

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

England & Wales · Charity number 1165660

Details

Other names ST MARY'S PCC, WIVENHOE

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2016-02-22

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

Contact

Address 16 Colchester Road
Wivenhoe
Colchester
CO7 9EU

Phone 01206822117

Email wivstmarysec@gmail.com

Website www.stmaryswivenhoe.org

Activities

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

Activities: A vibrant expanding church seen as one of the towns major focal points\\venues Services are supported by a large team Our building is used for Anglican worship & hosts community groups from other faiths or from no faith at all Uses are varied - concerts;exhibitions;drama;dance;toddler group A warm welcome is given to able & disabled (physically & mentally) young & old (from babies to centenarians!)

Classification

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

Geography

- Essex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£131,234	£133,169	-	-
2024-12-31	£141,238	£140,599	-	-
2023-12-31	£111,179	£143,054	-	-
2022-12-31	£189,661	£145,495	-	-
2021-12-31	£162,210	£643,594	-	-
2020-12-31	£288,674	£113,668	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev ERWIN BERNARD EDDY LAMMENS MA	Chair	2016-02-22
BONNIE SUZANNE ANN HILL MBE JP DL		2016-01-01
DOUGLAS ALEXANDER DRYSDALE MCCORMICK		2018-04-29
Dr GLYN STANWAY		2016-02-22
Giovanni William Timms-Bruno		2025-05-11
HEATHER ANNE EDWARDS		2017-04-30
Hannah Cole		2023-05-14
Kellie Jane Finch		2026-06-09
Kerry-Anne Rooke		2025-06-10
Lucy Claire Crocker		2025-05-11
Mark Walters MA MBA		2026-05-10
Martin James Lucas		2025-05-11
Mary Jakens		2023-05-15
Norman David Harrison		2025-05-11
RICK CAWLEY		2016-02-22
Sam Charles Belcher		2024-05-12
Sandra Elizabeth Osborne		2024-05-12

Accounts

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT 2025



St. Mary's PCC, Wivenhoe
Registered Charity Number 1165660

**The Annual Parochial Church meeting will take place
on Sunday 10th May 2026 at 12.30 in church**

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2025**
- 3. Election of two members to the Parochial Church Council**
- 4. Election of three Deanery Synod Members**
- 5. Election of Churchwardens**
- 6. The Annual Report**
- 6. Report on the changes to the Electoral Roll since the last annual Parochial Church Council meeting and the numbers entered on the Roll.**
- 7. Annual Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church**
- 8. A report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod**
- 9. Acceptance of the accounts**
- 10. Appointment of an Independent Examiner**
- 11. Any Other Business**

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St. Mary the Virgin, Wivenhoe
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church
Meeting held on Sunday 11th May 2025
in Church

The Meeting opened at 12.00 noon with a prayer read by the Revd. Canon Erwin Lammens. Revd. Canon Erwin Lammens in the chair welcomed the 56 people present. A PowerPoint presentation of photographs, shown on the screen, gave an overview of St Mary's activities during 2024.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Sandra Osborne; Jane and Glyn Stanway; Barry and Lyn Smith; Stella Clemesha; Margaret Allison and Bill Eborn
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2024** shown on pages 4, 5 and 6 of the annual report were proposed by Marika Footring and seconded by Revd. Dr. Sara Batts Neale. It was agreed by those present that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2024 were a true record.
3. **Election of members to the Parochial Church Council**
Erwin thanked Claudia Alsdorf, Greg Butler, Sue Jones, Eric Jakens and Jane Taylor for their time and commitment as a member of the PCC.
The following candidates for were put forward for election to the PCC –
 - Gio Timms-Bruno was proposed by Douglas McCormick and seconded by Eric Jakens
 - Lucy Wadley was proposed by Andrew Treacher and seconded by Hilary Cook
 - Martin Lucas was proposed by Peter Terry and seconded by Mary Jakens
 - (Norman) David Harrison was proposed by Margaret Allison and seconded by Mary JakensThere being no other nominations they were confirmed in that role by those present.
4. **Election of Churchwardens**
Erwin thanked Douglas McCormick and Mary Jakens for their work during the year. Both Douglas and Mary were prepared to stand for election again.
The following candidates were put forward for election as Churchwardens -
Douglas McCormick was proposed by Gary Ranford and seconded by Claudia Alsdorf
Mary Jakens was proposed by Sandra Osborne and seconded by Jane Taylor
There being no other nominations they were confirmed in that role by those present.
5. **The Annual Report**
Erwin reviewed the annual report. He referred to his report and the figures which reflected on the changes which were shown to increase and decrease for certain services. For many years, a marvellous team had supported him by assisting with services, Rev. Dr. Sara Batts-Neale, Glyn Stanway, Douglas McCormick, and Helena Hughes he was extremely grateful to them. Sara was wished well in her new appointment in Sawbridgeworth. Erwin asked that those present to consider taking on a role at St Mary's as there are several areas within church life that need more volunteers. Erwin highlighted the individual reports and invited those present to speak to report writers or to him if they had any questions. He thanked all the report writers and volunteers for their contribution to the life and work of the parish and the value they brought to the congregation and wider community. He also thanked Graham Wadley and the choir for their commitment to providing music within the church. Outreach was mentioned and a need to build on foundations which the Men's Group had put in place. Erwin replied that the Annual Parish Report demonstrated a degree of engagement but there are additional options and opportunities. At present the Romans Course was in progress and the Lent Course had recently concluded, but he accepted that a more general course, such as the Alpha Course, could be run for the first steps to learning and discovery.
6. **Report on the changes to the Roll since the last annual Parochial Church Council meeting and the numbers entered on the Roll.**
Erwin referred those present to page 6 of the Annual Report. 124 names were on the 2024 electoral roll. The new Roll contains 150 names. Mary Jakens thanked everyone for completing their forms and increasing the number of those on the roll.

7. Annual Report on the fabric and goods and ornaments of the church

Erwin referred those present to page 6 of the Annual Report. The roof was currently a priority which Douglas would mention in the Acceptance of Accounts section. All other details regarding Fabric appeared within the report.

8. A report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

Erwin referred those present to page 6 of the Annual Report. An overview had been given of the meetings which had taken place during the year.

9. Acceptance of accounts

Douglas presented the accounts. He stated that St Mary's was just keeping its heads above water, thanks to the Friendly Club, Music Society, fundraising and the hire of the building. He especially appreciated the regular givers who used the envelopes or contributed via standing order - £74,000 was collected in that way, inclusive of almost £15,000 in Gift Aid. Hire of the building contributed £7,000 and was a great contributor to offset utility bills.

In 2024 our Parish Share had amounted to £77,000 and this had been paid in full. During 2024 the bill for utilities had been £13,000 and a saving of £3000 is expected in 2025 due to a change in utility provider. Tidings cost £3000 and is the main community outreach tool – the advertising revenue offset 50% of the printing bill thus reducing the total cost.

Douglas thanked Bill and Vivien for their assistance during the year which was invaluable.

Unfortunately, £100,000 is needed for the roof, £83,000 is available but more contributions are needed. Hopefully grants and public support would provide the balance.

A question was asked about the amount of money received from the QR code and SumUp machines – the answer was quite small amounts. The vast majority of the income comes from Standing Orders.

A comment was made about the accounts format – they are difficult to follow, and a simpler report would be easier to understand. Douglas agreed and a simple version will be presented in future, possibly via a PowerPoint on screen. It was accepted that using the SumUp machine at fundraising events was sometimes a difficulty but there are ways of using electronic banking and Douglas would assist those who were in need.

The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Jane Taylor, seconded by Eric Jakens, and unanimously agreed.

10. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Larking Gower having agreed to act as Independent Examiners were proposed by Douglas McCormick, seconded by Gary Ranford, and unanimously agreed they be appointed for 2025/2026 by those present.

11. Other matters

There were no other matters. .

12. Erwin closed the meeting at 13.01 and invited everyone to join in saying The Grace.

Electoral Roll

The Church of England requires each church to compile a register of its lay members.

The name of this register is the Church Electoral Roll.

Those on the roll are entitled to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, and if elected to be members of the PCC and Deanery Synod.

Every six years the roll has to be reviewed and updated, 2025 was that year. On 31st December 2025 there were 146 on the roll.

The numbers on the roll fluctuate, some people move out of Wivenhoe, some sadly pass away. Others move to Wivenhoe and join St Mary's and are added to the roll.

Mary Jakens

Rector's APCM report

When God calls...

2025 has been a crucial year in turning round the many setbacks that we had experienced during and after the pandemic. This year's Sunday services statistics (see below) take us back to comparable numbers as in 2018 and 2019, a year or months before the lockdown. The current church community feels again like a family, close-knitted and open-minded in its reaching out and its inclusiveness.

In 2023 I had accepted the role of Area Dean, overseeing and supporting - where and when I can - the 24 churches in the Colchester deanery. Seven of them required my special attention in 2025 as they were vacant without an incumbent, some for over a year. I responded to God's call to help one of these vacant Parishes, one of the smaller churches in the city of Colchester. On 22 September the Bishop gave me the License as Priest-in-charge at St Barnabas, Old Heath. I continue to serve St Mary's to the best of my ability. In the same way as I serve you, I also give the best of myself to serve in other places and roles to which God calls me.

In order to facilitate this broadening ministry, we have changed some of the Sunday service times at St Mary's and have appointed an administrative assistant for a number of hours.

Growth or rather status quo?

Let the figures talk now; they may not tell everything but are still a good indicator whether it is growth, status quo or decline. I had to split the 2025 column on the grid in two halves as we had changed the Sunday service times and some aspects of our pattern of worship from 1 July, exactly in the middle of the year.

Let me start with the negative trend in the number of weddings. With no weddings booked 2025 saw a record low. This trend had already started in recent years with only one wedding in 2023 and two in 2024. It may be anecdotal, but I hear that young adults in their 20s and 30s find the current times too uncertain to make arrangements for their wedding. The decline in weddings doesn't seem to be just a church problem; other wedding venues struggle too.

The rest of the picture is not so grim. Sunday evening services - Evensong and Taizé - were doing well in 2025: both services were attended by 19 people on average. That is about four times the figure of three years ago. It is my dream that 7 past 7 could attract a similar number as well.

Three clear indications of growth in 2025 are:

- 1/ a high percentage of young people (primary and secondary school age) attending church: on average 11 in attendance on Sundays which represents 15% of our congregation;
- 2/ the number of new churchgoers joining: our worshipping community grew by nine compared to the year before;
- 3/ the highest number on the electoral roll in the last 15 years: 151.

The most interesting outcome of the statistics is related to the change of times for Sunday morning services. As you remember, we moved the early Communion from 8am to 9am and the main service from 10.30am to 11.00am. It may come as a surprise (or not) that attendance went up when the times changed. 8am was attended by 5 people on average, while 9am attracts 11 people. At 10.30am 66 people joined; this total went up to 74 at 11.00am. We may conclude that the new timings have received a positive response.

Sunday and Wednesday services

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 1 st half	2025 2 nd half
8am	14	12	10	11	11		10	9	7	5	5	N/A
9am											N/A	11
10.30am: under 16	6	5	6	5	8		6	11	10	9	10	N/A
10.30 am: adults	76	72	72	62	67		51	52	54	57	56	N/A
11.00 am under 16											N/A	11
11.00 am adults											N/A	63
Evensong	17	14	16	12	11		N/A	5	14	20	19	19
7 past 7	12	11	12	8	8		6	7	7	6	7	6
Taizé	28	18	27	26	21		16	15	14	18	17	21

No 2020 as there were only a limited number of services held because of lockdown.

2021 figures are from June onwards when the church reopened. There were no Sunday evening services in 2021.

From 2022 there were no suspensions..

Pastoral and initiation services

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Baptisms	18	30	20	27	14	21	18	18	9	4	6	2	13	7	8
Confirmations	4	8	0	6	8	0	6	0	8	0	0	5	1	2	0
Weddings	12	19	13	6	10	15	8	6	5	3	5	7	1	2	0
Renewal of vows	0	0	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	2
Funerals in church	21	20	18	20	20	10	14	6	10	10	8	15	12	22	12
Cremation services	8	13	9	8	4	15	10	9	16	17	9	6	8	6	5

Sunday Club and The Way

A great team of leaders run our children's and youth groups. Also church attendance has seen a high percentage of children and teenagers taking part in the service. Please pray that the young and their leaders may flourish and their lives mirror God's love for them.

Pastoral

It is also our calling to care for the elderly, the ill, housebound. The pastoral visitors group keeps in touch by visiting or phoning those who appreciate a visit or call. The monthly house communion is an informal communion service in the comfortable atmosphere of someone's home. If people cannot attend at church, because of mobility issues, they can ask for a visit from a priest or communion assistant to take communion to their homes. Harvest gifts are delivered by church volunteers to residents, Beacon House, Night Shelter and Foodbank. St Mary's has been hosting The Friendly Club since its foundation.

Vision Day follow up

Some outcomes of the vision day that took place in the previous year are being implemented such as monthly Open the Book sessions at Millfields Primary, strengthening the link with the local schools and organising schools' ministry training.

The Vision Day asked for more Bible and faith nurture courses. As a response we organised a Bible course in 8 sessions about the letter to the Romans, an Advent course 'Why God became man' and in 2026 the Bible Society Course will be run in Lent and Eastertide. We also hosted Dr Joan Taylor's book launch about Jesus' childhood.

Inclusivity was another issue that was highlighted at our Vision Day and we have now joined the inclusive Churches Network 29 people attended the Welcome Course; our inclusive welcome is considered a priority. We are committed to keep working on this.

The new pattern of worship has inspired people to start new initiatives which reflect the recommendations at the Vision Away Day such as bringing together the 9am and 11am congregations during breakfast or a shared coffee/tea moment. These initiatives strengthen the cohesion of our church family.

The wider perspective

It is important that we keep a broad and open view on what is happening in the surrounding world. We should never be isolated or inward looking. We have a wider perspective which is diverse.

We practice fellowship among all Christians in Wivenhoe by taking part in an active way in Churches Together. We are represented in the Colchester Deanery Synod. We are a registered charity with the Charity Commissioners and support local and international charities. We have an active link with St Andrew's in Namalemba in Uganda and the group of Christian Women there. In the global context we continue to pray and work for peace and have made a start in lowering our carbon footprint and becoming more eco-friendly. Touched by God's love, we also love and include those who seek and hopefully find their spiritual home in the caring church family of St Mary's.

Thank you

In previous reports I used to thank everyone who helped building our church community in the past year. I then started to name our amazing volunteers and of course, unsurprisingly, I forgot to mention some others who also supported the church.

Dear reader, be assured that even though I don't have included your name, you are in my thoughts when writing this report and thinking of the support I have received in 2025 and the years before.

Having said this I'd like to thank all those who have submitted their reports for the Annual Parish Church Meeting, those who volunteer in several capacities, my colleagues in the ministry team, who have been so supportive and without whom I wouldn't be able to fulfil my ministry: our Assistant Curate, Reader, Authorised Local Preacher, Churchwardens, Standing Committee and PCC members.

My final thanks go to An, Jonas and Mieke, my family who are always there when I need encouragement, companionship and an understanding sounding board.

May God's blessing rest upon the many groups, committees, teams and individuals who help building our church as a family where you can be yourself, pray together, worship God, and find hope, peace and love.

Erwin Lammens
8 February 2026

Deanery Synod

Lay representatives plus clergy from all the Anglican churches in the Colchester Deanery usually meet three times per year, to hear what's going on in the Deanery, Diocese and nationally, and to discuss and share ideas about how we can work together more effectively across the churches in the Colchester Deanery. During 2025 it was decided that the Synod meeting in October would not take place, as we held our first Deanery Day instead. Please find below a short report on the Deanery Synod Meetings held during 2025.

The Deanery Synod's pastoral committee prepares the meetings' Agenda under the leadership of Revd Canon Erwin Lammens, Area Dean, Revd Hannah Cooper, Assistant Area Dean, and Miss Lynne Gettings, Lay Chair. St Mary's Parish representatives are Rick Cawley, Heather Edwards and Nick Gustard.

12th March 2025 – At St. Michael's Church, Myland, Colchester

Our speaker for this Synod was Wendy Lidgate, Programme Manager for Colchester Episcopal Area. Wendy introduced herself and explained her role. She also explained the background behind the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMIBB) and how her role fits into it. Wendy's role is to help us all plan how each and every parish can tap into this fund.

18th June 2025 – At St. Peter's Church, Boxted

Our speaker for this Synod was Sam Fowler, director of Christian Youth Outreach (CYO). Sam started by introducing himself and a little bit about what CYO does. CYO's vision and aim is for every school in the Colchester area to be regularly prayed for by at least one Colchester church, and that every Colchester Church will be regularly praying for at least one local Colchester school - at least once every term. Sam stated that at the moment an amazing 45% of schools across Colchester are prayed for by churches. They would like to get this to 100%. From September 2025 the Wivenhoe schools and university have been prayed for at St Mary's. They have been included in our weekly prayer list.

11th October 2025 - Deanery Day at St John's Colchester

Open to all Synod and PCC members, youth and children's ministry leaders, committee members and other members of the congregations. An attractive and inspirational programme with several speakers and workshops has been put together thanks to the allocated grant from MOF. The day was a great success, with several inspiring speakers addressing the well-attended groups.

Richard Cawley; Heather Edwards and Nick Gustard

Fabric Report

Throughout the year maintenance is carried out on the fabric of the church.

Annual checks have been completed on the:

Fire alarms and extinguishers.

Services on both the church and annexe boilers.

PAT testing.

Roof alarm.

Binder service (toilets).

Church Clock (Wivenhoe Town Council)

Annexe Entrance Door: The repair of the annexe entrance door is work in progress.

Roof Repairs: a roof appeal fundraising team has been formed. A period of 18 months has been identified for fund raising events. Information will be in Tidings and leaflet form. A leaflet drop will be made to all properties in Wivenhoe.

Fundraising methods will include congregational giving, community events and grants, supported by clear messaging around heritage, community use, and long-term sustainability. Interior redecoration of the church will take place when the roof repairs are completed.

Repainting the Church Railings: Community Payback have agreed to take this on as a project. The cost of all materials will be covered by Wivenhoe Town Council.

Kissing Gate: The gate will be repainted at the same time as the railings. It does need to be repaired as well but arrangements are not in place for that to take place.

Utilities: Yu Energy are now our utilities provider.

First Aid Kits and Defibrillator: The first aid kits are checked monthly and restocked as necessary. The defibrillator has had the batteries changed and new pads fitted.

Chairs: The blue chairs which were stored in the shed have gone to a new home in the community, 2 remain for Wivenhoe orchestra to use when they meet in the church.

Refuse bin: Permission was given by the PCC to Barrells café to site a refuse bin in the churchyard. We are allowed to place our refuse in the bin at no cost to us.

Photocopier: A donation was received from King Coel Kittens to allow us to purchase a new photocopier. The new copier is cheaper to run than the previous one.

War Memorial: A request had been received to add the name of Driver Cyril William Wyatt to the list on the war memorial. He died in action on 1st May 1945. Although this was approved by the PCC in June 2025 no more information has been received from Michael Smither who had made the initial approach.

Path around the perimeter of the Annexe: a donation of £1500 had been received from Wivenhoe Community Trust to cover the cost of installing steps outside the annexe double doors. Currently on hold. The donation will be ring fenced until a solution can be found. A path from the annexe patio to the south door has been put down by Peter Terry using material we already have.

Churchyard: Thanks go to Peter Terry who with the help of volunteers has done a magnificent job in the churchyard. Work started in earnest in 2024 with weeding and progressed to planting. Large areas of overgrown material were cleared and has resulted in various walls and areas on all sides of the church being opened up. Planting of bulbs, shrubs and wildflowers has been undertaken. This work is still ongoing and has made a big difference to the ambience of the churchyard. A wildflower section had been seeded and was moderately successful. It is hoped that 2026 will see a better showing of wildflowers.

An outside tap has been fixed to the south side of the annexe in order to provide convenient access to water for the gardeners.

Thanks also go to Wivenhoe Town Council team who mow the grass and carry out general maintenance during the year.

Church Noticeboard: The noticeboard was removed during the summer by Karl Douzier who kindly repaired and improved some elements before replacing it.
Churchwardens, Mary Jakens and Douglas McCormick

Health & Safety

There have been no health and safety issues in the period. The Health & Safety Overview and Fire Risk Assessment were reviewed and approved by the PCC in March 2025.

Safeguarding Report

- I have had two planned focussed face-to-face meetings with Erwin, numerous phone calls, emails and unplanned informal meetings, as always Erwin has given me much support, encouragement and advice.
- There have been one Safeguarding issue raised and dealt with this year. It demonstrated clear communication channels; prompt action with thorough and reflective outcomes. Everyone was communicated with appropriately, both electronically and verbally.
- Erwin and I have discussed on many occasions the log that the Diocese keep on individuals training. Names appear to move/disappear dependent on whether it is mine or Erwin's name that is clicked on. Erwin plans to discuss this with the Diocese Safeguarding Team this year. I have factual evidence to prove their lists are incomplete.
- Once more, we discussed the need for all PCC members to undertake Safeguarding training; this is a requirement from the Diocese. However, a much larger number of individuals have undertaken training in 2025.
- Both Erwin and myself received two emails from the Diocese Safeguarding Team alerting us to individuals (names were given) Erwin made some very subtle enquiries and was assured they had no connection to St Mary's.
- Erwin and I and on one occasion Mary have undertaken Safeguarding interviews for individuals wanting to be involved in Open the Book, The Way and Sunday Club.

- The Parish Safeguarding Dashboard was launched. This is a 'simple', tool to keep a track on Safeguarding and update local and national changes in Safeguarding requirements. A very successful meeting with Erwin, Bonnie, Mary and myself has taken place and another with Mary, Bonnie and myself will take place soon.
- I have attempted to contact the Diocese Safeguarding team by phone but a voice message alerted me to the fact communication is now by email with priority given to urgency.
- We have also discussed the Christingle Service, Children's Society and Harvest donations.

A big thank-you also to Bonnie for her knowledgeable, support and prompt answers to my enquiries.

It is of paramount importance to remember that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Gill Black, P.S.O

Secretary to the PCC Report

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. The PCC (Powers Measure 1956) states that "the PCC is to co-operate with the Minister in promoting in the Parish the whole Mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical." The PCC is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the church building of St Mary the Virgin, and for the "movables" in the church.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, co-opted, appointed, or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the 2020 Church Representation Rules. The following have served as members of the PCC during 2025

Incumbent	The Revd. Erwin Lammens Chairperson
Reader	Emeritus Professor Dr. Glyn Stanway
Churchwardens	Douglas McCormick Mary Jakens
Treasurer	Douglas McCormick
Secretary	Bonnie Hill
Deanery Synod Representatives	Rick Cawley Dr. Nick Gustard Heather Edwards
Elected Members	Hannah Cole Gary Ranford Sandra Osborne Sam Belcher David Harrison Gio Timms Bruno Martin Lucas Lucy Wadley Kerry Rooke

Since the last Annual Meeting, the PCC have met on 9 occasions. The PCC members above have worked together to ensure that St Marys Church continues to develop and grow both spiritually and within the local community.

The PCC receive monthly reports from not only the Treasurer, but also the Churchwardens, Fundraising Team, Catering Team, Fabric Group, Worship Group, our Colchester Deanery Synod representatives, Wivenhoe Churches Together, Health & Safety, Safeguarding, FOSM and information on the Children's Ministry, youth work and young adults. This gives an excellent view of what is current, what needs to be addressed and promotes discussion.

The Standing Committee meetings regularly prepare for the PCC meeting.

The PCC meeting minutes are available at the back of the Church, in a folder, or can be accessed from the St. Mary's Church website, if there are issues arising from the Minutes, or other matters, please do speak to a council member. PCC members continue to represent all those involved with Church life.

Bonnie Hill, PCC Secretary

Communication

OUR DIGITAL PRESENCE

Communication

Considerable changes are required to regularise the church's communication arrangements. I understand that discussion about this is scheduled for the February 2026 PCC meeting and look forward to hearing about developments at this APCM.

Contactless Giving

The contactless giving accounts with both SumUp and Give a Little are currently in my name. These should be transferred to the PCC as it should be the legal accounts holder.

Doing so will ensure future access to these account, independent of individual fortunes.

GDPR

An audit was carried out in January 2026. Returns received at the date of this report show that the requirements are well understood and observed.

Licensing

There is no change from last year.

The video licence is now better understood by those who need to know its provisions.

Marika Footring

TIDINGS

Erwin and I continue to meet up in person or by telephone, depending on our circumstances.

One advertiser (Business Time) has pulled out for 2026 and FSG has agreed to take a double advertisement. Advertising costs remain the same for 2025 (£120 for ten issues), the revenue for which covers all printing costs. The four-page content has continued and the number of flyers remains buoyant. We almost always have more than enough copy to exceed four pages, but not enough for eight. An increase in pages would entail more work and an increase in costs, neither of which is currently viable.

The final tides timetable appeared in the December 2025/January 2026 issue and we would like to say a huge thank you to John Williams for compiling this without fail every issue.

We are continuing to offer an editorial space in Tidings to as many contributors as possible. If there is not enough space then we try to include a flyer within the mailing envelope. This system now seems to be working very well, as long as I give Bonnie enough advance warning.

We have also continued to produce ten, rather than 12, issues per year to enable the rector, editor and designer to take annual leave. There is usually a limited amount of news around Christmas and summer holidays so it seems sensible to take a break at these times.

In 2025 Tidings has continued to be mailed out by PCC secretary Bonnie Hill and this will be the distribution system for the foreseeable future.

Erwin, Bob (our designer) and I have a robust working pattern in place, and I am grateful that contributors now seem confident in approaching me as much as Erwin. This eases the time pressures put on Erwin, and I can always rely on Bob to achieve the impossible with some of the pictures and copy!

As always, a huge personal thank you also goes to everyone who willingly helps out with photos and contributions, which makes my job as Tidings editor as straightforward as possible, and Tidings a popular publication within St Mary's and Wivenhoe in general.

Sue Clement, Editor

Treasurer

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The full accounts, which appear on pages 18 to 34 have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice and have been Independently Examined by Larking Gowen LLP, Chartered Accountants. Their certificate appears on page 17. Douglas McCormick, Treasurer

Aim and purposes

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St Marys. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and Scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; teaching Scripture; developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the church of St Marys and the environs.

Financial review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £129,860 of which £87,495 was unrestricted planned voluntary donations, including a Gift Aid figure of £13,698. Restricted grants and donations of £210 were also received.

It was good to see that the use of Gift Aid envelopes continues, although much reduced and the regular giving by standing order with gift aid is consistent throughout the year.

During the year, the total fund balances decreased from £202,457 in 2024 to £200,522 in 2025, of which £22,130 is restricted.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves (net current assets) which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £33,000. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The balance of the free reserves at the year end was £178,392 which is significantly higher than this target, largely due to legacies received over time. Currently £123,665 is held in the short term deposit fund with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund.

Achievements and performance

The achievements and performance of the church of St Mary's is set out on pages 35 to 44 of the Annual Report

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens, the reader and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC met 9 times during the year. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees, which include worship, mission and outreach, fabric and finance, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly, minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Administrative information

St. Mary's Church is situated on High Street, Wivenhoe, C07 9BD. It is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England. Registered charity number 1165660.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2025 are as detailed on page 12 of this Annual Report.

Address for correspondence:

16 Colchester Road Wivenhoe Colchester C079EU

The PCC's bankers:

Barclays Bank UK PLC Leicester LE87 2BB

Independent examiner of the PCC's accounts:

Larking Gowen LLP 1 Claydon Business Park Great Blakenham Ipswich IP6 0NL

Approved by the PCC on 10th March 2026 and signed on their behalf by the
Reverend Canon Erwin Lammens (PCC Chairman)



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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Independent examiner's report to the members of the Parochial Church Council ('the Trustees') of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wivenhoe ('the Charity')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wivenhoe ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 16 to 32.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed:



Dated: 27 March 2026

Giles Kerkham FCA DChA

Larking Gowen LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Claydon Business Park
Great Blakenham
Ipswich
IP6 0NL

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Incoming resources					
Voluntary income	2	87,495	210	87,705	95,931
Activities for generating funds	3	20,422	1,164	21,586	20,680
Income from investments	4	3,358	-	3,358	3,400
Church activities	5	18,585	-	18,585	21,227
Total incoming resources		129,860	1,374	131,234	141,238
Resources expended					
Costs of generating voluntary income	7	9,225	-	9,225	7,706
Church activities		123,178	766	123,944	132,893
Total expenditure		132,403	766	133,169	140,599
Net (expenditure)/income		(2,543)	608	(1,935)	639
Transfers between funds	12	26,189	(26,189)	-	-
Net movement in funds		23,646	(25,581)	(1,935)	639
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		154,746	47,711	202,457	201,818
Net movement in funds		23,646	(25,581)	(1,935)	639
Total funds carried forward		178,392	22,130	200,522	202,457

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 20 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025**

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
		-	-
Current assets			
Debtors	10	15,177	13,000
FOSM Current Account		11,098	10,490
Transformation Appeal Account		6,018	5,939
PCC Current Account		38,109	102,424
Short Term Deposits		123,665	53,665
Transformation Appeal Deposit Account		9,479	19,873
Cash at bank and in hand		188,369	192,391
Current assets		203,546	205,391
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(3,024)	(2,934)
Total net assets		200,522	202,457
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	12	22,130	47,711
Unrestricted funds	12	178,392	154,746
Total funds		200,522	202,457

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Rev Erwin Lammens



Mary Jakens



Date: 10 March 2026

The notes on pages 20 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011, and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members. The Friends of St Mary's and Wivenhoe St. Mary's Music Society have agreed with the PCC that they produce separate financial statements.

Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wivenhoe meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

1.2 Income

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

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Charity has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Charity, can be reliably measured.

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Grants are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to use of the resources, their ultimate receipts are considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are reliably quantifiable. Dividends are also accounted for when declared receivable, and interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid is recognised at the time of the donation.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.4 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

1.5 Consecrated and benefice property

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of 'charity' by Section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

1.6 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.7 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.8 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.9 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.10 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the PCC and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the PCC for particular purposes. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

2. Voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Planned giving:			
Gift aid donations	49,405	-	49,405
Income tax recoverable	13,698	-	13,698
Other	8	-	8
	63,111	-	63,111
Collections at all services (open plate)	7,580	-	7,580
Legacies	3,047	-	3,047
Grants	4,800	-	4,800
Sundry donations and appeals	8,957	210	9,167
	24,384	210	24,594
Subtotal			
	87,495	210	87,705
			87,705

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

2. Voluntary income (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Planned giving:			
Gift aid donations	57,828	-	57,828
Income tax recoverable	15,912	-	15,912
Other	991	-	991
	74,731	-	74,731
Collections at all services	8,443	-	8,443
Legacies	2,246	-	2,246
Grants	941	-	941
Sundry donations and appeals	8,013	1,557	9,570
	94,374	1,557	95,931

3. Activities for generating funds

Income from fundraising events

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Parish magazine (advertising)	518	-	518
June and December markets	3,810	-	3,810
Fundraising	16,094	1,164	17,258
Total 2025	20,422	1,164	21,586

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

3. Activities for generating funds (continued)

Income from fundraising events (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Parish magazine (advertising)	1,385	-	1,385
June and December markets	3,706	-	3,706
Fundraising	14,489	1,100	15,589
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>19,580</u>	<u>1,100</u>	<u>20,680</u>

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Dividends on CBF Investment Fund	-	-	704
Bank and CBF Deposit Fund Interest	3,358	3,358	2,696
	<u>3,358</u>	<u>3,358</u>	<u>3,400</u>

5. Income from Church activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Fees from weddings and funerals	7,816	7,816
Parish Magazine (sales)	370	370
Church lettings: local community use	8,579	8,579
Chaplaincy	1,820	1,820
Total 2025	<u>18,585</u>	<u>18,585</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

5. Income from Church activities (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Fees from weddings and funerals	12,734	-	12,734
Parish Magazine (sales)	20	-	20
Church lettings: local community use	6,862	1,611	8,473
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>19,616</u>	<u>1,611</u>	<u>21,227</u>

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Charitable Activities 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Church Activities	118,691	118,691	124,922
Missionary and charitable giving - Overseas	2,229	2,229	5,037
Governance Costs	3,024	3,024	2,934
	<u>123,944</u>	<u>123,944</u>	<u>132,893</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Church Activities 2025 £	Missionary and Charitable Giving Overseas 2025 £	Governance Costs 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Relief and Development Agencies	-	820	-	820
Home Missions	-	942	-	942
Secular Charities	-	467	-	467
Ministry Costs: Diocesan Parish Share	78,401	-	-	78,401
Other Ministry Costs	2,773	-	-	2,773
Church Maintenance	6,794	-	-	6,794
Church Running Expenses	11,529	-	-	11,529
Upkeep of Services	2,433	-	-	2,433
Organ and Organists	1,297	-	-	1,297
Vergers	432	-	-	432
Parish Magazine Costs	2,579	-	-	2,579
Assigned Fees to the Diocese	4,324	-	-	4,324
Administration	7,732	-	-	7,732
Bank Charges	397	-	-	397
Independent Examiner's remuneration	-	-	3,024	3,024
	<u>118,691</u>	<u>2,229</u>	<u>3,024</u>	<u>123,944</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs (continued)

	<i>Church Activities 2024 £</i>	<i>Missionary and Charitable Giving Overseas 2024 £</i>	<i>Governance Costs 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Relief and Development Agencies	-	900	-	900
Home Missions	-	3,362	-	3,362
Secular Charities	-	775	-	775
Ministry Costs: Diocesan Parish Share	76,909	-	-	76,909
Other Ministry Costs	2,055	-	-	2,055
Church Maintenance	4,539	-	-	4,539
Church Running Expenses	15,659	-	-	15,659
Upkeep of Services	2,702	-	-	2,702
Organ and Organists	2,670	-	-	2,670
Vergers	690	-	-	690
Major Repairs: Structural Renewal	7,888	-	-	7,888
Parish Magazine Costs	2,785	-	-	2,785
Assigned Fees to the Diocese	4,966	-	-	4,966
Administration	3,560	-	-	3,560
Bank Charges	499	-	-	499
Including Independent Examiner's remuneration	-	-	2,934	2,934
	<u>124,922</u>	<u>5,037</u>	<u>2,934</u>	<u>132,893</u>

7. Expenditure on raising funds

Generation of Voluntary Income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Fundraising costs	<u>9,225</u>	<u>9,225</u>	<u>7,706</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

7. Expenditure on raising funds (continued)

8. Independent examiner's remuneration

	2025 £	2024 £
Fees payable to the Charity's independent examiner for the independent examination of the Charity's annual accounts	<u>2,520</u>	<u>2,445</u>

9. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 December 2025, expenses totalling £2593 were reimbursed or paid direct to 1 Trustee (2024 - £1,617 to 1 Trustee). These were in relation to the Trustees expenses incurred as their role as the incumbent.

10. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Debtors less than one year		
Accrued income	927	-
Tax recoverable	<u>14,250</u>	<u>13,000</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

11. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals and deferred income	<u>3,024</u>	<u>2,934</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

12. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Sunday Club	3,654	1,705	-	-	5,359
Designated legacy funds	42,246	3,047	-	(30,000)	15,293
Roof fund	-	-	-	60,000	60,000
Bell	-	-	-	12,245	12,245
Choir	-	-	-	800	800
Fabric - General	-	1,162	-	4,520	5,682
Flower	-	-	-	719	719
Maintenance	-	-	-	2,535	2,535
Organ	-	-	-	370	370
	<u>45,900</u>	<u>5,914</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,189</u>	<u>103,003</u>
General funds					
General	<u>108,846</u>	<u>123,946</u>	<u>(132,403)</u>	<u>(25,000)</u>	<u>75,389</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>154,746</u>	<u>129,860</u>	<u>(132,403)</u>	<u>26,189</u>	<u>178,392</u>
Restricted funds					
Bell	12,245	-	-	(12,245)	-
Choir	800	-	-	(800)	-
Fabric - General	9,520	-	-	(9,520)	-
Fabric - Ashton Legacy	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Flower	719	-	-	(719)	-
FOSM	10,490	1,374	(766)	-	11,098
Maintenance	2,535	-	-	(2,535)	-
Organ	370	-	-	(370)	-
Wiv St Mary's Music Society	1,032	-	-	-	1,032
	<u>47,711</u>	<u>1,374</u>	<u>(766)</u>	<u>(26,189)</u>	<u>22,130</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

12. Statement of funds (continued)

Total of funds	202,457	131,234	(133,169)	-	200,522
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The transfer of £26,189 from restricted funds reflects a funds review concluding that those balances have been internally earmarked to designated purposes rather than restricted.

The transfer of £60,000 to the designated roof fund reflects the Trustees decision to set aside £30,000 of legacy designated funds and £30,000 of general funds for the future roof project.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

12. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	<i>Balance at 1 January 2024 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 December 2024 £</i>
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Designated legacy funds	40,000	2,246	-	-	42,246
Roof fund	2,779	875	-	-	3,654
	<u>42,779</u>	<u>3,121</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,900</u>
General funds					
General	<u>72,493</u>	<u>133,849</u>	<u>(140,034)</u>	<u>42,538</u>	<u>108,846</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>115,272</u>	<u>136,970</u>	<u>(140,034)</u>	<u>42,538</u>	<u>154,746</u>
Restricted funds					
Bell	12,105	140	-	-	12,245
Choir	800	-	-	-	800
Fabric - General	4,964	-	-	4,556	9,520
Fabric - Ashton Legacy	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Flower	719	-	-	-	719
FOSM	9,745	1,310	(565)	-	10,490
Maintenance	2,535	-	-	-	2,535
Transformation Project	40,663	-	-	(40,663)	-
Organ	370	-	-	-	370
Wiv St Mary's Music Society	4,645	2,818	-	(6,431)	1,032
	<u>86,546</u>	<u>4,268</u>	<u>(565)</u>	<u>(42,538)</u>	<u>47,711</u>
Total of funds	<u><u>201,818</u></u>	<u><u>141,238</u></u>	<u><u>(140,599)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>202,457</u></u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

13. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2025 £
Designated funds	45,900	5,914	-	51,189	103,003
General funds	108,846	123,946	(132,403)	(25,000)	75,389
Restricted funds	47,711	1,374	(766)	(26,189)	22,130
	<u>202,457</u>	<u>131,234</u>	<u>(133,169)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>200,522</u>

Summary of funds - prior year

	<i>Balance at 1 January 2024 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 December 2024 £</i>
Designated funds	42,779	3,121	-	-	45,900
General funds	72,493	133,849	(140,034)	42,538	108,846
Restricted funds	86,546	4,268	(565)	(42,538)	47,711
	<u>201,818</u>	<u>141,238</u>	<u>(140,599)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>202,457</u>

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Current assets	181,416	22,130	203,546
Creditors due within one year	(3,024)	-	(3,024)
Total	<u>178,392</u>	<u>22,130</u>	<u>200,522</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

14. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Current assets	157,680	47,711	205,391
Creditors due within one year	(2,934)	-	(2,934)
Total	154,746	47,711	202,457

15. Related party transactions

During the year, Mary Jakens was paid fees in her role as Verger for a total of £252 (2024: £690). Rick Cawley was also paid fees in his role as Verger for a total of £60 (2024: £nil). Both Mary and Rick were Trustees during the year.

All Together Worship

This year has been a busy year for the All Together team. Erwin took up his new role at St Barnabas in Od Heath so the 'All Together' team took on more of a role in leading the services. This has been a big learning curve for myself in how a service is structured and which parts can be lead by myself/or other members of the team/and young people. Erwin has been remarkably patient when I have made faux pas or misunderstood what he has wanted me to do.

Now that we have 'The Way group' this was a perfect opportunity to have more involvement with our older younger people in delivering the services. I was able to meet with 'The Way' before each of the 'All Together' services and the children could practise their part in the service as well as being able to include the Sunday club children too. I took on different roles presiding as well as preaching and reading. I have also tried to include different members of our congregation so that it is not just the young leading but an opportunity for members of the church to work together. This is something we are still developing and varies according to the focus of the service that month. Along with the All -Together services the team have lead both Harvest and Mothers' Day services which includes the involvement of the local schools. It has been wonderful to see the growing confidence and involvement in our young people who are I hope now able to feel fully part of St Mary's. The February 'All Together' Candlemas was well attended by our young people and their leaders and the congregation who fed back to me afterwards their very positive comments

Hannah Cole

Bellringers Report

We have been ringing regularly for Sunday services and have held our Wednesday practice evenings each week. There has been the occasional Wednesday when the bells were silent, as several of us were away on holiday, or not available that day. We are pleased to report that bell ringing at St Mary's is still as strong and popular as ever and we have a good team of dedicated bell ringers, however we would always welcome some new faces. We do of course ring for weddings, a rather rare occurrence now, and tolling for funerals is also offered.

We have also participated in ringing for Wivenhoe community events. We rang to celebrate VE Day in May, welcomed St Nicholas to St Mary's in December, and for the great "Switching on of the Christmas Lights" ceremony as part of the Christmas Market.

During the year another returning bell ringer has joined us and is now a much valued and regular member of our team.

Our contact with the University of Essex is not as strong as last year, however the student who graduated last year is now part of our team, and she is proactive in trying to promote ringing to other students at the University.

Several of us regularly attend practices organised within our local District of bellringers, such as the Young Ringers for those aged under 25, and which facilitates progression for our younger members in their ringing career.

Some of us are also actively involved with assisting with training courses, run by the Essex Association of Change Ringers, which helps to continue the art of campanology.

It is over 25 years since the bells were restored, and there is some work that will need to be undertaken, the paintwork on the metal parts is starting to deteriorate and will need to be refreshed in the not-too-distant future. The bells themselves are not painted and are in good condition and are checked regularly for wear and tear.

Adrienne Wood

Café Chill

We have been running the cafe in the annexe since 2022. It usually happens on the 3rd Sunday of the month directly following coffees after the service. We don't usually have one in March if it coincides with mothering Sunday, or December. The intention is to welcome members of the community into the annexe and provide a calm, friendly and affordable place for people to come on a Sunday afternoon. There is a book lending table with Christian themed books and CD's but

also a selection of novels and books of other interests. Music plays in the background and there are games provided for those who wish to play such as scrabble, Uno and chess. Hot drinks and cakes are on sale for £1 & £1.50. It is a warm place to come with free WiFi! All charges are technically a donation and no one will be turned away if they don't have quite enough or have forgotten their purse! The card donation machine is often used. Some days are quiet, others busy. In May we supported open gardens which was a busy one. Other than that, over the year we welcomed 78 people.

Donations of cakes are always welcome, see Teresa.

Teresa Warren

Catering Report

This has been another successful year. In May we organised refreshments on the Saturday of Open Gardens with generous donations of cakes and again at the Summer Fair and ran a barbecue at Scruffs.

Tickets for our main events....Lammas Day Barbecue, Strawberry and Pimms Garden Party and Christmas Candlelit Supper all sold well, and it was good to see more young people attending.

A special thank you goes to the Wadley family for their very generous donation of small tea tables and for inviting us into their stunning garden for the Strawberry and Pimms event.

Another new addition to the catering calendar is breakfast, following communion on the first Sunday of the month, which is proving successful.

As always, we are in urgent need for more volunteers to help with events.

Susan Potter, Catering Team Leader

Cleaning Team Report

The loyal members on the Church cleaning rota continue to work reliably and to a good standard. Unfortunately, owing to the loss of a number of these members throughout 2025, we have had to reduce the frequency of cleaning the Chancel to once a fortnight.

Clearly, the recruitment of more personnel would be helpful going forward.

Sandra Osborne

Churches Together Wivenhoe

24 March 2025

Appointment of Chairperson

It was discussed that as it stands it is the turn of a member of the clergy to take the Chair.

Fr Erwin will contact the other Clergy by email (or raise at Ministers Fellowship Meeting) to see who would be willing to take on this role.

Lent Lunch

It was a great success, and it was felt that the more vigorous advertising paid dividends as there were lots more people attending. £200 was raised to be split between Cafod and Christian Aid

Lent Film This event was also a success as those that did attend, although few in number, really did enjoy the very thought-provoking film 'The Rose of Auschwitz'

Good Friday Walk of Witness - 18th April 2025 start time 10.30am.

Good Friday Service at St. Monica's - 11am 18th April 2025

Ten Commandments Artwork Florence Leader's artwork was displayed during Lent in St. Mary's.

Pentecost Celebrations This will be held at St. Mary's in the Annex at 12noon on June 8th 2025. Cake and tea/coffee will be on offer and the CTW Covenant will be signed at this event.

Celebration of 1700 years of the Nicene Creed An outdoor event was planned in the Park on 15th June in the afternoon

Monday 19th May 2025

Appointment of Chairperson. Father Mark was appointed with Fr. Erwin willing to act as vice-Chairman if the need arises. Fr. Mark will take up this role at the next meeting.

Why do we celebrate the Nicene Creed? The Nicene Creed originally dates from the year 325 when it was agreed by the First Council of Nicaea. Part of the purpose of developing the creed was to give expression to the understanding of God as Trinity. This means that Christians believe in one God in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Nicene Creed is the most widely accepted creed in the Christian faith, used by many denominations. It is a reminder of the common faith we share - both with Christians around the world today and throughout history with all those who have affirmed these words over the last seventeen centuries.

Hannah's Ordination will be at the end of June and we all extend our congratulations to her. Sara will be celebrating her last service in Wivenhoe on the 22nd June and will be Licensed to her new Parish on 22nd July and we also extend our congratulations to her.

Monday 8th September 2025

Joint Christmas Card. Phil Bingham agreed to coordinate the venture. It was decided that we should use the new design that Fr Erwin had been chasing for the front of the card.

It was agreed that the joint celebration held in the Annexe of St. Mary's to celebrate Pentecost was a great success bringing people together to meet existing friends and make new ones!

Monday 17th November 2025

Remembrance Service

This was a beautiful service. It was decided that next year we will have one wreath to represent Churches Together in Wivenhoe with one person chosen from the steering group to take it up flanked by representatives from each church.

It was also decided that Phil would collect donations, and we would donate to the British Legion as one. The Joint Christmas card has been printed, thanks to the hard work of Phil in collating all the information. Everyone agreed that the design of the card was beautiful and would certainly catch people's attention. It was agreed to send Lucy Wadley a thank you note.

The Guides agreed to take on the huge job of delivering the cards to each home in Wivenhoe and we all expressed our thanks. Tom had taken tubs of sweets to give the Guides as a token of our appreciation.

Carols on the Quay will be held on December 21st 6pm (at St Mary's if we have inclement weather!) Risk assessment and Insurance was raised, and Fr Erwin explained that this is why it is put forward as an event organised by St. Mary's in partnership with Churches Together in Wivenhoe so that it is covered by their insurance and risk assessments.

This will be preceded by an acting out of the Nativity around the town starting at 4pm

After a presentation given by Lucy Stevens about the work that the charity Growing Hope does it was enthusiastically decided to take this on as our local charity to support with the money raised at the Carols on the Quay event. It was also decided because there is much work to be done, to continue supporting Embrace the Middle East as our international charity.

Dates for 2026 to note in diaries

Lent Lunch - Wednesday 25th February at the Methodist Church 12 Noon

Lent Film - Friday 13th March 7.30pm at St. Mary's - 'Bonhoeffer'

Bible Course - Starts 24th February 8 sessions Tuesdays 7-9pm St. Mary's Annexe.

Good Friday Walk of Witness - 3rd April start time 10.30am.

Good Friday Service Congregational Church - 11am 3rd April 2026

Pentecost Celebrations - at St. Mary's in the Annexe at 12.15pm on May 24th 2026.

Environmental Report

During the past year at St Marys we are working towards forming an Environmental Policy to declare the Church's commitment to engage with creation and take action to address climate change and protect the environment. The policy will be shared with the church when it has been agreed in the next few months. Within the policy are targets for the church collectively to strive towards.

The policy is the first step for St Marys to participate in the Eco Church award scheme. St Marys has registered for Eco Church which uses surveys to identify how current practices in the church support the commitment to care for and protect the Earth. The surveys are currently being

completed and St Marys is aiming to achieve the bronze award as a starting level for the Eco Church award.

Jane Taylor

Film Night

Once a month on a Tuesday at 7pm, we host a small friendly film night in the Annexe. We ask for a small suggested donation of £2.50 towards refreshments. The film starts no later than 7.15pm. We aim to have films with subtitles. Films include a variety of themes including those about faith, true stories, inspiring films or ones to make you think, laugh or cry! In 2025 we had 56 people attending.

The films were- Fireproof, One life, Phantom of the open, The List King, Soul Surfer, Goodnight Mister Tom The Five People you meet in Heaven, Finding your feet, The Green book, and King of Kings.

Teresa Warren

Flower Report

We have had a busy year with ambitious displays for Easter, Open Gardens, Harvest and Christmas. Because flowers are becoming increasingly expensive we aim to keep the displays going for as long as possible. It is estimated that St. Mary's has benefitted from about £800 worth of flowers over the year. This is not reflected in the Church Accounts, as significant donations of flowers have been made, some by the flower team, and on various occasions for family celebrations and in memory of loved ones.

When appropriate, flowers are purchased from Andy, at Creative Flowers, Stanley Road, Bodsworth Flowers (Lawford) and recently from a dried flower supplier, who grows them in Ardeleigh, but lives in Wivenhoe.

For two week-ends of the year we benefited from thought provoking Remembrance displays from the RBL and the WI.

The young, and the not so young, again enjoyed Hilary Wadley's imaginative displays around the font for Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

Our team is diminishing, and sadly this year, we unexpectedly said 'good-bye' to Tim, Gill's partner, who regularly supplied us with greenery from his garden and joined us in church for coffee. Gill and Carol Mitchell did some very appropriate flowers for his funeral both inside the church and in the porch, which lasted several weeks and were donated by Gill.

Sue Potter has deserted us for Lavenham and Trish is no longer able to help us on a regular basis.

As we move into 2026 with a much reduced team we hope others will join us.

Jen, Gill, Hilary W and Margaret

Friendly Club & Café

The Friendly Club

We celebrated the Friendly Club's 4th birthday in August. As is usual, we had about 40 paying members every week who each pay £2 per session. This is split 50/50 with half going to the Church and the other half retained by the Friendly Club towards the cost of refreshments, including biscuits, cost of paying entertainers and weekly hire of the 'Munty' bus. During the 2025 year, the Church's share of the door takings was £1,903.

There are quite a few people we expect to see every week, and then there are a lot who come every now and again. If everyone came who has ever come in the last year or so, we would have over 90 people present.



We are grateful to our wonderful team of some 30 volunteers, many of whom come every week, and who run the reception desk, or make and serve unlimited mugs of tea and coffee during our Thursday afternoons, and some who just sit at tables and encourage the chatter.

We are all extremely grateful to Morag Willis who continues to be willing to drive the 'Munty' bus for us to collect a full bus load of people each week. Sadly, Ann Hanagan felt the need to give up assisting Morag each week on health grounds, whilst a friend of Morag's, Jane Annear, or Amanda Francis, a regular volunteer, take it in turns to help her.

Jan Sinclair has now put together a small group to focus on ensuring we have some entertainment every month, as well as people like Joe from the Microgym to get everybody doing some simple exercises for half an hour every month. Margaret Miller and Stella Amos regularly help Jan Sinclair to also play the piano so that at each session we always have music.

We often have quizzes at which we generally get people who sit at the various tables to complete the questions as a team; this encourages people to talk to each other.

It is sad when someone dies, and there do seem to have been lots of people who we have lost in the last 12 months. In some ways, that is inevitable when we have so many older people who come to the Friendly Club.

We do seem to get someone new people turn up at each of our sessions which is obviously a good sign.

The Wivenhoe Dementia Support Group which, with the PCC, is a joint sponsor of the Friendly Club. It had a third attempt to become a registered charity mid-2025 but the Charity Commission pointed out that whilst we assisted people with dementia and their carers, we weren't exclusively helping those people and therefore declined to agree to our application. We have since agreed we did not want to make any changes to what we do to help people in Wivenhoe or to raise money for The Alzheimer's Society.

The Committee of the Dementia Support Group also sponsors the mobile phone costs of Diane Kilgour and Bev Strutt who have a phone that people can call to seek help or advice. Both of these ladies come to the Friendly Club sessions to get to know our members. They also vet the homes of people who call Morag wanting a lift to make sure there are no undue risks to collecting these people. They also make visits to people to offer help and advice, and in the last year have helped about 25 people.

Peter Hill, Chair, Wivenhoe Dementia Support Group, joint sponsors with St Mary's Church PCC of the Friendly Club & Café.

Friends of St Mary's Report

FOSM has had another steady year of sales. We took our table to the Nearly New Sale followed by the June Market and then to Church on Regatta Day before moving on to Scruffs and finally the Christmas Market. Each event had its own flavour and was very enjoyable.

My sincere thanks to Maureen, Enid and Jane who helped. Thanks also go to Wyvern Stores who have a constant supply of FOSM goods for sale.

Vivien and Bill Eborn

Fundraising Report

This past year we took on a new challenge in the spring of introducing a **PRE-LOVED EVENT** in April. This was mostly aimed at Books and Clothing. The number of items that showed up on the day was truly amazing and the feedback was good. More tables for St Mary's were needed. Can we do one for Babies and Children's Items? Therefore, at the time of writing we are working on putting together another such event for 2026, aimed at this time for items for Babies and small children Key Stage 2 (up to 12 years of age).

THE JUNE MARKET. 7th June. This year we had the Peter Terry doing a most excellent job of developing the Garden Stall and raised an extraordinary amount for St Mary's. We also had the town mayor in attendance, Jon Guy, who was very good at meeting and greeting the stall holders as well as the amazing folk from Wivenhoe and the surrounding villages. This was also the first

time we tried the use of Hampers instead of lots and lots of Raffle Prizes. This proved to be a big hit; and we have continued to produce some amazing Hampers at each event, thanks to the generosity of the Wivenhoe folk.

It had to happen. Rain. **LAMMAS DAY** on 19th July, but it did not damp the spirit of those attending and it turned out to be a marvelous and happy occasion. Susan Potter and her team arranged all the food and the BBQ, Nick Gustard did his traditional curry (and veg Curry) with rice which was very welcome on such a day. Umbrellas did not stay up for long. The Lammas day loaf arrived on time and was blessed by Rev Erwin. Although the event was not advertised as a fund raiser, we sold a lot of tickets for the event to have knowledge of numbers expected, this was really welcomed by the whole parish of St Mary's.

Next up came **SCRUFFS DOG EVENT** on 6th September. This too had become an annual event even before and after C19. Although the number of dogs registering was down, the footfall was down and the number of stalls promoting dog items was also down. Once we had the 'wash-up' meeting it was decided not to run this event for the following year. This gave us scope to develop a new type of fundraising event to be planned; so, ideas are still welcome please.

The very next day, 7th September, I saw the sun shining and we celebrated the end of summer with a **STRAWBERRIES AND PIMMS EVENT**. We also celebrated the notable birthday of our organist Graham Wadley. Sadly, our much-used double gazebo needed an emergency repair which was carried out on the spot to save the day; replacement parts have now been purchased. Strawberries and pimm's was a wonderful event for families and friends. This was also supported by the local Madrigal singers who sang a special song just for Graham. The Wadley family kindly allowed us to use their back garden for this amazing event, which really did pull together so many from the community as well as those who know Graham.

The annual **CHRISTMAS MARKET** was tough going as the cold dark rain loomed again. The previous two years we had faced strong winds and storms and only just survived with no injuries or damage to stock. Naturally, everyone wanted to be inside the church and Annex. Bookings were soon taken up and the waiting list developed. We did have two hardy stall holders braving the rain. The health and safety officer was keen to make sure they were secured and well lit up. They both reported good takings and worth their efforts. Inside it was very busy and trading was fast. Again, the Madrigal singers performed for us and a certain Mr Santa Claus also dropped in to receive letters from the children. The queue to enter the church was amazing and it was pleasing to see all the hard work come into fruition. The gift stall was redesigned for a faster set up and this worked very well indeed, thanks again to Peter and Sandra Terry. The total sum raised was excellent.

We have also now developed an audit of skills database for helpers; this has already proved useful and will continue to do so in the year ahead.

Heather Edwards, Fundraising Team Leader

Lectio Divina Report

Lectio Divina is a small group meeting at 7, West Quay on the last Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm.

Those attending take it in turn monthly, and prior to the meeting ,to choose a passage of Scripture. This is then read several times at the meeting and people are invited to comment on how the passage relates to their life and what they have learnt from it. Prayer, silent or spoken, relating to comments made , closes the evening.

Erwin shares Communion with the group at Easter and Christmas. This is a joyful occasion and much appreciated.

If you are interested in joining the group please speak to Erwin.

Blessings. Ann Evershed.

Men's Group

WATER RAIL MENS GROUP. We have had a very good year, although we have not done very much except talk. This has helped with our relationships of course. We did have one day out to bowling at Clacton which Erwin attended. It was interesting to see the reactions of the players, and notice that there was no obvious triumphalism if you know what I mean. Numbers have remained steady at six having gained one this year. We look forward to 2026 and pray for our friends, and those that might join us. As before we remain open for ideas from anyone as to things to do, let's hope for a good summer.

Chris Amos

Music at St Mary's Report

A year of difficulty as we struggled with my health issues, but greatly supported by various people we managed to keep the music going. Special thanks to Hilary Cook and John Dowden who have been a great support and covering sometimes unpredictable requirements.

Sunday services have continued largely as normal, but with more occasional use of the piano particularly at the All Together Services. John Dowden has played the organ regularly and Hilary Cook and Geoff Osborne have covered with the piano.

Two Taize services were held with thanks to the instrumentalists who join to make these services so meaningful – Hilary, Nina, Karen and Jonny.

St Mary's Singers presented high standard programmes of music for Good Friday and Remembrance, the latter being rehearsed and conducted by Hilary Cook. John Dowden accompanied the rehearsals and the soloists were drawn from within the group. John Rippin as always accompanied on the night and added some organ pieces to the programmes.

Attendance for the Remembrance event was very poor and this needs to be considered for the SMS Autumn event in 2026.

SMS led the Carol Service which had a good mix of congregational and choir carols. Sir John Rutter, now in his 80th year, is always popular.

Inclement weather impacted on Carols on The Quay which moved to the church with still a large attendance. Geoff Osborne conducted the band and Pam Garland arranged the music with great support from the many instrumentalists who regularly form The Band.

Johnson Organ Builders did a very thorough job for their first tuning of the organ since taking over from Peter de Ville.

Thanks to everyone who supported our musical efforts through the last difficult year.

Graham Wadley, Director of Music

Open Gardens

Open Gardens 2025 was held over the weekend of 17th /18th May. We had nice weather that weekend and in consequence we had 730 visitors go around the 33 gardens. Some of the gardeners also provided nice teas which contributed to the £1,099 made from refreshments, of which half came from the selling of refreshments by a team at the Church.

A further £660 was made from the sale of plants, books, plus commissions on paintings of £130 which Jonathan Hawkins from the Old Grocer gallery generously donated to the fund.

So, the weekend grossed £5,422 and after expenses of £422, we were able to declare a net profit of £5,000. This sum was split 50/50 with The Wivenhoe Society, which shared it with 26 Wivenhoe organisations, and the Church's Fabric Fund.

All of the money was given out at a Garden Party at Toad Hall held 10th August and attended by the organising team, many of the gardeners and organisations receiving money.

Peter Hill, Chair, Wivenhoe Open Gardens

OPEN GARDENS 2025

Saturday 17th May / Sunday 18th May



Pastoral Report

Under the Guidance of Erwin Lammens and leadership of Gill Strudwick.

Supported by Volunteers Jackie Hopkins and Chris Amos. At our last meeting of the group on February 3rd. 2026, our team confirmed that they can be identified by wearing a purple lanyard when visiting people in their home. Unfortunately, since my last annual report Mary and Rosie have had to leave the group due to health reasons.

In the October Tidings an article 'Looking after Each Other' included a section about our Pastoral group and our work in the community. It highlighted that I was stepping down from my role as leader of this group but that I would be willing to support the person who volunteers. At this point in time no person has volunteered but I am still leading the group until May 2026. We are also looking for volunteers to help as part of the team.

At our meetings I share confidential information with Erwin and the group and try to keep everyone up to date with the agencies that can help vulnerable people. Many people live in our community without their family nearby to support them.

I volunteer at the Friendly Club where lonely people and those with dementia are welcome. Members of the pastoral group are also involved with other groups helping vulnerable people in our community.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday May 5th at 2.30pm at the Rectory. Please come along if you are interested in our work.

Gill Strudwick

St Mary's Link with Uganda

St Mary's has a link with the equivalent of the Women's Institute in Namalemba. Through them those in need are identified. Rachel Butterfield and her partner Livingstone who live in Kenya are our contact point. Rachel is originally from Tiptree in Essex and Livingstone has relatives in Namalemba and so the links are strong and the accountability for all funds sent to them are impeccable.

The Christmas Charity 2024 donations from St. Mary's were sent in two amounts. The second was sent in early 2025. As a result, Livingstone took a live chicken and 2kg of maize (corn) seeds, and 2kg of bean seeds to each of the families in March 2025. This helps the beneficiaries to plant and grow a harvest over the rainy months both for subsistence and selling, as well as having the chicken to rear for eggs and meat in the future. In 2025 Namalemba was again the Christmas Charity and with the first tranche of money basins of blessings were distributed just before Christmas. The basins contained luxuries such as pasta, fresh goats meat, cooking oil, and other staples. A series of photographs showing the recipients of the food and live stock was shown to the congregation before the morning service in the March and November.

Heather Edwards was our conduit to Rachel but has recently stepped down and a replacement is sought. If anyone is interested in taking on this task please speak to The Rector or PCC Secretary.

St Mary's Music Society

During 2025 we organised 6 concerts of a varied nature and provided a wine bar for the concert arranged by the group, Opus Anglicanum. This concert was amazing and they sold out several weeks ahead of the concert date; in the end they sold tickets for the choir stalls at half price because of the restricted view these people would get.

These varied concerts have ranged from a very successful Sea Shanty evening with three groups, to an ABBA tribute band which made a reasonable profit.

From these 6 concerts, plus profits on the sale of wines, we made a net profit of £2,066 after paying £250 fees to PRS and £167 to Making Music for public liability insurance.

The net profit is a contribution towards the Fabric Fund of the Church.

My thanks go to the team of helpers who help on the night of each concert in various ways.

Peter Hill, Chair, Wivenhoe St Mary's Music Society.



Sunday Club Report

The Sunday club is supported and run by 7 volunteers. Teresa is the co-ordinator and is joined by Hannah, Ceri, Louise, Cora Marise and Sue. Marise joined the team at the end of the year and we said farewell to a previous volunteer, Heather.

The Sunday club continues to grow and we have a core group of regular children. Some new additions have filled the gaps as the older ones have started to attend The Way instead. We are gradually developing the toys and resources and introducing a variety of activities rather than only arts and crafts. Our annual Easter workshop took place and was well attended. It started with a short Easter film and plenty of activities for the children including free refreshments in the Annexe. The Nativity play was put together by Hannah and Hilary with Sue, and other volunteers supporting. It was followed by a party in the annexe where Marise took the lead on games before we served up party food. All children received a gift bag. On Sunday 28th December in the afternoon we used the large screen for a family screening of 'King of Kings'.

For the year ahead we are going to organise Sunday club by using a visual timetable with the children to help with consistency of the routine and their understanding of what we are doing. We will be having 2 young leaders helping from The Way and will be updating our toys and resources in the Sunday club corner too. To make contact or share ideas please email Teresa wivstmaryssundayclub@gmail.com

We hope for more children and volunteers to join us in 2026.

Teresa Warren

The Way Report

The Way has experienced change throughout 2025 with new leaders, day and time. This has been challenging but has also led to new and exciting things to come.

Our group has a regular 7 to 12 members which we have been building on with some new members joining too.

We have been raising money for the church but also for the young people themselves to use towards activities they wish to do as a team. This has meant that they have raised enough money so far to book a laser quest party which will be arranged for early 2026!!

The members have been creative but also have had team building games to help bring them together as a whole avoiding groups who always stick together.

Looking ahead we plan to get out into the community helping with the church grounds and also litter picking within Wivenhoe.

We have introduced times to talk about what meaning of words like "faith" "worship" and "prayer" mean to the young people hoping to answer questions they have about anything to do with the church and life as a whole.

My team and the young people are looking forward to 2026 so we can expand and have a real presence on the community and the church.

Kerry Rooke

Wivenhoe Baby & Toddler Group Report

The Wivenhoe Toddler Group has enjoyed another successful year, although attendance numbers have still fluctuated over the course of the year. We would like more families to join us, as rising costs mean that some weeks, we do not cover our outgoings. We have chosen again, not to increase the weekly attendance fee, as we are committed to keeping the group accessible to everyone.

Each session follows the same format. Activities include role play, construction, craft, a dedicated book corner, and baby area caters for a range of ages and interests. We continue to provide snacks for the children and hot drinks for the adults, creating a sociable and comfortable atmosphere. Sessions conclude with a singing time, which is always enjoyed by all attendees.

Our annual summer party, held in the Rectory garden, was a success and was very well attended. Similarly, our Christmas party, held in the hall, made a fitting end to the year.

In January, Judy Murray and Christine Ward joined the leadership team, which is greatly appreciated but sadly, one of our stalwart helpers, Alison Marshall has now had to leave us after many years due to work commitments, and she will be greatly missed by us all. We do have four ladies who help on a rota with the refreshments, which helps keep the group running smoothly. The group is open to everyone; it is not solely for mothers. We are pleased to welcome several grandparents who bring their grandchildren, a few fathers, and a couple of childminders, reflecting the diversity of our community.

Looking ahead, we hope that attendance numbers remain steady, as it is vital for the ongoing viability of the group. We firmly believe that the Wivenhoe Toddler Group continues to be an asset to the town, and we are committed to ensuring it remains a valued part of the community for many years to come.

Vanessa Reed

Worship Group Report

Bible based preaching and teaching, liturgy, prayer and worship are in the DNA of St Mary's. A large group of volunteers support Sunday and midweek services and occasional pastoral services such as baptisms, weddings and funerals.

We have seen a growing number of young people on Sundays, from toddlers and primary school age children, to teenagers and University students. The missing generation of adults in their 30s and 40s is now represented by a small but noteworthy group who joined during the year.

Young people are catered for by the Sunday Club and The Way leaders. After the service the coffee team brews a nice cuppa or prepares breakfast on first Sundays, when we have Communion at 9am and All Together at 11am.

We continue to offer a pattern of worship with diverse services: BCP Communion and Evensong, Common Worship morning prayer (Matins) and Eucharist, All Together, midweek reflection and services at special occasions including civic and joint Churches Together services. For the Bible lessons we follow the Lectionary as much as we can and observe the major festivals in the church calendar. Prayers and readings are prepared and read by volunteers.

Our musical tradition is supported by our small but invaluable Sunday choir. Our director of music and organist Graham Wadley oversees the musical aspect of Sunday worship and organises the programme for Remembrance Sunday and Good Friday St Mary's Singers. John Dowden and Hilary Cook have occasionally covered for Graham on the organ or piano. In September we celebrated Graham's 60th year on the organ at St Mary's. This must be a record.

Because of our Rector's new appointment at St Barnabas' Old Heath as priest-in-charge our pattern and service times had to change from 1 July. Statistics show that the new times for Sunday services have attracted more people.

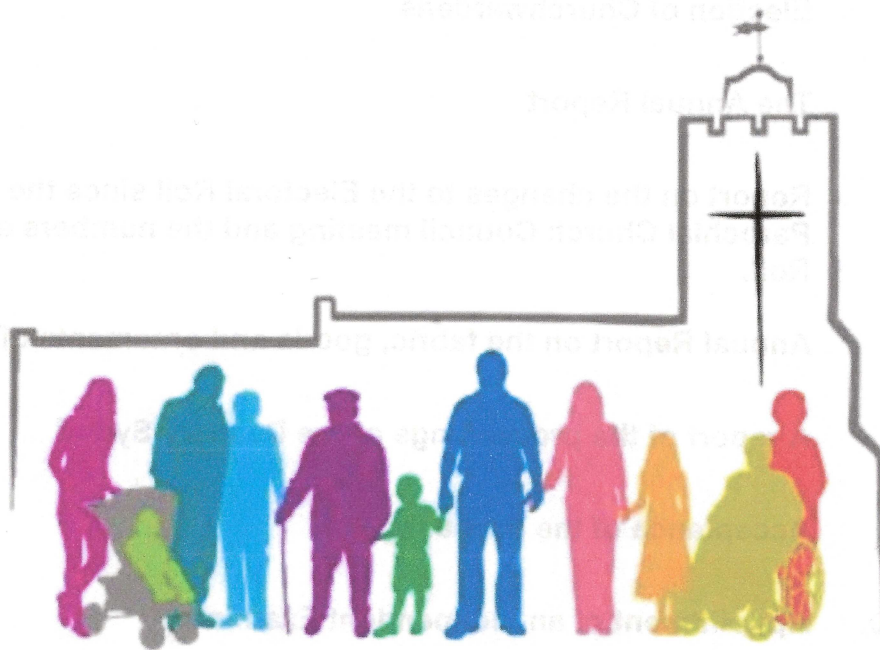
Worship is not just the responsibility of the Rector, Associate Priest, Reader, Authorised Local Preacher, prayer leaders at the 7 past 7, organists, pianists and choir members, churchwardens and vergers. All of us have the responsibility to create a prayerful atmosphere and a welcoming ethos at the church services.

Despite the group of volunteers, the many Sunday rotas still have a few gaps which need to be filled. We hope that in 2026 people may come forward to join one of the rotas or the choir. With everyone's help we will be able to continue to celebrate, pray and worship God in the Parish church of Wivenhoe.

Accounts

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT 2024



St. Mary's PCC, Wivenhoe
Registered Charity Number 1165660

**The Annual Parochial Church meeting will take place
on Sunday 11th May 2025 at 12 noon in church.**

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2024**
- 3. Election of members to the Parochial Church Council**
- 4. Election of Churchwardens**
- 5. The Annual Report**
- 6. Report on the changes to the Electoral Roll since the last annual Parochial Church Council meeting and the numbers entered on the Roll.**
- 7. Annual Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church**
- 8. A report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod**
- 9. Acceptance of the accounts**
- 10. Appointment of an Independent Examiner**
- 11. Any Other Business**

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St. Mary the Virgin, Wivenhoe
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church
Meeting held on Sunday 12th May 2024
in Church

The Meeting opened at 12.00 noon with a prayer read by the Revd. Erwin Lammens which referred to the Vision for our church and the glory of God and our community. Revd. Erwin Lammens in the chair welcomed the 57 people present.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Graeme & Carolyn Martin; Bill Eborn, Peter Hill
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2023** shown on pages 4 and 5 of the annual report were proposed by Hannah Cole and seconded by Margaret Allison. It was unanimously agreed by those present that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2023 were a true record.
3. **Election of members to the Parochial Church Council**
Erwin thanked **Graham Wadley** and **Margaret Allison** for their time and commitment as a member of the PCC. They were given a round of applause and a thank you card. The following candidates for were put forward for election to the PCC –
 - **Sandra Osborne** was proposed by Heather Edwards and seconded by Sue Jones
 - **Sam Belcher** was proposed by Bonnie Hill and seconded by Peter Terry There being no other nominations they were confirmed in that role.
4. **Election of Churchwardens**
Erwin thanked Douglas McCormick and Mary Jakens for their work during the year. Douglas and Mary were both prepared to stand for election again. Greg Butler and Sue Jones were also thanked for the duties he had undertaken as assistant churchwardens. The following candidates were put forward for election as Churchwardens -
 - **Douglas McCormick** was proposed by Peter Terry and seconded by Bonnie Hill
 - **Mary Jakens** was proposed by Susan Darien and seconded by Greg Butler There being no other nominations they were confirmed in that role. Those present were content with the election.
5. **The Annual Report**
A PowerPoint presentation was shown outlining various aspects of church life. Erwin spoke about the progress that had been made since the periods of Covid lockdown and the fact that attendances are slowly growing. Two positive things from a grid showed attendance at services – the first was the number of young people under 16 attending and secondly evensong attendance had increased since 2022 both were encouraging for the future. Holy Ground didn't appeal to a wider section of the congregation and so had been set aside. The 8 a.m. and 7 past 7 attendance is a worry and creative thinking is needed. A decent number of Baptisms have taken place but only one wedding during 2023. Church weddings in general are dropping in number. Erwin thanked The Revd. Dr. Sara Batts-Neale, Helena Hughes; Douglas McCormick and the Revd. Janet Driver for their support and commitment during the year in delivering services. Erwin spoke about the Revd. John Driver who had died in 2023 – he was really missed and kept in our memories and hearts.
Erwin reviewed the annual report, highlighting and thanking people for their contribution to the life and work of the parish. He apologised in advance just in case he forgot to thank individuals during his verbal report. He was thankful for all the numerous volunteers and their commitment, skills and loving heart given to the church.
6. **Report on the changes to the Roll since the last Annual Parochial Church Council meeting and the numbers entered on the Roll.**

Erwin referred those present to page 6 of the 2023 Annual Report. 121 names were on the 2023 electoral roll. Some members of the congregation had sadly passed away or moved away. Erwin thanked Vivien for her work in preparing and keeping the role.

7. Annual Report on the fabric and goods and ornaments of the church

Erwin referred those present to page 6 of the 2023 Annual Report. More plans were being put together to address the requirements of the Quinquennial Report.

8. A report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

Erwin referred those present to page 5 of the 2023 Annual Report. An overview had been given of the meetings which had taken place during the year.

9. Acceptance of accounts

Treasurer Douglas McCormick presented the accounts to those present.

£32,000 had been spent more than the income received during 2023. This is a trend and may continue. Thanks to income from Friends of St Marys; St Mary's Music Society; the Friendly Club and church bookings the shortfall had been reduced. Douglas pointed out that we have paid our Parish Share in full for 2023 which was £73,000 and in 2024 it would rise to £76,000. He also pointed out that the cost for power and insurance had increased.

Roof repairs costing £25,000 had been undertaken but there is another area on the roof which was identified in the Quinquennial report that needs attention. Some areas of lead and some coping stones need to be refixed or replaced, when the stones fall they cause more damage. Our architects Inkpen Downie is due to send our tenders for the work in the near future. The cost of the repair work is going to be more than £50,000.

Douglas urged those who could sign a form for gift aid as a significant amount can be claimed which makes such a difference to church finances - £21,339 had been claimed in 2023. The accounts also show various legacies which are in restricted and unrestricted funds.

Susan Darien asked a question about how the parish share amount was worked out. Douglas explained that it was a deanery calculation. In 2024 we volunteered to pay more as we are blessed with funds and other churches are not in such a positive position.

Lucy Crocker stated that we have lots of different ways to give to the church now and we need to direct people to the card reader and QR code which can be used rather than cash. The QR code will be put on the service sheet to enable easy giving at services.

The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Sandra Osborne, seconded by Greg Butler, and unanimously agreed.

10. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Although Peyton Tyler Mears had been appointed to act as Independent Examiners at the 2023 Annual Meeting they had been unable to prepare and examine the accounts. The PCC had authorised the appointment of Larking Gower LLP to undertake the work at their February meeting.

Douglas McCormick proposed that Larking Gower LLP be appointed as Independent Examiners for 2024\2025, this was seconded by Barry Smith and unanimously agreed by those present.

11. Other matters

Erwin thanked his family An, Jonas, Mieke and his friend Nigel Spencer for their understanding and support during the past year.

12. Erwin closed the meeting at 12.45 and everyone joined together in saying The Grace.

Deanery Synod

Lay representatives plus clergy from all the Anglican churches in the Colchester Deanery meet three times a year, to hear what's going on in the Diocese and nationally, and to discuss and share ideas about how we can work together more effectively across Colchester. Please find below a short report on the Deanery Synod Meetings held during 2024.

13th March 2024 – At St. James The Great with St. Paul Church, Colchester

- Our speaker for this Synod was Sam Fowler, Director of Christian Youth Outreach (CYO). Lyne Gettings, Lay Chair, interviewed Sam about the work of CYO. During the interview Sam told us about the vision for CYO and how they want to work with churches in supporting them to carry out work in schools – local churches in local communities. Revd Hanna Copper, Assistant Area Dean, then spoke about a new chaplaincy service being implemented by St. Mark's Church with the help of CYO, at Brinkley Grove School, Colchester.
- This was followed with a Q&A session.

12th June 2024 – At St. maru's Church, West Bergholt

- Our speaker for this Synod was Revd Canon Ian Hilton who introduced a new course, 'How to Pioneer.' Following the talk Revd Sarah Hayward, Revd Wendy Pagden and Revd Sue Howlett gave testimonies about pioneer ministry in their contexts.
- Synod was then presented with a proposal from the Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee (DSPC), to develop ministry to children, young people, and families and also for a Deanery Day to be held during 2025 to further develop a co-ordinated vision for mission in this area.

16th October 2024 – St. Peter's Church, Colchester

- Synod was joined by the bishop of Colchester, The Right Reverend Roger Morris. The format for this meeting was a Question-and-Answer Panel with each parish providing feedback on Parish Away Days which had taken place with funding from the Mission Opportunity Fund (MOF) for this year.

Electoral Roll

In 2024 there were 124 names on St Mary's Electoral Roll.

This year, 2025, the roll needed to be revised. It is 6 years since the last revision.

Having your name on the Electoral Roll entitles you to attend and vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and to hear about all that has happened in the last year. A list of names on the Electoral Roll can be found at the back of church.

Mary Jakens

Fabric Report

Maintenance work has continued in various areas to ensure that the building is kept in good order. The fabric team have not met regularly in 2024 as there has been little to do other than the routine maintenance of systems scheduled throughout the year.

Generally: PAT testing of electrical equipment, pump maintenance, fire alarm and fire extinguisher equipment maintenance, light fittings replaced in the Annexe, etc all carried out as scheduled throughout the year.

Roof: tenders were sought for the re-roofing and replacement of coping stones to the East end of the main roof. The tenders returned were beyond the Church's ability to fund the works, given a sizeable contingency would also be required. Fundraising will be required to fund these works.

General maintenance of the roof and the roof alarm system was carried out during the year.

Storage: A clear out exercise was carried out in the year, but this will need repeated as the space created has been filled again. It is proposed to clear out the Choir Vestry, the Rector's Vestry corridor and the shed early in the Spring 2025.

Church Yard: great thanks are due to Peter Terry and his team of volunteers who have done a brilliant job of upgrading the Church Yard with new planting and maintenance. Similar thanks are due to the team from the Town Council who provide general maintenance, grass cutting, etc throughout the year, which is greatly appreciated.

A number of bicycle racks were installed in the Church Yard during the year.

Mary Jakens and Douglas McCormick

Church Wardens

Health & Safety

There have been no significant issues reported in terms of the health, safety or welfare of any volunteers or visitors to the church premises during the year.

Rectors Report

Let the figures speak

When we look at the statistics of the last decade, the Covid year 2020 appears as a reset of the figures. Just before Covid we welcomed on average 86 people on a Sunday morning; in the years after the pandemic that figure had dropped to 70. In the last three years the attendance seems stable: there is no decrease in the numbers but also no growth. In 2025 we have a mission to fulfil: turning St Mary's into a growing church again.

But there are exceptions, which are significant and tell us which services have grown in popularity, and which seem less attractive. Also in 2024 people voted with their feet.

We have seen a significant increase in attendance at Evensong. The new format includes much loved elements of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) Evensong and Common Worship Communion. Taizé services attract a good number as well.

On the other hand, the 8.00am BCP Communion sees a worrying drop in numbers. Midweek reflection has seen ups and downs, sadly more downs than ups last year.

The statistics illustrate that young families with children are more than ever a vital part of our church family.

Figures do not tell us everything. Whether the Sunday Service is attended by 5 or 75 people, there is always a team of volunteers offering a warm welcome and making sure that everything is in place for you to sit down and relax, to encounter God in your prayers and to make you realise how much you are loved by Him and your sisters and brothers in your church.

Sunday and Wednesday services

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
8am	10	11	11	12	14	12	10	11	11		10	9	7	5
10.30am: under 16	7	7	7	6	6	5	6	5	8		6	11	10	9
10.30 am: adults	77	79	79	76	76	72	72	62	67		51	52	54	57
Evensong	17	16	16	17	17	14	16	12	11		N/A	5	14	20
7 past 7	10	11	11	11	12	11	12	8	8		6	7	7	6
Taizé	18	12	25	34	28	18	27	26	21		16	15	14	18

Pastoral and initiation services

The figure that stands out in the statistics below is the number of funerals that took place in the church: 22. This is the highest number for the last 15 years. On the other hand, the number of weddings at the church remains low, which confirms the national trend.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Baptisms	18	30	20	27	14	21	18	18	9	4	6	2	13	7
Confirmations	4	8	0	6	8	0	6	0	8	0	0	5	1	2
Weddings	12	19	13	6	10	15	8	6	5	3	5	7	1	2
Renewal of vows	0	0	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
Funerals in church	21	20	18	20	20	10	14	6	10	10	8	15	12	22
Cremation services	8	13	9	8	4	15	10	9	16	17	9	6	8	6

Vision Away Day

On the 27th April 38 members of our church community, 30 adults and 8 children, spent the day at St Andrew's church Alresford exploring our vision for the future of St Mary's.

A vision committee has been established to work through the list of ideas that were discussed on the day. Its initial aim is to manage the suggestions by accessing, prioritising, and validating each item so that a measured recommendation can be made to the PCC outlining the key actions to be taken forward. Some items are 'easy wins' which can be implemented quickly, and others will need a much longer timescale to action effectively. The committee will also be accountable for validating the correct outcome.

The Deanery Synod also asked us to write a report about the Vision Day and to take part in a panel with other churches and Bishop Roger, Bishop of Colchester. Lucy Crocker represented St Mary's at the panel and here is an extract of her report.

'At the Vision Day we worked our way through a series of creative exercises, with topics to cover everything from Worship and pastoral care to music and community links. This allowed us to uncover what our church community means to us now, how we would like our church to develop moving forward and how we see those things serving God's mission through our offering to both our church community and the wider community of Wivenhoe in the future.

Our last vision day was 7 years ago and with the support of so many in our community we have been able to fulfil the aspirations set out to build the Annexe and re-order the Nave which is an amazing achievement! As we continue to grow and discover new ways of using our new flexible layout at St Mary's it was refreshing to return to St Andrews, a source of inspiration in our project planning, to remind ourselves how far we have moved forward in the last 7 years.' In 2024 the focus was on how we continue to develop on the wonderful facilities and community we have through worship, faith education, opportunities for children and young adults and much more.

As a church community we have a huge amount of respect for those who work within our church to organise and implement a busy schedule of activity on a weekly basis, a great deal of our work moving forward revolves around building that team and future proofing those key roles so that we can, for example, maintain things like our outreach for children, musical activities, pastoral care and varieties of worship.'

Also, in 2025 the vision committee will continue to find ways to implement the conclusions of the Vision Day. The first results are already seen in the work with children, youth and families (such as Open the Book in the Wivenhoe schools, plans for a Youth Drama Group and Nativity Play in the streets of Wivenhoe), in the running of nurture and study courses (such as the Romans Bible Course, 'Spot the difference' Lent Course and the Radical Welcome Course) and further developing the inclusive ethos of the church.

Ministers' Team and Standing Committee

St Mary's is blessed with a passionate and compassionate Ministers' Team and hard-working Standing Committee.

Members of the ministers' team are Revd Canon Erwin Lammens, Rector, Revd Dr Sara Batts-Neale, Associate Priest, Revd Emma Smith, Associate Curate, Dr Glyn Stanway, Reader, Helena Hughes and Douglas McCormick, Authorised Local Preachers. After the passing of Deirdre Gill last July, this Parish no longer has a Pastoral Assistant.

The Standing Committee consists of the churchwardens, treasurer, PCC secretary and the Rector. This team discusses matters of Fabric, Finances and Mission. They also meet to set the PCC Agenda.

Without these teams it would be impossible to fulfil my ministry as Rector in Wivenhoe. I am hugely grateful to all.

Worship

The Worship group meets three times a year and discusses the church services. Some good ideas have been put into practice. There is always space for renewal or making use of resources that we haven't included before. Also changes of circumstances may urge us to adjust the pattern of Sunday worship. Elsewhere in the Annual Report you will find the Worship Group Report.

We celebrate the Sunday services and major festivals with music by the church choir, St Mary's singers, director, organists, soloists, other musicians, and the participation of our congregation. I thank all those involved in singing and playing music at our church.

Music also plays an important role outside Worship. St Mary's Wivenhoe Music Society organises successful concerts and several other music groups book the church for their concerts. The church is popular for these events because of its excellent acoustics.

Fabric and Fundraising

These topics will be covered elsewhere. I just wanted to highlight the drop in our financial reserves and the need to raise funds for the roof repair (a 6-figure expense). The Fundraising at special events, Friends of St Mary's, donations, collections, legacies, standing orders continue to cover partly the running cost of our church (over £400 per day) but this year an extra effort will need to be made to raise for the roof repair. Challenging times. Thank you to all involved and to generous givers.

St Mary's welcomes everyone

The PCC has voted unanimously to apply for the church to receive the status of an inclusive church as part of the Inclusive Church Network. A Radical Welcome Course - to which everyone in church will be invited - will be organised during 2025. This course will help to welcome people with diverse backgrounds.

Two groups of people who receive our special attention are the elderly and the young.

Pastoral visiting and social events are organised for those who like. Every week it is good to see people joining the Friendly Club, Sunday services, Café Chill, and other events at which the elderly are very welcome. Thank you to all organisers and volunteers.

For a Parish of this size and with several pastoral needs among its residents the absence of a Pastoral Assistant is felt strongly. St Mary's pastoral visitors group, a small group of volunteers, works hard to cover the need by visiting or keeping in touch with the residents who have asked for a visit. Please do consider how God is calling you. He needs fieldworkers and labourers, and you may well be one of them.

Our children's and youth ministry are another main focus in our Mission. Sunday Club, The Way, All Together, Easter activities for children, nativity play, Christmas party and much more are events where the young feel very welcome. With thanks to the Sunday Club and the Way leaders.

The wider perspective

We are not an island or isolated church. We have a mission in establishing peace and protecting the environment locally with a global perspective. If everyone contributes to this mission the world will be better. Small but important steps have been made such as the upkeep of the churchyard with more planting and sowing flowers, including creating a patch with wildflowers.

We take part in an active way in the broader context of Churches Together in Wivenhoe, Mission and Ministry Partnership with the churches in Greenstead and St John's Colchester and the Colchester Deanery (with three St Mary's representatives at Synod). We also have an active link with St Andrew's in Namalemba in Uganda and the group of Christian Women there.

Love one another

I was humbled by your response that I received when Bishop Guli, Bishop of Chelmsford, honoured me as a member of the College of Canons at Chelmsford Cathedral. St Mary's church family is wonderful, caring, and welcoming. I pray that you may continue to love one another.

Due to circumstances beyond our power, such as illness, work and family commitments, the workload in this busy church lies on the shoulders of only a small group of people. They are already stretched. If anyone reading this has the time and energy to give some support, please let the churchwardens or me know. Whatever your skills are I am sure your assistance will be much appreciated.

In my second year as Area Dean the demands on me have increased. But despite the rise of my work hours, with the help of others, we have regained strength in the aftermath of the pandemic. The last three years have seen a status quo. But now it's time to start growing again, spiritually, and numerically. Huge thanks to An, Jonas and Mieke and all of you for your prayers and support.

Safeguarding Report

- I have had one planned focussed face-to-face meeting with Erwin, numerous phone calls, emails, and unplanned informal meetings, as always Erwin has given me support, encouragement, and advice.
- There have been two Safeguarding issues raised and dealt with this year. They demonstrated clear communication channels, prompt action with thorough and reflective outcomes. Everyone was communicated with appropriately, both electronically and verbally.
- The question of streaming the Nativity play was raised. I sought advice from the Diocese and then fed the information back.
- Erwin and I have discussed on many occasions the log that the Diocese keep on individuals training. Names appear to move/disappear dependent on whether it is mine or Erwin's name that is clicked on. Erwin plans to discuss this with the Diocese Safeguarding Team this year.

Erwin and I met on Wednesday 25th September at the Rectory; these are the minutes from that meeting.

- We discussed the recent recruitment for two new volunteers, one for The Way and the other for The Sunday Club. We talked about the whole process, and it was obvious that Erwin had gained much from the experience and how he would adapt it for future recruiting.
- Once more, we discussed the need for all PCC members to undertake Safeguarding training; this is a requirement from the Diocese.
- Both Erwin and I received an email from the Diocese Safeguarding Team alerting us to an individual (a name was given) Erwin made some very subtle enquiries and was assured he had no connection to St Mary's.
- We went on to discuss the Christingle Service, Children's Society and Harvest donations.

A very productive meeting.

A big thank-you also to Bonnie for her knowledgeable and prompt answers to my enquiries.

It is of paramount importance to remember that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Gill Black, P.S.O

Secretary to the PCC Report

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. The PCC (Powers Measure 1956) states that “the PCC is to co-operate with the Minister in promoting in the Parish the whole Mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.” The PCC is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the church building of St Mary the Virgin, and for the “movables” in the church.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, co-opted, appointed, or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the 2020 Church Representation Rules. The following have served as members of the PCC during 2024

Incumbent	The Revd. Erwin Lammens Chairperson
Licensed Clergy	Revd. Dr. Sara Batts-Neale
Reader	Emeritus Professor Dr. Glyn Stanway
Churchwardens	Douglas McCormick Mary Jakens
Treasurer	Douglas McCormick
Secretary	Bonnie Hill
Deanery Synod Representatives	Rick Cawley Dr. Nick Gustard Heather Edwards
Elected Members	Greg Butler Jane Taylor Eric Jakens Claudia Alsdorf Hannah Cole Gary Ranford Sue Jones Sandra Osborne Sam Belcher

Since the last Annual Meeting, the PCC have met on 9 occasions. The PCC members above have worked together to ensure that St Marys Church continues to develop and grow both spiritually and within the local community.

The PCC receive monthly reports from not only the Treasurer, but also the Churchwardens, Fundraising Team, Catering Team, Fabric Group, Worship Group, our Colchester Deanery Synod representatives, Wivenhoe Churches Together, Health & Safety, Safeguarding, FOSM and information on the Children’s Ministry, youth work and young adults. This gives an excellent view of what is current, what needs to be addressed and promotes discussion. The Standing Committee meetings regularly prepare for the PCC meeting.

The PCC meeting minutes are available at the back of the Church, in a folder, or can be accessed from the St. Mary’s Church website, if there are issues arising from the Minutes, or other matters, please do speak to a council member. PCC members continue to represent all those involved with Church life.

Bonnie Hill, PCC Secretary

Communication

OUR DIGITAL PRESENCE

Streaming services

On the tech side, when the system works it works well. However, we can never be certain that it will be the same from one use to the next and attendance at one hour before services has become a way of life for the operatives.

The BT connection has been reliable.

In the last few months, we have experienced recurring failures of the most used of the 3 cameras. Putting this right requires physical manipulation at the camera itself and a suitable stepladder needs to be made available to obviate the necessity to climb the rood screen...!

On the ministry side, we have streamed church services, Civic and Remembrance services, funerals, and thanksgiving services. Our YouTube stats are less than impressive. Rick helped Edward Cole to learn how to use the equipment to record, and the Nativity Play could this way be made available to parents on a DVD.

Edward has become a valued member of the team, producing and screening presentations at the Altogether Services.

Clergy still need to get used to the presence of our virtual audience and remember to address viewers at the welcome and from time to time throughout the service.

What we really need is a dedicated streaming team that can look at and prepare outside content for incorporation into our service streams as is done to great effect by other churches, examples of which abound on YouTube.

Website and Facebook

Around 100 people follow the website which means they are alerted by email when new posts are made.

Facebook postings get good attention when posted by Facebookers who themselves have a large following, and I am grateful to FB co-editors Teresa and Lucy for taking much of the publicity on this platform for their account.

Licensing

CCLI and OneLicence between them cover the music sung in church broadcast on YouTube during our streamed services or printed in service booklets.

We also have a church video licence with CCLI which costs around £141 per year. Unfortunately, there are restrictions involved with this:

1. we cannot publicise film screenings outside the congregation.
2. we cannot charge people when they attend film showings.
3. we can only show films from producers on the Approved list.

Together these restrictions have frustrated efforts to bring people in with the intention of evangelising, or as Lent events by Churches Together in Wivenhoe.

I am informed that currently we show 13 films in the year.

I have investigated alternative licences; these are available but are all more expensive. For example, Moving Image pays £100 per film.

It must however be recognised that, unless the above-mentioned restrictions are observed, we are not covered by our licence and at risk of being fined - with all the reputational damage that would entail.

I suggest this is a matter for the PCC to attend to, possibly by appointing one of its members to be the go-to person who can assist those who wish to show films.

GDPR

As little appeared to have changed by way of administration no audit was carried out in 2024.

There will have to be one in 2025, and questionnaires will be sent out in the course of the year.

I highlight one of the ways we can all remain compliant: by making more use of the BCC email facility.

If it is not necessary for the recipients to get in touch with each other about the content of the email, BCC should be used as standard.

This will cover most mass information mailings.

Marika Footring

TIDINGS

Erwin and I continue to meet up in person or by telephone, depending on our circumstances.

The Annexe's popularity has continued to grow, which means that we have been able to advertise, and report on, the events taking place there.

One advertiser has pulled out (Rosie Hunter), and at the time of writing this report we are still to replace this. Advertising costs remain the same for 2024 (£120 for ten issues), the revenue for which covers all printing costs. The four-page content has continued, and the number of flyers remains buoyant. We almost always have more than enough copy to exceed four pages, but not enough for eight. An increase in pages would entail more work and an increase in costs, neither of which is currently viable.

As last year, in order to be fair to all contributors, as a general rule we decided to offer an editorial space in Tidings if possible, in which case a flyer will not be included within the mailing envelope. If space in Tidings is unavailable, then we will include a flyer. This system now seems to be working very well, as long as I give Bonnie enough advance warning.

We have also continued to produce ten, rather than 12, issues per year to enable the rector, editor, and designer to take annual leave. There is usually a limited amount of news around Christmas and summer holidays, so it seems sensible to take a break at these times.

In 2024 Tidings has continued to be mailed out by PCC secretary Bonnie Hill and this will be the distribution system for the foreseeable future.

Erwin, Bob (our designer) and I have a robust working pattern in place, and I am grateful that contributors now seem confident in approaching me as much as Erwin. This eases the time pressures put on Erwin, and I can always rely on Bob to achieve the impossible with some of the pictures and copy!

As always, a huge personal thank you also goes to everyone who willingly helps out with photos and contributions, which makes my job as Tidings editor as straightforward as possible, and Tidings a popular publication within St Mary's and Wivenhoe in general.
Sue Clement, Editor

Treasurer

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

I am pleased to be able to report that, thanks to the generosity of many, our Parish Share and all our bills were paid in full for 2024.

Overall, our total funds have increased in the period by £639 (2023: decrease £31,875), as the difference between our income and expenditure. In the medium term, this remains a concern as we are continuing to use our reserves to prop up the running costs of the Church. This comes into particular focus as we look to implement some of the Quinquennial Inspection Report, in respect of repairs to the roof and to high level stonework. This work requires fund raising and is likely to cost in the region of £150,000. Funds raised and allocated to date amount to approximately £83,000. There is more to do.

The majority of our regular income comes from monthly standing orders; committed giving envelopes; and loose collections. This is gratefully acknowledged and where we are able gift aid is claimed. In 2024 gift aid was worth just under £16,000, which was more than expected.

The objective to create space for the community with the Annexe continues to be realised with many groups using the facilities throughout the week as well as the activities of the Church. The revenue this generates covers the costs and adds to our financial viability.

Fundraising events such as the June and December markets, Friendly Club and the concerts held by Wivenhoe Music Society, to mention just a few also contribute to our funds and we are grateful to all who expend great efforts to make these occasions successful.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to Bill and Vivien Eborn who, continue together to collect, count and bank all the monies received and to Bonnie Hill who dual authorises our bank payments.

The full accounts, which appear on pages 19 to 34 have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice and have been Independently Examined by Larking Gowen LLP, Chartered Accountants. Their certificate appears on page 18.

Douglas McCormick, Treasurer

Aim and purposes

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St Marys. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and Scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for

the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; teaching Scripture; developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the church of St Marys and the environs.

Financial review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £136,970 of which £94,374 was unrestricted planned voluntary donations, including a Gift Aid figure of £15,912. Restricted grants and donations of £4,268 were also received.

It was good to see that the use of Gift Aid envelopes continues, although much reduced and the regular giving by standing order with gift aid is consistent throughout the year. During the year, the total fund balances increased from £201,818 to £202,457, of which £154,746 is unrestricted.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves (net current assets) which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £34,000. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The balance of the free reserves at the year end was £154,746 which is significantly higher than this target, largely due to legacies received over time. Currently £53,665 is held in the short term deposit fund with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund.

Achievements and performance

The achievements and performance of the church of St Mary's is set out on pages 35 to 44 of the Annual Report

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens, the reader and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC met 9 times during the year with an average level of attendance of 79% Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees, which include worship, mission and outreach, fabric and finance, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly, minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Administrative information

St. Mary's Church is situated on High Street, Wivenhoe, C07 9BD. It is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England. Registered charity number 1165660.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2024 are as detailed on page 12 of this Annual Report.

Address for correspondence:

16 Colchester Road Wivenhoe Colchester C079EU

The PCC's bankers:

Barclays Bank UK PLC Leicester LE87 2BB

Independent examiner of the PCC's accounts:

Larking Gowen LLP 1 Claydon Business Park Great Blakenham Ipswich IP6 0NL

Approved by the PCC on
their behalf

and signed on



8/4/2025

by the Reverend Erwin Lammens (PCC Chairman)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Independent examiner's report to the members of the Parochial Church Council ('the Trustees') of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wivenhoe ('the Charity')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wivenhoe ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 12 to 34.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed:



Dated: 22 April 2025

Giles Kerkham FCA DChA

Larking Gowen LLP

Chartered Accountants
1 Claydon Business Park
Great Blakenham
Ipswich
IP6 0NL

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Note	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Incoming resources					
Voluntary income	2	1,557	94,374	95,931	74,637
Activities for generating funds	3	1,100	19,580	20,680	18,712
Income from investments	4	-	3,400	3,400	2,380
Church activities	5	1,611	19,616	21,227	15,450
Total incoming resources		4,268	136,970	141,238	111,179
Resources expended					
Costs of generating voluntary income	7	-	7,706	7,706	7,795
Church activities		565	132,328	132,893	135,259
Total expenditure		565	140,034	140,599	143,054
Net income/(expenditure)		3,703	(3,064)	639	(31,875)
Transfers between funds	12	(42,538)	42,538	-	-
Net movement in funds		(38,835)	39,474	639	(31,875)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		86,546	115,272	201,818	233,693
Net movement in funds		(38,835)	39,474	639	(31,875)
Total funds carried forward		47,711	154,746	202,457	201,818

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 21 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Note		2024 £	2023 £
Current assets				
Debtors	10	13,000	10,000	
FOSM Current Account		10,490	9,745	
Transformation Appeal Account		5,939	5,851	
Short Term Deposits		53,665	53,665	
PCC Current Account		102,424	110,804	
Transformation Appeal Deposit Account		19,873	15,329	
		205,391	205,394	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(2,934)	(3,576)	
Net current assets			202,457	201,818
Total net assets			202,457	201,818
Charity funds				
Restricted funds	12	47,711		86,546
Unrestricted funds				
Designated funds	12	45,900	42,779	
General funds	12	108,846	72,493	
Total unrestricted funds	12	154,746	115,272	
Total funds			202,457	201,818

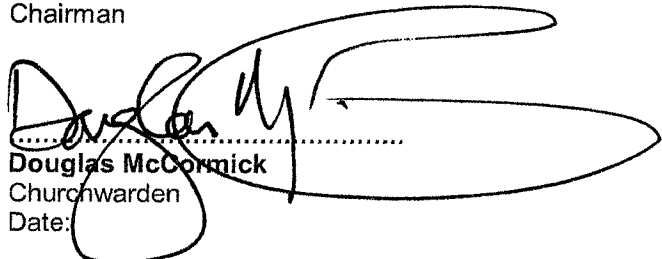
The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Parochial Church Council and signed on their behalf by:



Rev Erwin Lammens
 Chairman



Mary Jakens
 Churchwarden



Douglas McCormick
 Churchwarden
 Date: _____

The notes on pages 21 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011, and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members. The Friends of St Mary's and Wivenhoe St. Mary's Music Society have agreed with the PCC that they produce separate financial statements.

Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wivenhoe meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

1.2 Income

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

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Charity has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Charity, can be reliably measured.

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Grants are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to use of the resources, their ultimate receipts are considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are reliably quantifiable. Dividends are also accounted for when declared receivable, and interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid is recognised at the time of the donation.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.4 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

1.5 Consecrated and benefice property

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of 'charity' by Section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

1.6 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.7 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.8 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.9 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.10 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the PCC and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the PCC for particular purposes. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

2. Voluntary income

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Planned giving:			
Gift aid donations	-	57,828	57,828
Income tax recoverable	-	15,912	15,912
Other	-	991	991
	-	74,731	74,731
Collections at all services (open plate)	-	8,443	8,443
Legacies	-	2,246	2,246
Grants	-	941	941
Sundry donations and appeals	1,557	8,013	9,570
Subtotal	1,557	19,643	21,200
	1,557	94,374	95,931

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

2. Voluntary income (continued)

	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Planned giving:			
Gift aid donations	-	48,358	48,358
Income tax recoverable	-	7,399	7,399
Other	-	223	223
	-	55,980	55,980
Collections at all services	-	7,344	7,344
Legacies	-	2,013	2,013
Grants	-	760	760
Sundry donations and appeals	1,682	6,858	8,540
	1,682	72,955	74,637

3. Activities for generating funds

Income from fundraising events

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Parish magazine (advertising)	-	1,385	1,385
June and December markets	-	3,706	3,706
Fundraising	1,100	14,489	15,589
Total 2024	1,100	19,580	20,680

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

3. Activities for generating funds (continued)

Income from fundraising events (continued)

	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Parish magazine (advertising)	-	364	364
September and December markets	356	3,217	3,573
Fundraising	3,031	11,744	14,775
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>3,387</u>	<u>15,325</u>	<u>18,712</u>

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Dividends on CBF Investment Fund	704	704
Bank and CBF Deposit Fund Interest	2,696	2,696
	<u>3,400</u>	<u>3,400</u>

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Dividends on CBF Investment Fund	19	19
Bank and CBF Deposit Fund Interest	2,361	2,361
	<u>2,380</u>	<u>2,380</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

5. Income from Church activities

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Fees from weddings and funerals	-	12,734	12,734
Parish Magazine (sales)	-	20	20
Church lettings: local community use	1,611	6,862	8,473
Total 2024	<u>1,611</u>	<u>19,616</u>	<u>21,227</u>

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Fees from weddings and funerals	9,108	9,108
Parish Magazine (sales)	135	135
Church lettings: local community use	6,207	6,207
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>15,450</u>	<u>15,450</u>

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Charitable Activities 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Church Activities	124,922	124,922
Missionary and charitable giving - Overseas	5,037	5,037
Governance Costs	2,934	2,934
	<u>132,893</u>	<u>132,893</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

	<i>Charitable Activities 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Church Activities	128,510	128,510
Missionary and charitable giving - Overseas	3,173	3,173
Governance Costs	3,576	3,576
	<u>135,259</u>	<u>135,259</u>

Charitable Activities

	Church Activities 2024 £	Missionary and Charitable Giving Overseas 2024 £	Governance Costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Relief and Development Agencies	-	900	-	900
Home Missions	-	3,362	-	3,362
Secular Charities	-	775	-	775
Ministry Costs: Diocesan Parish Share	76,909	-	-	76,909
Other Ministry Costs	2,055	-	-	2,055
Church Maintenance	4,539	-	-	4,539
Church Running Expenses	15,659	-	-	15,659
Upkeep of Services	2,702	-	-	2,702
Organ and Organists	2,670	-	-	2,670
Vergers	690	-	-	690
Major Repairs: Structural Renewal	7,888	-	-	7,888
Parish Magazine Costs	2,785	-	-	2,785
Assigned Fees to the Diocese	4,966	-	-	4,966
Administration	3,560	-	-	3,560
Bank Charges	499	-	-	499
Independent Examiner's remuneration	-	-	2,934	2,934
	<u>124,922</u>	<u>5,037</u>	<u>2,934</u>	<u>132,893</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

(continued)

	<i>Church Activities 2023 £</i>	<i>Missionary and Charitable Giving Overseas 2023 £</i>	<i>Governance Costs 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Relief and Development Agencies	-	720	-	720
Home Missions	-	365	-	365
Secular Charities	-	2,088	-	2,088
Ministry Costs: Diocesan Parish Share	73,247	-	-	73,247
Other Ministry Costs	2,613	-	-	2,613
Church Maintenance	4,598	-	-	4,598
Church Running Expenses	9,152	-	-	9,152
Upkeep of Services	2,371	-	-	2,371
Organ and Organists	1,602	-	-	1,602
Vergers	520	-	-	520
Major Repairs: Structural Renewal	25,238	-	-	25,238
Parish Magazine Costs	2,196	-	-	2,196
Assigned Fees to the Diocese	3,379	-	-	3,379
Administration	3,094	-	-	3,094
Bank Charges	500	-	-	500
Including Independent Examiner's remuneration	-	-	3,576	3,576
	<u>128,510</u>	<u>3,173</u>	<u>3,576</u>	<u>135,259</u>

7. Expenditure on raising funds

Generation of Voluntary Income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Fundraising costs	<u>7,706</u>	<u>7,706</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

7. Expenditure on raising funds (continued)

Generation of Voluntary Income (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Fundraising costs	7,795	7,795

8. Independent examiner's remuneration

	<i>2024 £</i>	<i>2023 £</i>
Fees payable to the Charity's independent examiner for the independent examination of the Charity's annual accounts	2,445	2,380
Fees payable to the Charity's independent examiner in respect of: All other services not included above	-	600

9. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2023 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 December 2024, expenses totalling £1,617 were reimbursed or paid direct to 1 Trustee (2023 - £2,613 to 1 Trustee). These were in relation to the Trustees expenses incurred as their role as the incumbent.

10. Debtors

	<i>2024 £</i>	<i>2023 £</i>
Debtors less than one year		
Tax recoverable	13,000	10,000

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

11. Creditors: Amounts falling due in less than one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals and deferred income	<u>2,934</u>	<u>3,576</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

12. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Designated legacy funds	40,000	2,246	-	-	42,246
Sunday club	2,779	875	-	-	3,654
	<u>42,779</u>	<u>3,121</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,900</u>
General funds					
General	<u>72,493</u>	<u>133,849</u>	<u>(140,034)</u>	<u>42,538</u>	<u>108,846</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>115,272</u>	<u>136,970</u>	<u>(140,034)</u>	<u>42,538</u>	<u>154,746</u>
Restricted funds					
Bell	12,105	140	-	-	12,245
Choir	800	-	-	-	800
Fabric - General	4,964	-	-	4,556	9,520
Fabric - Ashton Legacy	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Flower	719	-	-	-	719
FOSM	9,745	1,310	(565)	-	10,490
Maintenance	2,535	-	-	-	2,535
Transformation Project	40,663	-	-	(40,663)	-
Organ	370	-	-	-	370
Wiv St Mary's Music Society	4,645	2,818	-	(6,431)	1,032
	<u>86,546</u>	<u>4,268</u>	<u>(565)</u>	<u>(42,538)</u>	<u>47,711</u>
Total of funds	<u>201,818</u>	<u>141,238</u>	<u>(140,599)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>202,457</u>

A transfer has been made from Restricted Funds to General Funds in the year of £42,538. This corrects the Transformation Project treatment which should have been reflected within unrestricted funds.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

12. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Sheila Carrick Legacy	500	-	-	-	500
Hugh Brogan Legacy	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
Janet Richardson Legacy	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Sunday Club	1,529	1,250	-	-	2,779
Doris Robinson Legacy	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
Delia Schafle Legacy	-	-	-	22,500	22,500
Jane Cole Legacy	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
	<u>8,029</u>	<u>2,250</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,500</u>	<u>42,779</u>
General funds					
General	<u>94,019</u>	<u>103,860</u>	<u>(125,386)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,493</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>102,048</u>	<u>106,110</u>	<u>(125,386)</u>	<u>32,500</u>	<u>115,272</u>
Restricted funds					
Bell	12,035	70	-	-	12,105
Choir	800	-	-	-	800
Fabric - General	4,856	108	-	-	4,964
Fabric - Ashton Legacy	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Jane Cole Legacy	10,000	-	-	(10,000)	-
Delia Schafle Legacy	22,500	-	-	(22,500)	-
Flower	719	-	-	-	719
FOSM	8,686	1,159	(100)	-	9,745
Maintenance	2,415	120	-	-	2,535
Transformation Project	58,231	-	(17,568)	-	40,663
Organ	370	-	-	-	370
Wiv St Mary's Music Society	1,033	3,612	-	-	4,645

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

12. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year (continued)

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
	131,645	5,069	(17,668)	(32,500)	86,546
Total of funds	233,693	111,179	(143,054)	-	201,818

13. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Designated funds	42,779	3,121	-	-	45,900
General funds	72,493	133,849	(140,034)	42,538	108,846
Restricted funds	86,546	4,268	(565)	(42,538)	47,711
	201,818	141,238	(140,599)	-	202,457

Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Designated funds	8,029	2,250	-	32,500	42,779
General funds	94,019	103,860	(125,386)	-	72,493
Restricted funds	131,645	5,069	(17,668)	(32,500)	86,546
	233,693	111,179	(143,054)	-	201,818

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Current assets	47,711	157,680	205,391
Creditors due within one year	-	(2,934)	(2,934)
Total	47,711	154,746	202,457

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Current assets	86,546	118,848	205,394
Creditors due within one year	-	(3,576)	(3,576)
Total	86,546	115,272	201,818

15. Related party transactions

During the year, Graham Wadley was remunerated in his role as Organist for a total of £2,235 (2023: £780). Mary Jakens was also remunerated for her role as Verger for a total of £690 (2023: £340). Both Graham and Mary held the position of Trustees during the year.

All Together Worship

The core team consists of Teresa Warren, Rev. Erwin Lammens, Sue Jones and Hannah Cole. Ordinarily we have shared out tasks, leading talks and demonstrations. We usually receive great comments and support/encouragement from the congregation. We still hope for larger numbers of attendees. Numbers of children attending on these services are less than days when Sunday Club is running

All Together had a full programme in 2024 with a monthly Sunday service for all ages. We chose readings and hymns that suit age groups from toddlers, over teenagers, to adults (young and mature). Our young are involved in leading and reading. The texts are available on screen. The All Together team (Teresa, Hannah, Sue and Erwin) prepares a diversity of monthly themes with Edward Cole preparing and running the PowerPoint.

January

Epiphany with blessing of the Magi's gifts

February

The Power of God's Word

We compared God's Word to reassuring love language in human relationships.

March

Welcome to God's house: what makes the church your home?

Also in March

Mothering Sunday with the participation of the Sunday Club and Broomgrove Junior.

May

Baptism celebration with baptism families from the past year

June

Who calls you?

Members of the congregation had to recognise different sounds.

Would you recognise the sound of God's voice when he calls you?

July

First Communion

August

An informal All Together Communion

September

New beginnings: hope and peace

October

Harvest Festival with the participation of Broomgrove Junior and Millfields Primary.

November

All Saints' Sunday: Rejoice and leap for joy

December

Advent Sunday: Be on guard! Be alert!

In 2025 we are changing the services a little and they will be part led by the children too.

Teresa Warren and Erwin Lammens

Bellringers Report

We have rung for Sunday services and held our Wednesday practice evenings consistently each week, apart from one Sunday in October when the bells were silent as several of us were away on holiday or not available that day. Yes, it was noticed! We are pleased to report that bell ringing at St Mary's is still as strong and popular as ever and we have a good team of dedicated bell ringers. We do of course ring for weddings, albeit not that many these days in comparison to a few years ago. We toll at funerals when it is requested.

During the year another returning bell ringer has joined us and she is now a valued and regular member of our team.

We are now training up several students from the University of Essex who discovered, and were introduced, to bellringing at Freshers Week and decided to pursue their interest further. They are now becoming regular members of the team and are ringing on Sunday mornings and regularly attend our practice evenings. We have also been teaching a mother and her two daughters to ring. So, the future of bell ringing is being secured. We have received support from ringers in the area to assist in teaching the students.

It is over 25 years since the bells were restored, and there is some work that will need to be undertaken, the paintwork on the metal parts is starting to deteriorate and will need to be refreshed in the not-too-distant future. The bells themselves are not painted and are in good condition and are checked regularly for wear and tear.

Adrienne Wood

Café Chill

In September 2022 Teresa and Mike started up Café Chill. This is a once-a-month community café run from The Annexe. The intention is to welcome members of the community into the annexe and provide a calm, friendly and affordable place for people to come on a Sunday afternoon. There is a book lending table with Christian themed books and CDs but also a selection of novels and books of other interests. Music plays in the background and there are games provided for those who wish to play, such as scrabble, Uno and chess.

Hot drinks and cakes and biscuits are for sale at great prices such as £1.50 and £1. With free refills of hot drinks!

The Wi-Fi is available, and the annexe is lovely and warm when people may be struggling with the rising costs at home. The café is currently taking place usually on the third Sunday of the month and starts straight after church during the coffees. The congregation can enjoy the atmosphere of the café by using the games and looking at the books. It then officially become the café from 12.30 when we start charging!

All charges are technically a donation, and no one will be turned away if they have forgotten their money or haven't quite got enough. The card donation machine in church is sometimes used. From April-August we stayed open until 16.30.

In April the café was busy as we ran alongside a pre-loved clothing sale in the church

There was no Café Chill in May due to Open Gardens, however in 2025 it will become part of the Open Gardens weekend.

We opened on Saturday for a change in June, to be part of the Regatta. This was popular and was important to have the church open on such a great event in our community. We had a lot of visitors. The café also was visited by many in September as part of Heritage Weekend and November for the Art Trail.

Apart from these event dates, the café was visited by approximately 160 people, and we donated to church funds approximately £340 not including payments made on the machine.

Teresa Warren

Catering Report

I think we can give ourselves a pat on the back this year....not in a fundraising respect but an experimental one for the future.

We had a good turnout with the Summer Fair and again at our Scruffs BBQ for not just dogs but their owners, both very good fundraisers.

Our Harvest Festival lunch proved very popular again as was our Christmas Candlelit Soiree, which we will be promoting as a fundraiser next year. Refreshments in the annexe at the Christmas Fair was another experiment which proved very profitable and will now do annually. Our main aim now is to try and form a group/committee for the future, as for one reason or another, this has become a bit of a one-man army, which is never a good thing. All in all, I think we can say a good year.

Susan Potter, Catering Team Leader

Cleaning Team Report

The loyal and diligent group of church cleaners have continued their good work throughout the year. Having lost two people from the rota during that time has slightly increased the frequency that our other participants have needed to attend.

Sandra Osborne

The loyal and diligent group of church cleaners have continued their good work throughout the year. Having lost two people from the rota during that time has slightly increased the frequency that our other participants have needed to attend.

Sandra Osborne

Churches Together Wivenhoe

Churches Together in Wivenhoe consists in St Mary's Church of England, St Monica's RC and the Methodist, Congregational and Community churches. In 2024 the steering group met 4 times in order to prepare services and events that we organise jointly such as the Lent Lunch, Lent Film, Good Friday Walk of Witness, Good Friday Service, Pentecost get-together, the Christmas card, one for each house in Wivenhoe delivered by the Wivenhoe Scouts and Guides, Carols on the Quay at which the ministers of all Wivenhoe churches lead prayers and read Bible passages. Representatives of the Churches also attend the Civic Service and the Remembrance Service. At these services the CTW secretary reads the Bible passage on behalf of all Wivenhoe churches.

Due to illness the Chair was temporarily replaced by Erwin. The ministers met twice in fellowship over a cuppa.

2025 promises to be a special year for Churches Together in Wivenhoe with more Lent activities and the 1600th anniversary of the Nicene Creed.

Please do join CTW services and events to show year deep respect for your fellow Christian brothers and sisters from other denominations.

Film Night

In January I started up a Film Club. The idea of watching films in our lovely annexe with friends from church. The selection of films is a mixture. They will inspire you, uplift you, make you think or make you laugh.

There is a suggested donation of £2.50 which includes a drink and snack. This is a monthly event and the films shown this year were – The Miracle Club; War Room; The Shack; Keeping Mum; Miracles from Heaven; The Blind Side; The Book of Daniel and The Family Man. Attendance has varied from 3 to 15 people.

We intend to continue this throughout 2025.

Flower Report

The Flower team meet in the church most Friday mornings between 9:30 and 11:30. Despite two broken arms (different people), a shoulder replacement, a broken nose and unexpectedly saying goodbye, just before Christmas to Carol Mitchell, our founder and inspirational leader, we have continued to provide displays throughout the year. We make a special effort at Easter, Harvest, Christmas and Candlemass. Our most appreciative audience is the Friendly Club, and we try to ensure the flowers look fresh for them each Thursday.

We estimate the flowers cost about 900 pounds a year but not all of this is claimed from the church as the team often source the flowers and foliage from friends' and their gardens. We are very grateful to the WTC rural maintenance staff who support the church at Easter and Christmas with hedge and tree clippings.

We are a happy 'bunch' and look forward to others joining the team. During 2025 we would hope to 'grow and nurture' a new team leader.

Jenny, Hiliary, Jill, Maragaret, Susan, Trish & (Carol)

Friendly Club & Café

The Club celebrated its 3rd birthday in August 2024. As usual we had a party with fun, a visit of an ice-cream van so that everyone could be given free ice-cream, and talented entertainer Angie Gibbey. Music and dancing always goes down well.

We have had lots of people come and provide entertainment – there have been illustrated talks, clog dancing (clogs only worn outside) and singing. We don't have this kind of entertainment every week though. In between we have quizzes and chair-based exercises. We aim to make sure that each week is different.

We are fortunate in having a wonderful band of volunteers turn up each week – 35 in total. They don't all come each week of course but it is good to have so many. It means some can sit at the tables and encourage conversation. Others run the Reception Desk whilst a great team provide a steady supply of tea and coffee to everybody.

Alison has a good gang of people around her knitting table. Jan Sinclair organises the entertainment each week until she fell ill towards the end of the year. Sylvia Garrity was also playing the keyboard for us each week and also Stella Amos the piano most weeks. We find having music in Church is very important.

If everybody came we would have 88 people come plus volunteers.

From the £2 we take from everybody except the volunteers and anyone who is a professional carer who we don't charge, we gave St Mary's Church £2,262 during the year. In the year to Dec 2023, we gave the Church £1,671, which is a sign of how popular the Friendly Club has become.

Peter Hill, Chairman, Wivenhoe Dementia Support Group, joint sponsors with St Mary's Church PCC of the Friendly Club & Café.

Friends of St Mary's Report

Friends of St Mary's or FOSM as it is known has had a very good year. Wyvern Stores have continued to sell our merchandise which has become increasingly popular and the basket on the table in Church has been welcomed. Our largest event was the June Market which is always a lovely day, and the Christmas Market provided the opportunity to sell attractive Christmas gifts. Hopefully in 2025 we can return to Regatta Day, Scruffs and some community events, if invited. Our grateful thanks to the members who have helped this year, it's always a pleasure to work together.

Vivien and Bill Eborn

Fundraising Report

The Fundraising team had another busy year made possible by utilizing the best of all the skills available. Each member brings certain skills, and we are all grateful for all the time and attention that make this team work in raising funds for St Mary's.

The first event we arranged in 2024 was a bingo event, although a great deal of advertising went out, the turnout was rather low. So, we agreed to turn our effort in a different direction for next year.

The June Market had more emphasis on raising funds for St Mary's. we achieved this with both the white Elephant stall having extra tables and even more quality items to sell, and the new addition of a Garden Stall with extra tables and ground sheets. Added to this we had both regular and new stall holders joining the market with all available stall space inside sold out, and a greater number of stalls outside the church. The Children's stalls were also popular, and we are currently looking at how we can expand all these stalls for this coming year.

Scruffs. Following on from last year's experiment with adding four stalls. This year we added even more and again we had the BBQ with us which really helped to raise the funds for the church as well as bringing more folk into our church, some for the first time. The turnout was terrific again and the photo's along with 'can we book again for next year' from some of the stall holders was a real joy. This has now become an established event in our fundraising calendar.

Next Came the Christmas Market. The weather plays a big part in this event, as the outside stall holders always attest. This year we had agreed earlier to put the inside stall price up to £20 for the inside stall spaces, which for the first time included the Annex; Santa was in the Vestry. All the inside stall spaces soon sold out. Despite the previous year's storms, we had many stalls outside, with most stallholders returning to support St Mary's.

Looking ahead this year. Instead of a Bingo event, we are planning to run a Book Fayre, and the research so far is looking very well indeed in such an academic village with a university close by and three schools and local book clubs.

The aim now looks at for running four main fundraising events each year, so as not to overburden any of our helpers. We have a good stable fundraising team, a list of helpers for each event, strong catering, strong advertising, a superb raffle support, and a little support from those with strong muscles to help lift and move items. This year we hope we can develop all our skills and strengths in raising funds for St Mary's. I am also pleased to report that many of our members

also help out at other church events throughout the year, even if they are not specifically fundraising events.

Heather Edwards, Fundraising Team Leader

Lectio Divina Report

Lectio Divina meets at 7, West Quay on the last Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. It's a small group of 8 people including Erwin. A Bible passage is chosen each month, in turn, and as we read it we discuss how it affects our lives and what we learn from it. Prayer for each other is poignant.

Erwin brought Communion to the group at Easter and Christmas which was greatly appreciated by everyone: such joy.

If you would like to come along, please speak to Erwin.
Blessings. Ann Evershed.

Music at St Mary's Report

The music in 2024 jogged along under some duress with some of our musicians suffering severe medical issues which made things quite challenging. Hopefully the service music has continued to be acceptable with support from our small choir and embracing many different musical styles. Taize services were held with thanks to instrumentalists Hilary Cook (clarinet) Karen Cakebread and Nina Greenwood (flute) with Jonathan Timms-Bruno adding a cello.

A Civic Service was held in October. Isla and Lucy Crocker sang a very moving arrangement of Allelujah.

St Mary's Singers presented a high standard programme of music for Good Friday although there was no Music for Remembrance held in 2024. This was after much consideration of the poor attendance last year and also my availability due to medical issues. John Dowden accompanied the rehearsals, and the soloists were drawn from within the group. John Rippin as always accompanied on the night and added some organ pieces to the programme.

SMS is now a small chamber choir group of about 12 to 15 singers working to a very high standard. We were encouraged to have some new members join for the Carol Service which had a mix of congregational and choir carols. The Berlioz Shepherd's Farewell seemed particularly popular.

Carols on The Quay took place on the Quay again this year with Geoff Osborne conducting the band and Pam Garland arranging the music. There was a good attendance.

Our organ tuner Peter de Vile decided to retire at short notice in December 2024. The organ is tuned and regulated twice a year and after a lot of investigation into the limited options available to us, Johnson Organ Builders from near Bury St Edmunds will undertake the tuning in future.

Thanks to everyone who supported our musical efforts particularly John Dowden and Geoff Osborne who have played for services in my absences.
Graham Wadley, Director of Music

Open Gardens

Open Gardens 2024 was held over the weekend 18th / 19th May. It attracted 600 people to the event who enjoyed visiting the 30 gardens which participated this year. This year's event coincided with the Art Trail again this year, which made for a very busy weekend in Wivenhoe.

It was a profitable event, and this year made £4,200. This was again shared 50/50 between The Wivenhoe Society and St Mary's Church. Cheques were presented at a Garden Party at Toad Hall in August. The Society shared their £2,100 with 16 local organisations for different projects in Wivenhoe whilst the £2,100 was given to the Church specifically for the Fabric Fund.

This year several people retired from the Committee after many years' service. These were Dot Mathieson, and Jane & Glyn Stanway. Fortunately, Jenny Heaps remains a key member of the team joined this year by Sandra Osborn to both represent the Church.

Open Gardens 2025 is over the equivalent weekend in 2025 in May, being the 17th / 18th May. Peter Hill, Chairman, Open Gardens Team

Pastoral Report

Under the Guidance of Erwin Lammens and leadership of Gill Strudwick. Supported by Volunteers Ann Barrowman, Jackie Hopkins, Stef Goodman, Chris Amos and more recently Mary Baker and Rosie Vickerstaff. At our last meeting of the group on February 5th, 2025, we said goodbye and thank you to Stef for her work over the last two years. We welcomed new volunteers Mary and Rosie for the first time to the group.

At each of our meetings a confidential discussion has been held about the people being visited or phoned at the present time. Erwin usually suggests people whom we might be able to help. There are many who live in Wivenhoe without their family nearby and who the group feel are vulnerable. Erwin has a confidential list of people involved and their contact numbers and family members when known.

Since December 2024 all group members can be identified by wearing a purple lanyard and badge showing their name and that they belonged to the Pastoral Visiting Team for St. Mary's, Church, Wivenhoe.

Since taking over this job from Deirdre in August 2022 I have been creating confidential contact details for all those involved and have provided a list of agencies which can help in our work. Gill Strudwick

St Mary's Link with Uganda

We continue to support Namalembe in Uganda. Rachale Butterfield came to visit Wivenhoe earlier this past year and brought us items for sale which raised well over £100 for her. She also provided a power point show of how the funds have been spent and introduced us to some of the families who receive the goods. Again, this year, we have sold our Christian charity Christmas Cards and again well over another £100 has been raised. All these monies have been sent to her to spend as she sees where and when the need arises and to get the best possible prices. She thanked us all for St Mary's continued support. And she remains in our prayers.

Heather Edwards

St Mary's Music Society

We organised 5 concerts last year and did all of the admin and promotion for the Mediaeval Carol concert which turned out to be a fantastic success. Opus Anglicanum wowed a full house with

their beautiful voices in the beginning of December. Not having seen them previously, they were a big surprise.

Our first concert in April last year also featured 4 people who have beautiful voices, they call themselves Quattro Amici and everyone who came to that concert appeared to thoroughly enjoy the selection of lovely songs that they performed, accompanied by Joe Richardson on his keyboard.

This was followed by renowned international trumpeter Crispian Steele-Perkins in May and his selection of vintage trumpets which he played so skilfully, together with Ian le Grice on the Church organ. It was a highly entertaining evening and played to an almost full house.

The Sea Shanty Extravaganza in September featured not just the Wivenhoe Hoolies and the Felixstowaways but also the female shanty crew, the Silver Darlings, from Southend. They were a great hit, and they all made for a really fun evening as well as a profitable one.

The Churchfitters came from France where they now live and played most of their 42 instruments for us in October. This included the musical saw as well as the fiddle and various stringed instruments, whilst Rosie sang with her beautiful, clear voice as well as played her penny whistle, and several other instruments, and all to a packed house.

The Wivenhoe Orchestra played a wide variety of different pieces of music in what we have called a Feast of Music, and a feast it was. This was concert number 7, a reminder that we have been organising concerts in St Mary's now for seven years.

We think we achieved our key objective, and that is to bring a wide variety of quality music to St Mary's Church and the community of Wivenhoe, as well as make a financial contribution towards the maintenance of the Church building, and this year of £1,700.

Peter Hill, Chairman, Wivenhoe St Mary's Music Society.

Sunday Club Report

The Sunday Club is supported and run by a team of volunteers. This included the following Teresa Warren, Sue Jones, Heather Edwards, Cora Dai, Ceri Law, Hannah Cole and Louise Harrison.

Louise Harrison joined the team at the start of the year and Heather stepped down at the end of the year to focus on 'The Way' and the Fundraising Team.

The Sunday Club is doing very well, and we continue to have a core group of children that attend on and off most weeks. We are all getting to know each other very well. They are all keen to begin having more involvement in the running of the All Together services.

We ordered all our volunteers a Sunday Club T-shirt. These are to wear at events such as the Easter Workshop, June Market and Free Family Fun Festival. They are great to advertise our children's work.

Our Easter Workshop took place on Easter Saturday and was a busy well attended event. We had a café, and the church was full of art and craft activities. A mini film was shown of the Easter story, and children were able to help create the Easter Garden. Everyone left with a bag of goodies they made along with a Belgian chocolate egg and Easter comic.

Lucy Crocker helped organise our stall at the June Market. We had an activity for the children to do, alongside the usual toys and games for sale. We had a team of volunteers helping on the rota, including some of our children with their parents.

On 21st September we had a stall in Colchester Castle Park at the Free Family Fun Festival. This was our 4th time and was a great success. Erwin, Teresa, Ceri, Sue and Cora were there to represent the team. We had a free raffle table with books and toys, along with a giant 'play your cards right' game and some colouring.

The Nativity play in December was a traditional style. We set up the church in a circle style seating and it was put together by Hannah. Hilary Cook and Sue. We have a group of others that support with costumes, prompting, Makaton signing and general encouragement for the children. A real team effort.

Afterwards there was a party in the annexe for all the children. Heather led games. Then they all sat for a lunch/treats party with 'the Snowman' and 'Home Alone' films played on the screen. Gift bags were handed out as the children left.

There is an email address for Sunday Club, and this is monitored by Teresa. wivstmaryssundayclub@gmail.com

We are really hopeful that we can now continue to build on our Sunday Club and that more children will join us in 2025. We have space for new volunteers.

Teresa Warren

The Way Report

This group is a relaxed, hang out group for the younger teenagers from 11 to about 14/15. They can meet up with their friends. Make new friends with others who attend different schools and mix with others from all walks of life. Meet professionals they would not normally meet and learn about life and the world away from formal education. Learning how to find a WAY to be themselves. This past year they have shown a great delight in food, as most teenagers do. They have been showing us new games which allows them to show leadership skills with no pressure. During this past year they have enjoyed:- games, arts and craft, mug cakes, Rev Emma's visit, Lego night, pre-set craft, showed off their group work with their interpretation of Annie Bielecka's art work (now shown in church), making and understanding the cooking process for burgers, movie night, free games night, repeat of burger and sausages night, fire art work for self-expressionism, excellent debates, mince pie making and running their own party.

As Teresa has stepped back, we have Helena who comes in to help when she can. This coming term is again planned loosely on more worldly events which have kicked off with the Chinese New Year. Numbers have dropped to a more manageable group size, and it enables us to sit with them and be more relaxed and able to listen to them. It is a privilege to see them growing. We also get a lot of good feedback from the parents WhatsApp group. We could always use an extra helper to just join in with whatever is happening.

Fran, Heather and Helena

Wivenhoe Baby & Toddler Group Report

The group has seen another successful year, despite the numbers attending, fluctuating through the year. The average attendance is 16 little ones plus adults.

Out expenditure each week has increased as the rent we pay to the Scout & Guide association for the use of the hall, has increased as has the cost of the snack we supply due to the rising

cost of food in general. We have not increased the fee for attending each week as we want to keep the group accessible to all. However we were successful in obtaining donations from both, Councillor Andrea Luxford Vaughan and Wivenhoe Town Council which has helped us to keep running.

We still follow the same format each session, with role play, construction, craft, book corner and a designated baby area. We still offer a snack for the children and hot drinks for the adults. Each session ends with singing time.

Our annual summer party, held in the Rectory Garden was a great success as was our Christmas party in our hall with both well attended.

The group is not just for Mums, we have several Grandparents bring along their grandchildren, a few dads and a couple of Childminders.

We have a good leadership team, supported by 5 ladies who help on a rota basis.

We hope our numbers remain steady to enable us to keep running as we still feel the group is an asset to the town and want it to continue running for many more years.

Vanessa Reed

Worship Group Report

The Worship group has continued to meet three times throughout the year: a couple of months before Christmas and Easter and around the summer break. Each meeting begins with a reflection on services that have recently taken place. This helps us to note particular successes and identify areas that could be improved in the future. Following this we look at services that will be taking place in future months and plan for these in some detail.

Our Sunday service pattern is also a theme for discussion. The Worship Group is always keen to encourage feedback from the congregation.

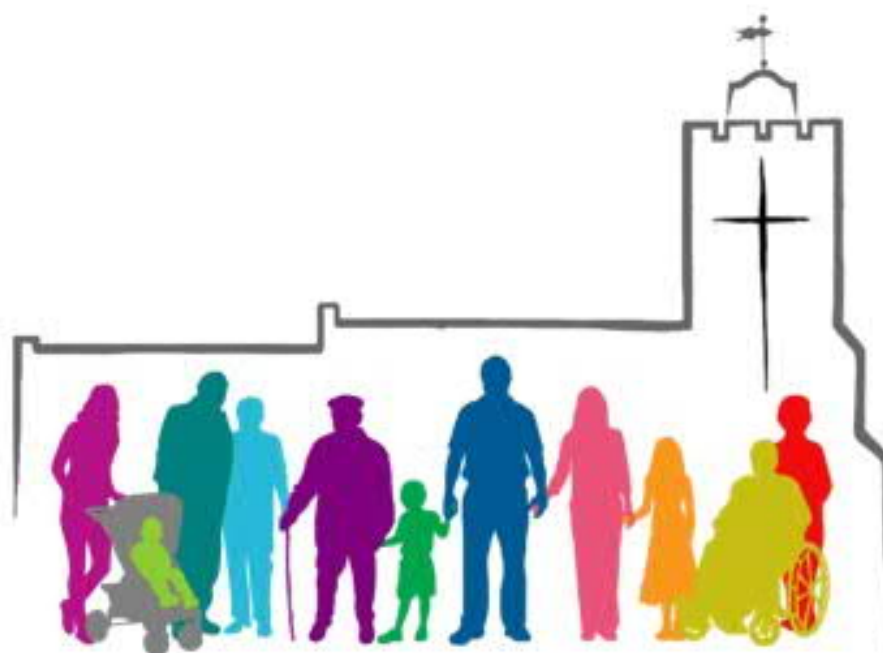
Music is an essential part of the liturgy and worship at St Mary's and the Worship Group members are grateful to director of music, organists, members of the church choir and St Mary's Singers, soloists and musicians at the Sunday services and at special festivals for lifting these occasions.

Erwin Lammens

Accounts

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT 2023



St. Mary's PCC, Wivenhoe
Registered Charity Number 1165660

**The Annual Parochial Church meeting will take place on
Sunday 12th May 2024 at 12 noon in church.**

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2023**
- 3. Election of members to the Parochial Church Council**
- 4. Election of Churchwardens**
- 5. The Annual Report**
- 6. Report on the changes to the Electoral Roll since the last annual
Parochial Church Council meeting and the numbers entered on the Roll.**
- 7. Annual Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church**
- 8. A report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod**
- 9. Acceptance of the accounts**
- 10. Appointment of an Independent Examiner**
- 11. Any Other Business**

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St. Mary the Virgin, Wivenhoe
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held on Sunday 14th May 2023 in church

The Meeting opened at 12.00 noon with a prayer read by the Revd. Erwin Lammens which referred to discipleship. Revd. Erwin Lammens in the chair welcomed the 33 people present. Erwin spoke about John Driver who had recently passed, he was a much-valued member of the church and as a retired member of the clergy occasionally took services at St Mary's.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Suzanne Jones; Barry & Lyn Smith; Eric & Mary Jakens; Graeme & Carolyn Martin; Glyn & Jane Stanway; Sandra Osborne; Greg Butler
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2022** shown on pages 4 and 5 of the annual report were proposed by Marika Footring and seconded by Sara Batts Neale. It was unanimously agreed by those present that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2022 were a true record.
3. **Election of members to the Parochial Church Council**
Erwin thanked **Sandra Osborne** for her time and commitment as a member of the PCC.
The following candidates for were put forward for election to the PCC –
 - **Hannah Cole** was proposed by Ann Hanagan and seconded by Greg Butler
 - **Suzanne Jones** was proposed by Graeme Martin and seconded by Carolyn Martin
 - **Gary Ranford** was proposed by William Eborn and seconded by John WilliamsThere being no other nominations they were confirmed in that role.
4. **Election of members of the Deanery Synod**
Erwin thanked Rick, Heather and Nick for their commitment to the Deanery Synod and was pleased to say that they were prepared to stand for election again.
The following candidates were put forward for election to the Colchester Deanery Synod:
 - **Richard Cawley** was proposed by Eric Jakens and seconded by Margaret Allison
 - **Heather Edwards** was proposed by Jennifer Heaps and seconded by Kerry-Anne Rooke
 - **Nicholas Gustard** was proposed by Carolyn Martin and seconded by Ann HanaganThere being no other nominations they were confirmed in that role.
5. **Election of Churchwardens**
Erwin thanked Douglas McCormick and Sue Jones for their work during the year. Douglas was prepared to stand for election again. Graeme Martin and Greg Butler were also thanked for the duties they have undertaken as assistant churchwardens.
The following candidates were put forward for election as Churchwardens -
Douglas McCormick was proposed by Bonnie Hill and seconded by Carolyn Martin
Mary Jakens was proposed by Gill Black and seconded by Peter Black
There being no other nominations they were confirmed in that role.
6. **The Annual Report**
Erwin reviewed the annual report, highlighting and thanking people for their contribution to the life and work of the parish. He apologised in advance just in case he forgot to thank individuals during his verbal report. The figures for church attendances were rising and although numbers had not fully recovered from pre-Covid levels they were rising. Numerous people both clergy and lay had contributed to church life which made St Marys so special and they were thanked for their contribution of leadership, skills and personal time. Those present were reminded that although there was in most cases only one name beneath a report there were many others contributing. The young people attending church is increasing steadily with both the Sunday Club and The Way attendances rising which is promising for the future.
Erwin then spoke to a slide presentation showing the difference that the transformation project has made (the nave, annexe and Carolin garden) and how the usage of our church has changed with many groups using the building which ensures that St Mary's is at the heart of the community. There had been many events organised by church committees and those associated with the church such as the St Mary's Music Society and Friendly Club. Special services such as Christingle and the visit from St Nicholas had been extremely well attended and the new nave layout had made a real difference to the number of those who could be accommodated.

7. Report on the changes to the Roll since the last Annual Parochial Church Council meeting and the numbers entered on the Roll.

Erwin referred those present to page 6 of the Annual Report. 118 names were on the 2022 electoral roll. Some members of the congregation had sadly passed away or moved away.

8. Annual Report on the fabric and goods and ornaments of the church

Erwin referred those present to page 6 of the Annual Report. Douglas explained that the redecoration of the church nave was still outstanding and as this was so expensive this had not been scheduled. The Quinquennial report had reported that stonework and roof repairs were required and needed to be undertaken. The Fire Alarm had been installed in the nave and now all parts of the church will be covered. Livestreaming of services had also been installed.

9. A report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

Erwin referred those present to page 5 of the Annual Report. An overview had been given of the three meetings which had taken place during the year.

10. Acceptance of accounts

Douglas presented the accounts. He reported that the finances were in good shape and gift aid had provided a good sum and he thanked those who had signed up to that. Utility bills for gas and electricity were going up but unfortunately offerings were going down. Douglas thanked Bill and Vivien who were of great assistance on a weekly basis and that of Ian Dimmock who until recently prepared the accounts.

Douglas referred to page 13 in the report where it stated that the accounts were not fully compliant – the reason was he did not include the debtors and creditors figures although a note had been submitted with the accounts when they went for examination. The debtors were HMRC and creditors were the final payments for the transformation project.

The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Bill Eborn, seconded by Austin Baines and unanimously agreed.

11. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Peyton Tyler Mears, having agreed to act as Independent Examiners were proposed by Douglas McCormick, seconded by Bill Eborn and unanimously agreed that they be appointed for 2023/2024 by the meeting

12. Other matters

a) A comment was made about the impact that the reordering and new annexe had had on church and community life. The new activities and interactions wouldn't have been possible if the pews hadn't been removed, a new nave floor and the annexe added.

b) It was felt that with everything going on in church it was important that the purpose of the building is not lost and it was disappointing that Holy Ground was not continuing. Also there is a need to get people to respect the church as a holy place before and during services - there is a need for silence and ways to ensure that everyone settles when taking their seats after communion.

c) St Marys was congratulated upon the welcome that was received by a newer member of the congregation which was very warm and encouraging.

d) Erwin was thanked for his work at St. Mary's and it was important to acknowledge that.

13. Erwin closed the meeting at 13.05.

Deanery Synod

Lay representatives plus clergy from all the Anglican churches in the Colchester Deanery meet three times a year, to hear what's going on in the Deanery, Diocese and nationally, and to discuss and share ideas about how we can work together more effectively across Colchester. We give below a short report on the Deanery Synod Meetings held during 2023.

15th March 2023 – At St. Botolph's Church, St. Botolph's Street, Colchester, CO2

Our speaker for this Synod was Karen Loring from Night Stop Essex, a charity run by Korban which aims to prevent homelessness in 16–24-year-old age group. Karen talked about the charity and the work that it does here in Colchester.

This was also the last Synod meeting of the triennium and the last Synod Meeting that Canon Roger Ennals was to reside as Lay Chair, following his decision to step down after 15 years of service. Revd Erwin Lammens, Area Dean, extended Synod's thanks to Roger for his service, commitment, and friendship to the Deanery.

A welcome was extended to our new Deanery Treasurer – Adrian Jones, whom Revd Erwin Lammens also thanked for agreeing to take on the role.

5th July 2023 – At St. Matthew's Church, Harwich Road Colchester

Prior to the main Synod meeting an election for the new Lay Chair took place. A nomination had been received for Lynne Gettings (St. Luke's Church, Highwoods), proposed by Diane Bengel-Abbot (St. Luke's, Highwoods) and seconded by Martin Roscoe (Greenstead with St. Anne). No further nominations were made from the floor on the evening and Lynne Gettings was duly elected as the new Lay Chair for the Deanery of Colchester by a unanimous vote, with no abstentions or objections.

DSPC members from the Houses of Laity and Clergy were elected by postal vote.

The main Synod meeting then took place. Our speaker for this Synod was Beccy Hills, Diocesan Parish Giving Advisor for the Diocese of Chelmsford. Beccy spoke about her role and also gave an overview of the Parish Giving Scheme. Beccy also informed Synod that the Chelmsford Diocese are making a £1.25million investment in supporting the rollout and adoption of contactless financial giving by bank card, with the aim of having this in place in 2000 churches by the end of 2024.

12th October 2023 – St. Leonards Church, Lexden, Colchester

Our speaker for this Synod was Revd Canon Pauline Scott who spoke about the Tendring Border Colchester Garden Community – a major new development which will be constructed in the area to the East of Colchester, between Colchester and Elmstead Market, comprising of between 7,500 and 9,000 homes.

Following on from Revd Canon Pauline Scott's talk, there was a short introductory talk by Karen Clifton, the newly appointed Environmental Advocate for the Deanery of Colchester.

Heather Edwards, Rick Cawley, Nick Gustard

Electoral Roll

On 31 December 2023 there were 121 names on St Mary's Electoral Roll.

Having your name on the Electoral Roll entitles you to attend and vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and to hear about all that has happened in the last year. A list of the names on the Electoral Roll can be found at the back of Church.

Vivien Eborn, Electoral Roll Officer

Fabric Report

The following matters were considered by the fabric committee during the year:

- **Roof, etc** – following the Quinquennial inspection the roof lead gutters, areas of tiles loose or missing and high-level stonework all require attention. The North Aisle Roof repair was completed early in 2023. In consultation with the Archdeacon for further works, the employment of an Architect and preparation of tenders for what is expected to be extensive work is required. This is in progress and it is hoped to have this work completed before winter 2024. It is expected that this will be expensive and funds are likely to require some special fund-raising.
- **Phased decoration of the Church** - once the work to the roof, etc is complete and the balance of our funds is known the phased redecoration of internal areas of the Church will be investigated, starting with the Chancel where most "bossing" of the plasterwork is visible. It is then intended to progress to other area of the Church as funds allow.
- **Path around Annexe and access steps to Churchyard** – this is scheduled for consideration following completion of items 1 and 2 above. The Wivenhoe Community Trust have donated £1500 towards the steps to the Churchyard.
- **Lights in the Annexe** – the battery pack in one of the lights has been replaced. The electrician is investigating the intermittent fault with the other light fitting.
- **Gardening and the Churchyard** – huge thanks to Peter Terry and his team of volunteers who have done an enormous amount of work to tidy the Churchyard and plant new stock to add variety in various locations around the Churchyard. Thanks too to Peter and Sandra who raised over £500 with their Christmas light display which is funding much of the work to date.
The railings to the perimeter of the Churchyard will be painted in the Spring '24 with paint paid for by the Council and help from the WTC Estate workers and volunteers.
It is expected that the walls to the Churchyard will be repointed in the Spring '24.
- **Fire Alarm System** – the fire alarm system was extended to cover the main Church as well as the Annexe in April 2023.
- **Live Streaming** – the live streaming system was installed in March 2023 and the use of the system, as people are trained, has been increasing through the year. Thanks particularly to Adam Terry whose expert help, along with Marika, Rick and other volunteers have made this successful.

There is still room for others who may wish to help to be trained. There is a Livestreaming and Operational Policy in place.

The system has been linked to the television screen in the Annexe to allow overflow and participation in the Church when capacity does not allow everyone to be in the main Church.

- **General maintenance** – the servicing of the Church clock, the drainage pumping system, the heating boilers, smart meters, fire extinguishers, broken windows, PAT testing, chair replacement, roof alarm, wood worm treatment, etc, etc have all been managed throughout the year.
- **Thank You** – thank you, in addition to those already mentioned, to the members of the fabric committee and others who attend to these many matters, most of which are invisible to the congregation, and selflessly give their time and attention to keeping the Church premises safe and running smoothly.

Huge thanks to Linda Panton and volunteers who keep the Church clean and tidy.

Many thanks to Wivenhoe Music Society who donated their surplus funds of just under £3000 to the fabric fund. It costs about £400 per day to run St Marys and this contribution helps with the ever-increasing costs of stewardship of this marvellous building.

Mary Jakens and Douglas McCormick, Churchwardens

Health & Safety

There have been no significant issues reported in terms of the health, safety or welfare of any volunteers or visitors to the church premises during the year.

We were advised last year that due to formal advice released by the HSE in November 2021 in respect to organisations which are largely dependent on volunteers, many of the requirements in terms of Health and Safety no longer apply to St Mary's. This lessens the burden in terms of the Health and Safety Management Systems and records which are required to be kept up to date. The management of H&S in a church where there are no employees is greatly reduced. Risk Assessments for activities run by the fundraising team and other events can be informal as this is not a workplace.

As a result of the advice received various documents were retired and replaced with the 'St Mary's Health and Safety Overview' document and a simplified fire risk assessment.

Rectors Report

This is my 14th year as Rector at St Mary's. When I arrived here I looked at the board in church with the names of previous Rectors and discovered that the last and last but one Rector, David Thomas and the late Stephen Hardy, stayed in post at Wivenhoe for 16 years. At my arrival I teased you when I said that you should not expect me to stay here for such a long time. But to my surprise I am nearly there and there is no sign that I will be moving in the next couple of years, that is if health allows me to serve you a bit longer. After years in ministry and service every new day still requires energy and each task should feel fresh and inviting. This is not only true for a minister but for all involved in the life of this church. Therefore I pray that you may be blessed with good health, energy and enthusiasm.

In the summer of 2022 I accepted the role of Area Dean of the Colchester Deanery for a period of 5 years. This is a rather busy commitment which takes nearly half of my time. In these new circumstances I praise the flexibility and willingness of all those helping building God's church in our community. Without you we wouldn't be the thriving church that is reaching out to so many people in Wivenhoe and beyond. Thank you.

Promising signs

It is the third year in a row that we see growth in numbers and activities at St Mary's. Our church seems to have recovered well after the pandemic but Sunday figures are still not where they were before Covid, except for the under 16s. However, spiritually, numerically and in reaching out to the community growth is noticeable. We can be optimistic about the spiritual and missional health of our church thanks to the willingness of many to be involved in church life.

Not only the Sunday attendance is promising, but also figures at Christmas were good (about the same as in 2022 and much better than in 2021), Advent services were up and Easter attendance had reached pre-Covid figures. Several young families have joined; Sunday Club and The Way youth group are flourishing.

Sunday and Wednesday services

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
8am/9am	10	11	11	12	14	12	10	11	11		10	9	7
10.30am: under 16	7	7	7	6	6	5	6	5	8		6	11	10
10.30 am: adults	77	79	79	76	76	72	72	62	67		51	52	54
Evensong	17	16	16	17	17	14	16	12	11		N/A	5	14
7 past 7	10	11	11	11	12	11	12	8	8		6	7	7
Taizé	18	12	25	34	28	18	27	26	21		16	15	14
Holy Ground							9	12	12		N/A	5	5

No figures for 2020 as there were only a limited number of services held because of several lockdowns. 2021 figures are from June onwards when the church reopened; there were no Sunday evening services in 2021. From 2022 there was no suspension of church services.

Pastoral and initiation services

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Baptisms	15	18	30	20	27	14	21	18	18	9	4	6	2	13
Confirmations	0	4	8	0	6	8	0	6	0	8	0	0	5	1
Weddings	7	12	19	13	6	10	15	8	6	5	3	5	7	1
Renewal of vows	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
Funerals in church	-	21	20	18	20	20	10	14	6	10	10	8	15	12
Cremation services	-	8	13	9	8	4	15	10	9	16	17	9	6	8

While, in 2023, we had reached the highest number of baptisms in the last five years, the number of weddings was exceptionally low. This follows the national trend.

If we measure growth not just in the Sunday figures but also in the number of activities taking place at the church, with confidence we may say that this church has not only seen a physical

transformation in the last few years but it has grown as a significant venue in the community for outreach, education, culture and fellowship.

Ministry Team

We have a great ministry team with a complementary diversity of skills. I would like to thank Associate Priest Revd Dr Sara Batts-Neale, Reader Dr Glyn Stanway, Authorised Local Preachers Helena Hughes and Douglas McCormick, and Revd Janet Driver. And what a blessing it is that Curate Revd Emma Smith joined us in September.

It was with immense sadness that we had to say farewell to Revd John Driver in June 2023. He was a fine colleague, great preacher, a caring person who was always ready to give support and advice, a disciple of Christ who put into practice his Lord's words, and a loving companion for Janet. Thank you, John, for your kindness and all you've done in the service of God's church.

Communication and live streaming

We hope that people can easily access any church information that they may need. We have a well-maintained and updated website, electronic mailings, Facebook, YouTube channel and of course the monthly magazine in newsletter style, Tidings, which is posted free to 210 subscribers. Very regularly we offer live streamed Sunday services and funerals and make use of the screen for PowerPoint. With thanks to Marika Footring, Rick Cawley, Edward Cole, Sue Clement, Bob Newell and Bonnie Hill.

Worship

The best news of all is that our congregation is getting younger with more families attending – this is so encouraging.

As explained above, most services are well attended with the exception of 8.00am communion and 7.07pm Midweek reflection. Unfortunately after two years of low attendance, we had to stop our monthly Holy Ground service on a Sunday evening. But in the same period numbers at Evensong have gone up; they nearly tripled compared to the year before.

Thank you to all who help with the liturgy: churchwardens, our loyal choir members and organist and director of music Graham Wadley, colleagues, readers, intercessors, communion assistants, sides persons, audio-visual team, flower team, coffee team, the person responsible for linen and brass, and many others.

Standing Committee

A modern church involves piles of administration and efficient management. The members of our Standing Committee are the key people in overseeing the numerous aspects of running a church: churchwarden and treasurer Douglas McCormick, churchwarden and vergers Mary Jakens and PCC secretary Bonnie Hill. A part of the burden is taken up by those who assist them: assistant churchwardens, assistant treasurer, PCC and committee members, administrator, bookings administrator, baptism officer, safeguarding and DBS officers, fundraising coordinator, catering coordinator, caretaker, cleaning team coordinator, and many others.

Building and churchyard

The Standing Committee, PCC and Fabric committee oversee the maintenance and repairs of the church building. Last year a team of volunteers led by Peter Terry took it on their shoulders to clear and maintain the churchyard with areas for planting, lawn and wild life.

Cost of running a church

Running a church like ours is costly and in 2023 most bills had increased because of the cost-of-living crisis. We can't do without the commitment and the support of many. This support has many facets: praying, giving one's time, sharing one's skills, and donating financially. The running costs have gone up but the income hasn't followed. Please have a look at the treasurer's report and accounts, and give it your consideration as to how we can reverse our monthly, small but worrying, deficit.

Fundraising

The above item brings us neatly to fundraising. The Fundraising team is led by Heather Edwards assisted by other team members and catering coordinator Susan Potter. They organise several events including the Christmas and June Markets.

The Friends of St Mary's (FOSM) give support towards the cost of the maintenance of the church building. FOSM takes part in several events in the church and community where they sell the much-loved St Mary's Wivenhoe design articles. It is run by Vivien and Bill Eborn and a team of helpers. Please do support their work.

Nave and annexe use

In 2023 the church calendar seemed busier than ever before with many bookings of the annexe and nave. Not only church groups such as St Mary's Singers and Café Chill make use of the premises but many other community groups, organisations, families and individuals also, such as The Friendly Club and St Mary's Wivenhoe Music Society - I extend my thanks to Peter Hill and a large team of volunteers for these last two activities.

Children's ministry

The Sunday Club and The Way leaders' team are coordinated by Teresa Warren and supported by a group of enthusiast leaders. They run the weekly gatherings and special events such as Easter activities for children, Nativity Play, Sunday Club Christmas party, and participate in the Free Family Fun Festival. Different sub-teams organise All Together Sunday, St Nicholas' visit and Christingle.

Teaching

Preaching and teaching on Sunday mornings and at Evensong are Bible-based and relevant for people's everyday life. The contextual and exegetical exploration of the gospels leads to an understanding that God is loving and welcoming without condition and regardless of one's background. We can be who we are and grow together in our belonging to Jesus Christ. The Lectio Divina and Bible Study group (which will resume in 2024) bring participants to an encounter with our welcoming God.

Pastoral

Our pastoral visitors group coordinated by Gill Strudwick regularly meet people in the Parish who have asked for a visit. Around Christmas and Easter holy communion is brought to those who are housebound. St Mary's also organises a monthly house communion at which everyone is welcome.

If you wish me to visit someone who is in need or ill, just let me know. Likewise if you would like to be prayed for, whether or not you like to be included in the prayer list, let me know as well.

Several members of St Mary's visit friends and neighbours in an informal way. Because some people receive a lot of visits while others don't, we have set up this pastoral visitors group in 2011 to make sure that no one gets overlooked. If you know of anyone who seems to have fallen between two stools, please flag this up with the pastoral visitors team.

The bigger picture

St Mary's is not an island. We are a part of the wider entourage of Churches Together, Mission and Ministry Partnership (MMP), Colchester Deanery, Chelmsford Diocese, Church of England and God's universal church. We are linked in prayer and action with the community of Namalemba in Uganda through the work of the Christian women (Mothers' Union) at St Andrew's church with thanks to our link persons Rosemary Murchie in Wivenhoe and Rachel Butterfield in Uganda.

Thank you

Numerous other people, workers behind the scenes, members of committees, teams and church groups, organisers of events, and those who pray for the church's growth and our spiritual well-being may not have been mentioned here but I hope that these people appreciate how grateful I am for what they do.

Before closing my report, I wish to thank three people who, every day again, give me great support and encouragement: An, Jonas and Mieke who generously share me with many others in the Parish, the Deanery and Diocese.

Revd Erwin Lammens, Rector

3 February 2024

In the Christian calendar we commemorate and celebrate today Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg and missionary in Denmark and Sweden. He died and was welcomed by the risen Lord on this day in 865.

Safeguarding Report

- After being in post since summer 2022, I now feel much more confident in my role as PSO (Parish Safeguarding Officer). This is due to the support and encouragement I have received from Erwin and guidance from the Diocese.
- I have now completed my Leadership Safeguarding training.
- I have had 4 face to face meetings with Erwin plus many telephone conversations.
- Safeguarding posters are now in Church and also inside the toilets. The Safeguarding folder is situated at the back of the Church.
- Last March we held Safeguarding training in Church with seven people attending and support helpers.
- A number of people have contacted me informing me of the recent training they have carried out on-line.
- I also attended a PCC meeting to emphasise the importance of 'Safer Recruitment training' and understand that the appropriate Church members have undertaken this.
- Late last year and early this year 2 people have contacted me with concerns of Safeguarding issues. One was simply to inform me of concerns from Erwin and some other Church members, this was noted and the matter resolved itself. The other (with the person's permission) was discussed with Erwin as it had wider implications and actions were taken.
- It is important to remember that Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. I look forward to further developing my role as the Church and Annexe are now being used by a wider diversity of groups.

Gill Black, Safeguarding Officer

Secretary to the PCC Report

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. The PCC (Powers Measure 1956) states that "the PCC is to co-operate with the Minister in promoting in the Parish the whole Mission of

the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.” The PCC is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the church building of St Mary the Virgin, and for the “movables” in the church. When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the church of St Mary's, Wivenhoe. Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, co-opted, appointed or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the 2020 Church Representation Rules. The following have served as members of the PCC during 2023

Incumbent	The Revd. Erwin Lammens	Chairman
Licensed Clergy	Revd. Dr. Sara Batts-Neale	
Reader	Emeritus Professor Dr. Glyn Stanway	
Churchwardens	Douglas McCormick	
	Mary Jakens	
Treasurer	Douglas McCormick	
Secretary	Bonnie Hill	
Deanery Synod Representatives	Rick Cawley	
	Dr. Nick Gustard	
	Heather Edwards	

Elected Members

Greg Butler
Jane Taylor
Eric Jakens
Graham Wadley
Claudia Alsdorf
Margaret Allison
Hannah Cole
Gary Ranford
Sue Jones

Since the last Annual Meeting the PCC have met on 10 occasions. The PCC members above have worked together to ensure that St Marys Church continues to develop and grow both spiritually and within the local community.

The PCC receive monthly reports from not only the Treasurer, but also the Churchwardens, Fundraising Team, Catering Team, Fabric Group, Worship Group, our Colchester Deanery Synod representatives, Wivenhoe Churches Together, Safeguarding, FOSM and information on the Children's Ministry, youth work and young adults. This gives an excellent view of what is current, what needs to be addressed and promotes discussion.

The Standing Committee meets regularly to prepare for the PCC meeting.

The PCC meeting minutes are available at the back of the Church, in a folder, or can be accessed from the St. Mary's Church website, if there are issues arising from the Minutes, or other matters, please do speak to a council member. PCC members continue to represent all those involved with Church life.

Bonnie Hill, PCC Secretary

Communication

Presentations

It is gratifying that younger people, at present limited to Edward Cole, have come on board to help with making and showing PowerPoint presentations.

In fact, the development could be described as the opposite of the Magician's Apprentice story as the 'apprentice' has had things to teach the supposed magicians - surely a situation to be actively encouraged!

Streaming

Adam Terry, a professional camera man living locally, had offered his assistance with getting to grips with the camera work and streaming. He knows our vMix software having used it professionally himself. Adam has been very helpful over a period of months in familiarising us with the software and we have been able to extend our use of the streaming computer from just pointing a camera, to knowing how to incorporate hymn text and name overlays, and using custom made graphics.

Adam also revised the existing pre-sets to make it easier to choose the wanted shots, and further helped by automating some of the processes so that they can be done from home rather than requiring visits to the church.

All these augmentations will hopefully lead to a point when streaming will come within the capability of those who still feel hesitant about volunteering to take part in it. Please don't be unduly daunted: we promise not to throw you in at the deep end if you wish to have a stab at it.

Online presences

(YouTube)

It is beyond the wit of this author to make sense of the analytics on YouTube and so, although questions have been asked about viewing figures, the most that can be reported with any certainty is that funeral services attract significant attention (in the 100s-1000s) especially when they concern well-known (or local) personages. It is establishing the duration of views that presents difficulties.

The Remembrance Day service with the RBL also saw views rise, as did the Civic Service and the Christmas Eve Midnight service.

(Website & Facebook)

Both platforms have regular visitors and are outlets that come without any financial cost to the church. The website has approx. 360 followers who can all receive notifications of newly posted material.

Rev Sara has recently been made a co-editor

GDPR

An audit was attempted mid-2023 with only moderate success. Those who deigned to reply generally had no compliance issues.

It is intended to repeat the exercise in 2024 when hopefully a fuller picture will emerge.

Licensing

We maintain licences for podcasting music in connection with religious services from both CCLI and OneLicence of music covered in their catalogues, and a Film licence with certain limitations from CCLI. Marika Footring, Communications Officer

Tidings

In 2023 our pattern of compulsory remote editorial meetings happily came to an end, so Erwin and I can decide to meet up in person or by telephone, depending on our circumstances.

The Annexe's popularity continues to grow, which means that we have been able to advertise, and report on, the events taking place there.

One advertiser has pulled out (Vinyl Hunter), which has been replaced by Business Time in Essex. Advertising costs remain the same for 2024, the revenue for which covers all printing costs. The four-page content has continued; however, the number of flyers included in the mailing envelope with Erwin's letter is increasing, which is an indication of Tidings' popularity. We almost always have more than enough copy to exceed four pages, but not enough for eight. An increase in pages would entail more work and an increase in costs, neither of which is currently viable.

In order to be fair to all contributors, as a general rule we decided to offer an editorial space in Tidings if possible, in which case a flyer will not be included within the mailing envelope. If space in Tidings is unavailable, then we will include a flyer. This system now seems to be working very well, as long as I give Bonnie enough advance warning.

We have also continued to produce ten, rather than twelve issues per year to enable the rector, editor and designer to take annual leave. There is usually a limited amount of news around Christmas and summer holidays so it seems sensible to take a break at these times.

In 2023 Tidings has continued to be mailed out by PCC secretary Bonnie Hill and this will be the distribution system for the foreseeable future.

Erwin, Bob (our designer) and I have a robust working pattern in place, and I am grateful that contributors now seem confident in approaching me as much as Erwin. This eases the time pressures put on Erwin, and I can always rely on Bob to achieve the impossible with some of the pictures and copy!

As always, a huge personal thank you also goes to everyone who willingly helps out with photos and contributions, which makes my job as Tidings editor as straightforward as possible, and Tidings a popular publication within St Mary's and Wivenhoe in general.

Sue Clement, Editor

Treasurer

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

I am pleased to be able to report that, thanks to the generosity of many, our Parish Share and all our bills were paid in full for 2023.

Overall, our total funds have decreased in the period by £31,875, as the difference between our income and expenditure. In the medium term, this is a concern as we are using our reserves to prop up the running costs of the Church. This comes into particular focus as we implement some of the Quinquennial Inspection Report, in respect of repairs to the roof and to high level stonework. This work is expected to be undertaken in 2024 and is likely to cost tens of thousands. Scoping of the works and preparation of tenders is in progress.

The majority of our regular income comes from monthly standing orders; committed giving envelopes; and loose collections. This is gratefully acknowledged and where we are able gift aid is claimed. In 2023 gift aid was worth more than £18,000, which was slightly less than expected.

The objective to create space for the community with the transformation project continues to be realised with many groups using the facilities throughout the week as well as the activities of the Church. The revenue this generates covers the costs and adds to our financial viability.

Fundraising events such as the June and December markets, the concerts held by Wivenhoe Music Society, to mention just a few also contribute to our funds and we are grateful to all who expend great efforts to make these occasions successful.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to Bill and Vivien Eborn who, despite Bill retiring as Treasurer at the end of 2021, continue together to collect, count and bank all the monies received and dual authorise our bank payments. I would also like to thank Ian Dimmock for managing Gift Aid on our behalf in 2023.

The full accounts, which appear on pages 17 to 33 have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice and have been Independently Examined by Larking Gowen LLP, Chartered Accountants. Their certificate appears on page 16.

Douglas McCormick, Treasurer

Aim and purposes

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St Marys. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and Scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; teaching Scripture; developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the church of St Marys and the environs.

Achievements and performance

The achievements and performance of the church of St Mary's is set out on pages 34 - 41 of the Annual Report.

Financial review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £106,110, of which £72,995 was unrestricted planned voluntary donations, including a net Gift Aid figure of £7,399. Restricted grants and donations of £5,069 were also received.

The planned giving through envelopes and banker's orders decreased significantly in the year following completion of the transformation project. It was good to see that the use of Gift Aid envelopes continues, although much reduced and the regular giving by standing order with gift aid is consistent throughout the year.

During the year, the total fund balances decreased from £233,693 to £201,818, of which £115,272 is unrestricted.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves (net current assets) which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £34,000. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The balance of the free reserves at the year end was £115,272 which is significantly higher than this target, largely due to legacies received over time. Currently £53,665 is held in the short term deposit fund with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens, the reader and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC met 10 times during the year with an average level of attendance of 82%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees, which include worship, mission and outreach and fabric and finance, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly, minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Administrative information

St. Mary's Church is situated on High Street, Wivenhoe, CO7 9BD. It is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England. Registered charity number 1165660.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2023 are as detailed on page 12 of this Annual Report.

Address for correspondence:

16 Colchester Road
Wivenhoe
Colchester
CO7 9EU

The PCC's bankers:

Barclays Bank UK PLC
Leicester
LE87 2BB

Independent examiner of the PCC's accounts:

Larking Gowen LLP
1 Claydon Business Park
Great Blakenham
Ipswich
IP6 0NL

Approved by the PCC on 12th March 2024 and signed
on their behalf by the Reverend Erwin Lammens (PCC Chairman).



PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Independent examiner's report to the members of the Parochial Church Council ("the Trustees") of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wivenhoe ('the Charity')

I report to the Charity's Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wivenhoe ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 17 to 33.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed:



Dated: 25 March 2024

Giles Kerkham FCA DChA

Larking Gowen LLP

Chartered Accountants
1 Claydon Business Park
Great Blakenham
Ipswich
IP6 0NL

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Incoming resources					
Voluntary income	2	1,682	72,955	74,637	159,537
Activities for generating funds	3	3,387	15,325	18,712	12,192
Income from investments	4	-	2,380	2,380	482
Church activities	5	-	15,450	15,450	17,450
Total incoming resources		5,069	106,110	111,179	189,661
Resources expended					
Costs of generating voluntary income	7	-	7,795	7,795	3,678
Church activities		17,668	117,591	135,259	141,817
Total expenditure		17,668	125,386	143,054	145,495
Net (expenditure)/income		(12,599)	(19,276)	(31,875)	44,166
Transfers between funds	12	(32,500)	32,500	-	-
Net movement in funds		(45,099)	13,224	(31,875)	44,166
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		131,645	102,048	233,693	189,527
Net movement in funds		(45,099)	13,224	(31,875)	44,166
Total funds carried forward		86,546	115,272	201,818	233,693

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

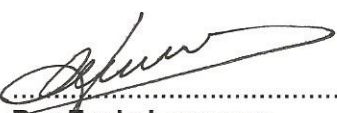
The notes on pages 19 to 33 form part of these financial statements.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

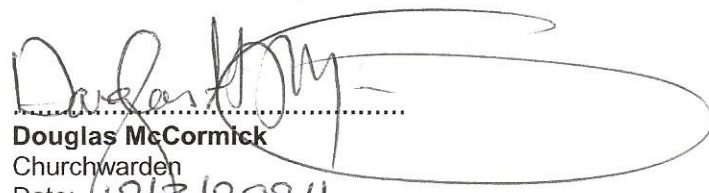
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Current assets			
Debtors	10	10,000	21,000
FOSM Current Account		9,745	8,686
Transformation Appeal Account		5,851	16,469
Short Term Deposits		53,665	53,665
PCC Current Account		110,804	137,193
Transformation Appeal Deposit Account		15,329	10,010
		<u>205,394</u>	<u>247,023</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(3,576)	(13,330)
Net current assets		<u>201,818</u>	<u>233,693</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>201,818</u></u>	<u><u>233,693</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	12	86,546	131,645
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	12	42,779	8,029
General funds	12	72,493	94,019
Total unrestricted funds	12	<u>115,272</u>	<u>102,048</u>
Total funds		<u><u>201,818</u></u>	<u><u>233,693</u></u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Parochial Church Council and signed on their behalf by:


.....
Rev Erwin Lammens
Chairman


.....
Mary Jakens
Churchwarden


.....
Douglas McCormick
Churchwarden
Date: 12/3/2024

The notes on pages 19 to 33 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011, and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members. The Friends of St Mary's and Wivenhoe St. Mary's Music Society have agreed with the PCC that they produce separate financial statements.

Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wivenhoe meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

1.2 Income

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

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Charity has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Charity, can be reliably measured.

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Grants are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to use of the resources, their ultimate receipts are considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are reliably quantifiable. Dividends are also accounted for when declared receivable, and interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid is recognised at the time of the donation.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.4 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

1.5 Consecrated and benefice property

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of 'charity' by Section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

1.6 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.7 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.8 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.9 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.10 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the PCC and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the PCC for particular purposes. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

2. Voluntary income

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Planned giving:			
Gift aid donations	-	48,358	48,358
Income tax recoverable	-	7,399	7,399
Other	-	223	223
	-	55,980	55,980
Collections at all services (open plate)	-	7,344	7,344
Legacies	-	2,013	2,013
Grants	-	760	760
Sundry donations and appeals	1,682	6,858	8,540
Subtotal	1,682	16,975	18,657
	1,682	72,955	74,637

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

2. Voluntary income (continued)

	<i>Restricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Planned giving:			
Gift aid donations	-	88,247	88,247
Income tax recoverable	-	21,339	21,339
Other	-	239	239
	-	109,825	109,825
Collections at all services	-	8,663	8,663
Legacies	32,500	4,582	37,082
Sundry donations and appeals	-	3,967	3,967
	32,500	127,037	159,537

3. Activities for generating funds

Income from fundraising events

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Parish magazine (advertising)	-	364	364
June and December markets	356	3,217	3,573
Fundraising	3,031	11,744	14,775
	3,387	15,325	18,712
Total 2023			

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

3. Activities for generating funds (continued)

Income from fundraising events (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Parish magazine (advertising)	1,295	1,295
September and December markets	2,951	2,951
Fundraising	7,946	7,946
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>12,192</u>	<u>12,192</u>

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Dividends on CBF Investment Fund	19	19
Bank and CBF Deposit Fund Interest	2,361	2,361
	<u>2,380</u>	<u>2,380</u>

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Dividends on CBF Investment Fund	322	322
Bank and CBF Deposit Fund Interest	160	160
	<u>482</u>	<u>482</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

5. Income from Church activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Fees from weddings and funerals	9,108	9,108
Parish Magazine (sales)	135	135
Church lettings: local community use	6,207	6,207
Total 2023	<u>15,450</u>	<u>15,450</u>

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Fees from weddings and funerals	12,844	12,844
Parish Magazine (sales)	847	847
Church lettings: local community use	3,629	3,629
Insurance claims	130	130
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>17,450</u>	<u>17,450</u>

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Charitable Activities 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Church Activities	128,510	128,510
Missionary and charitable giving - Overseas	3,173	3,173
Governance Costs	3,576	3,576
	<u>135,259</u>	<u>135,259</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

	<i>Charitable Activities 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Church Activities	131,628	131,628
Missionary and charitable giving - Overseas	9,469	9,469
Governance Costs	720	720
	<u>141,817</u>	<u>141,817</u>

Charitable Activities

	Church Activities 2023 £	Missionary and Charitable Giving Overseas 2023 £	Governance Costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Relief and Development Agencies	-	720	-	720
Home Missions	-	365	-	365
Secular Charities	-	2,088	-	2,088
Ministry Costs: Diocesan Parish Share	73,247	-	-	73,247
Other Ministry Costs	2,613	-	-	2,613
Church Maintenance	4,598	-	-	4,598
Church Running Expenses	9,152	-	-	9,152
Upkeep of Services	2,371	-	-	2,371
Organ and Organists	1,602	-	-	1,602
Vergers	520	-	-	520
Major Repairs: Structural Renewal	25,238	-	-	25,238
Parish Magazine Costs	2,196	-	-	2,196
Assigned Fees to the Diocese	3,379	-	-	3,379
Administration	3,094	-	-	3,094
Bank Charges	500	-	-	500
Independent Examiner's remuneration	-	-	3,576	3,576
	<u>128,510</u>	<u>3,173</u>	<u>3,576</u>	<u>135,259</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

(continued)

	<i>Church Activities 2022 £</i>	<i>Missionary and Charitable Giving Overseas 2022 £</i>	<i>Governance Costs 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Relief and Development Agencies	-	7,476	-	7,476
Home Missions	-	462	-	462
Secular Charities	-	1,531	-	1,531
Ministry Costs: Diocesan Parish Share	69,758	-	-	69,758
Other Ministry Costs	2,689	-	-	2,689
Church Maintenance	5,022	-	-	5,022
Church Running Expenses	8,281	-	-	8,281
Upkeep of Services	1,102	-	-	1,102
Organ and Organists	3,714	-	-	3,714
Vergers	750	-	-	750
Transformation Project	11,676	-	-	11,676
Major Repairs: Structural Renewal	19,221	-	-	19,221
Parish Magazine Costs	1,118	-	-	1,118
Assigned Fees to the Diocese	4,762	-	-	4,762
Administration	2,964	-	-	2,964
Bank Charges	571	-	-	571
Including Independent Examiner's remuneration	-	-	720	720
	<u>131,628</u>	<u>9,469</u>	<u>720</u>	<u>141,817</u>

7. Expenditure on raising funds

Generation of Voluntary Income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Fundraising costs	<u>7,795</u>	<u>7,795</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

7. Expenditure on raising funds (continued)

Generation of Voluntary Income (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Fundraising costs	3,678	3,678

8. Independent examiner's remuneration

	<i>2023 £</i>	<i>2022 £</i>
Fees payable to the Charity's independent examiner for the independent examination of the Charity's annual accounts	2,380	720
Fees payable to the Charity's independent examiner in respect of: All other services not included above	600	-

9. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2022 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 December 2023, expenses totalling £2,613 were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 Trustee (2022 - £2,289 to 1 Trustee). These were in relation to the Trustees expenses incurred as their role as the incumbent.

10. Debtors

	<i>2023 £</i>	<i>2022 £</i>
Debtors less than one year		
Tax recoverable	10,000	21,000
	<u>10,000</u>	<u>21,000</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

11. Creditors: Amounts falling due in less than one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other creditors	-	13,330
Accruals and deferred income	3,576	-
	<u>3,576</u>	<u>13,330</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

12. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Sheila Carrick Legacy	500	-	-	-	500
Hugh Brogan Legacy	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
Janet Richardson Legacy	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Sunday Club	1,529	1,250	-	-	2,779
Doris Robinson Legacy	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
Delia Schafle Legacy	-	-	-	22,500	22,500
Jane Cole Legacy	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
	<u>8,029</u>	<u>2,250</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,500</u>	<u>42,779</u>
General funds					
General	<u>94,019</u>	<u>103,860</u>	<u>(125,386)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,493</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>102,048</u>	<u>106,110</u>	<u>(125,386)</u>	<u>32,500</u>	<u>115,272</u>
Restricted funds					
Bell	12,035	70	-	-	12,105
Choir	800	-	-	-	800
Fabric - General	4,856	108	-	-	4,964
Fabric - Ashton Legacy	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Jane Cole Legacy	10,000	-	-	(10,000)	-
Delia Schafle Legacy	22,500	-	-	(22,500)	-
Flower	719	-	-	-	719
FOSM	8,686	1,159	(100)	-	9,745
Maintenance	2,415	120	-	-	2,535
Transformation Project	58,231	-	(17,568)	-	40,663
Organ	370	-	-	-	370
Wiv St Mary's Music Society	1,033	3,612	-	-	4,645

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

12. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - current year (continued)

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
	131,645	5,069	(17,668)	(32,500)	86,546
Total of funds	233,693	111,179	(143,054)	-	201,818

A transfer has been made from Restricted Funds to Designated Funds in the year of £32,500. This reflects that the trustees have reviewed the legacy conditions and concluded that these legacies have no restrictions.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

12. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	<i>Balance at 1 January 2022 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 December 2022 £</i>
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Sheila Carrick Legacy	500	-	-	-	500
Hugh Brogan Legacy	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
Janey Richardson Legacy	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Sunday Club	979	-	-	550	1,529
	7,479	-	-	550	8,029
General funds					
General	77,412	157,161	(133,819)	(6,735)	94,019
Total Unrestricted funds	84,891	157,161	(133,819)	(6,185)	102,048
Restricted funds					
Bell	11,915	-	-	120	12,035
Choir	755	-	-	45	800
Fabric - General	3,242	-	-	1,614	4,856
Fabric Ashton Legacy	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Jane Cole Legacy	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Delia Schafle Legacy	-	22,500	-	-	22,500
Flower	1,023	-	-	(304)	719
FOSM	7,558	-	-	1,128	8,686
Maintenance (Cory)	2,115	-	-	300	2,415
Transformation Project	65,598	-	(11,676)	4,309	58,231
Organ	370	-	-	-	370
Wiv St Mary's Music Soc	2,060	-	-	(1,027)	1,033
	104,636	32,500	(11,676)	6,185	131,645

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIVENHOE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

12. Statement of funds (continued)

Total of funds	189,527	189,661	(145,495)	-	233,693
	<u>189,527</u>	<u>189,661</u>	<u>(145,495)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>233,693</u>

13. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Designated funds	8,029	2,250	-	32,500	42,779
General funds	94,019	103,860	(125,386)	-	72,493
Restricted funds	131,645	5,069	(17,668)	(32,500)	86,546
	<u>233,693</u>	<u>111,179</u>	<u>(143,054)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>201,818</u>

Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Designated funds	7,479	-	-	550	8,029
General funds	77,412	157,161	(133,819)	(6,735)	94,019
Restricted funds	104,636	32,500	(11,676)	6,185	131,645
	<u>189,527</u>	<u>189,661</u>	<u>(145,495)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>233,693</u>

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Current assets	86,546	118,848	205,394
Creditors due within one year	-	(3,576)	(3,576)
Total	<u>86,546</u>	<u>115,272</u>	<u>201,818</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

14. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Restricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Current assets	144,255	102,768	247,023
Creditors due within one year	(12,610)	(720)	(13,330)
Total	<u>131,645</u>	<u>102,048</u>	<u>233,693</u>

15. Related party transactions

During the year, Graham Wadley was remunerated in his role as Organist for a total of £780 (2022: £1,120). Mary Jakens was also remunerated for her role as Verger for a total of £340 (2022: £Nil). Both Graham and Mary were Trustees during the year.

All Together Worship

The core team consists of Teresa Warren, Rev. Erwin Lammens, Sue Jones and Hannah Cole. Ordinarily we have shared out tasks, leading talks and demonstrations. We usually receive great comments and support/encouragement from the congregation. We still hope for larger numbers of attendees. Numbers of children attending on these services are less than days when Sunday club is running.

However, we do have good attendance in general and the less complicated and inclusive themes seem to be enjoyed. We had a variety of themes, as follows- January Epiphany, February Be like salt and light, March Journey in Lent. In July we had an All Together service with First Communion. September theme was new beginnings and an especially good service was the Harvest one. The theme was about working together like Bees. We had all the Wivenhoe schools involved and a talk by Revd Emma Smith and Carol Mitchell. November's theme was Let your light shine, ending the year in December with Keep awake!

We will continue to work on trying to make these services as enjoyable, and as inclusive as possible. Kerry Rooke is joining our planning team.

Teresa Warren

Bellringers Report

The past year has been a fairly "quiet" year, with only the coronation of King Charles III on 6 May giving us the opportunity to ring the bells to celebrate a historic national event. Wivenhoe was featured in an episode of "Love Your Weekend with Alan Titchmarsh" as part of their "Ring for the King" theme. Filming took place on a cold grey day in February and the programme was broadcast on Sunday 2 April. The programme is available on ITVX for those of you who missed it!

We have rung for Sunday services and held our Wednesday practice evenings consistently each week. Wivenhoe is still one of the few towers in the area that has been able to ring regularly, many local towers still struggle to ring for Sunday services and to hold a practice evening without combining with ringers from several other towers. We are of course available to ring for weddings and toll for funerals.

Our team of ringers is shrinking for various reasons, and we will be looking to recruit some learners shortly. So if anyone would like to find out more about becoming a bell ringer then please contact me, or indeed any of our team.

It is over 25 years since the bells were restored, and there is some work that will need to be undertaken, the paintwork on the metal parts is starting to deteriorate and will need to be refreshed in the not-too-distant future. The bells themselves are not painted and are in good condition and are checked regularly for wear and tear.

Adrienne Wood, Tower Captain

Café Chill

In September 2022 Teresa and Mike started up 'Café Chill' in The Annexe. This is a once-a-month community café run from the annexe. The intention is to welcome members of the community into the annexe and provide a calm, friendly and affordable place for people to come on a Sunday afternoon. There is a book lending table with Christian themed books and CDs but also a selection of novels and books of other interests. Music plays in the background and there are games provided for those who wish to play, such as scrabble, Uno and chess.

Hot drinks and cakes and biscuits are for sale at great prices such as £1.50 and £1 with free refills of hot drinks!

The Wi-Fi is available and the annexe is lovely and warm when people may be struggling with the rising costs at home. The café is currently taking place usually on the third Sunday of the month and starts straight after church during the coffees. The congregation can enjoy the atmosphere of the café by using the games and looking at the books. It then officially becomes the café from 12.30pm when we start charging!

All charges are technically a donation and no one will be turned away if they have forgotten their money or haven't quite got enough. The card donation machine in church is sometimes used. From April - August we stayed open until 4.30pm.

In June the café was busy as we ran alongside a pre-loved clothing sale in the church and in November we were also busy as it was the Wivenhoe Art trail. Apart from these dates on all the other sessions a total of 194 people used the café. Some days are very quiet and others it can be bustling. Either way it shows that it is worth having as an additional fund raiser and service to the community.

Donations of cakes are always welcome, see Teresa.

Teresa Warren

Catering Report

Since taking over from Mary last June we have had a timetable of successful events.

Starting with the annual summer barbecue which was sold out and blessed with good weather. September was a very busy month starting with the Scruffs Dog Show when for the first time a barbecue was introduced which proved a great success especially with our dog guests as dog treats and sausages were free.

We entertained the Bishop for a supper event, the PCC and several other functions.

Harvest Lunch was again sold out and very enjoyable. (This year we are planning a candlelit supper in December to add to our events following the success of the harvest lunch and with the hope that some younger members of the church will attend).

I have been unable to form a catering committee....people are happy to help at functions but do not wish to make a commitment. As always, it is just a few very kind and willing people I have to ask without whom these events would not be possible to run

Susan Potter

Cleaning Team Report

We thank the small but loyal team of weekly volunteers who clean the chancel area of the church and who have maintained their duties throughout the year. We are also very grateful to Linda our caretaker who takes care of the remaining areas of the church and annexe, working together we ensure that all areas are fit for purpose.

Sandra Osborne

Churches Together Wivenhoe

2023 brought a change of Chair – Phil Bingham stepped down and Tom Cameron took on the task. Phil was thanked for the time and effort he had given to the post and was congratulated on his 50 years as a Methodist preacher.

We all came together for a Lenten Lunch held at the Methodist Church, a Lent film at St Mary's, talks about the Bible in Art at various locations and the now usual Walk of Witness which was extremely well attended.

Pentecost was celebrated in May with tea/coffee and cake at St Mary's and the Churches Together Wivenhoe covenant was signed. This proved to be a very successful event.

As usual wreaths were laid on Remembrance Day and representatives of the different churches were offered the opportunity to participate in the service.

To round off the year the Christmas Cards with all the service details on were printed and distributed to every home in Wivenhoe and Carols on the Quay was really well attended.

Rick Cawley

Flower Report

The Flower team have enjoyed trying a few new things this year. The Wivenhoe River installation in the autumn provided a backdrop for church services including the Civic Service plus a concert, a book launch and a talking point for The Friendly Club.

Christmas started early Dec 7th and we were pleased that with careful tending they stayed fresh until Jan 8th.

We have an eye to economy . The cost is about £900 a year and we have had some kind donations.

Foliage is as important as the flowers so we would ask with people with gardens to get in touch next time they prune please.

Many thanks to all the team .

Carol Mitchell

Friendly Club & Café

The Friendly Club & Café is now two and a half years old. It is clearly fulfilling a need and has a reputation beyond Wivenhoe with people coming to it from Alresford, Colchester and even Fordham.

Almost every week it seems we get someone new coming to an afternoon with us where everyone is immediately accepted and can join in a conversation, or a quiz or just enjoy the music. It will be either Jan or Stella playing the piano, or Sylvia playing the keyboard. We often have someone come and sing for us, as well as Joe from the Microgym to lead a session of chair-based exercises which always seems to go down well.

We have quite a lot of people who have been diagnosed with dementia but many are either carers or people wanting social contact. Importantly, everyone gets treated the same.

Of the 60 – 70 people who are there every week, are some 20 - 25 or so volunteers who to take £2 from each of all of the visitors, keep everyone refreshed with unlimited tea, coffee and biscuits, host tables and make sure no-one gets left out. It helps that we all wear name badges.

Morag Willis and Ann Hanagan do a sterling job each week using Wivenhoe's Community Minibus to bring up to 12 people to the Church who otherwise would not be able to leave their home.

Alison runs the knitting table which is popular, and invariably it has several people sitting at it with their wool and knitting needles, for it is really the knit and natter table!

We never miss an opportunity to make a Thursday afternoon a bit special. Anything can be a cause for celebration such as Christmas when everyone got a present, or the anniversary of our founding when we gave everyone an ice-cream. We encourage everyone to bring cakes on their birthday of course! We are planning to give everyone an Egg at Easter along with plenty of hot-cross buns on each table too.

It is always lovely to see Rev Erwin Lammens at the Friendly Club and we appreciate he has a busy diary especially these days.

The Wivenhoe Dementia Support Group continues to provide all of the administrative support to the Friendly Club & Café. In return for the support of the PCC, we are pleased to share the £2 entrance fee 50/50 with St Mary's. This meant that in 2023 we gave £1,671 to the Treasurer for the use of the Church.

My aim is to make sure that everyone enjoys the afternoon with us, whether as a visitor or a volunteer. I am grateful to all of the volunteers for their continuing help and support in running the Friendly Club and most especially Brian and Jan Sinclair who, in 2024, have taken on the responsibility for organising the weekly social programme.

Peter Hill, Chairman, Wivenhoe Dementia Support Group.

Friends of St Mary's Report

Two years ago Vivien and Bill Eborn took over running Friends of St Mary's to save it from closure. The object of FOSM is to raise funds to help maintain the Church building. We have a membership and have in the past received generous legacies. The FOSM goods are selling well and Vivien and Bill are willing to continue to supply Wyvern Stores and to take the sales table to church and other local events.

However, they do not wish to do additional fund raising solely for FOSM.

This is their plan for the future unless anyone would like to take it over.

The sale of FOSM goods has been amazing this year and after Christmas will have to reorder. My thanks to everyone who has helped on our stalls.

Vivien Eborn, Chair

Fundraising Report

Marika Footring alongside our team ran the annual Quiz Night on February 11th 2023. All the tables were booked, which filled the church with lighthearted quiz enthusiasts. The winners were happy to display their well-deserved trophy.

We had a lot of the community come down to the church to watch on the big drop-down screen the coronation of our King Charles III on May 6th 2023. With refreshments and activities for the children; it really was a lovely, sociable time with much flag waving.

When Mary Jakens wished to step down from catering, Susan Potter came forward and between them a smooth and busy transition followed. This was evident at the June Market on 3rd June 2023 with all stall spaces taken up inside the church and a great many more outside. With the whole team working hard alongside other members of the church, with a lovely Hamper donated for the raffle, the community came out and supported us very well on a warm dry day where the mild breeze played with the bunting. The funds raised from the stalls and the fantastic amount raised by St Mary's stalls was heartwarming. Feedback showed that more and wider advertising was needed.

The Bug Hunt in the church grounds on 15th July had added attractions with bug printing stamping cards to make, alongside posters, comics and colourful stickers and a few magnifying glasses, bird seed bags to take home: plus, the wonderful cakes and buns. Chris Gibson, our wildlife leader who came to show the children and families around, commented that 'the quality of the event amazing, sadly the quantity of the turnout was low'. Again, feedback reported that more and wider advertising was needed.

Soon after we had Lammas day at the Rectory on 29th July. Rev Erwin Blessed the Lammas Day Bread, which was delightfully donated by a local baker, and shared with everyone. With an assortment of gazebos, tables and chairs, folk came along to enjoy a wonderful summer's day. With a BBQ that was stubborn to light, a homemade delicious curry (with vegetarian option) and rice, enough salad for everyone with an appetite and yet still managed to savor the wonderful cakes and puddings on offer. Games were available for children and even a lot of the adults joined in with encouragement. And of course, lots of bunting.

Lucy Crocker joined our small team to assist with advertising and has redesigned the Excel sheet to aid our efforts and was certainly made most welcome.

We enjoyed our Scruffs dog show on 2nd September, in pleasant weather. We registered owners and dogs to go on the designated traffic free dog walk. A photographer was on hand to take great pictures of owners and dogs with their walk certificates afterwards. For the first time this year we had half a dozen stalls with Dog related items and ran a BBQ on the Carolin Patio by the church Annexe, all of which proved popular, whilst everyone also gathered for the two fun classes of dog of waggiest tail and dog most like its owner. Winners won rosettes and donated prizes as well as having more photographs taken. Again, so many people came with their dogs to help raise money for the church.

At the end of September, tickets we sold for our annual Harvest Lunch. We all enjoyed the amazing and beautifully decorated tables and an excellent menu with a glass of Sherry. Our new caterer and her small team worked incredibly hard to put this together. The serving and clearing worked like clockwork and Susan's team were heartily congratulated. Also, a local baker donated a Harvest Sheaf for us.

On a dark and stormy night! The Christmas Market was held. Inside, the church was brilliantly lit with packed out stalls and colourful Christmas lights and decorations. Whilst outside the rain rained and the wind blew cold and hard, However, while a hardy few marshals helped Gazebos to stay put, a large number of our community came out in force to join in with the great countdown for the village lights, to be switched on by our Town Mayor aided by our Town Crier. The church bells rang out and more colourful lights came on. There was a joyous atmosphere that reflected the coming of Christ at Christmas. Another beautifully wrapped up Hamper was donated, which

helped raise the much-needed funds for St Mary's. We are asking in our prayers for not such rough weather for our next Christmas Market.

As with all the fundraising events we also help out with non-fundraising events, and we are quite a jolly team. Fancy joining us? Susan and Lucy did, and they have proved a wonderful addition. Just come along to any of our events and share a coffee to find out how you can help us to bring the community to not just St Mary's church, but to Christ as well.

With many thanks to all our event helpers and the main team.

fundraisingwivstmarys@gmail.com

Heather Edwards – Fundraising Team Co-ordinator

Lectio Divina Report

Lectio Divina is a small group which meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 7, West Quay. A Bible passage is chosen each month by a member of the group. The passage is read, meditated upon and then read again. There is then a discussion on how the passage reflects on our lives and what we can learn from it. This is followed by prayer.

If this interests you, please come along. Erwin will be happy to give you details.

Blessings.

Ann Evershed

Music at St Mary's Report

2023 returned to some sort of normality on the music front after all the covid related issues but nevertheless leaving things in a much more depleted state than previously. Most services now have the full musical content with our small choir..

Taize services were held with thanks to instrumentalists Hilary Cook (clarinet) and Karen Cakebread (flute) with Jonathan Timms- Bruno adding a cello for the November service.

A Civic Service was held in October. Hilary and Lucy sang a very effective piece by Will Todd and we were joined by a Gospel singer 'Gold' invited by the Mayor.

St Mary's Singers presented a very moving and high standard programme of music for Good Friday and Remembrance, although very few people came to listen. John Dowden accompanied the rehearsals and the soloists were drawn from within the group. John Rippin as always accompanied on the night and added some organ pieces to the programme.

SMS is now a small chamber choir group of about 12 to 15 singers working to a very high standard. After that we moved on to the Carol Service with traditional carols and choir carols by Bob Chilcott and Philip Stopford.

Carols on The Quay took place on the Quay again this year with Geoff Osborne conducting the band and Pam Garland arranging the music. There was a good attendance.

Thanks to everyone who supported our musical efforts particularly John Dowden and Hilary Cook who have played and directed rehearsals during my occasional absences.

Graham Wadley, Director of Music

Pastoral Report

Supported by Ann Barrowman, Jackie Hopkins, Stef Goodman and recently Chris Amos.

The last meeting of the group with Erwin Lammens and his guidance present, was held on November 8th at the Rectory and the next meeting has been arranged for March 6th at 10am. A confidential discussion was held about the people being visited or phoned at the present time. Erwin usually suggests people who we might be able to help.

The main concern is knowing when to inform the family when we observe the more vulnerable who are finding everyday life difficult. It is difficult to discuss problems with family members when usually you haven't met them, so this is only done in serious situations. Most have family who do not live in Wivenhoe.

Erwin has a confidential list of people involved and their contact numbers and family members when known.

Since taking over this job in August 2022 I have been creating contact details for all those involved.

Gill Strudwick

St Mary's Link with Uganda

Our link with St Andrew's Church, Namalemba, Uganda has continued somewhat spasmodically during 2023. There has been occasional exchange of news and greetings by email and as usual, part of St Mary's Christmas charity appeal was for funds to help the Church in Namalemba provide Christmas "Bowls of Blessings" for the less fortunate members of their community. A total of £575 has now been sent. This sum includes an accrued monthly donation from one member of our congregation. We received a series of photos of the happy recipients which were displayed via the overhead screen at a 10.30 service at St Mary's.

In last year's report it was suggested that links between our young people and their equivalent in Namalemba might be established but so far this has not materialised. I also requested that someone be found to take over from me as the channel of the Link. My home circumstances now make it impossible for me to give adequate attention to the fostering of the link and I really would like to hand over the responsibility to someone else.

Rosemary Murchie.

St Mary's Music Society

Our aim continues to be one of putting on a programme varied and diverse concerts as well as raising money for the maintenance of the church building.

We have had another very successful year, organising 8 concerts and providing a bar at a Roman River Concert. We were very pleased to say that half of these concerts were 'sell-outs' and those which weren't achieved the objective of bringing a diverse and varied range of music to Wivenhoe and only one make a loss and that was just £21.

We continue to run the Music Society with a reserve of £1,000 so that we can afford to take a risk and afford a loss if that risk doesn't pay off.

As a result of these concerts, we are pleased to say that the Music Society was able to give £2,721.23 to the St Mary's Church Fabric Fund.

So far, for 2024, we have 5 concerts planned and have an idea for a sixth one.

Peter Hill, Chairman, Wivenhoe St Mary's Music Society

Sunday Club Report

The Sunday club is supported and run by a team of volunteers. This included the following-

Teresa Warren

Sue Jones

Heather Edwards

Cora Dai

Ceri Law

Hannah Cole

Fran Bailey

The Sunday club is doing very well, and we continue to have a core group of children that attend on and off most weeks. We are all getting to know each other very well.

The Easter workshop took place and was supported by at least 12 volunteers. There were 47 children that attended with their families. The afternoon started with a mini film showing the Easter story then there was free time for the children to take part in one of the craft activities, or help create the Easter Garden, or follow the story trail around the inside of the church. We also had an Easter egg picture hunt in the church yard and the annexe was turned into an Easter café! The children were able to go in there and help themselves to a drink and some tasty treats. Everyone left with their bag of crafts they had made, as well as an Easter comic and of course a Belgian chocolate egg..... handed out by the Belgian Easter bunny himself! Erwin!

Teresa and Sue led a stall at the June Market with toys and books for children. This is always a nice event, and we had many donations of items to sell. The things that were left were saved for our stall at the Free Family Fun Festival.

In September we attended the 'Free Family Fun Festival' in Colchester Castle Park. This was our third time and it was an excellent event. We had a stall, and it was led by Teresa, Erwin, Heather and Sue. This year we were delighted that Hannah, Cora and Ceri also came at different times to help and brought their children too so that they could enjoy the festival. We handed out information about our childrens and families services and events at St Marys. We also had a free raffle with books and toys as prizes. This was hugely popular as the previous year. Next year we will need more prize donations! We also had a ping pong game where points were scored, and sweets were won!

The Nativity play this year was led by Sue and Hilary and it was based on the Nicholas Allen story a version of the Nativity with a grumpy and funny inn keeper! The chairs were set out differently so that the congregation were facing into the middle more and could see as the children walked up and around to get to their spot in the scene.

Afterwards there was a party in the annexe for all the children. Heather led games. Then they all sat for a lunch/treats party with Christmas music playing. Gift bags were handed out as the children left.

There is an email address for Sunday club and this is monitored by Teresa. wivstmaryssundayclub@gmail.com

We are really hopeful that we can now continue to build on our Sunday club and that more children will join us in 2024. We have a new volunteer joining our team Louise Harrison.

Teresa Warren

The Way Report

In May 2022 we started up a youth club called 'The Way'. It stands for Wivenhoe Affable Youth. The Way is carried out in The Annexe. It is intended to be a friendly group for 11–16-year-olds, where activities, fun and laughter can be shared. The sessions are twice a month on a Tuesday evening from 7-8.30pm and the teenagers bring a voluntary donation of £1 per session.

The Way is run by volunteers which include- Teresa Warren, Fran Bailey, Heather Edwards, and Sue Jones. It has been very well attended since we began with on average between 15 and 20 turning up each time. There is always a theme for each session and the group begins with free time to chat and play board games, table tennis, and have some refreshments from the 'Tuck shop'. Two snacks and one special drink, with plenty of extra water or squash as required. We have the main optional activity or learning experience at about 7.30pm after some ice breaker games. Themes carried out during 2023 included- Chinese New Year, Shadow puppets, team building games, card making, Shrove Tuesday, circus skills, Easter activities, Movie night, BBQ, and a Christmas party. Just before we finish, we all gather in a circle and have a discussion using some 'Affirmations cards' or a subject that the group may decide on. This is a time to share thoughts and feelings.

Teresa is planning to take more of a back seat now and won't attend every session. We are currently looking for some new volunteers to join the team. We are really pleased with the attendance and look forward to an exciting 2024.

Teresa Warren

Wivenhoe Baby & Toddler Group Report

The Toddler group have had another successful year. Numbers at the beginning of the year were good but then started to dwindle off and by the end of the year attendance was quite low. However so far this new year (2024) our numbers are rising which is much more encouraging.

During last year the Council offices were undergoing renovations and access to our hall was difficult so we did wonder if this may have been a factor in our low attendance. We also were unable to have as many sessions with the Soft Play company attending as they could not gain access to the hall. Hopefully now the work at the offices is finished, attendance will grow.

We still follow the same format each session, with role play, construction, craft, book corner and a designated baby area. We still offer a snack for the children and hot drinks for the adults. Each session ends with singing time.

The group is not just for Mums, we have several Grandparents bring along their grandchildren and a few Dads and this year a couple of Childminders have brought along their charges.

We did have a very successful summer party, again held in the rectory garden and our Christmas party in our hall was also well attended. We did have the soft play company attend as the car park is now open again.

Our leadership team still need more helpers to volunteer each week both with the running of the group and in the kitchen to prepare the children's snack and to wash up afterwards. Two of the original Church ladies still help on a rota for which we are most grateful.

Wivenhoe Baby and Toddler group is a valuable asset to the town, and we hope it can continue for many years.

Vanessa Reed

Worship Group Report

The Worship Group met on two occasions during the year, mainly to plan services for the main festivals.

Through 2023 the main morning services followed the normal pattern and the evening service re-introduced on the first Sunday of each month. Holy Ground has been discontinued due to very low attendances.

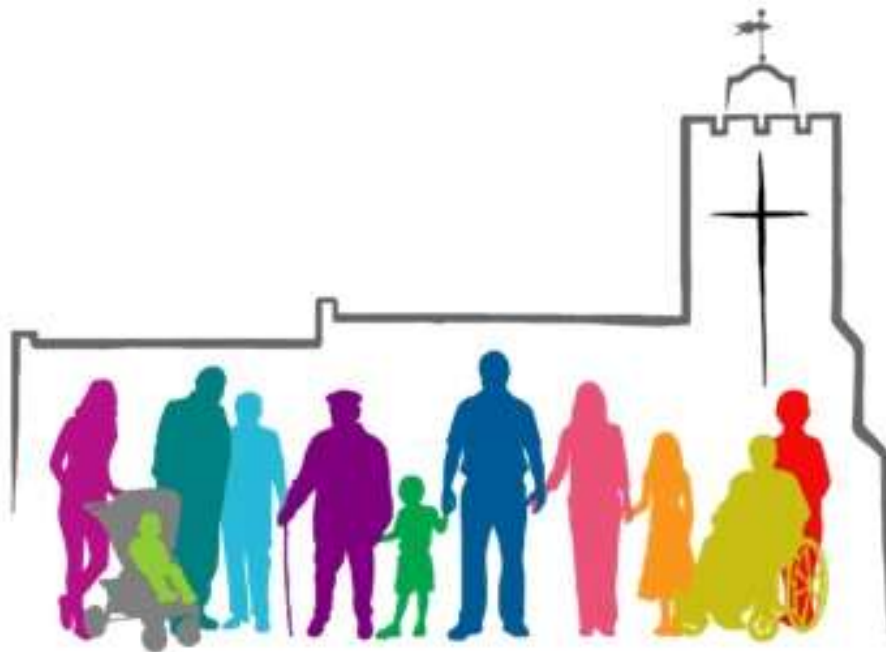
Further details of attendances at various services are covered in the Rector's report.

Graham Wadley

Accounts

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT 2021



St. Mary's PCC, Wivenhoe
Registered Charity Number 1165660

Registered Charity Number 1165660

**The Annual Parochial Church meeting will take place
on Sunday 15th May 2022 at 12 noon in church**

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2021**
- 3. Election of members to the Parochial Church Council**
- 4. Election of Churchwardens**
- 5. The Annual Report**
- 6. Report on the changes to the Roll since the last annual Parochial Church
Council meeting and the numbers entered on the Roll.**
- 7. Annual Report on the fabric and goods and ornaments of the church**
- 8. A report of the proceedings of the deanery synod**
- 9. Acceptance of the accounts**
- 10. Appointment of an Independent Examiner**
- 11. Any Other Business**

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St. Mary the Virgin, Wivenhoe
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Via zoom on Saturday 22nd May 2021 at 10.30 a.m.

The Meeting opened at 10.30 a.m. Erwin gave a short address about the difficulties during 2020. On 1 March 2020 two weeks before lockdown we didn't realise what would hit us: 84 people attended church that Sunday of which 10 children – it was All Together Sunday – and all seemed fine. Two weeks later the church doors closed. From June until the end of December there were sessions for private prayer and communion under Covid restrictions. Erwin stated that we now have to look to the future and build the church congregation. Although there were opportunities to have services within the church at some points during the year there was an overriding concern about safety during the pandemic. The decision was taken to close the church to protect others and to comply with the government guidance. The church has however been visible online with virtual services on Sunday mornings and for Mid-Week reflection on Wednesdays. Erwin thanked Marika Footring who has worked tirelessly to provide the online services for over a year and her generosity of time has been exceptional. During the past twelve months some have stepped into roles and others decided to step back and Erwin understood their reasons for doing so but those stepping down hopefully will reconsider that decision and return. It has not always been doom and gloom; the new virtual way of communicating has made us consider other options for the future. The building of the annexe and the reordering of the nave has proceeded during lockdown and is nearly finished. Revd. Dr. Sara Batts-Neale and Revd. Dr. Elisabeth Ring have joined the ministry team during the year. Erwin read the prayer of renewal of the covenant before asking PCC Vice Chair Peter Terry to conduct the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence: Greg Butler and Revd. Dr. E. Ring

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2020

Graeme Martin proposed, Margaret Bigwood seconded and the meeting agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2020 were a true record.

3. Election of members to the Parochial Church Council

Erwin thanked Deirdre Gill, Angelique Basson and Eleanor Newman for their time and commitment as members of the PCC.

The following candidates were put forward for election to the PCC –

- Graham Wadley was proposed by John Williams and seconded by Maureen Reynolds this was approved unanimously.
- Suzanne Jones was proposed by Ann Hanagan and seconded by Barry Smith this was approved unanimously.
- Under the Church Representation Rules Section M15(1h) it was proposed by Peter Terry and seconded by Bonnie Hill that Reader Glyn Stanway be appointed to the PCC and this was approved unanimously.

4. Election of Churchwardens

Peter thanked Margaret Bigwood and Douglas McCormick for their work during the year. Both Douglas and Margaret were prepared to continue.

Margaret Ann Bigwood was proposed by Sandra Osborne and seconded by Katy Osborne and this was approved unanimously.

Douglas McCormick was proposed Peter Terry and seconded by Rick Cawley and this was approved unanimously.

5. The Annual Report

Erwin reviewed the annual report, highlighting and thanking people for their contribution to the life and work of the parish. He mentioned each of the groups many of whom were still reporting into the PCC regularly on their activities during lockdown. Erwin thanked the Churchwardens and the Standing Committee members for their commitment during the past year. Groups had continued to meet either outside when permitted, using email or via zoom. The Transformation Project had involved many different groups during the year, all working

towards the same aim - the completion of the annexe and reordering of the nave. Despite the cancellation of events last year many of the groups were already planning activities in the autumn of 2021. As he went through the report Erwin specifically thanked all the team leaders for their leadership and their time given during 2020.

Peter Terry thanked Erwin for his ministry in Wivenhoe during a very difficult year. He had maintained contact via various means where he was able to; he had mastered how to deliver online services and through his dedication had ensured that we were able to worship together on a weekly basis.

6. Report on the changes to the Roll since the last annual Parochial Church Council meeting and the numbers entered on the Roll.

Peter referred those present to page 6 of the Annual Report. 117 names were on the 2020 electoral roll. Some members of the congregation had sadly passed or moved away. Thanks were given to Vivien Eborn, St. Mary's Electoral Roll Officer.

7. Annual Report on the fabric and goods and ornaments of the church

Peter referred those present to page 6 of the Annual Report. There were no questions. Peter thanked Margaret Bigwood and Douglas McCormick for their report.

8. A report of the proceedings of the deanery synod

Peter referred those present to page 5 of the Annual Report. There were no questions. Peter thanked our three Deanery Synod Representatives for their report

9. Acceptance of accounts

In presenting St Mary's accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 for acceptance, Treasurer Bill Eborn asked if there were any questions about the accounts and there were none.

The accounts had been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission and the Church of England requirements.

The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Bill Eborn; this was seconded by Douglas McCormick and unanimously agreed.

10. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Peyton Tyler Mears, having agreed to act as Independent Examiners were proposed by Bill Eborn, seconded by Graeme Martin and unanimously agreed that they be appointed for 2021/2022 by the meeting.

Peter thanked Bill Eborn and Vivien Eborn for their work during a challenging year.

Marika Footring spoke about the fact that Peyton Tyler Mears had been appointed for several years and wondered if fresh eyes should examine the accounts. Bill said that there had been discussion in the press about some companies not pushing organisations to be absolutely accurate. Bill suggested that we didn't change until after the Appeal had finished on 31st December. If there was a change it may result in a higher charge as they would need to read into the accounts which would take time. Marika confirmed that it was a good idea to stay where we were for the examination of the 2021 accounts but consideration should be given to who would be recommended for appointment at the next annual meeting.

11. Other matters

There were no other matters.

The annual meeting closed at 11.05 a.m.

Deanery Synod

The Colchester Deanery Synod

Area Dean, Revd Canon Revd Paul Norrington

Assistant Area Dean, Revd Erwin Lammens,

Lay Chair, Canon Roger Ennals, Christ Church

Talk by Revd. Beverley Vincent, Area Advocate for **Living in Love and Faith**. Beverley's talk was followed by discussions using the breakout rooms function of Zoom and then a Q&A session.

We have a new Bishop, a new Finance Director, a new CEO and a new Director of Mission. This is really important as a new team will bring new perspectives and a new sense of listening. It will also bring a new desire to communicate, especially from the parishes upwards. Adrian Jones, was duly elected to serve on the Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee, (Highwoods and St. Luke's).

Deanery Vision Plan update – Revd Canon Paul Norrington, Revd Erwin Lammens and Canon Roger Ennals have met with the Bishop Guli and Archdeacon Ruth looking at the future of our Deanery Vision Plan. Information from this will be shared.

Revd. John Chandler has produced a very good **Deanery Financial Strategy**. This details some really important issues that the DSPC is dealing with on behalf of the Deanery. There is a new financial strategy that has been adopted, and the hope is that we can build confidence into the life of the diocese. We have tremendous energy and respect because we have pioneered many things. This will give us confidence and the financial strategy will give us this knowledge.

Where things are regarding COVID/**Post-COVID** – Revd. Canon Paul Norrington praised and congratulated all in the Deanery for doing what we are doing and in particular the vibrancy of ministry that has continued throughout the last year. Revd. John Chandler will be producing a document that will share how well we have done during the last year of the pandemic. That being said there are also some challenges. It is not just simply about paying our share but also raising money to run our churches. The challenge that we face for the rest of this year will go on into 2022 and beyond. There will be a lot of reorganisation and rethinking about how we move forward.

Mary Durlacher shared some highlights about **General Synod**, the synod is the third legislative body behind the House of Commons and the House of Lords, so there is a lot of legislation to get through which is important. There is a sense of a turning point with regards to what shape that the church, emerging from the times of the pandemic, is going to be. There is lots of opportunity up for grabs such as transforming effectiveness. Don't lose heart and please pray for all those involved.

Bibles for Tools With A Mission (TWAM) – Richard Chadborn. TWAM renovates tools and sends them to Africa for use. They are now after Bibles to also send. If anybody can help then please contact Richard directly via his email address which is dchadborn@yahoo.co.uk

Rev James Gilder, Diocesan Environment Officer gave a talk about the possibility of **Churches coming to Zero Carbon by 2030**. Most Churches where possible are working on their Gardens around their Churches and some have obtained their Bronze and Silver awards. Chelmsford Cathedral has obtained a Gold Award. Every effort even by one person helps. Ideas: Planting only native species, Bug Hotels, Lawn Planting, Plant exchanges, A June picnic for everyone. Service in Church at Harvest. Eco Churches on the rise, some churches buy utilities like Gas/Electric together. Currently the demand is greater than the supply. Monitor what you use first. Get local advice, ask him. Pray. Energy each church uses per Metre Squared. Green suppliers of energy. However it has to be more than just about the gardening, more than how well you insulate your church. Think about your community – get them involved. Be prepared that not everyone will want to be involved. Try to create a Zero plan for 2030, every idea that works makes a difference to your church and your community.

Proposed plans for 2022 which may be of interest. June 5th **Pentecost Celebration in Leisure World** (Charter Hall) Colchester 10.30am with Patrick Regan. On the 24th September the **Free Family Fun Festival**, 11-4pm.

Heather Edwards, Rick Cawley, Nick Gustard

Electoral Roll

On 31 December 2021 there were 115 names on St Mary's Electoral Roll. During the previous year two members moved away, one sadly died and we enrolled one new member of the congregation.

Having your name on the Electoral Roll entitles you to attend and vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and to hear about all that has happened in the last year.

A list of the names on the Electoral Roll can be found at the back of Church.

Vivien Eborn , Electoral Roll Officer

Fabric & Transformation Project Report

The Transformation Project was substantially completed in 2021. The new Annexe and transformed Nave are in active use. There remain some snagging items and the wall, railings and gates to East Street are to be completed. None of these are hindering the use of the new facilities.

The construction of a path around the Annexe, linking the gable double doors to the Carolin Garden, is being investigated with quotation being sought and subsequent clarification on permissions required from the Diocese.

Internally in the Annexe, related to the live streaming project discussed below, a flat screen TV connected to the data network and the connection of the hearing loop to the sound system are all outstanding with measures in hand to undertake these works subject to approval from the Diocese.

The stained glass window is complete but not installed and finding a glazier with the correct skills to fit this is a work in progress. We were very delighted to be loaned a model yacht from The Nottage and this adds an interesting feature above the kitchenette.

Outside, the flood lights have been replaced with modern LED lights and side panels have been fitted to the lights to reduce glare and light pollution.

The entrance to the Tower requires a handrail to be installed. This is in early stages of being investigated.

The notice board at the North gate to the Churchyard has been refurbished with new timbers where required.

The North roof and North Porch roof were damaged in storms with falling masonry from the tower. The roofs have been repaired and the corner stone from the North West string course replaced as an insurance claim in the period.

In the Nave, current projects include the introduction of live streaming equipment and the extension of the fire alarm system from the Annexe, both subject to appropriate outstanding permissions from the Diocese.

Redecoration of the Church is in consideration but there is concern over the state of the plaster and the likelihood of significant expense over and above the cost of the redecoration. Agreeing the correct specification for the paint is proving difficult with a number of different paints having been applied in various areas over the years. Permission from the Diocese is in discussion but affordability remains an issue.

The Choir Vestry floor is to be repaired, with rotten joists and floor boards to be replaced. This is being investigated and appropriate permissions will be required from the Diocese in due course.

The brasses in the Chancel currently pose a trip hazard and solutions to reduce this risk are being investigated.

The steps to the Chancel have been repaired as part of the transformation of the Nave and offer an easier going for those with difficulty managing high steps.

Much has been achieved in 2021 and thanks are due to the many people who have given of their time and skills for which we are very grateful. There is much more to do in 2022 as we continue to develop opportunity in the heart of the community with good facilities that complement the ongoing ministry of St Mary's.

Douglas McCormick, Churchwarden

Health & Safety

James Peters has continued in the Health & Safety Officer role since being appointed in April 2019.

All risk assessments and health and safety documentation remain up to date, having last been fully reviewed in August 2021 as the building works were coming to an end. The next review will be in March 2022.

Due to new formal advice released by the HSE in November 2021 in respect to organisations which are largely dependent on volunteers, some of the requirements in terms of Health and Safety will no longer apply to St Mary's. This will lessen the burden in terms of the Health and Safety Management Systems and records which are required to be kept up to date.

As part of the review, the below will be rechecked, and non-required sections removed.

1. Health & Safety Management and Premises Audit Report
2. Fire Risk Assessment and Audit Report
3. Health & Safety Policy Statement (adopted by the PCC on 09/09/2019) – **this document will require signing again in April 2022.**
4. Integrated Health and Safety Policy
5. Risk assessments for all areas of activity.

There have been no significant issues reported in terms of the health, safety or welfare of any staff, volunteers or visitors to the church premises during the year.

Any future issues should be reported directly to the Health & Safety Officer, either in person or by email (details are available in the church or from the Secretary).

Rectors Report

Re-building the church, community and our confidence

A YEAR OF TWO HALVES

January-June: Church closure

2021 can be divided in two halves: from the beginning of the year until the end of June the church remained closed, first because of the nation's Covid lockdown, and after Easter because of the works to the floor in the nave.

July-December: A fresh start

From July we welcomed our congregation back into church; in the first instance under restrictions but from September the numeric limitation at services was lifted. From then we saw a gradual increase in church attendance until the first weekend in December when the omicron variant took over and caused a steep surge in Covid cases. We were allowed to carry on with services over Christmas but numbers went down again.

Since the re-opening of the church for services in June we have welcomed seven new members who regularly attend. Several new young members joined the Sunday Club.

STATISTICS

In 2020 it was impossible to keep accurate statistics as attendance was restricted, church closures were required and for long spells we were not able to run weekly services. This year we are able to share figures from mid-June until the end of December. It is clear that attendance hasn't picked up to the level before Covid but numbers are moving in the right direction.

Sunday and Wednesday services

2021 figures from June (reopening of the church) until the end of December

There were no Evensong or Holy Ground services.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
8am/9am	10	11	11	12	14	12	10	11	11		10
10.30am: under 16	7	7	7	6	6	5	6	5	8		6
10.30 am: adults	77	79	79	76	76	72	72	62	67		51
Evensong	17	16	16	17	17	14	16	12	11		N/A
7 past 7	10	11	11	11	12	11	12	8	8		6
Taizé	18	12	25	34	28	18	27	26	21		16
Holy Ground							9	12	12		N/A

Pastoral and initiation services

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Baptisms	15	18	30	20	27	14	21	18	18	9	4	6
Confirmations	0	4	8	0	6	8	0	6	0	8	0	0
Weddings	7	12	19	13	6	10	15	8	6	5	3	5
Renewal of vows	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	0
Funerals	-	21	20	18	20	20	10	14	6	10	10	8
Cremation services	-	8	13	9	8	4	15	10	9	16	17	9

THE TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

While the economy in the country and the entire world suffered, we managed with only a few delays to build the annexe with meeting room, kitchen, toilets, and lobby with levelled entrance and to lay a new floor and introduce flexible, comfortable seating. This was an immense achievement given the crisis. On Sunday 26 September Bishop Roger of Colchester officially opened the premises and blessed the annexe and a newly made altar for use at communion in the annexe. This was one of the highlights of a successful weekend of outreach at our church.

HIRING THE CHURCH

From August onwards the church and annexe were available for use by the church and the community. Groups, organisations, families, individuals, charities or commercial organisations have hired the annexe and/or nave for a variety of events. In addition to the voluntary cleaning team, the cleaner for the kitchen and facilities, we appointed a paid caretaker and a voluntary bookings administrator.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

We said farewell to Revd Elisabeth Ring who continues her training in the Parish where she lives with her family. She had received a warm welcome during the year she was with us and left her mark as a compassionate and friendly deacon and priest, loyal colleague and excellent preacher and teacher.

Around the time Elisabeth moved on, we welcomed Helena Hughes who had worked as a youth minister in the church of Sweden for three years. It was good to welcome her back among us. Her permission as authorised local preacher was renewed. We enjoy her sermons and Bible Study sessions.

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH

A course exploring human relationships and sexuality 'Living in Love and Faith' has been publicised by the Church of England and churches were encouraged to run the course. At St Mary's the course was run for two groups by the Revds Dr Sara Batts-Neale and Dr Elisabeth Ring. Participants have been encouraged to take part in a survey in anticipation of the General Synod in the summer of 2022.

ZOOM OR IN PERSON MEETINGS

For services in addition to the ones taking place in the church we continued to use YouTube or Facebook. From July services were in person at the church but every Sunday and midweek an online service and reflection has been made available. We hope that by May 2022 we will be able to live stream services from church. In the autumn and winter PCC and other meetings are generally by Zoom.

PASTORAL

Because not everyone has been able to return to church we have continued to keep in touch with parishioners by posting Tidings, a monthly letter by the rector, regular phone calls by a phone buddy, online services twice a week and distributing Harvest posies. In collaboration with the churches in the Mission and Ministry Partnership (MMP) social gatherings were organised and lifts offered. People who attended enjoyed meeting after a spell of isolation. Also The Friendly Club is a welcoming initiative for people who have missed the social contact with others. If you are or know of someone who is not on our contact list please do speak to Erwin.

CHURCHES TOGETHER AND MMP

We never interrupted the regular contact and strong relationships with other Christian churches in Wivenhoe and our Church of England partners in Greenstead and St John's Colchester. We have continued to meet and pray together mostly over Zoom. The planning of our cooperation for the near and distant future is in place.

AND YOU

St Mary's is run by more than a hundred volunteers and a leadership team of about a dozen people, lay and ordained. Without these people we would be unable to serve the community in diverse ways. For my report I won't construct a long list of names of those who build our Parish church in Wivenhoe. We all know who they are. And I hope these people experience how grateful we are to them.

The shock of the Covid crisis has caused uncertainty among many and some could no longer contribute to the life of the church. Those who continued to serve in these difficult circumstances took more upon themselves to cover the work that was left undone. As we hope for an end to the pandemic, we also hope for people stepping up by offering to serve.

We trust that in 2022 the rebuilding of our church, community and our confidence will continue and that we will be able to organise several events. As an example the Friendly Club was flourishing until their gatherings were suspended at the end of 2021. But there are signs that

when activities will resume they will attract even more people. There is a need to rebuild our community and relationships with confidence. Let us achieve this together.

We are not people of despair but of hope, not of darkness but of light, not of distrust but of trust in God.

Revd Erwin Lammens

Safeguarding Report

Much of the year has continued with restrictions around church services and as a result, the role of safeguarding has been less active than in years before the pandemic. Now that the brilliant annexe has been built and as St Mary's reaches out to the community, appropriate safeguarding will be vital to ensure all involved can enjoy the church activities in a safe environment.

St Mary's has a dedicated safeguarding email address which is monitored by the Safeguarding Officer. There have been no concerns or queries raised through this, and indeed no other complaints or worries to report over this period.

It will be important as we look towards the next year that we ensure that DBS checks are up to date for all church officers with direct involvement with children or vulnerable adults, alongside keeping up to date with safeguarding training. The diocese offers online training at a basic level and face to face more advanced training for those in positions where they might be leading groups or have individual responsibilities.

El Newman, Safeguarding Officer

Secretary to the PCC Report

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. The PCC (Powers Measure 1956) states that "the PCC is to co-operate with the Minister in promoting in the Parish the whole Mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical." The PCC is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the church building of St Mary the Virgin, and for the "movables" in the church.

Due to the Covid19 pandemic the Annual Parish Meeting was not held in person on 22nd May 2021 but held virtually that day via zoom.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, co-opted, appointed or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the 2020 Church Representation Rules. The following have served as members of the PCC during 2021

Incumbent	The Revd. Erwin Lammens	Chairman	
Licensed Clergy	Revd. Dr. Sara Batts-Neale		
Licensed Clergy	Revd. Dr. Elisabeth Ring	reassigned	Sept. 2021
Reader	Emeritus Professor Dr. Glyn Stanway		
Churchwardens	Margaret Bigwood		
	Douglas McCormick		
Treasurer	Bill Eborn		
Secretary	Bonnie Hill		
Deanery Synod Representatives	Rick Cawley		
	Dr. Nick Gustard		
	Heather Edwards		
Elected Members	Peter Terry	resigned	Sept. 2021
	Greg Butler		
	Jane Taylor		
	Eric Jakens		
	Sandra Osborne		
	Jennifer Heaps	resigned	Oct. 2021
	Graeme Martin	resigned	Sept. 2021
	Graham Wadley		
	Sue Jones		

The PCC members above have worked together to ensure that St Marys Church offered both spiritual and practical support as and where it was possible to do so in what has been another difficult year for everyone.

During 2021 the PCC met on seven occasions. Due to the pandemic the PCC only meet in person twice and all other meetings were conducted via zoom. The Standing Committee continued to communicate and met virtually throughout the year. The PCC meeting minutes can be accessed from the St. Mary's Church website.

There have been a number of resignations during the latter half of the year and all have been due to a change in personal circumstances which has led to those decisions being made. The PCC do however go forward with confidence and optimism.

Bonnie Hill, PCC Secretary

Communication

COMMUNICATIONS

The church website [<https://stmaryswivenhoe.org>] and Facebook page [<https://www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Church-Wivenhoe-816444805403094/>] remain the primary online platforms to communicate with internet users. Both platforms get good numbers of visitors but the Facebook page attracts the largest number of non-St Mary's viewers.

Revd Dr. Sara Batts-Neale is co-editor on the FB page.

The church website is hosted by Wordpress; the annual £100 subscription is donated.

St Mary's Youtube channel is our third online platform. It is mainly used as a repository for videos that are linked to from the other two platforms, but can be accessed independently at [<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeSmLhBMzRU59DBfZ4ZVrKw/videos>]. Sara can also co-manage on this platform.

Lastly there is St Mary's Twitter account @WivStMarys. Tweets are used to call attention to online services and other events of note that are happening at or in connection with the church.

The e-newsletter was discontinued in August 2021.

New Microsoft software has been installed on the church computer which means that Powerpoint Presentations can now be run on it.

GDPR

St Mary's Privacy Policy has been updated to reflect post-Brexit amendments. It is available online

LICENSING

CCLI and OneLicense cover remains in place for the church's music and film use both on site and on line.

Marika Footring, Communications Officer

TIDINGS 2022

In 2021 our pattern of remote editorial meetings became the norm apart from one or two held at the Rectory in early autumn. We became accustomed to working around Covid restrictions and virtual events, so last-minute amendments became fewer. Fortunately, as restrictions eased, large events such as the opening of the annexe could be celebrated in a big way.

Fisher Jones Greenwood became a new advertiser for the year and this will continue in 2022.

The four-page content continued, with Erwin's monthly letter and individual flyers containing any surplus news included in the mailing envelope.

We also continued to produce ten, rather than 12, issues per year to enable the rector, editor and designer to take annual leave. There is usually a limited amount of news around Christmas and summer holidays so it seems sensible to take a break at these times.

The printing of Tidings still incurs no charge to St Mary's as the print cost is paid for by the advertising revenue, and the print fulfilled by an online print company.

Tidings continued to be mailed out by PCC secretary Bonnie Hill and this will be the distribution system for the foreseeable future.

As always, a huge personal thank you also goes to everyone who willingly helps out with photos and contributions, which makes my job as Tidings editor as straightforward as possible, and Tidings a popular publication within St Mary's and Wivenhoe in general.

Sue Clement, Editor

Treasurer

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

I am pleased to be able to report that, thanks to everyone's continuing generosity, our Parish Share and all our bills were paid in full for 2021.

The bulk of our regular income comes from monthly standing orders; committed giving envelopes; and loose collections. This is much appreciated. Where applicable we can claim Gift Aid on most of these donations.

2021 has been a trying year for everyone, however, in Wivenhoe, many donors have found ways to continue to support St Mary's general fund raising which has enabled the Church to continue to function.

As the formal Appeal for the Transformation ended on 31 December 2021, it might be of interest to parishioners in the future to know how St Mary's managed to finance such a huge project especially in the middle of the Corona pandemic. There were two very large legacies, from Ivan Newton and Barbara Patterson; an appeal to the whole of Wivenhoe which brought in donations and monthly standing orders; and many other donations both large and small.

As Treasurer these donations must remain confidential but I can assure you that many people have worked very hard to raise money.

I retired as Treasurer of St Mary's at the end of December after six years. Douglas McCormick, having previously been a Church Warden, became St Mary's Treasurer from 1st January 2022. I am very pleased to be handing over to such a safe pair of hands.

Once again I should like to record my sincere thanks to Ian Dimmock, of the Diocesan Parish Accounts Service, who takes all our raw data and prepares it for the Diocese and to Vivien who counts and banks all the money and records the Gift Aid for the Inland Revenue.

The full Accounts, which appear on pages 14 to 22 have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice and have been Independently Examined by Peyton Tyler Mears, Chartered Accountants. Their certificate appears on Page 13.

Bill Eborn, Treasurer

St Mary's PCC Wivenhoe

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of St Mary's PCC Wivenhoe

Year Ended 31st December 2021

I report on the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Chartered Association of Certified Accountants.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 next statement.

Independent Examiner's Statement

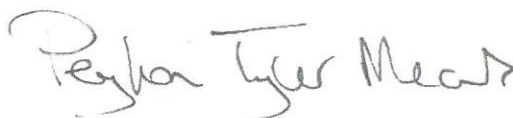
In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 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.

PEYTON TYLER MEARS
Chartered accountant

Middleborough House
16 Middleborough
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1QT



28th February 2022.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S WIVENHOE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2021 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2020 £
Incoming resources					
<i>Voluntary income</i>	2a	100,732.90	37,067.18	137,800.08	276,532.02
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>	2b	5,283.59	2,890.29	8,173.88	2,179.87
<i>Income from investments</i>	2c	45.47	423.99	469.46	2,117.39
<i>Church activities</i>	2d	14,476.95	1,290.00	15,766.95	7,845.00
Total incoming resources		120,538.91	41,671.46	162,210.37	288,674.28
Resources expended					
<i>Church activities</i>	3a	95,097.28	545,452.42	640,549.70	111,018.45
<i>Costs of generating voluntary income</i>	3b	524.71	1,055.89	1,580.60	1,270.32
<i>Governance Costs</i>	3c	1,464.00		1,464.00	1,380.00
Total resources expended		97,085.99	546,508.31	643,594.30	113,668.77
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		23,452.92	(504,836.85)	(481,383.93)	175,005.51
Gross transfers between funds		(956.05)	956.05		
		22,496.87	(503,880.80)	(481,383.93)	175,005.51
Other recognised gains/losses					
<i>Gains/(losses) on investment assets</i>	6				
Net movement in funds		22,496.87	(503,880.80)	(481,383.93)	175,005.51
Total funds brought forward at 1 January 2021		62,394.55	608,517.02	670,911.57	495,906.06
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2021		84,891.42	104,636.22	189,527.64	670,911.57

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S WIVENHOE

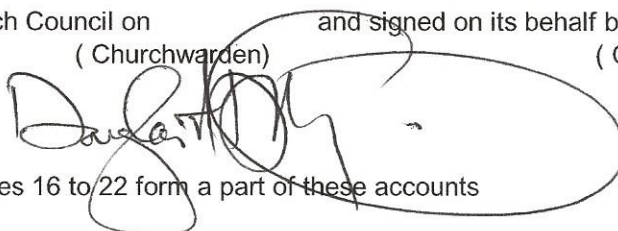
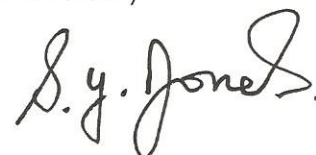
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021	2020
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	5		
Investments	6		
Total fixed assets			
Current assets			
Investments			
Debtors	7	19,000.00	33,875.00
Short term deposits		53,664.85	453,664.85
Transformation Appeal deposit account		5,256.56	2,967.98
FOSM current account		2,270.00	1,945.00
Transformation Appeal account		15,638.29	90,508.05
PCC Current account		126,666.90	89,450.69
	9	<u>222,496.60</u>	<u>672,411.57</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(32,968.96)</u>	<u>(1,500.00)</u>
Net current assets		189,527.64	670,911.57
Total assets less current liabilities		189,527.64	670,911.57
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	9		
NET ASSETS		<u>189,527.64</u>	<u>670,911.57</u>
Parish Funds	7		
Unrestricted funds	11	84,891.42	62,394.55
Restricted funds	11	104,636.22	608,517.02
		<u>189,527.64</u>	<u>670,911.57</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on
(PCC chairman) and

(Churchwarden)

and signed on its behalf by Revd E Lammens
(Churchwarden)

The accompanying notes on pages 16 to 22 form a part of these accounts

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1. Accounting policies

Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards (FRS102) and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2019)

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members. The Friends of St Mary's and Wivenhoe St. Mary's Music Society have agreed with the PCC that they produce separate financial statements.

Fund accounting

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from trusts or endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

Designated funds are general funds set aside by the PCC for use in the future. Funds designated as invested in fixed assets for the PCC's own use, abated in line with assets' annual depreciation charges in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA). Designated funds remain unrestricted and the PCC may move any surplus to other general funds.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to use of the resources, their ultimate receipts are considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are reliably quantifiable. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The Diocesan Parish Share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due.

All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

2 Incoming resources

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2021 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2020 £
a Voluntary income					
Planned giving	Gift Aid donations	43,432.50	11,285.00	54,717.50	83,044.72
	Income tax recoverable	17,502.89	1,020.57	18,523.46	37,632.58
	Other	480.00		480.00	80.00
Collections at all services	Open plate	3,047.44		3,047.44	1,791.91
Gift days					
Grants			3,909.63	3,909.63	9,864.86
Sundry donations and appeals		30,270.07	20,836.21	51,106.28	26,273.50
Legacies		6,000.00	15.77	6,015.77	117,844.45
		100,732.90	37,067.18	137,800.08	276,532.02
b Activities for generating funds					
Parish Magazine (advertising)		600.00		600.00	240.00
September & December markets		3,884.58		3,884.58	
Fundraising		799.01	2,890.29	3,689.30	1,939.87
		5,283.59	2,890.29	8,173.88	2,179.87
c Income from investments					
Dividends on CBF Investment Fund					
Bank and CBF Deposit fund interest		45.47	423.99	469.46	2,117.39
		45.47	423.99	469.46	2,117.39
d Income from Church Activities					
Fees from weddings and funerals		9,322.00		9,322.00	7,845.00
Parish magazine (sales)					
Church lettings local community use		1,588.15		1,588.15	
Insurance Claims		1,371.80		1,371.80	
Sale of Fixed Assets		2,195.00	1,290.00	3,485.00	
		14,476.95	1,290.00	15,766.95	7,845.00
Total incoming resources		120,538.91	41,671.46	162,210.37	288,674.28

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

3 Resources expended

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2021 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2020 £
a Church Activities				
Missionary and charitable giving:				
Overseas:				
Relief & Development Agencies	1,020.00		1,020.00	949.66
Home Mission	850.57		850.57	125.00
Secular charities	1,366.45		1,366.45	1,184.82
	<u>3,237.02</u>		<u>3,237.02</u>	<u>2,259.48</u>
Ministry costs: Diocesan Parish Share	65,279.64		65,279.64	66,317.16
Other ministry costs	2,281.09		2,281.09	2,011.09
Church maintenance	1,825.12	356.64	2,181.76	2,644.33
Church running expenses	6,730.67		6,730.67	5,802.23
Upkeep of services	3,187.30		3,187.30	1,121.31
Organ & Organists	1,607.00	110.00	1,717.00	737.00
New electric Piano	2,078.00		2,078.00	
Vergers	523.00		523.00	420.00
Transformation (Note 10)		544,985.78	544,985.78	22,276.45
Major Repairs - Structural renewal	3,408.60		3,408.60	1,533.34
Parish training				116.00
Parish magazine costs	1,575.36		1,575.36	1,477.47
Assigned fees to Diocese	2,492.00		2,492.00	3,570.00
Administration	323.88		323.88	242.94
Bank charges	548.60		548.60	489.65
	<u>91,860.26</u>	<u>545,452.42</u>	<u>637,312.68</u>	<u>108,758.97</u>
b Generation of voluntary income				
Fundraising costs	524.71	1,055.89	1,580.60	1,270.32
	<u>524.71</u>	<u>1,055.89</u>	<u>1,580.60</u>	<u>1,270.32</u>
c Governance costs				
Inc. Independent Examiners remuneration	1,464.00		1,464.00	1,380.00
	<u>1,464.00</u>		<u>1,464.00</u>	<u>1,380.00</u>
Total resources expended	<u>97,085.99</u>	<u>546,508.31</u>	<u>643,594.30</u>	<u>113,668.77</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

4a Staff costs

The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion relating to their function as PCC members.

During the year the PCC employed organists and vergers including 2 PCC members.

b Payments to PCC members

No payments or expenses were paid to any PCC members (other than noted in a) above) or persons closely connected to them, or other related parties except for the reimbursement of approved expenses..

5 Tangible fixed assets (all unrestricted)

	Church equipment £	TOTAL £
Actual/deemed cost		
At 1 January 2021		0
Disposals		0
Additions		0
Revaluation		0
At 31 December 2021	0	0
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2021		0
Withdrawn on disposals		0
Provided in the year		0
At 31 December 2021	0	0
Net book amounts		
At 31 December 2021	0	0
At 31 December 2021	0	0

6 Investments

	CBIFS	ABC Plc	Total £
Market value 1 January 2021			0
Disposals at carrying value			0
Purchases at cost			0
Net gains and revaluation			0
Market value 31 December 2021	0	0	0

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S WIVENHOE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

7 CURRENT ASSETS

a Investments

	£
Market value 1st January 2021	
Purchases at cost	
Gain on revaluation	
Market value 31st December 2021	<u>0</u>

b Debtors less than one year	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	2020
Tax recoverable	16,500		16,500	32,375
Tax recoverable - Transformation Project		2,500	2,500	0
Prepayments and accrued interest			0	0
	<u>16,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>19,000</u>	<u>32,375</u>

8 LIABILITIES

Creditors falling dues in less than one year	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	2020
Accruals for utilities and other cost	1,500	0	1,500	1,500
Transformation costs		31,469	31,469	0
	<u>1,500</u>	<u>31,469</u>	<u>32,969</u>	<u>1,500</u>

Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Other creditors	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

9 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets				0.00
Investment fixed assets				0.00
Current assets	86,391.42	136,105.18		222,496.60
Liabilities	(1,500.00)	(31,468.96)		(32,968.96)
Amounts falling due in one year				0.00
Amounts falling due after one year (See Note 11)				0.00
	<u>84,891.42</u>	<u>104,636.22</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>189,527.64</u>

10 TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

The Transformation Project costs incurred during 2021 total £544,985.78 as shown in note 3a.

This total includes £31,468.96 approved by PCC but not paid at the year end, This sum is included in Liabilities (Note 8)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

11 Statement of funds

	Bal b/fwd. 1 Jan 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers,	Bal c/fwd. 31 Dec 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Fund					
General	61,650.64	120,506.91	(96,989.52)	(7,756.05)	77,411.98
Fabric Legacies (Designated)	0.00			6,500.00	6,500.00
Sunday Club (Designated)	743.91	32.00	(96.47)	300.00	979.44
	<u>62,394.55</u>	<u>120,538.91</u>	<u>(97,085.99)</u>	<u>(956.05)</u>	<u>84,891.42</u>
Restricted Fund					
Bell	11,553.85	10.82	0.00	350.00	11,914.67
Carolyn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Choir	1,235.27	0.00	(110.00)	0.00	1,125.27
Friends of St Mary's	6,113.76	1,544.20	0.00	(100.00)	7,557.96
Fabric General	3,322.37	276.00	(356.64)	0.00	3,241.73
Fabric Langley-Bale	1,797.19	0.00	0.00	(1,797.19)	0.00
Fabric Newton	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fabric Newton - South Porch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fabric Ashton	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
Flower	423.62	600.00	0.00	0.00	1,023.62
Cory Maintenance	1,875.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	2,115.00
Emergency Appeal & Annex	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Emerg.Appeal & Annex Legacy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transformation Main	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transformation Project	570,997.51	37,124.20	(544,985.78)	2,461.69	65,597.62
Wivenhoe St. Mary's Music Soc.	1,198.45	2,116.24	(1,055.89)	(198.45)	2,060.35
	<u>608,517.02</u>	<u>41,671.46</u>	<u>(546,508.31)</u>	<u>956.05</u>	<u>104,636.22</u>
Total funds	<u>670,911.57</u>	<u>162,210.37</u>	<u>(643,594.30)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>189,527.64</u>

Note 1

	£
Transformation Project Fund as at 31st December 2021	65,597.62
LESS Gift Aid receiveable during 2022	(2,500.00)
	<u>63,097.62</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

12 Comparative Fund Analysis for 2020 (PREVIOUS YEAR) Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2020 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2019 £
Incoming Resources				
Voluntary income	82,797.95	193,734.07	276,532.02	123,017.72
Activities for generating funds	972.37	1,207.50	2,179.87	13,978.26
Income from investments	28.07	2,089.32	2,117.39	2,499.37
Church activities	7,845.00		7,845.00	12,007.10
Total incoming resources	91,643.39	197,030.89	288,674.28	151,502.45
Resources expended				
Church activities	86,300.66	24,717.79	111,018.45	141,835.14
Costs of generating voluntary income	85.96	1,184.36	1,270.32	2,398.21
Governance costs	1,380.00		1,380.00	1,320.00
	87,766.62	25,902.15	113,668.77	145,553.35
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers	3,876.77	171,128.74	175,005.51	5,949.10
Gross transfers between funds	(670.00)	670.00	0.00	0.00
	3,206.77	171,798.74	175,005.51	5,949.10
Other recognised gains/losses				
Gains/(losses) on investment assets				
Net movement in funds	3,206.77	171,798.74	175,005.51	5,949.10
Total funds brought forward at 1 January 2020	59,187.78	436,718.28	495,906.06	489,956.96
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2020	62,394.55	608,517.02	670,911.57	495,906.06

All Together Worship

This report are fairly short as the church was closed until the end of June due to the Lockdown. This was until Easter and then there were works going on until the end of June. The core team consists of Teresa Warren, Rev. Erwin Lammens, Sue Jones and Hannah Cole. Other ministers help out if it is their turn on the day of the All Together service, such as John and Janet Driver, Glyn Stanway and Helena Hughes. Ordinarily we have shared out tasks, leading talks and demonstrations. We usually receive great comments and support/encouragement from the congregation. We still hope for larger numbers of attendees. Due to the pandemic and the restrictions and closures of the church we only managed to carry out 3 All Together worships. They were on the first Sundays in the month in October, November and December. The themes were-

October- Harvest

November- The story of Jonah

December- Make way for the coming of the Lord.

Unfortunately, no further services took place. We hope that we can start them again in our previous more interactive ways soon in 2022. We will continue to work on trying to make these services as enjoyable, and as inclusive as possible.

Bellringers Report

The early part of the year in some respects was a continuation of the previous year, owing to the constraints imposed by the Covid pandemic, with the bells having to remain silent and the ringers keeping in touch with Zoom meetings. However we were determined that as soon as we could legitimately ring, then the bells of Wivenhoe would sound out again.

During the period of "silence" we were specifically requested to toll the tenor to mark the death of Prince Philip in April 2021, on two occasions, the first a few days after his death we tolled the bell 99 times, and again on the day of his funeral, the tenor was rung muffled.

Restrictions were eased sufficiently for us to start ringing in mid June and we were delighted that we were able to ring for the first wedding held at St Mary's the same month. The feedback we received from members of the community was that they had missed hearing the bells almost as much as we had missed not being able to ring them. Since June we have continued ringing for Sunday service, and of course held our Wednesday practise evenings. In September we took part in the North East District Essex Association of Change Ringers Call Change Striking competition, held at Great Bromley church and we were jubilant to win the competition and were presented with the Dickie Furminger Trophy for our efforts.

The church tower celebrated its 500th Birthday in October so we rang a quarter peal to mark this occasion, and of course, had to have fizz and birthday cake too!

On a happier note, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee will be marked on several occasions. We have already been requested by Wivenhoe Town Council to ring on Thursday 2 June at the time the beacon is lit in the evening.

Wivenhoe has been extremely fortunate as no-one from our team of ringers has decided not to come back to ringing. Many other towers have lost ringers and are not able to ring regularly without assistance from other towers. We have been fortunate to have had three learners come up the tower and all are now progressing well. We were also joined by Tim, an experienced ringer. We will have to say a sad goodbye to two ringers, Fred and Simon, who are moving to the USA in April this year.

The bells are still maintained in good condition and are checked regularly for wear and tear. At the moment there is no cause for concern for any significant maintenance costs.

Adrienne Wood, Tower Captain



Bible Study Report

September - December 2021

The Bible Study Group reconvened in September 2021 and we were fortunate enough to be able to use the new Annexe. This proved to be a warm and inviting place to meet. We met fortnightly on Mondays at 7pm for coffee and biscuits and started the study time at 7.30pm. We aimed to finish and clear away by 9pm. We usually numbered 10 people in the group. We met five times in the autumn term and our study was centred on the Gospel according to Mark. The overall themes for the study were 'Who is Jesus?' and 'What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus?' The last session was taken up with discussion of what we had learned and our response, as Christians in Wivenhoe, to the basic ideals of discipleship as explained by Jesus in Mark chapter 3: spirituality, hospitality, evangelism and acting with confidence and authority.

Helena Hughes

The Tuesday Bible Study Group led by Dr. Glyn Stanway did not meet during 2021.

Catering Report

Catering is slowly returning to St Mary's. Our first event in September 2021 was the celebration weekend. The new kitchen was used and although small we were able to have three people working in there together. Many cakes were made and sold. Filled rolls served with/without a packet of crisps proved popular at lunchtime

Unfortunately due to personal circumstances and high cases of Covid I had to cancel a soup event planned for November.

The next event is the quiz where homemade cakes will be served during the break.

I am very grateful to all my helpers who are always willing to help. Cakes not only have to be baked but set up and served and of course there is always a mountain of washing up to be done!

Mary Jakens

Cleaning Team Report

Cleaning at St Mary's was disrupted not only by Covid but also by the Transformation project. The cleaning team were able to resume their duties at the beginning of August 2021. A caretaker was also appointed and a new Henry vacuum cleaner was purchased. We still have Judy who does a sterling job looking after the kitchen and toilet areas.

As always I am very grateful to our caretaker Linda, Judy, and the volunteers who all help to keep our Church clean and tidy.

In January I handed over the coordinator role to Sandra Osborne.

Mary Jakens

Churches Together Report

Another fragmented year but the Walk of Witness went ahead on Good Friday, with no service afterwards.

A collection for Christian Aid was held outside the Co-op.

Meetings were held in September and October to organise the end of year events. A new Christmas card had been designed and the Scouts and Guides were asked to deliver, which they did.

A short meeting in November got the last details organised, and Carols on the Quay went ahead and had over 200 people turn up and raised £450.00

Our churches had resumed some services from September so things are looking up. A meeting in January decided that there would be no Lent course but we shall try showing a film prior to Good Friday. The Walk of Witness and a service should be held on Good Friday.

Rick Cawley

Flower Report

Due to the pandemic and the reordering of the nave the church did not open for services until the end of June. In September Carol Mitchell kindly took over the leadership of the flower team and during the remainder of the year they have provided a profusion of flowers appropriate for every occasion. This was especially evident at the Blessing of the reordered nave and new annexe on the 25th September by the Bishop of Colchester. Autumn, winter and Christmas arrangements followed. Thank you to Carol and her team for using their considerable talents in bringing nature inside our church for us all to enjoy.

Friendly Club

The Friendly Club & Café was launched in August 2021 by the Wivenhoe Dementia Support Group in partnership with St Mary's Church.

The Club has been regularly getting over 50 people to its sessions on a Thursday afternoon. We always succeed in having something going on there, particularly music, to make sure the session is fun.

We have a big team of volunteers who provide unlimited cups of tea or coffee, as well as biscuits, and whose role is to make sure everyone is made welcome and gets chatting to someone.

Alison has established a knitting table for people who want to knit, and chat, which has been proving popular. And George, the black Labrador, a petting dog, brings his owner, Janice down too; he enjoys being made a fuss of.

We have had many visiting people to entertain us as The Hoolies who sing sea shanties - Angela Dennis who has led a couple of Singing for the Brain sessions - Sarah McCaskey who gave us a Tibetan afternoon with singing and playing a harmonium and a seated relaxation session - the Time Travellers came along twice now to get us up and dancing; there was twisting, jiving, cha cha cha and much more. Joe from the Wivenhoe Microgym has been a couple of times to get everyone to do chair-based exercises, and will now come every month by popular demand.

We did temporarily suspend meetings over Christmas and in January because of the spread of Omicron variant but, given the fall in cases, we agreed we would restart our weekly sessions from 3rd February.

Also, we can now offer people living in Wivenhoe a lift to and from the Club with Wivenhoe's Community mini-bus, with thanks to Morag Willis and Ann Hanagan.

Sessions are every Thursday and are held in St Mary's Church from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. Everybody is welcome. Just £2 at the door for unlimited tea and coffee (and biscuits). Half of this £2 goes to St Mary's Church. This has meant that in the period from August to 31st December St Mary's Church received £454.65 as their share of the takings.

Peter Hill, Chairman, Wivenhoe Dementia Support Group



Friends of St Mary's Report

Faced with closure in the Summer of 2021 due to the lack of a Chair and a Secretary, Vivien and Bill Eborn offered to fill these roles.

We were able to hold an AGM in the Annexe on Saturday 9th October where Vivien was elected Chair and Bill Secretary. The Committee Members remained unchanged.

We were able to have a stall at the Town Fayre on the KGV playing field, St Mary's Celebration Market and the Christmas Market. FOSM goods sold well and our thanks to Wyvern Stores and the Book Shop for also selling these.

Our hope is to continue to raise money to maintain the fabric of St Mary's Church.

Vivien Eborn, Chair.

Fundraising Report

The opportunities to fundraise during 2021 were extremely limited due to the pandemic and at the beginning of the year there were only a few people on the fundraising team itself. Having no team leader was a difficulty as Tricia Bray had stepped down – thank you Tricia for the time and effort that you devoted to the team during your tenure. As the completion of the reordering of the nave and building the annexe approached the team could no longer be inactive and I volunteered to take on the additional role until the end of July 2022.

Erwin wished to celebrate the completion of the Transformation Project and it was decided that on the 25th September a community event be organised in the form of a market with stalls in aid of the church, plus local organisations and businesses. The uptake for stalls was amazing and the attendance on the day was heart warming as opportunities to come together as a community had been very rare for some eighteen months. St Mary's raised approximately £2,500 which was a great total. We then moved on to the December Market and used our experience from the September event to lay out the inside and outside stalls together with the annexe which transformed into Santa's Grotto which was incredibly popular with extensive queues of small people wishing to visit. The event raised approximately £1350.

Finally, a word of thanks to the fundraising team members for their loyalty, optimism and support and without whom things would not have happened. I really appreciate all those who helped with a stall, catering or in another capacity – the church family came together, worked together and delivered two events which we can all be proud of – you were brilliant.

As we move into 2022 events are in the diary but a new team leader and additional team members are needed in order to continue organising events during 2022 and beyond. If you know of anyone interested please do ask them to get in touch.

Bonnie Hill

Lectio Divina Report

Lectio Divina meets on the last Wednesday in the month at my home at 7.30pm (after mid-week reflection). It is a small group with Erwin attending occasionally. A passage of Scripture is chosen each month, in turn, and we meditate upon it, discuss how it is applicable to our lives and then pray for one another and other concerns. During the past year we have met in the garden or in the house depending on Covid restrictions. We communicate regularly: sometimes it's just a wave through the window!!

Please let me know if you would like to join us.

Ann Evershed

Music at St Marys Report

The Covid pandemic has decimated choirs everywhere with singing in churches not permitted from March 2020 until about mid-year 2021. Therefore it was not possible for either the Church Choir or St Mary's Singers to meet for a very long time.

Until mid 2021 members of both groups took part in a Thursday Sing-a-long where they received a selection of music by email with YouTube links which they sing along to at home.

Some singing resumed in July with choir members taking part in the Sunday morning services from early September exercising Covid caution with social distancing. The music is limited to 5 hymns only and we have still not resumed the full sung Eucharist service. It is encouraging that some young singers have joined with their parents.

A Taize service was held in November with thanks to instrumentalists Hilary Cook and Nina Greenwood. A simplified Civic Service was held in October.

Singers rehearsed from September onwards and presented a nice Carol Service mid December accompanied by John Dowden. It had been intended to sing over the Christmas period but caution over the Omicron variant led several singers to withdraw and in the end it was not possible to have a choir for those services.

Carols on The Quay took place again with a smaller band and fewer people attending, probably due to the increase of the Omnicom variant at that time. I had to withdraw from conducting the event for medical reasons and thanks to Pam Garland for arranging the music and conducting (from the Tuba) on the night.

We have purchased a Yamaha Clavinova digital piano to replace the very old upright piano. This new instrument will be a very valuable asset for services and concerts. There was a much appreciated donation towards the cost of the new piano. Additionally we received a donation of a small Yamaha keyboard which is used by the Friendly Club and is available for use in the Annexe.

This has really been a difficult period but hopefully we are now emerging from the Covid related issues. For me personally medical issues have made it difficult particularly with extreme Covid caution and eyesight problems.

Graham Wadley, Director of Music

Pastoral Care Report

St Mary's pastoral team reaching out in a time of restrictions

It has been another difficult year to deploy our pastoral ministry in person because of the Covid restrictions. Members of our pastoral team were prevented to visit people at their homes during most of the year but alternative ways to reach out were implemented.

The pastoral team kept in touch with those on their contact list by phone. And a separate team of phone buddies that was founded in 2020 during the first lockdown had continued to contact people who were housebound or self-isolating.

St Mary's also invested in reaching out by posting the Parish magazine Tidings to 220 addresses. The rector added a monthly letter for each home. Also other announcements of events were included in the mailing. In this way we kept our church family informed of activities in a time that members were dispersed because of being unable to meet in person. Also those who had an internet connection benefitted from weekly online services and other digital communications.

At Harvest the flower team prepared little posies that were brought by members of St Mary's to 20 homes in Wivenhoe as a token that we were thinking of those who hadn't been able to join the Festival in church.

In partnership with the pastoral teams in Greenstead and at St John's three social functions were organised at different locations in our MMP: annexe@stmarys (with the help of the catering team), St Anne's and St John's church. Lifts were organised and those able to participate enjoyed the refreshments, sing-along, raffle and quiz. These pastoral events will continue in 2022.

Elsewhere you will read about the weekly Friendly Club that makes use of the church.

In 2020 and 2021 Easter Sunday fell during a lockdown and therefore Erwin was unable to bring Easter communion to those who had to stay in at Easter. He is confident that in 2022 Easter home communions will resume. Also the monthly home communions may be organised again when the worst of the pandemic will be over.

A couple of pastoral team members have resigned; so any help with reaching out to members of our community is welcome. Despite health issues pastoral assistant Deirdre Gill remains an inspiration for our pastoral team. We are grateful for her longstanding commitment.

Revd Erwin Lammens, on behalf of the pastoral team

Spirituality Steering Group Report

This seems a very difficult year on which to report, as the Covid 19 Pandemic and its Lockdown Regulations meant we were unable to meet together as a group.

With the church having to remain closed until Easter [except for funerals] because of Covid regulations, then closure being continued until 27th June for the installation of new flooring and chairs, this felt in many ways like a 'lost' [empty] time for the congregation, except that a lot was going on behind the scenes: there was a continual on-line presence with regular Sunday services via the website, and as previously mentioned, the builders were able to continue their work on the new Annexe. From the end of June we hosted five weddings and a communion service on Sundays.

By September the Annexe and church refurbishment were completed and Bishop Roger was invited to lead the opening celebrations, blessing the renewed church and the new Annexe, giving St Mary's a whole new beginning as the pandemic began to die down, and we began thinking about a 'new normal' in the run up to all the Christmastide events and worship.

From the end of September we had a more normal pattern of worship with the introduction of a 9.00 am Communion, a Eucharist with hymns and the 7past 7 meditative reflections, continuing our on-line presence for the main Sunday services together with the 7 - 7 meditations

We ended this unprecedented year with people either continuing to follow on-line, or returning to discover a much more spacious church interior, with the new subtle archway lighting and chairs enhancing the ambience that enables them to calm down for prayer: more than one person has echoed this comment: " I feel at peace now, as soon as I sit down in here...", and there is delight in seeing the space re-arranged appropriately for different forms of worship.

The Annexe is also beginning to work really well for a variety of smaller groups, and is becoming an excellent space for the 9am Eucharist, just beginning to gain popularity.

Briefly, this report, which began with some dejection, is ending on a note of great hope for the future which should begin to bear fruit during the next year and on into generations to come who find a welcoming spiritual home in St Mary's.

Revd. Janet Driver

St Mary's Link with Uganda

Because of the pandemic there has been little activity in our link with the Christian women of St Andrew's Church, Namalembe, Uganda. We have sent emails at Easter and Christmas and occasionally through the year, but have had little news. Rachel and Livingstone, through whom we have the link, are currently living in Kenya and are unable to get to Uganda because the border is closed. They would normally channel news to us from time to time, especially about the Christmas parcels of blessings that the women distribute to the needy in the village, and send us photographs. We have continued to raise money for this purpose and at Christmas 2021 £220 was donated through our Christmas charity collection. In addition this year half the proceeds of the sale of Nativity Christmas cards was also sent to Namalembe, making a total of £346.50

We understand that availability of vaccines and PPE are practically non-existent and the plight of the people must be grim. Because of the pandemic we have been unable to send any more baby clothes for the maternity clinic, and in any case because of the restrictions in force here people have not been donating them. Currently we have just two small bags of vests and baby hats. However, we continue to remember Namalembe in the Intercessions in Church and hope for better things in 2022.

As this report was being compiled we received this email from Namalembe:-

"Our friends in Wivenhoe, we send our greetings from the Christian women of St Andrew's Church, Namalembe with much hope that you had a merry Christmas and you joined a peaceful new 2022. God has continued to protect us from the adverse effects of the pandemic and we believe He will continue to do so.

We apologise the delay to reply. Here things were a bit better since the Churches had just been opened. Thanks be to God that the Christians have embraced the word of God. However we are saddened by the exit of two of our elders who passed during the Covid 19 pandemic. We continue to pray for you and request that you pray for us to go through this experience.

Our Rev. John Mugaya was happy when he received a message from you informing us about your status. Send our sincere greetings to our friends in Wivenhoe and now we have a new committee member, Jane as head of Christian Women Fellowship. God bless you.

Charles, Jane and Betty"

Rosemary Murchie

St Mary's Music Society

We managed two concerts last year in the newly re-furbished church building. We were lucky that the church, with its new wooden floor and free-standing chairs, became ready just as the level of the Covid-19 virus had fallen sufficiently low at that time for many people to become confident about attending events.

So, on 3rd September 2021 the Church was filled with the rich sounds of sea shanties as well as lots of people. The evening with the Wivenhoe Orchestra with the Clarion Quartet was also a sell-out.

The result of these two concerts was a surplus of £1,014.53 which we have given to the Transformation Appeal.

We are planning 6 concerts this coming year, which will be our 4th year of operation. It will be very good to hold all 6 concerts to suit different tastes in music as in each of the last two years our programme was cut short because of the Covid pandemic. In 2018, when we started, we started in mid-year. Profits from concerts in the future will be given to the St Mary's Fabric Fund.

Peter Hill, Chairman, Wivenhoe St Mary's Music Society



Sunday Club Report

The Sunday club is supported and run by a team of 8 volunteers.

Teresa Warren

Sue Jones

Heather Edwards

Cora Dai

An Verhofstadt

Alison Kent

Hannah Cole

Fran Bailey

Our usual activities and Sunday club sessions continued to be difficult at the beginning of the year. Teresa, Erwin, Sue, Heather and Cora hosted a stall outside church on Easter Saturday and handed out activity bags to children which included a copy of the Easter story and of course chocolate eggs and colouring activities. These were appreciated and we were able to hand out all bags, approximately 30.

It was a wonderful moment when we were able to begin Sunday club again in September, and in our beautiful new Annexe. We have welcomed some new children into Sunday club and our numbers each week have definitely increased. We have a core group that tend to come fairly consistently. This is of approximately 10 regular children. At the Celebration event as part of the grand opening weekend on 25th September, Sunday club hosted a stall that was a Free Raffle game. It caused lots of interest and happy children taking away a gift. There were some games to play and Fran carried out some face painting. We received approximately £30 of donations which was lovely as we were not charging for anything.

For the first time ever Sue Jones led us into delivering our Nativity play from a central position with seats positioned in a circular shape. It felt lovely and open and welcoming. We had a good attendance considering the pandemic situation at Christmas time became quite difficult again. We were very pleased with how it all turned out and after the service we were able to use the annexe for the party games and a proper Christmas lunch/snack party at the tables with festive cloths and decorations. Gift bags were handed out as the children left.

There is an email address for Sunday club and this is monitored by Teresa. wivstmaryssundayclub@gmail.com

We are really hopeful that we can now continue to build on our Sunday club and maintain our positive start with us using the annexe and hope that more children will join us in 2022.

Teresa Warren

Stained Glass Window Report

The wonderful stained glass window for the east gable end of the Annexe has moved ahead significantly during the last year following the granting of planning permission and faculty. It now awaits installation during April 2022.

We have the window through the great generosity and enthusiasm of James Dodds for the design and the skills of Andy Brooke for the manufacture. During 2021 the manufacture of the 10 stained glass panels was completed by Andy Brooke in his workshop in Dumfries with assistance from Pascale Penfold. This followed a lot of preparatory work by James Dodds producing templates, a full size 'cartoon' and a large painting of the window design which Andy used as the basis of his work.

In October James gave a very interesting talk about the development of the window design. This was well attended and generated much interest. We produced a Greetings Card of the painting of the window and the sales of the card have assisted the funding for the window.

The painting itself was displayed at an exhibition of James' works at a London art gallery. James kindly donated the proceeds of the sale of this painting towards the cost of the window and we are grateful to the purchasers of the painting. Similarly there have been other generous donations towards the cost of the window.

All of the glass panels have been transported from Scotland and are now in the studio of James Dodds. awaiting installation into the Annexe, planned for April 2022

Graham Wadley

Transformation Appeal Team Report

When we established a Project Committee late in 2016 to lead an Appeal to raise a likely sum required of £500,000, we all had hopes that church-friendly grant-making trusts including the National Heritage Lottery Fund would be willing to support the Appeal. First though we needed to get the Appeal underway and show local support for it. By early 2018 we had agreed the key messaging for the Appeal and designed 3 key leaflets to describe it, with various other documents and web pages in support.

We formally launched the Appeal in May 2018 with a letter and leaflet which we hand-delivered to every house in Wivenhoe. We got a lot of favourable publicity as well as many donations, including a £5,000 grant from the Wivenhoe Community Trust to kick-start the Appeal.

By the time we were able to pursue grants from trusts which required a fully-costed scheme as part of the application, the Covid-19 pandemic had started and such bodies as the Heritage Lottery Fund had closed their doors to us in order to concentrate their financial support on organisations which were directly helping people adversely affected by the pandemic.

St Mary's Church has been very fortunate to have received two substantial legacies in recent years, one in 2019 from Barbara Patterson and the other a little earlier from Ivan Newton.

Other, smaller legacies have been received by St Mary's and these too have been utilised in finding the necessary money to complete the building work in 2020, taking advantage of the fact that the Church building had been closed for ordinary worship due to the pandemic. However, we were very fortunate to have two successful bids. We were awarded grants of: £7,500 from the All Churches Trust; and, £5,000 from The Beatrice Laing Trust. Friends of St Mary's had given a generous grant early on; a great many people gave individual donations of varying amounts, and supported sponsored walks as the Rector's Pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral and Terry Vanner's cycling adventures, or bought a ticket to win a framed picture by renowned local artist Annie Bielecka. Lots of people helped too by paying a sum of money into the Appeal Fund each month by standing order. All of this money added up to enough so that Baker's of Danbury, the building firm which had won the tender in 2020, could begin work in January 2021. During 2021, people began to gradually see the Annexe take shape until it was eventually finished in early September 2021.

The visit by the Bishop of Colchester to a special Service in St Mary's Church on Sunday 26th September 2021 to bless the new facilities was a perfect way to mark the hard work of so many people in different roles and committees during these last 5 years, including that of raising and finding of £500,000 necessary to turn the overall vision of '*Enabling St Mary's to fulfil a greater role in Wivenhoe*' into a reality.

The Church building, without the fixed pews in the Nave but the Chancel continuing to look as it has for a long time, and the new wooden floor and the lightweight wooden chairs have certainly transformed the building into something which is much more light and airy. The meeting room in the Annexe with its modern kitchen and new entrance lobby from the south side of the Church, featuring two modern toilets, including one for people with disabilities, and leading to an outside courtyard area, all complements the atmosphere of the Nave. A great many people have made lots of favourable comments about what has been achieved.

I should like to thank the members of the Transformation Project Appeal team for their help, support and commitment from the outset of our meetings each month from late 2016. They were: Alan Charnock, Carol Connell, Lucy Crocker, Philippa Hawley, Lynne Horner, Ann Jones, Sue Jones, Robert Needham, Graham Wadley, and the Rev Erwin Lammens who attended all of the monthly meetings (until lockdown when they had to cease). Ann Jones took the notes at each of the meetings and Lynne Horner wrote to everyone who sent in a donation. Lucy Crocker created many 3-dimensional images for the Project which were extremely useful in helping people to visualize what the Project was about, as well as the Logo for the Appeal.

I feel sure everyone feels huge satisfaction at what has been achieved.

Peter Hill, Chairman

Wivenhoe Baby & Toddler Group Report

After over a year off for Covid we finally started meeting again in July by holding informal gatherings on the King George playing field. Unfortunately, the weather was not kind to us so we only managed to meet a couple of times.

From September we were back to our usual Tuesday mornings in the Scout & Guide Hall. Sadly, for us, a lot of our previous children had now moved on to school, but many new babies and toddlers have joined us, and the group continues to thrive.

We still follow the same format each session, with role play, construction, craft, book corner and a designated baby area. Snack time is at 10.40 when the children come together for a healthy snack and drink and the session ends with singing time.

Covid put paid to our summer party, but we did hold a Christmas party in the hall. We had a change of format from previous years and had a children's entertainer come along, who basically ran the whole party. It was a great success!

Our leadership team still need more helpers to volunteer especially as at present our Church ladies who do the refreshments for us, feel they are unable to help due to Covid, which we

quite understand but this does mean one of our team has to take on this role, leaving us short in the main hall.

The group has been very fortunate in receiving donations from both the Wivenhoe News magazine and Councillor Michelle Burrows. This money was used to buy a large gate to use across the main room double door, lidded cups for the adult drinks and various new toys. This gate has increased the security of the hall for the little ones.

The group is always on the lookout for new volunteers and continues to welcome new babies and toddlers with their adult.

Vanessa Reed

Worship Group Report

The Worship Group was dormant for the early part of the year as Covid restrictions prevented the normal worship pattern taking place. As the year progressed the details of restrictions were closely monitored and services gradually opened but with the year end again attracting some hesitancy as the Omicron variant became prevalent.

The Group met in March and May by Zoom and managed an in-person meeting in the Annexe in October. Margaret Bigwood left the group at the end of the year, with Helena Hughes joining us again.

For the early part of the year we followed the legal requirements and the guidance issued by the Church of England covering the Covid measures. This led to some severe restrictions which coincided with the closure of the church for the building works. The Rector will elaborate on the pattern of worship and on-line services in his report but there were no Sunday services in church from the beginning of the year until 27th June.

From that date said services were held but socially distanced and with no singing as this was still restricted. At the end of July some hymns were introduced and a relatively normal pattern of worship in church re-commenced but still being Covid cautious.

This continued through the autumn and the usual round of services planned including the Civic Service, Memorial Crosses, Taize, Carol Service and the Dedication of the new church facilities in September.

The normal Christmas services were planned but by that time there was increased nervousness about the Omicron variant of Covid and, whilst the services were held, attendances were much reduced over the Christmas period.

Graham Wadley