepaxtonsbenefice.org

Treasurer
Kate Bywater
Email: kbywater.church@gmail.com

PCC Secretary
Anita Bailey
15 Jubilee Close, Little Paxton, PE19 6QG
Tel: 01480 535002
Email: ajlbailey@aol.com

Benefice Website www.thepaxtonsbenefice.org

Facebook www.facebook.com/ThePaxtonsBenefice

(All information contained in this report is correct at the time of printing)

St. James' Church Little Paxton PCC

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2020

Total income for the year			47,755.91
General account balance at 1st January			19,928.51
	Transfers in	0.00	
	Transfer out	0.00	0.00
Projects Account balance at 1st January			95.92
	Interest	0.00	
	Transfers in	0.00	
	Transfer out	0.00	0.00
Bank account 2 balance at 1st January		4,707.01	
Robins	Transfer out	0.00	
	Transfers in	0.00	
	Interest	19.99	4,727.00
Bank account 3 balance at 1st January		4,477.04	
Johnston	Transfer out	0.00	
	Transfers in	0.00	
	Interest	19.02	4,496.06
Restoration account at 1st January		9,500.00	
61412003D	Transfer in/donations	0.00	
	Grants	0.00	
	Payments	0.00	
	Interest	0.00	9,500.00
100 Club balance at 1st January		12,730.00	
	Donations	6,175.00	
	Transfer out	(5,000.00)	
	HDC Lottery Licence	(20.00)	
	Draw cheques	(2,980.00)	10,905.00
Total			**£97,408.40**

Total expenditure for the year	48,580.10
General Account balance at 31st December	19,104.32
Projects Account balance at 31st December	95.92
Bank account 2 at 31st December	4,727.00
Robins Bequest	
Bank account 3 at 31st December	4,496.06
Johnston Bequest	
Restoration Fund	9,500.00
100 Club at 31st December	10,905.00
Total	**£97,408.40**

CCLA Account 6141420015 - Church Lands

No of shares value @ 31.12.20
1031 @ 2,048.73p = £21,122.41

Accounts prepared by Kate Bywater; Honorary Treasurer

Signed and dated K Bywater 16/4/21

Accounts Independently Examined by Sarah Symonds

Signed and dated Sarah Symonds 16th APRIL 2021

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St James Little Paxton

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages 1 and 2, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and examiner

As a member of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43 (2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements 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.43 (7) (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 financial statements and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
   b. To prepare financial statement, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations, have not been met:

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Sarah E Symonds
6 Elm Croft
Little Paxton

Date: 16th April 2021

St James Little Paxton PCC
Accounts for Year to 31st December 2020

		2020			2019		
Income							
Collections	Sunday Worship		4,796.10			9,624.65	
	Weddings		33.47			122.82	
	Funerals and Mem Svc		288.00			452.95	
	Baptisms		0.00			673.36	
	Harvest		188.28			90.99	
	Christingle		0.00			241.31	
	Christmas		0.00			403.82	
	Easter		0.00			0.00	
	Total			**5,305.85**			**11,609.90**
Donations				5,133.69			2,439.58
Covenants /Regular Giving				9,841.45			9,302.50
Loans received				500.00			0.00
Ely DB Gift Aid Refund				4,800.16			4,615.15
CBF Income Fund				644.55			643.80
		Net	Gross		Net	Gross	
Special Events	Bedford Brass Concert	0.00	0.00		706.89	1,163.51	
	Christmas Bazaar/Market	0.00	0.00		1,276.85	2,045.32	
	Paxfest	0.00	0.00		581.91	581.91	
	Co-op Local Community Fund	1,243.28	1,243.28		0.00	0.00	
	Recycle 4 Charity	15.00	15.00		10.00	10.00	
	Quiz Night	0.00	0.00		270.00	270.00	
	Gilbert & Sullivan Concert	0.00	0.00		(100.00)	0.00	
	CHUFT Chairs	(14.00)	0.00		0.00	0.00	
	Tower Fund	2.11	2.11		75.61	75.61	
	Books	6.00	6.00		106.66	106.66	
	David Fletcher Talk	0.00	0.00		3.82	140.00	
	History Talks & Books	0.00	0.00		12.50	12.50	
	Preserves	31.00	31.00		91.87	91.87	
	Puzzles	12.74	12.74		0.00	0.00	
	Children's Workshops/Parties	(50.00)	0.00		(490.06)	222.34	
	Film Shows	365.81	539.07		1,107.57	1,521.36	
	Face Masks	50.00	50.00		0.00	0.00	
	Cams Symph Concert	0.00	0.00		231.90	231.90	
	Blues in the Pews	0.00	0.00		309.51	623.90	
	Total	**1,661.94**		**1,899.20**	**4,195.03**		**7,096.88**
Sundry	Other - Benefice contributions			1,591.24			1,944.46
	Grant			7,000.00			0.00
	Grave reservation fee			600.00			162.00
Fees	Diocese fees		5,247.00			3,038.00	
	Statutory retained fees		2,497.00			3,277.00	
	Heating, flowers etc		270.00			420.00	
	Total			**8,014.00**			**6,735.00**
Parish Council				450.00			517.00
Rent				761.45			1,522.90
Quartet/printing/stall				0.00			960.00
Church Use				1,214.32			4,120.38
Village Views delivery				0.00			375.00
Sub total				**47,755.91**			**52,044.55**
General account balance at 1st January				19,928.51			28,023.82
Bank account 1 at 1st January			0.00			0.00	
general a/c	Interest		0.00			0.00	
	Transfers in		0.00			0.00	
	Transfer out		0.00	0.00		(2,100.00)	(2,100.00)
Projects Account balance at 1st January			95.92			1,702.73	
	Interest		0.00			0.00	
	Transfers in		0.00			2,100.00	
	Transfer out		0.00	95.92		0.00	3,802.73
Bank account 2 balance at 1st January			4,707.01			4,671.90	
Robins	Transfer out		0.00			0.00	
	Transfers in		0.00			0.00	
	Interest		19.99	4,727.00		35.11	4,707.01
Bank account 3 balance at 1st January			4,477.04			4,443.64	
Johnston	Transfer out		0.00			0.00	
	Transfers in		0.00			0.00	
	Interest		19.02	4,496.06		33.40	4,477.04
Restoration account at 1st January			9,500.00			9,500.00	
61412003D	Transfer in/donations		0.00			0.00	

St James Little Paxton PCC
Accounts for Year to 31st December 2020

	Grants		0.00			0.00	
	Payments		0.00			0.00	
	Interest		0.00	9,500.00		0.00	9,500.00
100 Club balance at 1st January			12,730.00			10,055.00	
	Donations		6,175.00			5,700.00	
	Transfer out		(5,000.00)			0.00	
	HDC Lottery Licence		(20.00)			(20.00)	
	Draw cheques		(2,980.00)	10,905.00		(3,005.00)	12,730.00
Simply Saturday money held by PCC				0.00			0.00
Total				**97,408.40**			**113,185.15**
			2020			**2019**	
Expenditure			£	£		£	£
Ministry	Ministry share		28,691.88			29,000.00	
	Vicar's Expenses		1,783.79			1,700.48	
	Lay Minister (LLM) Expenses		0.00			0.00	
	Copying/admin		577.13			619.27	
	Quartet magazine		120.00			788.00	
	Wafers/Candles/Bibles/Certs/Crosses		(63.49)			725.46	
	St Neots Deanery Synod		0.00			0.00	
	Benefice Gathering		0.00			0.00	
	Benefice administrator		3,114.00			4,216.98	
	Total			**34,223.31**			**37,050.19**
Fabric & Maintenance	Restoration		(518.68)			1,950.86	
	Insurance		1,658.84			1,621.74	
	Churchyard Maintenance		168.02			330.64	
	Electricity		956.08			879.22	
	Gas		1,280.25			1,046.90	
	Anglian Water		233.00			512.00	
	Boiler		324.00			456.00	
	Sundry Maintenance		337.20			1,989.63	
	Housekeeping		70.47			898.23	
	Bell Maintenance		0.00			0.00	
	Toilet Evacuation service		0.00			0.00	
	Copier/Toner		0.00			81.99	
	Flowers		66.63			345.50	
	Total			**4,575.81**			**10,112.71**
Loan repayments				0.00			5,000.00
	Fund raising expenses		237.26			2,901.85	
Sundry Donations	Jimmy's Night Shelter		150.00			210.00	
	Royal British Legion		0.00			220.00	
	Children's Society		0.00			250.00	
	Southoe PCC		0.00			330.00	
	Cambs Historic Churches		50.00			50.00	
	Temporary support		2,430.65			0.00	
	Parish Giving		1,767.20			1,500.00	
	Total			**4,635.11**			**5,461.85**
Sundry Payments	Fees Ely DBF		5,247.00			2,054.00	
	Defibrillator		0.00			1,213.00	
	Tables		0.00			292.28	
	Noticeboards		0.00			468.78	
	The Goodbox Co. & SumUp		(101.13)			93.86	
	Sundry		0.00			0.00	
	Total			**5,145.87**			**4,121.92**
Sub total				**48,580.10**			**61,746.67**
General Account balance				20,602.79			23,312.27
Accruals				(1,498.47)			(3,383.76)
Projects Bank Account				95.92			95.92
CCLA Account 2 - Robins				4,727.00			4,707.01
CCLA Account 3 - Johnstone				4,496.06			4,477.04
CCLA Account 4 - Restoration Fund				9,500.00			9,500.00
100 Club Account				10,905.00			12,730.00
Total				**97,408.40**			**113,185.15**

Check Total:	0.00		0.00

CCLA Account 6141420015 - Church Lands
1,031 shares at 2048.73 pence per share

£21,122.41 £19,763.34