

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF STRENSALL WITH TOWTHORPE

England & Wales · Charity number 1162095

Details

Other names	ST MARY'S PCC, STRENSALL WITH TOWTHORPE
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2015-06-10
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	11 Netherwoods Strensall York YO32 5WE
Phone	01904491123
Email	strensallstmarys@gmail.com
Website	www.strensallstmarys.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Regular public worship. Provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation.pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved, teaching Christianity through sermons , courses and small groups, provision of youth and children's work with a Christian ethos.

Classification

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

Geography

- City Of York

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£192,948	£74,654	-	-
2023-12-31	£91,890	£95,098	-	-
2022-12-31	£87,750	£83,700	-	-
2021-12-31	£65,127	£78,105	-	-
2020-12-31	£109,754	£81,453	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Nikki Jane Eastwood	Chair	2024-11-11
DOT HICKS		2019-04-07
Daniel Rajakumar THEIVANANTHAM PILLAI		2004-05-19
Gordon Moore		2022-05-24
JANET IRISH		2016-04-17
JANET PATRICIA MOUNTAIN		2019-04-07
JEAN COOPER		2019-04-07
Jane Louise Atkinson		2026-04-19
PAULINE CHAMBERS		2019-04-07
Shirley Bamford		2021-05-26
TERRY ATKINSON		2019-04-07
Wendy Marie Robinson		2023-05-25

Accounts



APCM Report 2025

Sunday 18th May 2025

The Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Strensall

We are here to worship, praise and thank God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
In the power of the Holy Spirit to take Christ's love and peace into our community.

Priest in Charge: (Licensed to St.Mary's on 11th November 2024)

Rev. Nikki Eastwood. The Vicarage, 10 York Road, Strensall, York YO32 5UN

Distinctive Deacon:

Rev. Dot Hicks. 111 Moor Lane, Strensall, York YO32 5UG

Additional Minister with PTO:

Rev. Dr. Judith Palmer. 6 Portisham Place, Strensall, York YO32 5AZ

PCC Chair until 11th November 2024. Vice Chair thereafter:

Janet Mountain. 49 Wilkinson Way, Strensall, York YO32 5ZA

Treasurer:

Pauline Chambers. 11 Netherwoods, Strensall, York YO32 5WE

Independent Examiner:

Kanako Whapples. 19 Heath Ride, Strensall, York YO32 5YW

Church Architect:

Andrew Wiles. Wiles and Maguire Ltd. The Danesmead Wing, York YO10 4PB

Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Jane Atkinson. 1 Brunswick Close, Strensall, York YO32 5ZT

Parish Administrator (until 3 April 2025):

Victoria Haworth. c/o The Vicarage, 10 York Road, Strensall, York YO32 5UN

Bank:

Santander UK plc. Account Number 95929403. Sort Code 09-01-51

The following served as PCC members as from the APCM 2024:

Gordon Moore	Churchwarden (Re-elected at APCM 2024)
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Janet Irish	Deanery Synod (Elected 2023 for 3 years)
Gordon Moore	Deanery Synod (Elected 2023 for 3 years)
Janet Mountain	Deanery Synod (Elected 2024 for 2 years)

Term ends in 2025

Pauline Pillai	(Elected 2022 for 3 years)
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Wendy Robinson	(Elected 2023 for 2 years)
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Peter Bayliss	(Elected 2024 for 1 year)
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Term ends in 2026

Shirley Bamford	PCC Secretary (Elected 2023 for 3 years)
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Jane Atkinson	Parish Safeguarding Officer (Elected 2023 for 3 years)
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Daniel Pillai	(Elected 2024 for 2 years)
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Term ends in 2027

Jean Cooper	(Elected 2024 for 3 years)
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Terry Atkinson	(Elected 2024 for 3 years)
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Pauline Chambers	Treasurer (Elected 2024 for 3 years)
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Alison Bayliss	Co-opted to PCC in 2024 for 1 year
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Rev Judith Palmer	Co-opted to PCC in 2024 for 1 year
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Rev. Dot Hicks	Ex-officio member (Clerk in Holy Orders)
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Rev Nikki Eastwood joined the PCC as Chair from 11th November 2025.

Those elected to the PCC at the APCM are on a rolling 3-year term.

Three councillors are to be elected each year with a total of 9 elected members.

Any ex-officio and co-opted members will be in addition to this figure.

Members are eligible for re-election at the end of their term of office.

For re-election in 2025 Wendy Robinson, Pauline Pillai, Peter Bayliss

For re-election in 2026 Daniel Pillai, Shirley Bamford, Jane Atkinson

For re-election in 2027 Jean Cooper; Terry Atkinson, Pauline Chambers

It was agreed that Victoria Haworth, our Parish Administrator, should act as a Minute Secretary for the PCC. Victoria does not have any right to vote at a PCC meeting. In 2024, Victoria attended, and minuted, all PCC meetings. Victoria has now stepped down as Parish Administrator.

Deanery Mission Partnership

In 2017, the Deanery Mission Partnership was entered into and means that all clergy in the deanery are issued with licences enabling them to officially minister in all parishes of the deanery. This legally means that each PCC in the deanery acquired new clerical members.

It was agreed that these additional clerical members will not attend any PCC meetings other than those in the parishes they are directly responsible for. These clerical members also agree to forfeit any voting rights.

All future clergy licensed in the deanery will be appointed on the same basis of cross licensing. Names of these clergy will not be recorded in APCM Reports.

PCC Meetings in 2024

The full PCC met 8 times in 2024. This includes the first meeting of the new PCC which was held immediately after the APCM. All meetings were in person.

In 2024, the Standing Committee met twice.

There were two PCC groups that continued to meet regularly, these were the Environment Group and the Finance Group.

Background

The PCC at St Mary's Church Strensall has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, the Rev Nikki Eastwood, in promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe. This responsibility includes financial management of the church and the care and maintenance of church buildings and fabric and the wider mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership

The PCC (The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Registration Number 1162095. (First registered 10th June 2015). Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, co-opted or elected by the APCM in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The Incumbent, along with any other licensed clergy to St. Mary's and the Churchwarden(s) are ex-officio members of the PCC. It is agreed that no more than 9 members be elected to the PCC on a proportional three year rotating basis. Any members of St Mary's Strensall who are elected as members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods are automatically members of the PCC for the duration of the Synod.

The PCC may appoint co-opted members in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee comprises of the Incumbent, Churchwarden(s), PCC Secretary, PCC Treasurer, and PCC Vice Chair. This committee of the PCC is required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings subject to any direction given by the council.

Safeguarding Statement

St Mary's PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Our Safeguarding Group meets regularly in order to support our safeguarding officer and to ensure we are up to date with current practices related to safeguarding.

Fundraising

Fundraising is the responsibility of the full PCC.

Electoral Roll and Church attendance

Membership of the electoral roll is open to all lay people who are baptised, over the age of 16 and have signed a declaration that they are either a member of the Church of England or of a church in communion therewith and:

Resident in the parish OR

Not being resident, has habitually attended public worship in the parish during a period of six months prior to enrolment, OR

Is a member in good standing of a church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity (not being a church in communion with the Church of England) and also prepared to declare themselves to be a member of the Church of England having habitually worshipped in the Parish Church for a period of six months prior to enrolment.

St.Mary's Church Electoral Roll Report from Wendy Robinson, Electoral Roll Officer

We remember the following members of St. Mary's Electoral Roll who have passed away since the APCM 2024 Anna Allan, Ruth Cockerill, Patricia Kirk, and Shelia Leah.

In 2025, we are required to prepare a completely new Electoral Roll as governed by the Church Representation Rules. The renewal of the Roll happens every 6 years. During all other years the Roll is only reviewed in preparation for the APCM.

Numbers on the Electoral Roll at the end of 2024 = 110

Number on the new Electoral Roll prepared for APCM 2025 = 76

The following reports are presented to the APCM:

Statutory Reports

- PCC Vice Chair
- Vicar
- Treasurer
- Independent Examiner
- Churchwarden
- PCC Secretary
- Deanery Synod

Non Statutory Reports

- Safeguarding
- Parish Administrator
- Bell Tower
- Little Fishes
- ACTS 435
- Open the Book Assemblies

**PCC Chair Report
APCM 2025
Sunday 18th May 2025**

The Vacancy

Having entered a time of Vacancy in September 2023 the PCC continued to follow the various processes of appointing a new Priest in Charge for St Mary's. We were advised and supported in these matters by the Archdeacon and were successful in advertising and interviewing for the post in May 2024. As a result a candidate was selected and offered the post, however before a full appointment could be made there were a number of processes and Human Resource checks to be finalised. Until this was completed the PCC could not provide any information to the congregation, but all were asked to continue to pray that the will of God fulfilled. There was need for discernment and wisdom in all decision making, together with the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we moved into a very important phase.

In October we were able to confirm the appointment of Rev Nikki Eastwood who would be joining us from St Mary's Church in The Wirral in November and her Licensing Service was held on November 11th. This was a service of great joy and was supported by the Diocese and the local community. Welcome Nikki!

With her appointment Nikki also takes up the role of Dean for the Easingwold Deanery and we offer her our full support in this challenging role.

I can now stand down as Chairman of the PCC and give my heartfelt thanks to all members who have found this period challenging and rewarding. Thanks to all who has worked tirelessly to provide leadership and support during some demanding and sometimes stressful situations. I also thank Victoria who has, in her usual dedicated manner, supported the PCC alongside her other church commitments.

Staffing

We have received the resignation of Margaret Berg as Church Warden and would like to offer our thanks for Margaret's tireless work over the past few years. We pray she will be blessed in her service for God.

Services and Ministries

We continue to be grateful to Rev. Dot Hicks (Distinctive Deacon) and Rev. Judith Palmer (Additional Minister with Permission to Officiate) for their dedicated efforts to ensure services are provided and to Judy Smith (Eucharistic Minister) in her support of them. Many thanks also to all who support the services.

The PCC continue to be indebted to a team of visiting clergy who have supported and upheld the spiritual wellbeing of the church during this time. Thanks to our Churchwardens whose efforts have enabled the ongoing provision of services alongside organising marriages, funerals, and baptisms. We have said farewell to a number of our congregation this year and our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

I would also like to thank those who have dedicated themselves to prayer throughout this year both through our dedicated prayer teams and in overseeing prayer requests.

In addition the congregation has supported our community projects which continue to be successful.

Home Groups

Our Home Groups continue to meet and successfully support many of our congregation through bible study, prayer and social conversation. Thanks to all those who lead and organise these.

Children's Ministry

Little Fishes continues to be well attended and supported by many families. Our Open the Book Team, together with the Methodist Church, continue in their ministry to local schools including Robert Wilkinson Academy.

Events

With the help and support of church members and members of the community we have organised some successful events not least of all an outstanding Light Trail which saw up to 450 people attending.

Environment

Our Environment Team has continued to look after a range of practical, ecological and environmental issues, with a number of these being both costly and challenging and thanks goes to all who have supported them.

Finance

Our Treasurer and her support team have met a great many challenges this year and have worked hard at looking at the various options that may help us meet this issue in the future. We were delighted to receive a legacy which will support us in looking at how we can improve access to the church. Grateful thanks go to them. (See Treasurer's Report)

*Report prepared by Janet Mountain, PCC Chair until November 2024,
now PCC Vice Chair April 2024*

**Vicars Report
APCM 2025
Sunday 18th May 2025**

In January 2025 we adopted a verse for the year:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. - Romans 15:13

It's been an important verse as we've planned services and activities to Live Christ's Story by being God's people in Strensall.

I was licensed 11th November 2024. Thank you all – and the community too for the welcome of that service. I have a dual role in both the parish and as Area Dean of Easingwold Deanery. We don't have a verse for the year in the deanery, but we do seek to live with hope, joy, peace and trust in the powerful plans of God.

We have had some good deanery synod events – including one on helping churches to move together towards net zero 2030.

We've been busy. We've had a good Christmas and Easter when we began to see people join us – perhaps after a time of being away. All are welcome – and we look forward to welcoming more. It was good too to bring back the shared communion cup on Easter Sunday. Thank you to all who have volunteered and served through the vacancy and continued into my time here. A particular thank you to Victoria Haworth for faithful service in helping the church and ministry teams through many years.

I'm grateful for the strong community, school and Methodist links we have. There are many opportunities to strengthen those links and invite more people to join in with God's plan for us. We had a good Lent course based on Les Mis, and we look forward to an Alpha course and the Bishop of Selby leading a deanery confirmation course. There are many opportunities to invite people to hear more of the Christian story, and find their place in it. Let's use every opportunity this year to invite people to join in with what God is doing here. I look forward to continuing to get to know you and all those God brings to us.

May you and your families, friends and neighbourhoods know God's abounding grace and peace.

Rev Nikki Eastwood April 2025

Financial Report for Year End 2024
APCM 2025
Sunday 19th May 2025

The Finance documents are included over the next 5 pages. They are:

- St. Mary's Accounts 2024 (page 8/9)
- St. Mary's Current Bank Reconciliation 2024 (page 10)
- Treasurer's Report for APCM 18th May 2025 (page 11)
- Budget 2025 (page 12)

ST MARYS CHURCH STRENSALL				
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024				
The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.				
Receipts and Payment Analysis	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total
	Fund	Fund	Fund	2024
INCOMING RESOURCES	£	£	£	£
Voluntary giving				
Tax efficient planned giving (<i>SOs</i>)	36,106.08			36,106.08
Other Planned Giving (<i>Envelopes</i>)	0.00			0.00
Other Collections at Services (<i>Cash</i>)	6,089.05			6,089.05
Restricted Giving (C&YW)	0		396.00	396.00
Other non recurring donations	5,263.64			5,263.64
	47,458.77	0.00	396.00	47,854.77
Income Tax Recovered on Gift aided donations	7,520.67	0.00	0.00	7,520.67
Other voluntary receipts				
Legacy	921.06		112,061.92	112,982.98
Recurring grants	730.00			730.00
Non-recurring grants	893.84			893.84
	2,544.90	0.00	112,061.92	114,606.82
Activities for generating funds - receipts				
Fund raising events	1,142.10			1,142.10
Little Fishes			666.86	666.86
	1,142.10	0.00	666.86	1,808.96
Receipts from investments				
Dividends and interest	193.30			193.30
	193.30	0.00	0.00	193.30
Receipts from church activities				
Fees retained by the PCC	15,394.72			15,394.72
Gross income from trading	5,031.70			5,031.70
	20,426.42	0.00	0.00	20,426.42
Other incoming resources				
Insurance claims	0.00			0.00
Donations received	36.78	500.00		536.78
	36.78	500.00	0.00	536.78
TOTAL INCOME	79,322.94	500.00	113,124.78	192,947.72

St Mary's Church Strensall PCC			Restricted	Total
Bank Reconciliation			Fund	2024
Financial Year 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024			£	£
RESOURCES EX	Current Account	£		
Costs of genera				537.39
Fund Raising C				616.78
Little Fishes	Opening Bank Balance @ 1st January 2024	16,719.08	0.00	1,154.17
Donations (gra	Opening Bank Balance @ 1st January 2024 CCLA	19,627.87		0.00
Donations to C	Opening bank balance @ 1st January 2024 Skipton	41,800		1,291.36
Donations to S				0.00
Funeral Collec	Total Income	185,134.30	0.00	1,291.36
Activities direct	Total Expenditure	186,866.52		
Freewill Offeri	Closing Bank Balance per Cash Book	195,363.73		46,662.00
Working Costs				3,031.75
Mission & Eva	Closing Bank Balance per Statement @ 31/12/24	15,512.33	0.00	49,693.75
Church Running	Closing Balance per CCLA digital portal 31.12.24	136,645.94		
Church Insura				2,186.62
Church cleanin	Closing Balance per Skipton statement 31.12.24	43,205.46		2,233.20
Church Admin				6,428.97
Church Mainti	Difference in Bank Balances	-		1,078.12
Upkeep of Churchyard		2,520.40		2,520.40
		14,447.31	0.00	14,447.31
Upkeep of Services				
Altar Requisites		3,566.95		3,566.95
Organist		100.00		100.00
		3,666.95	0.00	3,666.95
Church Utility Bills				
Electricity		1,280.85		1,280.85
Water		346.94		346.94
Gas		2,134.36		2,134.36
		3,762.15	0.00	3,762.15
Cost of Trading				
Stock Purchases		638.41	0.00	638.41
Governance Costs (Deanery)		0.00	0.00	0.00
Major expenditure				
Major repairs to church buildings		0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		74,654.10	0.00	74,654.10
Surplus of Income over expenditure		4,668.84	500.00	113,124.78
				118,293.62
Allocation of Funds				INTEREST
Current Account at SANTANDER		15,512		
Deposit Account at SKIPTON		41,800		1,405
Deposit Account at CCLA		19,627	112,061	4,957
Total Assets		76,939	112,061	6,362

Other bank accounts

CCLA accounts

Reserve account for general expenditure

Balance @ 31/12/23	19,627.87
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Deposit from Halliwell legacy (restricted upkeep / maintenance of church)

16/4/24	99,999.00
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11/11/24	2,061.92
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13/11/24	10,000.00
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Total Interest	4957.15
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(£1043 to Gen reserve; £3813 to legacy)

Balance @ 31/12/24

Reserve account for general expenditure	20,670.00
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Legacy	115,975.00
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Total @ 31/12/24.	136,645.00
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Skipton Building Society

Balance @ 31/12/23	41,800.00
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Interest	1405.46
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Total @ 31/12/24.	43,205.46
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C & YW 17,974.73 Interest £583

Speare legacy £24,504 Interest £817

2023 £6773.73 from Speare legacy to Gen.maintenance

2024 £10,675 from Speare legacy to Gen. maintenance

Both retained in Skipton account to accrue interest.

**Treasurer Report
APCM 2025
Sunday 18th May 2025**

At the beginning of January 2024, the balance in the Santander account was £16,719.08, and at the end of December 2024, was £15,512 with £136,645 in the CCLA account (of this £19,627+ interest) is contingency and £43,205 (inc Children and Youth work) in the Skipton Building Society (restricted) account. Both of the latter deposit accounts are receiving interest.

Income

28 people are giving regularly via the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), which is also used for one-off gifts and 9 people are giving by Standing Order (S.O.). SumUp is used by a small number on a regular basis, in particular at Little Fishes. SumUp was popular at the Colour and Light party, a free event but where several people requested to donate. The "yellow" envelopes can be used for one-off Gift Aid donations or left blank if Gift aid is not appropriate. I would like to encourage everyone who can to use the PGS.

Please see me for more details or search www.parishgiving.org.uk

Gift Aid and GADS is still to claim for 2023, and 2024 but the figure received will be greatly reduced compared with previous years as the PGS claims GA in the same month the donation is received.

During the year a restricted (*for upkeep of St Marys Church*) legacy of £112k and an unrestricted legacy of £920 were received and a grant of £700 was received from the Parish Council for upkeep of the churchyard. VAT of £893 was reclaimed under the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme.

Spearehead hall is well used for church and community events, bringing in a steady income stream and goodwill. Thanks to those who ably manage the bookings.

Expenditure

Main areas of expenditure are the Free will offering, energy bills, churchyard upkeep, wages, cleaning and insurance. The FWO, originally set at £40k in the budget for 2024, was raised to a total of £46,660, in recognition of a new incumbent starting in post and was fully paid up for 2024. A negative budget for 2025 was sent to the Diocese.

During the year, St Marys Church has financially supported Acts 435, the Salvation Army, Christian Aid, York Foodbank and NewLife Church, Kathmandu, Nepal. Charitable donations amounted to £1291.

Regular expenditure continues to exceed regular income. The legacy for "upkeep and maintenance" of the church and Spearehead hall supports the shortfall.

Thank you to everyone who has supported St Marys over the last year, in whatever way.

A special thank you to Denise Edmundson for her book-keeping.

P Chambers March 2025

St. Mary's Church Strensall, Budget 2025

Expenditure				
	Budget 24	to 10/24	to 12.24	Budget 25.
Insurance	2112			2400
FWO	40,000	33,330	46,662	60,000
VH wages	6000			6,100 + N.I.
Vicar expenses	0			1000
Service exp inc CCLI	2000			2000
Utilities (exc cleaning)	8600			5000
Church/hall Repairs/maint	6000			4000
Churchyard maint	inc in above			1000
Funerals/ weddings	2000			2000
Mission giving	1500			1500
IT resources	500			600
Cleaning.	3400			3400
Miscellaneous	2000			2000
Total	74112	56006	67200	91000
Income				
Standing order (bank)	8000	4800		
Other giving (plate)	2500			2500
PGS regular giving	26000	24,662		32000
PGS Gift Aid reg	6000	5,737		7200
PGS one-off inc GA	2600	2,330		2800
GA envelopes	2000	0	0	0
SumUp giving	1000			1000
Donations/ legacy	1000	112,062	112,062	0
Gift Aid SO	2000	not claimed from 2022 /2023		
Gift Aid / GADS other	500	from SumUp / donations		
Hall income	7000			7000
Weddings / funerals	5000			5000
Fundraising	1500			1500
Miscellaneous	3500			3500
Total	68,600			68,300

**Independent Examiner Report
APCM 2025
Sunday 18th May 2025**

Independent Examiner Report
APCM 2025
Wednesday 7th May 2025

Independent Examiner's Report

**To the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe
Charity Number 1162095**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to: examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act; to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Name: Kanako Whapples, AAT Level 3
Relevant professional qualification: AAT Level 3 (near completion of Level 4)
Address: 19 Heath Ride, Strensall, York, YO32 5YW
Date: Friday 2nd May 2025

**Churchwarden Report
APCM 2025
Sunday 18th May 2025**

St. Mary's is now blessed with the arrival of Revd Nikki Eastwood who was licensed as Priest-In-Charge on Monday 11th November 2024 by The Bishop of Selby, the Rt Revd Dr Flora Winfield and installed by the Archdeacon of York, the Venerable Sam Rushton. St. Mary's wholeheartedly welcomed Revd Nikki to our Parish and we eagerly look forward to a new chapter in the life of St Mary's here in Strensall.

The church is now open to visitors on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays between 09:00-16:00. Thanks go to Terry Atkinson who has stepped up to ensure the doors are opened and closed each day.

The annual inspections of the following were carried out with no issues to report:

1. Gas heating boiler
2. PAT inspections (Portable Appliances Test)
3. Church clock
4. 5-yearly electrical inspection of the main breaker box circuits (box in the Vestry)
5. Lightning conductor
6. Church organ
7. All fire extinguishers in the church and the hall.

Bookings for the use of the Spearehead Hall have continued to be a healthy source of revenue and thanks to Jean and Penny for managing all the related activities.

Poppies Cleaners continue to clean both the church building and the Spearehead Hall every 2 weeks on a Monday morning. Additional cleaning of the hall is currently being carried out on a Thursday morning on a trial basis during the intervening weeks due to the increased footfall in the hall.

Thanks go to the environment team and the churchyard maintenance team for their hard work keeping access open to the churchyard and graves, including the Commonwealth graves. The John Deere grass cutter broke down at the end of autumn 2024 but has been fully serviced in time for the grass growing season 2025. The acquisition of two additional powered grass cutters is expected to improve the 'look and feel' of the churchyard.

Our thanks go to Peter and Alison Bayliss for their tireless work on the development of a Rest Area and wild flower areas in the churchyard. The many previously planted daffodil bulbs are a wonderful and cheerful sight during early springtime.

Thanks go to Mike Cawthorn who continues to handle projection duties at our 11am services.

We continue to enjoy live music in church. Thanks go to Paul Blenkiron and Alison Bayliss for playing the organ at our services.

It is with sadness to learn that our Parish Administrator Victoria Hayworth will be stepping down from her job at the beginning of April 2025. St Mary's owes much to her dedicated attention to detail in preparing all our policy documentation together with the innumerable activities she has diligently carried out, many of which happen in the background with no fanfare. Her work will be missed very much but hopefully she will continue to be an active volunteer member of St Mary's church.

*Report compiled by :
Gordon Moore - Churchwarden
April 2025*

**PCC Secretary Report
APCM 2025
Sunday 18th May 2025**

PCC Meetings and Organisation

The PCC met 8 times in 2024. The Standing Committee met twice.

The PCC celebrated the receipt of a legacy, however recognised that there were still financial challenges ahead.

The following areas continue to be covered by the PCC:

- Safeguarding
- Data Protection
- Fundraising

Key Achievements in 2024

Two Sunday services continued to be held with the Primary Communion Service at 9.30am and the Informal Service held at 11am. Additional Services were held as appropriate.

The PCC oversaw the vacancy period due to the resignation of the incumbent and were successful in advertising and appointing a new Priest in Charge (Rev. Nikki Eastwood) who was installed in November 2024. This marked the end of a challenging time, however the PCC looked forward to the future.

Other notable achievements are:

- The church continues links with York Foodbank and with various community groups, e.g. The Spearehead Café, Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy and with other churches in Strensall.
- St Mary's continues to hold Level 3 Status on the National Safeguarding Dashboard.
- The PCC considered a project to alter the porch and entrance of the church and this will continue in 2025.
- Support to Easingwold Deanery is ongoing.
- St. Mary's ran a programme of services and events for Christmas 2024.
- Fundraising events included the Carnival café, charity bag collections, Carols with the Salvation Army band. Over the year we raised much needed funds for St. Mary's, Christian Aid, Children's Society, Salvation Army and our friends in Nepal. We are thankful to our community who support us in achieving these aims
- Community events in 2024 included the very successful 'Light Party' and other children's activities including Holiday Club, Little Fishes and Open the Book assemblies.
- Home Groups are established, currently 3 meeting regularly.
- The PCC supports the work of Acts 435.
- During Harvest Festival, gifts were given to over 30 businesses to thank them for their service to the community, these were very well received.
- The PCC met a number of environmental challenges regarding the trees within the church grounds.

Future Challenges 2025/6

The PCC looks forward to working with our new incumbent to grow the vision of St Mary's and in see the mission of the church enlarged.

*Report prepared by Shirley Bamford (PCC Secretary)
March 2025*

Accounts



APCM Report 2024

Sunday 19th May 2024

The Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Strensall

*We are here to worship, praise and thank God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
In the power of the Holy Spirit to take Christ's love and peace into our community.*

Incumbent (Retired September 2023)

Rev. Martin Harrison. The Vicarage, 10 York Road, Strensall, York YO32 5UN

Assistant Curate: (Curacy ended March 2023)

Rev. Katharine McBride. The Barn, 72 The Village, Strensall, York YO32 5XA

Distinctive Deacon:

Rev. Dot Hicks. 111 Moor Lane, Strensall, York YO32 5UG

Additional Minister with PTO:

Rev. Dr. Judith Palmer. 6 Portisham Place, Strensall, York YO32 5AZ

Chair:

Janet Mountain. 49 Wilkinson Way, Strensall, York YO32 5ZA

Treasurer:

Pauline Chambers, 11 Netherwoods, Strensall, York YO32 5WE

Independent Examiner:

Ruth Prins. 21 Chaucer Lane, Strensall, York YO32 5PE

Church Architect:

Andrew Wiles. Wiles and Maguire Ltd. The Danesmead Wing, York YO10 4PB

Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Jane Atkinson. 1 Brunswick Close, Strensall, York YO32 5ZT

Parish Administrator:

Victoria Haworth. c/o The Vicarage, 10 York Road, Strensall, York YO32 5UN

Bank:

Santander UK plc. Account Number 95929403. Sort Code 09-01-51

The following served as PCC members as from the APCM 2023:
(For a list of those who served before the 2023 APCM, see the APCM Report for 2022)

Rev. Martin Harrison	Vicar and Chair (Appointed September 2001, retired September 2023)
Rev. Katharine McBride	Assistant Curate (From July 2019, resigned March 2023)
Rev. Dot Hicks	Distinctive Deacon
Rev. Dr. Judith Palmer	Additional Minister with PTO

Margaret Berg	Churchwarden (Re-elected at APCM 2023)
Gordon Moore	Churchwarden (Re-elected at APCM 2023)

Janet Irish	Deanery Synod (Elected 2023)
Gordon Moore	Deanery Synod (Elected 2023)
(1 vacancy for the Deanery Synod)	

Jean Cooper	(Elected 2021 for 3 years)
Terry Atkinson	(Elected 2021 for 3 years)
Pauline Chambers	Treasurer (Elected 2021 for 3 years)

Andrew Alexander	Electoral Roll Officer (Elected 2022 for 3 years, resigned March 2024)
Pauline Pillai	(Elected 2022 for 3 years)
Wendy Robinson	(Elected 2023 for 2 years)

Janet Mountain	Vice Chair until September 2023, Chair since September 2023 (Elected 2023 for 3 years)
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Shirley Bamford	PCC Secretary (Elected 2023 for 3 years)
Jane Atkinson	Safeguarding Officer (Elected 2023 for 3 years)

Those elected to the PCC at the APCM are on a rolling 3-year term.
Three councilors are to be elected each year with a total of 9 elected members.
Any ex-officio and co-opted members will be in addition to this figure.

Members **ARE** eligible for re-election at the end of their term of office.

For re-election in 2024 Jean Cooper; Terry Atkinson; Pauline Chambers

For re-election in 2025 Wendy Robinson, Pauline Pillai, 1 vacancy

For re-election in 2026 Janet Mountain; Shirley Bamford; Jane Atkinson

It has been agreed that Victoria Haworth, our Parish Administrator, should act as a minute secretary for the PCC. Victoria does not have any right to vote at a PCC meeting.

Deanery Mission Partnership

In 2017, the Deanery Mission Partnership was entered into and means that all clergy in the deanery are issued with licences enabling them to officially minister in all parishes of the deanery. This legally means that each PCC in the deanery acquired new clerical members.

It was agreed that these additional clerical members will not attend any PCC meetings other than those in the parishes they are directly responsible for. These clerical members also agree to forfeit any voting rights.

All future clergy licensed in the deanery will be appointed on the same basis of cross licensing. Names of these clergy will not be recorded in APCM Reports.

PCC Meetings in 2023

The full PCC met 8 times in 2023. This includes the first meeting of the new PCC which was held immediately after the APCM. All meetings were in person.

In 2022, the Standing Committee met once in person.

There were two PCC groups that continued to meet regularly, these were the Environment Group and the Finance Group.

Background

The PCC at St Mary's Church Strensall has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, the Rev Martin Harrison, in promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe. This responsibility includes financial management of the church and the care and maintenance of church buildings and fabric and the wider mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. During 2023, Rev Martin Harrison was on sickness absence before retiring in September 2023.

Membership

The PCC (The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Registration Number 1162095. (First registered 10th June 2015). Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the APCM in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The Incumbent, along with any other licensed clergy to St. Mary's and the Churchwarden(s) are ex-officio members of the PCC. It is agreed that no more than 9 members be elected to the PCC on a proportional three year rotating basis. Any members of St Mary's Strensall who are elected as members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods are automatically members of the PCC for the duration of the Synod.

The PCC may appoint co-opted members in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee comprises of the Incumbent, Churchwarden(s), Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice Chair. This committee of the PCC is required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings subject to any direction given by the council.

Safeguarding Statement

St Mary's PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Our Safeguarding Group meets regularly in order to support our safeguarding officer and to ensure we are up to date with current practices related to safeguarding.

Fundraising

Fundraising is the responsibility of the full PCC.

Electoral Roll and Church attendance

Membership of the electoral roll is open to all lay people who are baptised, over the age of 16 and have signed a declaration that they are either a member of the Church of England or of a church in communion therewith and:

Resident in the parish OR

Not being resident, has habitually attended public worship in the parish during a period of six months prior to enrolment, OR

Is a member in good standing of a church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity (not being a church in communion with the Church of England) and also prepared to declare themselves to be a member of the Church of England having habitually worshipped in the Parish Church for a period of six months prior to enrolment.

St. Mary's Church Electoral Roll Report from Andrew Alexander, Electoral Roll Officer

The Electoral Roll prepared for the APCM in 2023 was 113 members.

Since the APCM the following members of the Electoral Roll have died:

Ralph Plant

Mabel Thomson

In 2019, we were required to prepare a completely new Electoral Roll as governed by the Church Representation Rules. The renewal of the Roll happens every 6 years. During all other years the Roll is only reviewed in preparation for the APCM.

Numbers on the Electoral Roll for the year are as follows:

At start of year	113
Number leaving the Roll during the year	3
Deaths	2
Number added to the Roll during the year	2
Number on Roll	110

The following reports are presented to the APCM:

Statutory Reports

- PCC Chair
- Treasurer
- Independent Examiner
- Churchwardens
- PCC Secretary
- Deanery Synod

Non Statutory Reports

- Safeguarding
- Parish Administrator
- Bell Tower
- Little Fishes
- ACTS 435
- Open the Book Assemblies

**PCC Chair Report
APCM 2024
Sunday 19th May 2024**

This has been a very challenging year for the PCC and my grateful thanks go to every member who has worked tirelessly to provide leadership and support during some demanding and sometimes stressful situations. I also thank Victoria who has in her usual dedicated manner supported the PCC alongside her other church commitments

Staffing

Changes in staffing relate to the early retirement of our incumbent Rev. Martin Harrison in September 2023 after a long period of ill health. Also, the resignation of Rev. Katherine McBride as curate in March 2023

Services and Ministries

We continue to be grateful to Rev. Dot Hicks Distinctive (Deacon) and Rev. Judith Palmer (Additional Minister with Permission to Officiate) for their dedicated efforts to ensure services are provided and to Judy Smith (Eucharistic Minister) in her support of them. Many thanks also to all who support the services.

Rev. Dot Hicks renewed her licence in March 2023 for a further two years.

Janet Mountain was admitted as an Authorised Lay Minister in September 2023. This being a transferred role from that of Registered Parish Assistant. This will be reviewed in three years.

The PCC is also indebted to a team of visiting clergy who have supported and upheld the spiritual wellbeing of the church during this time.

Thanks to our Churchwardens whose efforts have enabled the ongoing provision of services alongside organising marriages, funerals, and baptisms.

We have said farewell to a number of our congregation this year and our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

I would also like to thank those who have dedicated themselves to prayer throughout this year both through our dedicated prayer teams and in overseeing prayer requests.

Home Groups

Our Home Groups continue to meet and successfully support many of our congregation through bible study, prayer and social conversation. Thanks to all those who lead and organise these.

Children's Ministry

Little Fishes continues to be well attended and supported by many families. Our Open the Book Team, together with the Methodist Church, continue in their ministry to local schools including Robert Wilkinson Academy. Whilst not exclusively for children, our joint Nativity and Christingle service was well supported by Little Fishes families with many taking a part in the nativity scene.

Events

With the help and support of church members we have organised some successful events not least of all an outstanding Light Trail which saw up to 300 children attending

The joint Nativity and Christingle service ended with over 50 people sharing refreshments and making their Christingles in Spearehead Hall. We are grateful to have Spearehead Hall. Many thanks to all who were involved in these and other Fundraising events.

Environment

Our Environment Team has continued to look after a range of practical, ecological and environmental issues, with a number of these being both costly and challenging and thanks goes to all who have supported them.

Challenges

The diocesan initiative, 'Living Christ's Story' continues to progress with the completion of the Deanery Plan. The PCC took the decision not to write our Ministry Unit Plan in 2023. This enabled us to focus our efforts to write the Parish Profile which took precedence. PCC members have continued to attend Deanery training days

Finance

Our Treasurer and her support team have met a great many challenges this year and have worked hard at looking at the various options that may help us meet this issue in the future. Grateful thanks go to them. (See Treasurer's Report)

The Vacancy

From September 2023 we entered a time of Vacancy which has required us to meet certain criteria in connection with appointing a new incumbent. We have been advised in these matters by the Archdeacon and will continue to follow the process laid down by the Church of England. Responsibility for the Vacancy lies with the Church Wardens supported by the PCC.

Please continue to pray for the PCC members that we will know God's will and purpose going forward. We need discernment and wisdom in our decision making the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we move into a very important year ahead.

Thank you all for your support for myself and the PCC

*Report prepared by Janet Mountain, PCC Chair
April 2024*

Financial Report for Year End 2023
APCM 2024
Sunday 19th May 2024

The Finance documents are included over the next 4 pages. They are:

- St. Mary's Accounts 2023 (page 7)
- St. Mary's Current Bank Reconciliation 2023 (page 8)
- Treasurer's Report for APCM 19th May 2024 (page 9)
- Budget 2024 (page 10)

Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe
St Mary's Church, Strensall, York
For the Period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total Funds	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Planned giving	47,401		1,511	48,912	48,184
Collections and Other giving				-	-
Other Voluntary Receipts	1,862		576	2,438	1,805
Gift Aid Recovered	16,604			16,604	-
Bequests	-			-	25,000
Grants Received	1,270		500	1,770	1,020
Other Receipts			869	869	2,473
Activities for generating funds	10,521			10,521	5,635
Investment income	652		1,405	2,058	291
Receipts from church activities	8,718			8,718	3,341
Total Receipts	87,028	-	4,862	91,890	87,750
Payments					
Cost of generating funds	85			85	323
Missionary and charitable giving			1,287	1,287	1,297
Parish Share	60,000			60,000	60,000
Clergy and staffing costs	7,232			7,232	7,685
Church running expenses	15,584		678	16,262	9,383
Hall running costs	2,565			2,565	3,315
Church repairs & maintenance			6,766	6,766	1,697
Hall repairs & maintenance				-	-
New building work	900			900	-
Total Payments	86,367	-	8,731	95,098	83,700
Excess of Payments over receipts before	661	-	-3,869	-3,207	4,050
Transfers					
Gross Transfers between funds - in	7,526			7,526	-
Gross Transfers between funds - out			-7,526	-7,526	-
Excess of receipts over funds	8,187	-	-11,395	-3,207	4,050
Net Movements in Funds	8,187	-	-11,395	-3,207	4,050
Reconciliation of Funds					
All Assets at 01 January 2023	20,772	13,003	48,985	82,760	78,709
All Assets at 31 December 2023	28,959	13,003	37,590	79,552	82,760
Represented by	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
Unrestricted General Fund	28,959			28,959	20,771
Operation Reserve		13,003		13,003	15,250
Youth and Childrens Work			17,975	17,975	17,296
Building fund				-	2,900
Childrens Society			224	224	-
Collection for Nepal Childrens Home			-	-	56
ACTS 435			-	-	190
Little Fishes (Restricted in Gen Account)			958	958	935
Maintenance Fund			18,433	18,433	25,473
	28,959	13,003	37,590	79,552	82,760

Bank Accounts	CCLA	19,628
	Skipton Building Society	43,205
	Current Account	16,719
		<u>79,552</u>

St Mary's Church Strensall PCC

**Bank Reconciliation
Financial Year 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023**

<u>Current Account</u>	£
Opening Bank Balance @ 1st January 2023	63,741.28
Opening Bank Balance @ 1st January 2023 CCLA +	19,018.35
Total Income -	92,296.42
Total Expenditure	95,503.64
Closing Bank Balance per Cash Book	79,552.41
Closing Bank Balance per Statement @ 31/12/23	16,719.08
Closing Balance per CCLA statement 30/09/2023	19,627.87
Closing Balance per Skipton statement 30/09/2023	43,205.46
Difference in Bank Balances	-

Treasurers report 2024 for APCM

At the beginning of January 2023, the balance in the Santander account was £63,741, and at the end of December 2023, was £16,719.08, with £19,627 in the CCLA (contingency) account and £43,205 in the Skipton Building Society (restricted) account. Both of the latter deposit accounts were receiving interest.

Income

24 people are giving regularly via the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), which is also used for one-off gifts and 14 people are giving by Standing Order (S.O.).

I would like to encourage everyone who can to use the PGS.
Please see me for more details or search www.parishgiving.org.uk

The "SumUp" card machine is being used regularly for transactions and donations. As only 3 people were using the regular envelope giving system, it was decided to use only the "yellow" envelopes which could be signed if claiming Gift Aid (GA).

Income figures in 2023 were given a boost by the receipt of £15,000 backdated Gift Aid reclaim from 2021 and 2022. Gift Aid and GADS is still to claim for 2023, but the figure received will be greatly reduced compared with previous years as the PGS claims GA in the same month the donation is received.

A grant of £500 was given from the Parish Council for upkeep of the churchyard.

Spearehead hall is well used for church and community events, bringing in a steady income stream and good-will. Thanks to those who ably manage the bookings.

Expenditure

Main areas of expenditure are the Free will offering, (reduced from £60k to £40k for 2024, but with a new incumbent, we would aspire to return to our previous level), energy bills, storm damage to trees - not covered by insurance, wages, cleaning and insurance.

The FWO was fully paid up for 2023.

During the year, St Marys Church has financially supported Acts 435, the Salvation Army, Christian Aid, York Foodbank, NewLife Church, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Regular expenditure continues to exceed regular income. There are reserves which will support us in the short term.

A special thank you to Denise Edmundson for her book keeping.

P Chambers 10th April 2024.

St. Mary's Church Strensall, Budget 2024

Expenditure					
	Budget 24		to 31.12.23		
Insurance	2112		2079		
FWO	40,000		60,000		
VH wages	6000		6000		
Vicar expenses	0		673		
Curate expenses	0		292		
Service exp	2000		1900		
Utilities (exc cleaning)	8600		8100		
Repairs / maint	6000		6000		
Funerals/ weddings	2000		2000		
Mission giving	1500		400		
IT services	500		460		
Cleaning.	3400		3300		
Miscellaneous	2000		2000		
Total	74112		93204		
Income					
Standing order	8000		25,500		
Other giving	2500		2000		
PGS	26000		17000		
PGS Gift Aid	6000		4000		
(Yellow) envelopes	Not used		1400		
GA envelopes	2000		3000		
SumUp giving	1000		in other giving		
Donations/ legacy	1000		1000		
Gift Aid SO	2000		to claim		
Gift Aid other	500		1000		
Hall income	7000		7000		
Weddings / funerals	5000		5000		
Fundraising	1500		1500		
Miscellaneous	3500		1920		
Total	66000		70320		

**Independent Examiner Report
APCM 2024
Sunday 19th May 2024**

**Independent Examiner's Report
To the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with
Towthorpe
Charity Number 1162095**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to: examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act; to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Name: Mrs Ruth Prins, FCPFA

Relevant professional qualification or body: Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
Address: 21 Chaucer Lane, Strensall, York, YO32 5PE
Date: Monday, 15 April 2024

**Churchwardens Report
APCM 2024
Sunday 19th May 2024**

The Environment team has created a priority list of work to be carried out this year and the next, based on the report of the Quinquennial Inspection (QI) carried out in September 2022.

The annual inspection of the heating boiler was carried out in December 2023 and passed successfully. Remote access to control the heating system has been installed for both the church and the hall and is being used frequently. This is most effective during adverse weather conditions and occasional bookings in the Spearehead Hall because it reduces the need to travel to the church to manually turn on the heating.

The annual PAT inspections were carried out with no issues to report.

The 5 yearly electrical inspection of the church building has been carried out successfully.

Bookings for the use of the Spearehead Hall have continued to increase this past year and thanks to Jean and Penny for managing these.

Poppies Cleaners continue to clean both the church building and the Spearehead Hall every 2 weeks. Their standard of work has been most satisfactory.

The development of the churchyard as a wildlife refuge continues and the development of a Rest Area at the eastern end of the churchyard is taking shape. Two wild flower areas are now in their 2nd year with plans to develop a centrally located 3rd area underway.

Our thanks go to Peter and Alison Bayliss for their tireless work creating these. They, together with Sophie Allan, planted many daffodil bulbs around the main entrance areas of the church during late 2023 and these were a wonderful sight this springtime when they bloomed for the first time.

Thanks go to the environment team and the churchyard maintenance team for their hard work keeping access open to the churchyard and graves including the Commonwealth graves.

Thanks go to Mike Cawthorn for continuing to step up to handle projection duties at our 11am services.

We continue to enjoy live music in church. Thanks to Paul Blenkiron and Alison Bayliss for playing the organ at our services.

As this report is being written we're hopefully nearing the end of our Vacancy period during which time we've been very fortunate to have been able to continue our principal Sunday worship with support from several retired clergy. These clergy, together with our Authorised Lay Minister Janet Mountain, have also continued to hold our 11am Sunday services.

Our thanks go to all for their continued support and especially to our Churchwarden Margaret who efficiently organised the calendar for the visiting clergy.

Lastly, our thanks go to Margaret for holding down the Churchwarden role for the past 5 years.

*Report compiled by :
Margaret Berg and Gordon Moore - Churchwardens
April 2024*

**PCC Secretary Report
APCM 2024
Sunday 19th May 2024**

1. PCC Meetings and Organisation

The PCC met eight times in 2023. The Standing Committee met once.

PCC members have attended Deanery Training Days with another scheduled in April 2024.

The PCC identified some financial challenges for St Mary's and have addressed these in the short term.

The following areas continue to be covered by the PCC:

- Safeguarding
- Data Protection
- Fundraising

2. Key Achievements in 2023

Two Sunday services have continued to be held with the Primary Communion Service at 9.30am and the Informal Service held at 11am. Additional Services have been held as appropriate.

Other notable achievements are:

- The church continues links with York Foodbank and with various community groups, Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy and with other churches in Strensall churches
- We achieved Level 3 Status on the National Safeguarding Dashboard
- Support to Easingwold Deanery is ongoing
- St.Mary's ran a programme of services and events for Christmas 2023
- Fundraising events included the Carnival café, charity bag collections, Carols with the Salvation Army band. Over the year we raised much needed funds for St. Mary's, Christian Aid, Children's Society, Salvation Army and our friends in Nepal.
- Community events in 2023 included the very successful 'Light Party'
- Home Groups are established, currently 4 meeting regularly.
- The PCC supports the work of Acts 435

3. Future Challenges 2024/25

The PCC has identified the challenges of entering into a Vacancy period and will commence writing the Parish Profile in 2024.

*Report prepared by Shirley Bamford (PCC Secretary)
April 2024*

**Deanery Synod
APCM 2024
Sunday 19th May 2024**

After our 2023 APCM Gordon joined me as a Deanery Synod representative and we have worked together since. This was particularly helpful when Gordon hosted an IT training session for the Deanery in our hall.

The Deanery are still looking for another the lay representative for the Diocesan Synod to join the two clergy and one laity member already committed.

Throughout the Deanery churches are continuing to work on Living Christ's Story to the best of their ability. Some of our churches are really struggling and it is looking highly likely that Sheriff Hutton will become a Festival church.

There is a theatre production by the Riding Lights group at the Galtres centre which has been widely promoted throughout the Deanery in an attempt to reach out to others to help them in their faith journey.

There will be a Deanery Development morning on 27 April with a theme of discipleship.

We at Strensall, are going to host a Hog roast on Saturday 13 July on behalf of the Deanery.

The Deanery has been aware for some time of the impending retirement of Bishop John and Gordon and I have details of relevant services in July.

Rev. Steve Whiting is standing down as Area Dean in November.

*Report prepared by Janet Irish, Deanery Synod Representative
March 2024*

**Safeguarding Report
APCM 2024
Sunday 19th May 2024**

Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) at St. Mary's

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) is Jane Atkinson. Jane was appointed to this role at the 2021 APCM. In 2022, Jane completed all the Statutory Safeguarding Training for her role as PSO.

Safeguarding Administration & Safer Recruitment at St. Mary's

Victoria Haworth has responsibility for the administration of Safeguarding and for ensuring that we follow Safer Recruitment guidelines as set by the National Safeguarding team. This includes safeguarding training and online DBS applications.

Safeguarding in Church of England

The Church of England's 'Promoting a Safer Church' safeguarding policy must be implemented and followed at all levels within the church.

Safeguarding in Diocese of York

The safeguarding team at the Diocese of York ensures that 'Promoting a Safer Church' and all associated central documents is followed locally. In parish churches this is to be managed through the PCC. Rob Marshall is the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA).

Safeguarding at St. Mary's Strensall

Our own safeguarding practice continues to be embedded and part of daily life at St. Mary's and we thank all volunteers for their support and acceptance of this vital part of our church life.

We continue to update and revise our safeguarding database regularly to ensure that it reflects current practice. To this end, all volunteers are recruited following Safer Recruitment guidance. All DBS certificates remain up to date following the change in validity from 5 to 3 years. The responsibility for the clergy DBS and safeguarding training remain with the Diocesan safeguarding team.

We currently (17.04.2024) have 46 people involved with safeguarding activities at St. Mary's. It is so encouraging to have such support for safeguarding.

Safeguarding remains a standing item on all PCC meeting agendas. Either Jane or Victoria shares information to ensure that the PCC remains up to date on current activity as well as any changes.

In 2023, we had eleven visits from visiting bell ringers who all completed the relevant safeguarding paperwork.

In 2024, we plan to update all safeguarding policies and documents prior to our internal audit. We did not complete the audit in 2023.

Following its introduction in 2022, we have worked hard to complete, and are forever updating, the 'Safeguarding Dashboard'. This nationwide project encourages all churches to implement the 'Church of England Safeguarding Handbook'. The Dashboard is divided into eight areas and then into several sub sections, each covering a certain aspect of the safeguarding policy, such as 'Training'. There are 3 Dashboard levels, all scored based on the traffic light system. We achieved the highest grading of 'Level 3 Status' in 2023 and remain at 99% complete. We are waiting for some external verification to complete the final 1%. This is a major achievement!

*Report prepared by Victoria Haworth (Parish Administrator) and Jane Atkinson (PSO),
March 2024*

Parish Administrator Report
APCM 2024
Sunday 19th May 2024

Key achievements of the Parish Administrator in 2023 include;

- Working closely with the Parish Safeguarding Officer to ensure full compliance to the Church of England's 'Promoting a Safer Church' policy. (See also the Safeguarding Report for APCM 2024.)
- Organised and prepared all paperwork for PCC including meetings and attended PCC meetings to take Minutes.
- Organised and prepared all paperwork (excluding financial) for APCM and attended APCM to take Minutes.
- Ensure St Mary's policies are kept up to date. Manage all Current and Archived Documents files.
- Continued to manage and maintain St. Mary's systems to ensure compliance to GDPR and Data Protection Policy. This includes all correspondence and notices.
- Continued to use St. Mary's GDPR form for people to give permission for St. Mary's to contact them. Using these forms, our central database is updated and the previous issue is deleted. We only communicate with those on our database as per the Data Protection Policy.
- Respond to email enquiries sent via the website 'Contact Us' section.
- Provided efficient and ongoing support to the PCC and Churchwardens. Through email, telephone calls and face to face meetings.
- Maintained St. Mary's online Google calendar linked to the webpage.
- Leader of Little Fishes in Spearehead Hall (See separate 'Little Fishes' report), stepping in to run the group from September 2022.
- Organised two more successful charity bag collections for 2023, raising £125.50 for church funds. Thanks to Andrew and Anne Alexander for kindly offering to be the main collection point for both collections in 2023.
- Wrote St Mary's weekly 'Notice Sheet' and emailed it weekly to those who have requested to receive an e-copy. This is received currently by 97 people each week (as at 10.04.2024).
- Ensure that the church noticeboards are kept up to date with relevant information.
- I maintain and organise the files and filing cabinets in the vestry. During 2023, a second filing cabinet was brought over from the vicarage. I am still trying to merge the files to ensure a smooth transition for the new incumbent.

2023 has been an interesting year at St. Mary's for all manner of reasons. I am grateful to the Churchwardens and PCC for their ongoing commitment to my role. Many thanks also to everyone at St. Mary's for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require further information at this time.

Report prepared by Victoria Haworth, Parish Administrator
April 2024

**Bell Tower Report
APCM 2024
Sunday 19th May 2024**

In 2023 our band of five lady ringers managed to ring most Sundays for the early service, occasionally we were down to three or four ringers. If not enough to ring, one of the band usually chimed for the service. We rang the bells for two weddings during the year.

We no longer practice on a Monday night and have adjusted the entry in the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers annual booklet, of which we are all members.

Our regular monthly visiting Ringers continue to enjoy ringing peals in our bell tower, which can last over two hours. They are very helpful in dealing with minor issues with the ropes, being very experienced ringers.

We have had no interest in anyone wanting to learn, they would however have to attend Huntington Church practice night as we are not able to teach.

We continue to enjoy ringing; long may it last!

*Report prepared by Anne Fieldhouse, Tower Captain
March 2024*

**Little Fishes Report
APCM 2024
Sunday 19th May 2024**

Little Fishes is a popular baby and toddler group that meets weekly on Tuesdays in term-time in Spearehead Hall. The session time is 9.15-10.45am. Whilst part of the children's ministry of St. Mary's, the group has more of a 'light touch' with the focus being on providing a safe space for children and adults, as well as showing God's love in a gentle way encouraging friendships, kindness and generosity of spirit. We do not provide a time of worship as such, but all come together at the end of the session for singing with children picking the songs from the 'song bag'.

We set up the room into different zones... baby area is cordoned off with chairs and then becomes the place where we gather for the end of session sing song, there is a craft table with the weekly craft (glue, paint or colouring), play kitchen, reading nook, puzzles for pre-schoolers and a tuff tray that we use for play dough, biscuit decorating or similar hands-on activity. In warmer weather we have toys for the outside area including sand and water trays.

We recognise special occasions such as Christmas, Harvest, Easter, Mothering Sunday, Valentine's Day, Father's Day, King's Coronation, Children in Need, etc and try to provide a linked activity such as card making, crown painting or decorating baubles at Christmas. We also keep the noticeboards in Spearehead Hall full with bright displays of the children's artwork. We hope that this inspires those looking at it to either come along to the group or, in the very least, know that we are there on Tuesday mornings.

The group continues to be run by Victoria Haworth. During 2023, two of the mums who attend the group with their children also joined as leaders and completed the full safer recruitment process. Emma Wingfield and Hannah Liddle now help to run the group. We are always happy for others to join us and in 2024 we will continue to ask amongst regular attendees. We are supported by other helpers who come most weeks to help set up, tidy away, sweep the floor, make drinks, prepare crafts and provide friendship and fellowship to everyone who comes.

We regularly have up to 20 families attending each week and approx 40 families who have completed registration forms. Some come each week whilst others just drop in as they are able. Everyone enjoys the warm welcome (and warm drink!).

We charge a nominal £2 per family group per session. Towards the end of 2023, we started to use the SumUp machine as an option for weekly subs payments. We are also still happy to take cash payments. This is paid into the bank account, via St. Mary's cashier, at the end of each half term. We have a restricted fund within St. Mary's bank account and are self-sufficient financially.

I am extremely grateful to the lovely team who come to help and support the group. Especially to Emma, Hannah, Caroline, Laura, Lauren, Jane, Jenny, Pauline and Bianca who all come to the sessions when they can.

*Report prepared by Victoria Haworth, Little Fishes Leader
April 2024*

**ACTS 435
APCM 2024
Sunday 19th May 2024**

Over the last year, in my capacity as an approved local advocate for this Christian charity, I have been able to help three individuals. Two were brought to my attention by a Haxby Local Area Coordinator and one via a request posted on St Mary's Website. Following my posting of needs on the ACTS 435 website, £200 was raised through generous donors for each request.

The types of needs were as follows:

- Car hire arrears following two years of cancer treatment – much of this during COVID lockdown and away from family (not eligible for sick pay due to only having been in a new job for less than 3 months).
- Death of baby and unable to afford grave headstone.
- Rendered homeless by severe flood and fall from a ladder causing spinal fracture. Required help with purchase of curtains and curtain poles for new accommodation.

I have brought these needs to the attention of St Mary's congregations as well as handing out information cards about ACTS 435. Most people are happy to go online but a few people have preferred to use the ACTS 435 envelopes available in church with the option to gift aiding their donation. These can then be posted to ACTS 435 using the address on the envelope.

Thank you to everyone who has donated in any way to this very worthwhile charity. I have been privileged to hear and see the difference these donations have made. Do remember, if you know anyone in need, please pass on my contact details as detailed on the ACTS 435 publicity at church and around the village.

*Report prepared by Linda Fee, ACTS 435 Advocate
April 2024*

Open the Book Assemblies
APCM 2024
Sunday 19th May 2024

Of the 18,000 Primary Schools in England and Wales, approximately 3,000 have teams delivering Open the Book (OTB) assemblies. The Bible Society, as the umbrella organisation overseeing OTB, provides ongoing training and excellent resources. Last year, in order to fund many new resources, the Bible Society requested that a small payment be made by each person delivering these assemblies. St Mary's agreed to cover the costs for this.

Currently, we have a wonderful, ecumenical team comprising 6 members from St Mary's and 1 from Strensall Methodists delivering assemblies at Crayke C of E School and Robert Wilkinson Primary School on a Thursday morning. On average, we visit Crayke fortnightly and Robert Wilkinson once every Half Term. It has been a joy to see the excitement on the children's faces as they enter the school halls. We dress up in costumes linked to Old and New Testament stories as well as having many props to set the scene. The children are so keen to be chosen to be part of the cast.

We are grateful to be able to store props at the Methodist church and have augmented what we have by making many new props. The impact these assemblies have is evident when we occasionally meet these children at Spearehead Café, Holiday Clubs, Light Trail and in shops when they recognise individuals and mime the OTB assembly hand action. We always receive a warm welcome from both schools and it is clear that the assemblies are much appreciated by children and staff alike.

Ideally, we could do with a few more volunteers to provide contingency for when members are on holiday or ill. Training is not onerous, and many parts are non-speaking. If anyone is interested or would like more information, please speak to Linda Fee.

*Report prepared by Linda Fee, Open the Book
April 2024*

Accounts



APCM Report 2023

Sunday 21st May 2023

The Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Strensall

We are here to worship, praise and thank God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the power of the Holy Spirit to take Christ's love and peace into our community.

Incumbent:

Rev. Martin Harrison. The Vicarage, 10 York Road, Strensall, York YO32 5UN

Assistant Curate: (resigned March 2023)

Rev. Katharine McBride. The Barn, 72 The Village, Strensall, York YO32 5XA

Deacon:

Rev. Dot Hicks. 111 Moor Lane, Strensall, York YO32 5UG

Additional Minister with PTO:

Rev. Dr. Judith Palmer. 6 Portisham Place, Strensall, York YO32 5AZ

Vice Chair:

Janet Mountain. 49 Wilkinson Way, Strensall, York YO32 5ZA

Treasurer:

Pauline Chambers, 11 Netherwoods, Strensall, York YO32 5WE

Independent Examiner:

Ruth Prins. 21 Chaucer Lane, Strensall, York YO32 5PE

Church Architect:

Andrew Wiles. Wiles and Maguire Ltd. The Danesmead Wing, York YO10 4PB

Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Jane Atkinson. 1 Brunswick Close, Strensall, York YO32 5ZT

Parish Administrator:

Victoria Haworth. 5 Orchard Way, Strensall, York YO32 5UF

Bank:

Santander UK plc. Account Number 95929403. Sort Code 09-01-51

The following served as PCC members as from the APCM 2022:

(For a list of those who served before the 2022 APCM, see the APCM Report for 2021)

Rev. Martin Harrison	Vicar and Chair (Appointed September 2001)
Rev. Katharine McBride	Assistant Curate (From July 2019, resigned March 2023))
Rev. Dot Hicks	Deacon (From January 2019)
Rev. Dr. Judith Palmer	Additional Minister with PTO (Co-opted 2022 for 1 year)

Margaret Berg	Churchwarden (Re-elected at APCM 2022)
Gordon Moore	Churchwarden (Elected at APCM 2022)

Janet Irish	Deanery Synod (Elected 2020)
(2 vacancies for the Deanery Synod)	

Janet Mountain	Vice Chair (Elected 2020 for 3 years)
Shirley Bamford	PCC Secretary (Elected 2020 for 3 years)
1 Vacancy PCC	(Vacancy for 1 year)

Jean Cooper	(Elected 2021 for 3 years)
Terry Atkinson	(Elected 2021 for 3 years)
Pauline Chambers	Treasurer (Elected 2021 for 3 years)

Andrew Alexander	Electoral Roll Officer (Elected 2022 for 3 years)
Pauline Pillai	(Elected 2022 for 3 years)
1 vacancy PCC	(Vacancy for 2 years)

Those elected to the PCC at the APCM are on a rolling 3-year term.

Three councilors are to be elected each year with a total of 9 elected members.

Any ex-officio and co-opted members will be in addition to this figure.

Members **ARE** eligible for re-election at the end of their term of office.

For re-election in 2023 Janet Mountain; Shirley Bamford; 1 vacancy

For re-election in 2024 Jean Cooper; Terry Atkinson; Pauline Chambers

For re-election in 2025 Andrew Alexander, Pauline Pillai, 1 vacancy

It has been agreed that Victoria Haworth, our Parish Administrator, should act as a minute secretary for the PCC. Victoria does not have any right to vote at a PCC meeting.

Deanery Mission Partnership

In 2017, the Deanery Mission Partnership was entered into and means that all clergy in the deanery are issued with licences enabling them to officially minister in all parishes of the deanery. *This legally means that each PCC in the deanery acquired new clerical members.*

It was agreed that these additional clerical members will not attend any PCC meetings other than those in the parishes they are directly responsible for. These clerical members also agree to forfeit any voting rights.

All future clergy licensed in the deanery will be appointed on the same basis of cross licensing. Names of these clergy will not be recorded in APCM Reports.

PCC Meetings in 2022

The full PCC met 9 times in 2022. This includes the first meeting of the new PCC which was held immediately after the APCM. Two of the meetings were held on Zoom, one via email and six were in person.

In 2022, the Standing Committee met once in person.

There were two PCC groups that continued to meet regularly, these were the Environment Group and the Finance Group.

Background

The PCC at St Mary's Church Strensall has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, the Rev Martin Harrison, in promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe. This responsibility includes financial management of the church and the care and maintenance of church buildings and fabric and the wider mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership

The PCC (The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Registration Number 1162095. (First registered 10th June 2015). Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the APCM in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The Incumbent, Assistant Curates (if any), Readers (if any) and Church Warden(s) are ex-officio members of the PCC. It is agreed that no more than 9 members be elected to the PCC on a proportional three year rotating basis. Any members of St Mary's Strensall who are elected as members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods are automatically members of the PCC for the duration of the Synod.

The PCC may appoint co-opted members in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee comprises of the Incumbent, Churchwarden(s), Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice Chair. This committee of the PCC is required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings subject to any direction given by the council.

Safeguarding Statement

St Mary's PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Our Safeguarding Group meets regularly in order to support our safeguarding officer and to ensure we are up to date with current practices related to safeguarding.

Fundraising

Fundraising is the responsibility of the full PCC.

Electoral Roll and Church attendance

Membership of the electoral roll is open to all lay people who are baptised, over the age of 16 and have signed a declaration that they are either a member of the Church of England or of a church in communion therewith and:

Resident in the parish **OR**

Not being resident, has habitually attended public worship in the parish during a period of six months prior to enrolment, **OR**

Is a member in good standing of a church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity (not being a church in communion with the Church of England) and also prepared to declare themselves to be a member of the Church of England having habitually worshipped in the Parish Church for a period of six months prior to enrolment.

St. Mary's Church Electoral Roll Report from Andrew Alexander, Electoral Roll Officer

The Electoral Roll prepared for the APCM in 2020 was 120 members.

Since the APCM the following members of the Electoral Roll have died:

Doreen Bowron RIP
Judith Eastwood RIP
Rose Grantham RIP
Marion Shorter RIP

In 2019, we were required to prepare a completely new Electoral Roll as governed by the Church Representation Rules. The renewal of the Roll happens every 6 years. During all other years, the Electoral Roll is only reviewed in preparation for the APCM.

Numbers on the Electoral Roll for the year are as follows:

At start of year	120
Number leaving the Roll during the year	3
Deaths	4
Number added to the Roll during the year	0
Number on Roll	113

The following reports are presented to the APCM:

Statutory Reports

- Vicar and Vice Chair
- Treasurer
- Independent Examiner
- Church Wardens
- PCC Secretary
- Deanery Synod

Non Statutory Reports

- Safeguarding
- Parish Administrator
- Bell Tower
- Little Fishes
- Family Film Night

PCC Vice Chair and Vicar's Report
APCM 2023
Sunday 21st May 2023

This year this report has been written by the Vice Chair of the PCC due to the long-term sickness of the incumbent Martin Harrison and with his agreement.

Changes in staffing at St Mary's relate to the resignation as Curate of Katharine was received in March 2023. We wish Katharine well in her secondment and in her application for her own post in a suitable parish. Martin has been on long term sick leave from May 2022 (Please see the statement written by Martin attached) We pray for Martin as he considers his future leading up to his retirement later this year at which point, we will enter an Interregnum period.

An interregnum will require us to face a number of challenges however with Martin's absence we have already been required to meet some of these challenges and this has seen many people step up to new roles and responsibilities already for which I am extremely grateful. I must take this opportunity to thank our Churchwardens for their exemplary work and to Dot Hicks and Judith Palmer who have taken on the spiritual lead for the church since Katharine left. I would also like to thank Judy Smith for her continued dedication in supporting them in her role as Eucharistic Minister. Although this has carried with it challenges at all levels it has been a time of growth and development and I am sure this level of commitment will continue. Please think about how you can help, there are opportunities on the PCC, Deanery synod as well as in the areas of Fundraising, Prayer, and Mission to our community.

The diocesan initiative, 'Living Christ's Story' has continued to develop with the process of consultation at deanery level and parish level now concluded and the Deanery Plan written. It is now our responsibility to write our own Ministry Unit Plan about how our resources should be deployed in the future. This process has already commenced with 6 members of the PCC attending a training day to consider various aspects in relation to writing the plan. I will be sharing more about this at the APCM and keeping you informed through our communication meetings. We will need the help and input of the whole church as we consider this vital and challenging time. We have a great opportunity to develop our ministry to our local community and to consider fresh and innovative ways of reaching out. It is also important that we fully understand the changes that this new initiative brings to for future parish governance. Fortunately, the writing of this plan will provide us with a firm foundation for writing our Church Profile which we will be required to do as we enter our interregnum. We will be advised in this process by Archdeacon Sam, we will keep you informed as of progress.

As I write this report, I am mindful of Nehemiah and the way in which he set about rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. There will always be times when we feel as if things are broken and changing, and this can be both sad and daunting. Nehemiah expressed his concerns through intercession (*"When I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven."*) Nehemiah was committed to taking on a project, he recognised the importance of knowing God's plan and seeking His guidance (*"O Lord, let thy ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants who delight to fear thy name; and give success to thy servant today,"*). God advised, led, and directed Nehemiah through this process, and he was able to learn how use his resources, together the people worked side by side utilising their skills, covering each other in prayer and learning how to stand against the enemy that sought to destroy their work. We need not fear, we have a solid foundation to build on thanks to Martin, we have strong gifted leadership and strong relationships. So let us pray seek the wisdom of God, learn how to listen, and share. Let us build for our future and our community.

Thank you all for your support for myself and the PCC

Report prepared by Janet Mountain, PCC Vice Chair
April 2023

An open letter to APCM from Martin

My dear friends at St Mary's

I would like to add a few words to this year's APCM report in order to thank you all for being so supportive of me and Jan, (as well as each other) over the past year, whilst I have been signed off work with health issues. I know that things at church have been looked after superbly and am humbled by all that you have done. Thank you.

It is also important for me to inform you that at the time of writing this report I am still unable to give you any idea of what is happening with me as far as the future is concerned. I have recently started a second course of therapy, and hopefully this will be helpful in getting me to a place where any decisions concerning my future can be made in a positive and constructive way.

This of course is frustrating, but I assure you that it is my dearest prayer and wish to get through this difficult time in a way that can be as positive as possible for all of us. One thing I do believe is that somehow through all this God is working his purposes out and that at the end we would all have learned something about God's grace, love and patience and possibly become more secure in our faith.

With all my love and prayers
Martin

Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe

Transfers					
Gross transfer between funds - in	0		0	0	0
Gross transfer between funds - out	0		0	0	0
Excess of receipts over funds	20,281		24,331	4,050	(12,978)
Net movement in funds	20,281		24,331	4,050	(12,978)
Reconciliation of funds					
All assets at 01 January 2022	41,052	13,003	24,654	78,709	91,687
All assets at 31 December 2022	20,771	13,003	48,985	82,760	78,709
Represented by					
Unrestricted general fund	20,771			20,771	41,052
Designated		3,226		3,226	3,226
Kidz Klub		1,081	2,247	3,328	3,328
Operation reserve		8,696		8,696	8,696
Youth & Childrens work			17,296	17,296	14,639
Building fund			2,900	2,900	5,205
Nepal Childrens home			56	56	680
Acts 435			190	190	190
Little Fishes			935	935	843
Maintenance fund			25,473	25,473	850
	20,771	13,003	48,985	82,760	78,709
Bank Accounts	CCLA			19,018	
	Current account			63,741	
	Total			82,760	

Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe

St Marys Church, Strensall, York

For the period from 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022 .

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds	2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Planned giving	47,121		1,063	48,184	49,383
Collections and other giving					
Other voluntary receipts	1,805			1,805	6,277
Gift Aid recovered	0			0	0
Bequests			25,000	25,000	0
Grants received	20		1,000	1,020	0
Other receipts	1,460		1,013	2,473	1,233
Activities for generating funds	5,635			5,635	1,422
Investment income	291			291	41
Receipts from church activities	3,341			3,341	6,772
Total receipts	59,674		28,076	87,750	65,127
Payments					
Cost of generating funds	323			323	1,068
Missionary & charitable giving			1,297	1,297	900
Parish Share	60,000			60,000	59,000
Clergy & staffing costs	7,685			7,685	7,668
Church running expenses	8,631		752	9,383	7,206
Hall running costs	3,315			3,315	600
Church repairs and maintenance	0		1,697	1,697	1,664
Hall repairs and maintenance	0		0	0	0
New building work	0		0	0	0
Total payments	79,954		3,745	83,700	78,105
Excess of payments over receipts	20,281		24,331	4,050	12,978

St Mary's Church Strensall PCC

Sunday 24th May 2023

The Finance documents are included over the next 4 pages. They are:

Bank Reconciliation

Financial Year 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022

Current Account

Opening Bank Balance @ 1st January 2022 £ 59,939.82

+

Total Income £ 91,236.00

-

Total Expenditure £ 87,434.54

Closing Bank Balance per Cash Book £ 63,741.28

Closing Bank Balance per Statement @ 31/12/22 £ 63,741.28

Difference in Bank Balances 0

Difference made up of the following:

Residue payments from 2021 0

Credits lodged relating to previous year 0

Unlodged Credits

0

0

Treasurers Report for APCM 21st May 2023.

At the end of December 2022 the balance in the Santander current account was £63,741.
(Approx figures: Unrestricted £23,000 Restricted £40,000)

This compares with a balance of £59,939.82 at the beginning of January 2022.
(Approx figures: Unrestricted £42,000 Restricted £18,000)

The figures at first glance look positive, but general monthly expenditure is exceeding income by approx £1000, the legacy of £25,000 received in August 2022 acting as a buffer.

Free Will Offering was paid in full for 2022 and budgeted to remain the same for 2023.

Income

22 people are regularly using the Parish Giving scheme since it first started. Please consider if you could transfer to this scheme, if appropriate, as it gives a "real-time" figure in income and simplifies Gift Aid claims.

Regular income has reduced approx £5k pa due to cost of living pressures / deaths or individuals moving away.

We received £1000 donation (part backdated) from the Parish Council for the upkeep on the churchyard (NB this had not been requested for the previous 2 years so will be £500 pa going forward)

The Diocese promised a grant of £1250 towards the expected increase in energy bills.
(received January 2023)

The hire of the Spearehead hall is increasing since COVID eased and is bringing in a steady income stream. This included the hall being used as a "Warm Hub/ social space" several days a month. Please promote the use of the hall as a link with our community as well as helping financially.

Some fund-raising events are planned in the near future and further suggestions are welcome.

There are reserves of almost £20,000 in a CCLA account, to cover 3 months contingency costs. During the year, 3 funds were amalgamated into one fund to simplify management.

Expenditure

Main areas of expenditure are Free will offering, energy bills (> £1k for month of December), wages, cleaning (down from last year) insurance, boiler repairs (covered by legacy)

Mission giving was £1297 which is 2% of the unrestricted income.

Overall, there are reserves which will cover repairs and maintenance in the short to medium term, but currently regular expenditure significantly exceeds regular income.

Thank you to everyone who assisted the work of the finance group.

P Chambers. D Edmondson 28.4.2023.
Treasurer.

St. Mary's Church Strensall, Budget 2023

Expenditure				Budget	
	Budget 22	to 31.10.22	to 31.12.22.	% change	2023
Insurance	2000	1560	1880	0	2000
FWO	60000	52,027	60,000	0	60,000
VH wages	3960	4474	5093	33%	5513
Vicar expenses	700	244	170	-50%	500
Curate expenses	600	383	520		500
CCLI	600	489	489	-20%	500
Service exp	600	1688	2025	300%	2000
Utilities (exc cleaning)	4500	1900	2280	-50%	5000
Repairs / maint	2000	2800	3360	68%	3000
Funerals/ weddings	2000	1022	1100	-50%	1000
Mission giving	2000	1237	1237	-40%	1500
Website	250	365	430	170%	800
Cleaning.	3000	2226	2618	-13%	1800
Total	82,210	70,102	79,180		83,600
Income					
Standing order	42,000	21303	25,500	-60%	25000
Other giving	500	1600	2000	400%	2000
PGS		14044	17000	-	17,000
PGS Gift Aid		3290	4000	-	4000
(Yellow) envelopes	1,000	1138	1400	40%	1500
GA envelopes	2,000	2563	3000	50%	2000
Collections	300	1400	1700	500%	1200
Donations/ legacy	-	26,000	26,000		500
Gift Aid SO	10,500	not claimed	to claim		6000
Gift Aid other	950	850	1000	0	1000
Hall income	2,000	3360	4000	100%	5000
Weddings / funerals	2,500	2774	2850	14%	2500
Fundraising		1222	1222		1000
Miscellaneous		1600	1920		1000
Total	61,750	81,144	91,592		69,700

Independent Examiner Report

APCM 2023

Sunday 21st May 2023

Independent Examiner's Report

To the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with

Towthorpe

Charity Number 1162095

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to: examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act; to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Name: Mrs Ruth Prins, FCPFA

Relevant professional qualification or body: Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

Address: 21 Chaucer Lane, Strensall, York, YO32 5PE

Date: Wednesday, 03 May 2023

Church Wardens Report

APCM 2023

Sunday 21st May 2023

The QI was carried out on 22nd September 2022 and the resulting report showed no significant findings. The Environment team are busy creating a priority list of work to be carried out during the next year.

The heating boiler failed during the annual inspection in December 2022. Replacement parts were fitted and the heating system was subsequently given a clean bill of health. It is planned to install remote access to control the heating system in both the church and the hall. This will be most effective during adverse weather conditions and will also reduce the need to travel to church to manually turn on the heating which is currently the case.

The annual organ service has been carried out and several minor problems have been attended to successfully.

The church clock has been serviced and no problems were noted or found.

The annual PAT testing was carried out with no issues to report.

The Triennial Service of Bells was carried out. Thanks to Anne Fieldhouse for attending. No major issues were found.

Bookings for the use of the Spearehead Hall have increased this past year and thanks to Jean and Penny for managing these.

Poppies Cleaners continue to clean both the church building and the Spearehead Hall every 2 weeks. Their standard of work has been most satisfactory.

The churchyard has again this year been developed as a wildlife refuge and plans are being drawn up to develop a rest area at the east end of the churchyard and also several 'wild flower' gardens. Thanks go to the Environment team and the churchyard maintenance team for their hard work in this regard.

A special thank you to James who has tirelessly and single-handedly kept the excessive growth cut down along the perimeters of the churchyard. The churchyard has been stocked with a variety of flowers due to the dedicated work of Alison and Peter. We look forward to seeing the results of their work during springtime 2023. Thanks to them both in this regard.

Martin took medical leave at the end of May 2022 and continues on medical advice. Katharine, our Curate, stepped up to preside at our Sunday principal services as her Curacy draws to a close. Our thanks go to her and to Dot and Judith who have supported her during this time.

Thanks go to Janet for continuing to lead our 11am Sunday services and to Mike for stepping up to handle projection duties at these services.

We continue to enjoy live music in church. Thanks to Paul Blenkiron and Alison Bayliss for playing at our services.

Lastly, my thanks go to Margaret for patiently showing me the ropes during my 'apprenticeship' year.

Report compiled by Margaret Berg and Gordon Moore (Church Wardens)

April 2023

QED

**PCC Secretary Report
APCM 2023
Sunday 21st May 2023**

1. PCC Meetings and Organisation

The PCC met 9 times in 2022 with 6 Face to Face meetings and 3 by Zoom or email. The Standing Committee met once.

The PCC has continued to follow the guidance of Living Christ's Story in all its planning and has received the completed Deanery Plan in early 2023. The next step is now for the PCC to formulate the local plan Ministry Development Plan and members of the PCC will attend a training day for this purpose.

In March 2022, an Away Day was held at Thicket Priory with the wider church to broaden the discussion about how St. Mary's would move forward in writing the plan and in entering a time of Interregnum. This was an incredibly positive, encouraging and informative day and has formed the basis of regular communication sessions with the wider church congregation throughout 2022. These sessions have been led by the Vice Chair due to the long-term sickness absence of Martin since May 2022.

Within the PCC the Environment Group has continued to do outstanding work looking after a range of practical, ecological and environmental issues. The Treasurer (Pol Chambers) has established a Finance Group who will work on reconciling all budgetary issues with the Independent Examiner.

An Events Group has been established and is seeking members to help with the organisation of events. The events held so far have been well received.

The following areas continue to be covered by the PCC: Safeguarding, Data Protection and Fundraising.

During 2022, the PCC were informed of the sickness absence of Martin Harrison and have continued to support him to the present date. The PCC expresses its thanks to Katharine McBride for her leadership and support during this time. Members of the clergy, the Church Wardens and the Vice Chair have in turn stepped up in organising, leading and running church services and officiating at ceremonies.

2. Key Achievements in 2022

In general, services have returned to the usual Sunday pattern of worship with the 8am service merging into the 9.30am and the Informal Service held at 11am.

Other notable achievements are:

- The church continues to work alongside York Foodbank
- The church works alongside various community groups, schools and other churches in relation to children's activities, and community cafes.
- The Electoral Roll was updated.
- Support to the Deanery is ongoing and progress continues in relation to Eco Church status with links now being formed with the River Foss Society.
- Fundraising has taken place to support the church in Nepal.
- The PCC supported a national church initiative by training a church member for Acts 435.

3. Future Challenges 2023/24

The PCC faces an extremely challenging time in 2023/4 with the

- writing and implementation of the Ministry Unit Plan
- continued provision of support to Martin
- ongoing planning and continuation of regular services, baptisms, funerals and marriages in liaison with the Dean
- management of a period of interregnum from autumn 2023

The PCC is intent on continuing to provide effective communication links which will ensure everyone is informed of progress. Alongside this, nurturing the wellbeing of all church members through a caring and loving environment is considered a major priority. It is essential that the whole church family feels they are safe, secure and supported.

Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 1 Corinthians 1:10.

Thank you for your support and encouragement.

Report prepared by Shirley Bamford (PCC Secretary)
April 2023

The PCC has continued to follow the guidance of Living Christ's Story in all its planning and has received the completed Deanery Plan in early 2023. The next step is now for the PCC to formulate the local plan Ministry Development Plan and members of the PCC will attend a training day for this purpose.

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Accounts



APCM Report 2022
Sunday 22nd May 2022
The Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Strensall

We are here to worship, praise and thank God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
In the power of the Holy Spirit to take Christ's love and peace into our community.

Incumbent:

Rev. Martin Harrison. The Vicarage, 10 York Road, Strensall, York YO32 5UN

Assistant Curate:

Rev. Katharine McBride. The Barn, 72 The Village, Strensall, York YO32 5XA

Permanent Deacon:

Rev. Dot Hicks. 111 Moor Lane, Strensall, York YO32 5UG

Additional Minister with PTO:

Rev. Dr. Judith Palmer. 6 Portisham Place, Strensall, York YO32 5AZ

Lay Chair:

Janet Mountain. 49 Wilkinson Way, Strensall, York YO32 5ZA

Treasurer:

Phil McBride. The Barn, 72 The Village, Strensall, York YO32 5XA
(Until 31.12.2021)

Independent Examiner:

Ruth Prins. 21 Chaucer Lane, Strensall, York YO32 5PE

Church Architect:

Andrew Wiles. Wiles and Maguire Ltd. The Danesmead Wing, York YO10 4PB

Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Jane Atkinson. 1 Brunswick Close, Strensall, York YO32 5ZT

Parish Administrator:

Victoria Haworth. 5 Orchard Way, Strensall, York YO32 5UF

Bank:

Santander UK plc. Account Number 95929403. Sort Code 09-01-51



APCM Report 2022
Sunday 22nd May 2022
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Santander UK plc. Account Number 95929403. Sort Code 09-01-51

The following served as PCC members as from the APCM 2021:
(For a list of those who served before the 2021 APCM, see the APCM Report for 2020)

Rev. Martin Harrison	Vicar and Chair (Appointed September 2001)
Rev. Katharine McBride	Assistant Curate (From July 2019)
Rev. Dot Hicks	Permanent Deacon (From January 2019)
Rev. Dr. Judith Palmer	Additional Minister with PTO (Co-opted 2021 for 1 year)

Margaret Berg Churchwarden (Re-elected at APCM 2021)
(1 Vacancy for Churchwarden)

Janet Irish Deanery Synod (Elected 2020)
(2 vacancies for the Deanery Synod)

Andrew Alexander	Electoral Roll Officer (Elected 2019 for 3 years)
Phil McBride	Treasurer (Elected December 2019, resigned 31.12.2021)

(1 Vacancy for PCC)

Janet Mountain	Lay Chair (Elected 2020 for 3 years)
Shirley Bamford	PCC Secretary (Elected 2020 for 3 years)
Sue Nunn	(Elected 2020 for 3 years)

Jean Cooper	(Elected 2021 for 3 years)
Terry Atkinson	(Elected 2021 for 3 years)
Pauline Chambers	Deputy Treasurer (Elected 2021 for 3 years)

Those elected to the PCC at the APCM are on a rolling 3 year term.
Three councilors are to be elected each year with a total of 9 elected members.
Any ex-officio and co-opted members will be in addition to this figure.

Members **ARE** eligible for re-election at the end of their term of office.

For re-election in 2022 Andrew Alexander; (2 Vacancies)

For re-election in 2023 Janet Mountain; Shirley Bamford; Sue Nunn

For re-election in 2024 Jean Cooper; Terry Atkinson; Pauline Chambers

It has been agreed that Victoria Haworth, our Parish Administrator, should act as a minute secretary for the PCC. Victoria does not have any right to vote at a PCC meeting.

Deanery Mission Partnership

In 2017, the Deanery Mission Partnership was entered into and means that all clergy in the deanery are issued with licences enabling them to officially minister in all parishes of the deanery. This legally means that each PCC in the deanery acquired new clerical members.

It was agreed that these additional clerical members will not attend any PCC meetings other than those in the parishes they are directly responsible for. These clerical members also agree to forfeit any voting rights.

All future clergy licensed in the deanery will be appointed on the same basis of cross licensing. Names of these clergy will not be recorded in APCM Reports.

PCC Meetings in 2021

The full PCC met 8 times in the 2021. This includes the first meeting of the new PCC which was held immediately after the APCM. Four of the PCC meetings were held on Zoom, one via email and three were in person in Sparehead Hall.

In 2021, the Standing Committee met on two occasions. Once via email and once in person.

PCC Mission Development Groups (MDG) did not meet regularly due to the pandemic, but when they did manage to meet they reported to the full PCC. Non PCC members may be asked to attend these groups and contribute to discussion but do not have any voting powers. The Mission Development Groups (Ministry; Outreach; Facilities; Finance) are currently being restructured.

Background

The PCC at St Mary's Church Strensall has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, the Rev Martin Harrison, in promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe. This responsibility includes financial management of the church and the care and maintenance of church buildings and fabric and the wider mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership

The PCC (The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Registration Number 1162095. (First registered 10th June 2015). Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the APCM in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The Incumbent, Assistant Curates (if any), Readers (if any) and Church Warden(s) are ex-officio members of the PCC. It is agreed that no more than 9 members be elected to the PCC on a proportional three year rotating basis. Any members of St Mary's Strensall who are elected as members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods are automatically members of the PCC for the duration of the Synod.

The PCC may appoint co-opted members in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee comprises of the Incumbent, Churchwarden(s), Secretary, Treasurer, and Lay-Chair. This committee of the PCC is required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings subject to any direction given by the council.

Safeguarding Statement

St Mary's PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Our Safeguarding Group meets regularly in order to support our safeguarding officer and to ensure we are up to date with current practices related to safeguarding.

Fundraising

Fundraising is the responsibility of the full PCC.

Electoral Roll and Church attendance

Membership of the electoral roll is open to all lay people who are baptised, over the age of 16 and have signed a declaration that they are either a member of the Church of England or of a church in communion therewith and:

Resident in the parish **OR**

Not being resident, has habitually attended public worship in the parish during a period of six months prior to enrolment, **OR**

Is a member in good standing of a church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity (not being a church in communion with the Church of England) and also prepared to declare themselves to be a member of the Church of England having habitually worshipped in the Parish Church for a period of six months prior to enrolment.

Electoral Roll Information. Report from Mr. Andrew Alexander, Electoral Roll Officer

The Electoral Roll prepared for the APCM in 2021 was at **126** members.

Since the APCM the following members of the Electoral Roll have died:

Gilbert Speare

David Jesper

Stuart Briggs

Frank Fletcher (Clerical member)

In 2019, we were required to prepare a completely new Electoral Roll as governed by the Church Representation Rules. The renewal of the roll happens every 6 years. During all other years the roll is only reviewed in preparation for the APCM

Numbers on the Electoral Roll for the year is as follows:

At start of year	126
Number leaving the roll during the year	8
Deaths	3
Number added to the roll during the year	5
Number on roll	120

The following reports are presented to the APCM:

Statutory Reports

- Vicar
- Treasurer (*in separate document*)
- Independent Examiner
- Church Wardens
- PCC Secretary
- Deanery Synod

Non Statutory Reports

- Safeguarding
- Parish Administrator
- Bell Tower
- Little Fishes
- PCC Lay Chair

**Vicar's Report
APCM 2022
Sunday 22nd May 2022**

This year I would like to use my report in order to look to the future, as many changes are going to happen in the next 18 months.

The obvious changes are related to clergy staffing at St Mary's. Katharine is preparing to move on to her own post, and that will happen when a suitable parish becomes available. I am also planning to retire at some point before the end of next year.

An interregnum can be feared by church members, but in reality is often an exciting time with growth as people come forward to take on new responsibilities. I would like to encourage you to be positive about these coming months and pray about how you might contribute to supporting the church wardens and PCC as they plan for these changes. You may like to consider serving on the PCC, or offering to lead intercessions, or to reading at services, or to be a volunteer to help look after our churchyard. There are plenty of ways in which you may be more involved in the life of our church. Please do consider what you might help with and offer your services.

Another change is related to the latest diocesan initiative, 'Living Christ's Story'. This has been a process of consultation at deanery level with all parishes about how resources should be deployed in the future. This process is now coming to an end, and decisions are going to be furthered in the coming months which we will endeavour to keep you updated about.

All this change can lead to fears. In reality of course change is at the heart of the Christian message of new life and renewal, and shouldn't be feared but be considered positively. That is because good change moves us forward and makes us better and brings us closer to God.

Finally, I end by asking you to do the two most important things, and that is to pray and to trust. To pray that God will continue to bless and lead us, and to trust that he will answer those prayers. Remember Peter when he encountered Jesus walking on the water. He asked Jesus if he could walk on water too. He started off well but began to sink when he took his eyes off Jesus. The moral of the story... Keep your eyes upon Jesus!

With thanks to all those who have supported my ministry over the past year, and with all my prayers and best wishes,

Martin

*Report prepared by The Reverend Martin Harrison. Vicar, St Mary's Church, Strensall.
May 2022*

Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe
St Mary's Church, Strensall, York
For the Period from 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total Funds	2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Planned giving	48,707		676	49,383	47,239
Collections and Other giving				-	-
Other Voluntary Receipts	6,277			6,277	29,651
Gift Aid Recovered	-			-	25,555
Other Receipts	203		1,030	1,233	400
Activities for generating funds	1,422			1,422	1,317
Investment income	41			41	119
Receipts from church activities	6,772			6,772	5,473
Total Receipts	63,421	-	1,706	65,127	109,754
Payments					
Cost of generating funds	1,068			1,068	6,018
Missionary and charitable giving	550		350	900	732
Parish Share	59,000			59,000	56,500
Clergy and staffing costs	7,668			7,668	6,685
Church running expenses	7,206			7,206	6,612
Hall running costs	600			600	972
Church repairs & maintenance	1,664			1,664	3,934
Hall repairs & maintenance				-	-
New building work				-	-
Total Payments	77,755	-	350	78,105	81,453
Excess of Payments over receipts before	- 14,334	-	1,356	- 12,978	28,301
Transfers					
Gross Transfers between funds - in				-	45
Gross Transfers between funds - out				-	45
Excess of receipts over funds	- 14,334	-	1,356	- 12,978	28,301
Net Movements in Funds	- 14,334	-	1,356	- 12,978	28,301
Reconciliation of Funds					
All Assets at 01 January 2021	55,386	13,003	23,298	91,687	63,386
All Assets at 31 December 2021	41,052	13,003	24,654	78,709	91,687
Represented by	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total Funds	2020
Unrestricted General Fund	41,052			41,052	55,386
Designated		3,226		3,226	3,226
KidzKlub		1,081	2,247	3,328	3,328
Operation Reserve		8,696		8,696	8,696
Youth and Childrens Work			14,639	14,639	13,598
Building fund			5,205	5,205	5,205
Collection for Nepal Childrens Home			680	680	555
ACTS 435			190	190	-
Little Fishes (Restricted in Gen Account)			843	843	724
Maintenance Fund			850	850	969
	41,052	13,003	24,654	78,709	91,687

Independent Examiner's Report

**To the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall
with Towthorpe
Charity Number 1162095**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to: examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act; to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Name: Mrs Ruth Prins, FCPFA

Relevant professional qualification or body: Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

Address: 21 Chaucer Lane, Strensall, York, YO32 5PE

Date: Thursday, 15 September 2022

**Church Warden Report
APCM 2022
Sunday 22nd May 2022**

We are thankful for Covid-19 restrictions now being lifted in church and the congregation returning to our two Sunday services at 9.30am and 11.00am.

All routine servicing is now returning to normal. The Lightning Conductor was tested in August with nothing to report and all is in good working order.

In September, the organ was serviced and we are thankful to Paul Blenkiron and Alison Bayliss for stepping in and playing for services at 9.30am. We are enjoying the live music thank you.

The repair to the hall wall was carried out in October and there is no further damage to hall. The repair still needs to be painted and now that the weather is getting better we will look to finishing the job.

In December, the boiler was serviced with no apparent problems but come January, unfortunately, the boiler broke down. We waited a week for the part which was fitted and the boiler has worked since then. I would like to thank clergy for still providing services during this time and thank the congregation for coming to sit in the cold during for those two services.

The Wednesday Community Café is going strong and we have many mums and babies coming which is so encouraging. It is also a popular place for everyone to come along and meet up with friends.

A thank you to the maintenance team who work to keep the churchyard and ashes plot in pristine condition. In 2021, we left part of the churchyard to grow wild as part of managed 'wilding' project. This will be repeated in 2022.

Thank you to Janet Irish for arranging and co-ordinating the cleaners. The cleaners have been doing a great job and many have commented at times how clean the hall and church are.

Thank you to our ministry team, especially Martin, who have worked so hard through difficult circumstances during the Covid-19 pandemic.

I would like to thank Pol, Jean, Paul and Terry for helping me this year in my role as Church Warden. Also Malcolm Smith for being on hand to help with the clock and electrics.

*Report prepared by Margaret Berg, Churchwarden
May 2022*

**PCC Secretary Report
APCM 2022
Sunday 22nd May 2022**

1. PCC Meetings

The main PCC meeting was held eight times in 2021 with three in person meetings and five on Zoom or email. There were two Standing Committee meetings.

2. PCC Organisation

The PCC has received information and attended different meetings and information sessions regarding the Archbishop's initiative 'Living Christ Story'. We have chosen to build our plans and activities around this. *Easingwold Deanery is encouraging all parishes to follow the principles contained within the LCS* document. The PCC has already consulted regarding this and feel positive about the future vision. A very encouraging PCC Away Day was held in November to discuss various issues that would face the church in the next two years. One result of this was to formulate a diagram which gave an outline of our main priorities. Following this, a further Away Day was held in March 2022 to which the wider church was invited. This provided opportunity for discussion around the future. Feedback from this will be given at the APCM.

The PCC has considered plans for new Mission Development Groups to be created to support them going forward.

The following areas continue to be covered by the PCC: Safeguarding, Data Protection and Fundraising.

3. Key Achievements in 2021

The Coronavirus Pandemic continued to affect much of the ongoing work of the PCC in terms of the achievements of face-to-face fundraising events. However, where possible, outdoor and socially distanced activities did take place including the Pumpkin Trail and Christmas events.

The Spearehead Hall has also resumed many of its activities.

Services within the church resumed gradually over the year as government guidelines permitted.

Other notable achievements are:

- The church has worked alongside York Foodbank and Strensall Helpers to support the local community.
- The Electoral Roll was updated.
- Support to the Deanery is ongoing and progress continues in relation to Eco Church status with links now being formed with the River Foss Society.
- Fundraising has taken place to support the church in Nepal.
- The PCC supported a national church initiative by training a church member for Acts 435.

4. Future Challenges

PCC continue to work with the Deanery and Diocese to implement Living Christ's Story.

Major challenges facing the PCC in 2022 are based around ensuring a smooth transition as changes in the clergy team take place. We will concentrate our efforts in writing a church profile to support the Deanery in managing the recruitment process. Developing a strong communication plan will ensure everyone is informed of progress.

Two further challenges will be the development of Children and Family ministry and expanding our community collaborations. In progressing these, the PCC will need the active support and participation of church members as we return to a different but exciting "normal".

Thank you for your support and encouragement please continue in this.

Report prepared by Shirley Bamford (PCC Secretary), April 2022

**Deanery Synod
APCM 2022
Sunday 22nd May 2022**

It has been a busy year across our Deanery since our Annual Meeting last year, particularly for the Deanery Leadership Team (DLT).

The DLT and representatives from the parishes have been tasked with working through the Diocesan initiative of 'Living Christ's Story' (LCS).

Members of the DLT have visited all parishes and benefices throughout Easingwold Deanery to consult with parishioners about their responses to LCS and about their hopes and fears for the future, so that these can become part of the 10 year Deanery Plan.

It is hoped that parish representatives will know and understand how the plan is being developed, including further opportunities to give feedback at the Deanery Synod meetings on the 19 May and 12 July 2022.

The areas covered at our own meeting in the Spearehead hall were as follows:

1. What do you enjoy about church life that you want to see continue?
2. What are your hopes and dreams for your church in 5 years' time?
3. What are your fears and challenges for the future of your church and what can be done to address them?
4. The Diocese has set us financial challenges to reach by 2026 and 2031 and how we might meet these?

Our responses to the above were written up by Margaret Price and were sent to those who requested a copy at our Strensall meeting.

Martin, Katharine and myself will see the draft plan for St. Mary's on the 19 May and our final additions/alterations will be required by the 12 July 2022 deadline.

In April 2022, Carol Colborne left her role of Deanery Coordinator after almost nine years. We are grateful to Carol for everything that she has done for Easingwold Deanery during this time.

Victoria Haworth, who is also St. Mary's Parish Administrator, has started working for Easingwold Deanery, at the end of April, to continue with certain parts of the Coordinator role until the end of October, including the weekly newsletter. This is whilst the Deanery Plan, and the future role of the Deanery Coordinator, is decided.

*Report prepared by Janet Irish, Deanery Synod Rep
May 2022*

Accounts



APCM Report 2020
Wednesday 26th May 2021
The Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Strensall

We are here to worship, praise and thank God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
In the power of the Holy Spirit to take Christ's love and peace into our community.

Incumbent:

The Rev. Martin Harrison. The Vicarage, 10 York Road, Strensall, York YO32 5UN

Assistant Curate:

The Rev. Katharine McBride. The Barn, 72 The Village, Strensall, York. YO32 5XA

Assistant Curate (Permanent Deacon):

The Rev. Dot Hicks. 111 Moor Lane, Strensall, York YO32 5UG

Additional Minister with PTO:

The Rev. Dr. Judith Palmer. 6 Portisham Place, Strensall, York YO32 5AZ

Lay Chair:

Dr. Penny Parish. 29 Heath Ride. Strensall, York YO32 5YW

Treasurer:

Mr. Phil McBride. The Barn, 72 The Village, Strensall, York. YO32 5XA

Independent Examiner:

Mr. Doug Meikle. 37 Rowntree Wharf, Navigation Road, York. YO1 9XA

Church Architect:

Mr. Andrew Wiles. Wiles and Maguire Ltd. The Danesmead Wing, York. YO10 4PB

Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Mrs. Judy Smith. White Cottage, Cropton, Pickering. YO18 8HH

Parish Administrator:

Mrs. Victoria Haworth. 5 Orchard Way, Strensall, York YO32 5UF

Bank:

Santander UK plc. Account Number 95929403

The following served as PCC members as from the APCM 2020:

(For a list of those who served before the 2020 APCM, see the APCM Report for 2019)

Rev. Martin Harrison	Vicar and Chair	(Appointed Sept 2001)
Rev. Katharine McBride	Assistant Curate	(From July 2019)
Rev. Dot Hicks	Permanent Deacon	(From January 2019)
Rev. Dr. Judith Palmer	Additional Minister with PTO	(Co-opted 2020 for 1 year)
Jean Cooper	Churchwarden	(Re-elected at APCM 2020)
Margaret Berg	Churchwarden	(Re-elected at APCM 2020)
Janet Irish	Deanery Synod	(Elected 2020)
(There are also 2 vacancies for the deanery synod)		
Penny Parish	Lay Chair	(Elected 2018 for 3 yrs)
Pauline Chambers	Deputy Treasurer	(Elected 2018 for 3 yrs)
Terry Atkinson		(Elected 2018 for 3 yrs)
Andrew Alexander	Electoral Roll Officer	(Elected 2019 for 3 yrs)
Phil McBride	Treasurer	(Elected 2019 for 3 yrs)**
Philippa Cawthorne		(Elected 2019 for 3 yrs)
Janet Mountain	PCC Secretary	(Elected 2020 for 3 yrs)
Sue Nunn		(Elected 2020 for 3 yrs)
Shirley Bamford		(Elected 2020 for 3 yrs)
Eileen Connolly		(Co-opted 2020 for 1 year)

Those elected to the PCC at the APCM are on a rolling 3 year term.

Three councilors are to be elected each year with a total of 9 elected members.

Any ex-officio and co-opted members will be in addition to this figure.

Members **ARE** eligible for re-election at the end of their term of office.

Those for re-election in 2021

Penny Parish
Terry Atkinson
Pauline Chambers

Those for re-election in 2022

Andrew Alexander
Philippa Cawthorne
Philip McBride **

Those for re-election in 2023

Janet Mountain
Shirley Bamford
Sue Nunn

** Elected as a Casual Vacancy on 13/11/19

It has been agreed that Victoria Haworth, our Parish Administrator, should act as a minute secretary for the PCC. Victoria does not have any right to vote at a PCC meeting.

Deanery Mission Partnership

In 2017, the Deanery Mission Partnership was entered into and means that all clergy in the deanery are issued with licences enabling them to officially minister in all parishes of the deanery. This legally means that each PCC in the deanery acquired new clerical members.

It was agreed that these additional clerical members will not attend any PCC meetings other than those in the parishes which they are directly responsible. These clerical members also agree to forfeit any voting rights.

All future clergy licensed in the deanery will be appointed on the same basis of cross licensing. Names of these clergy will not be recorded in APCM Reports.

PCC Meetings in 2020

The full PCC met six (6) times in the 2020. This includes the first meeting of the PCC which was held immediately after the APCM. Five (5) of the PCC meetings were undertaken either by email or Zoom, which is allowed under the guidance of the new Church Representation Rules and the direction of diocese.

The Standing Committee met virtually on several occasions so that it could respond responsibly to the many changes that were forced upon us throughout the year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

PCC Mission Development Groups (MDG) did not meet regularly due to the pandemic, but, when they did manage to meet, they reported to the full PCC. Non-PCC members may be asked to attend these groups and contribute to discussions but would not have any voting powers.

Background

The PCC at St Mary's Church Strensall has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, The Rev. Martin Harrison, in promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe. This responsibility includes financial management of the church and the care and maintenance of church buildings and fabric and the wider mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership

The PCC (The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Registration Number 1162095. (First registered 10th June 2015.). Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the APCM in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The Incumbent, Assistant Curates (if any), Readers (if any) and Church Warden(s) are ex-officio members of the PCC. It is agreed that no more than 9 members be elected to the PCC on a proportional three year rotating basis. Any members of St Mary's Strensall who are elected as members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods are automatically members of the PCC for the duration of the Synod.

The PCC may appoint co-opted members in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee comprises of the Incumbent, Churchwarden(s), Secretary, Treasurer, and Lay-Chair. This committee of the PCC is required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings subject to any direction given by the council.

Safeguarding Statement

St Mary's PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Development Groups

Ministry Development Group
Outreach Development Group
Facilities Development Group
Finance Development Group
PCC Development Group

Other Groups that meet linked to the PCC

Safeguarding

Fundraising is the responsibility of the full PCC.

Electoral Roll and Church attendance

Membership of the electoral roll is open to all lay people who are baptised, over the age of 16 and have signed a declaration that they are either a member of the Church of England or of a church in communion therewith and:

Resident in the parish **OR**

Not being resident, has habitually attended public worship in the parish during a period of six months prior to enrolment, **OR**

Is a member in good standing of a church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity (not being a church in communion with the Church of England) and also prepared to declare themselves to be a member of the Church of England having habitually worshipped in the Parish Church for a period of six months prior to enrolment.

Electoral Roll Information. Report from Mr. Andrew Alexander, Electoral Roll Officer

The Electoral Roll prepared for the APCM in 2020 was at **127** members.

Since the APCM, the following members of the Electoral Roll have died: June Scott

In 2019, we were required to prepare a completely new Electoral Roll as governed by the Church Representation Rules. The renewal of the roll happens every 6 years. During all other years the roll is only reviewed in preparation for the APCM

Numbers on the Electoral Roll for the year is as follows:

At start of year	127
Number leaving the roll during the year	1
Deaths	1
Number added to the roll during the year	1
Number on roll	126

The following reports are presented to the APCM:

Statutory Reports

- Vicar
- Treasurer *(There is also a separate 6-page document and the Budget 2021, sent in addition to report)*
- Independent Examiner *(Separate document)*
- Church Wardens
- PCC Secretary
- Deanery Synod

Non Statutory Reports

- Safeguarding
- Parish Administrator
- Bell Tower
- Soup Social
- Junior Church
- Young People Film Night
- Little Fishes

**Vicar's Report
APCM 2020
St. Mary's Church Strensall**

The beginning of 2020 started positively with plans for developing our Café Church and reviewing the worship we offer at our 11am Sunday Service. We were also being greatly encouraged by the continued success of the Wednesday morning café, especially with the involvement of the wider community. The café was raising regular funds for various charitable causes and we had monthly visits from organisations with information about their work.

We took part in the bishops' 'Mission to the North' in March. This was a mission to the whole diocese and our deanery was visited by a team led by the Bishop of Lancaster, The Rt Rev Jill Duff. Her team visited Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy and also provided speakers for our well attended Men's breakfast. There were other events throughout the deanery, and we had guest speakers for our Sunday morning service which included a baptism. The whole event was very encouraging but overshadowed by the spread of Covid-19.

In fact, the weekend of the mission was the last 'normal' weekend of 2020 as, by that time, Covid-19 had reached the UK. On 23rd March, the Prime Minister announced the first national 'lockdown' in England and we began to learn how to live lives in the midst of a pandemic. All church activities had to stop and we have been in a totally different environment since then. I thank the church wardens, Victoria, PCC members and clergy for all their support through a very difficult and trying year. I also thank Paul Bulmer and Terry Atkinson for helping with the various Risk Assessments that have been required as the pandemic ebbed and flowed over the last 12 months.

Covid-19 meant that we had to learn how to 'do church' differently, and many innovative and new ventures were undertaken. We had to learn how to use Zoom, how to upload videos to YouTube and how to work with Microsoft Teams. All this was new to many of us and posed lots of challenges, and I thank Gordon Moore for his patience in helping us. We also took the opportunity of 'lockdown' to update our website and again thanks to Gordon for the many hours he spent building the new site.

Eventually, our Sunday services were recorded and went live on a Sunday morning getting many positive reviews. Hard copies of service sheets and prayers were sent to those with no internet access and it has remained a cause for great concern that we haven't been able to meet with many due to the lack of access via the internet. We have tried to contact people by phone however, and managed to visit many whilst maintaining social distancing.

During the first 'lockdown', Dot also worked alongside Strensall Helpers to contact isolated people in the village to ensure they could get their shopping done, or prescriptions collected from the pharmacy. Many church volunteers also worked with Strensall Helpers to deliver soup and cakes to isolated/shielding people throughout that period, and their work was greatly appreciated. They all did a great job and we are very grateful to them.

Unfortunately, our monthly parish newsletter, 'Outreach', had to stop during the first 'lockdown'. We felt we had to do this as we were dependent on elderly people to fold and deliver the publication at a time when they were being asked to live in isolation. 'Outreach' has been missed by many, especially those with no internet access, and we are sorry that we felt we had to take this course of action. At the same time, we endeavoured to improve our online presence with the updated church website. This didn't answer many questions with the demise of 'Outreach' but did make our online communication clearer and user-friendly.

During this time, we also said 'Goodbye' to Archbishop Sentamu who retired after a long and distinguished ministry in our diocese. We welcomed Archbishop Stephen Cottrell who has come to York from Chelmsford.

As the year progressed, we had to learn to live with the many changes as they came along. Restrictions meant that we had no services in church for Easter. When regulations were relaxed, we managed to resume some limited Sunday services using both the church and the hall, but had to restrict the size of congregations as well as refrain from singing which has been a particular upset for many people.

We had outside activities for Halloween, Advent and Christmas which were well attended. We also continued to put recorded services onto our YouTube channel so that people, who felt they could not attend services in the church buildings, could still join us virtually.

We also managed to have a limited stewardship campaign which we called 'In My Gift'. We were aided and supported by the diocesan Stewardship Team who also helped with the production of printed materials. Since then we have been taking part in the Parish Giving Scheme.

One highlight of note towards the end on 2020, was the ordination of Katharine as priest at St Mary's by the bishop of Selby. Attendance was limited but the day was still very special.

The uncertainty of 2020 has continued into 2021, and that give us continued challenges as well as opportunities. Because of that I ask for your prayers and support for all that we do at St Mary's.

I would like to finish by remembering all those who have been affected by Covid-19 over the past year. Many lives have been cut short and families have been coping with bereavement in very trying circumstances. Our love and prayers go out to them.

We also remember with gratitude our carers, nurses and doctors, many of whom have put their own lives at risk to continue to care for us. The work they have done should be applauded by all, and perhaps the best way we can show our appreciation of what they have done, is by continuing to be patient and caring at this time, respectful of the rules that are there so that we can best protect each other.

With all my prayers and best wishes,
The Reverend Martin Harrison. Vicar, St Mary's Church, Strensall.

*Report prepared by The Reverend Martin Harrison. Vicar, St Mary's Church, Strensall.
April 2021*

Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe

St Mary's Church, Strensall, York

For the Period from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total Funds	2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Planned giving	46,443		796	47,239	48,066
Collections and Other giving				-	9,836
Other Voluntary Receipts	19,651		10,000	29,651	1,079
Gift Aid Recovered	23,055		2,500	25,555	10,508
Other Receipts	400			400	12,355
Activities for generating funds	1,015		302	1,317	2,709
Investment income	119			119	179
Receipts from church activities	4,923		550	5,473	5,842
Total Receipts	95,606	-	14,148	109,754	90,574
Payments					
Cost of generating funds	5,899		119	6,018	132
Missionary and charitable giving	732			732	4,242
Parish Share	56,500			56,500	60,970
Clergy and staffing costs	6,685			6,685	9,031
Church running expenses	6,612			6,612	15,996
Hall running costs	972			972	1,975
Church repairs & maintenance	3,934			3,934	414
Hall repairs & maintenance				-	996
New building work				-	4,528
Total Payments	81,334	-	119	81,453	98,284
Excess of Payments over receipts before	14,272	-	14,029	28,301	(7,710)

Transfers					
Gross Transfers between funds - in	31		14	45	-
Gross Transfers between funds - out	- 14	-	31	45	-
Excess of receipts over funds	14,258	-	13,998	28,301	(7,710)
Net Movements in Funds	14,272	-	14,029	28,301	(7,710)

Reconciliation of Funds

All Assets at 01 January 2020	41,114	13,003	9,269	63,386	71,096
All Assets at 31 December 2020	55,386	13,003	23,298	91,687	63,386

Represented by	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total Funds	2019
Unrestricted General Fund	55,386			55,386	41,115
Designated		3,226		3,226	3,226
KidzKlub		1,081	2,247	3,328	3,341
Operation Reserve		8,696		8,696	8,696
Youth and Childrens Work			13,598	13,598	-
Building fund			5,205	5,205	5,205
Collection for Nepal Childrens Home			555	555	5
Holiday Club			-	-	14
Little Fishes (Restricted in Gen Account)			724	724	843
Maintenance Fund			969	969	969
	55,386	13,003	23,298	91,687	63,386

Treasurer Report

APCM 2021, 26th May 2021

St Mary's Church Strensall

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31st December 2020

The annual figures show that we had a surplus on unrestricted (general) funds for the whole year equating to £14 300. This is mainly due to a decrease in our FWO and Church running expenses and a large rise in "other gifts". It should be noted that this was during lockdown due to Covid19, and so the "other gifts" is made of approx. the £9 000 plates donations that were unable to be made in person, (but given by other means) plus the transfer of £10 000 out of the building reserved fund (with the donor's permission) into unrestricted funds.

We also made a large Gift Aid claim for previous years as well as 2020.

Coupled with a reduction in our FWO and a large reduction in church running expenses (again due to covid19) the bank account has grown to £55 400 compared to £41 100 last year. The CCLA reserved accounts still holding £18 000 which covers three months contingency.

We have been blessed financially this year through the pandemic

Reserved accounts are also healthy with a large donation to the Youth and Children's work of £10 000. We continue to hold approximately £1 000 of Kidz Club money in unres but also £2 200 in restricted due to the fact they could not operate for 2020.

We paid our FWO in full again this year – this constituted £56 500 (or 69% of our total unrestricted income). It is extremely important that we continue to pay our FWO in full and aim to increase it again to pre-pandemic levels to support the ministry of other churches in the diocese, not just our own.

P McBride

Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report

To the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe Charity Number 1162095

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (*the Charities Act*) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to: examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act; to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Name: Mrs Ruth Prins, FCPFA

Relevant professional qualification or body: Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

Address: 21 Chaucer Lane, Strensall, York, YO32 5PE

Date: Friday, 15 July 2022

**Church Wardens Report
APCM 2021
Wednesday 26th May 2021**

The annual service of the boiler has been carried out with no problems identified.

Due to the pandemic and various restrictions that have been in place the annual PAT testing was not carried out. This has now been booked.

Although the community cafe closed in March several helpers were able to support a team of volunteers with soup and cakes which were delivered to those housebound people in the village.

Thank you to everyone who helped with this.

Thank you to the maintenance team for keeping the churchyard in pristine condition.

Following the repair to the outer door of the Lady Chapel, a locksmith visited and advised that the bolts on the door were upgraded. Gordon Moore has replaced these with coach bolts. Thank you to Gordon for carrying out this work.

Due to the pandemic St Crux was cancelled last year.

Thank you to the ministry team who have continued to support parishioners and the local community.

As I step down after 7 years as churchwarden I would like to thank everyone who has supported me. Please will you support Margaret as she continues in the role.

I would like to thank Jean for her excellent service as Church Warden over the last 7 years and also for the support she has given me since I became Church Warden.

*Report prepared by Jean Cooper and Margaret Berg (Churchwardens)
April 2021*

1. PCC Meetings

The main PCC meeting was held six times in 2020 with two Face to Face meetings and four by Zoom or email. Standing Committee meetings were undertaken by email as required.

2. PCC Organisation

The PCC chose to adopt the Growing Church principles as their guidance for the development of the MAP (Mission Action Plan) which has formed the basis of the work of the Development Groups.

The Development Groups are:

- Worship Development Group
- Outreach Development Group
- Facilities Development Group

In addition, the following areas are covered by the PCC:

- Safeguarding
- Data Protection
- Fundraising
- Finance

The PCC has also agreed to consider and develop where possible the principles of the Multiply project which has mission at its heart.

3. Key achievements in 2020

The Coronavirus Pandemic has naturally affected much of the ongoing work of the PCC in terms of the achievements of face-to-face fundraising events and the work of the Spearehead Café. The major decision making has been invested in following the government guidelines and ensuring that the church has functioned in accordance with these. This has meant reduced, or no services have been held and a Booking System implemented. Fundamental to this has been the oversight of the cleaning system for the church and hall. Other notable achievements are:

- The church has been involved in working alongside the Foodbank and Strensall Helpers to support the community during the pandemic.
- The Electoral Roll has been updated.
- Support to the Deanery has carried on through Zoom meetings.
- Progression has been made to achieving Eco Church status.

4. Future Challenges

There is no doubt that the last year has been a difficult and unprecedented one and has brought with it great suffering, sadness and challenge such as the church has never encountered. However, with this has come great opportunities for change and reflection and the PCC will need to take the lead in what will be a challenging time. The major challenges facing the PCC in 2021 are around considering the future shape of the church in terms of how services are provided and the support to the local community. The pandemic has required a variety of diverse methods of meeting and ministering to the members of the church alongside the community we serve. Using the lessons learnt, the PCC will need to consider the best way forward for future provision of services.

In addition, the PCC will need to work with the Deanery and Diocese in considering the following which will mean changes in the shape of the way the church moves forward:

- Living Christ's Story – a document written by Archbishop Stephen

<https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/living-christs-story/lcs-edited-vision/>

There is no doubt that this is a pivotal year in the life of the wider church and at St. Mary's, it is vital that the clergy are fully supported in their decision making by members of the church. Please, therefore, consider stepping into one of the many roles which need to be filled. To progress we must be active in our support so please prayerfully consider your personal contribution.

Report prepared by Janet Mountain (PCC Secretary), April 2021

**Deanery Synod
APCM 2021
Wednesday 26th May 2021**

Not an easy year for administration within the Deanery with all meetings and many services done through zoom. However, Carol, our co-ordinator has done an excellent job providing information on a weekly basis.

Many churches, including St. Mary's, sent links directly to Carol so that people had a range of online services/ talks/ prayer sessions to choose from. We were also provided with details of Diocesan and National services.

At the January meeting, we spent time going over how the Deanery works and relevant responsibilities that people held.

Major themes have been:- Living Christ's Story, Environmental issues addressed by our new Green Champion Jan Noble and the launch outreach to children and young people.

In some ways the Deanery feels as though it is knitted more tightly together and people are trying to help each other across the churches.

The next Deanery Synod is on June 21st 2021.

*Report prepared by Janet Irish, Deanery Synod Rep
April 2021*
