

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF EAST LEIGHTONSTONE

England & Wales · Charity number 1178565

Details

Other names EAST LEIGHTONSTONE PCC

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2018-05-30

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

Contact

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Huntingdon
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Activities

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

Activities: Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Cambridgeshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£151,789	£149,111	-	-
2023-12-31	£103,084	£88,428	-	-
2022-12-31	£95,057	£100,440	-	-
2021-12-31	£92,937	£86,446	-	-
2020-12-31	£93,090	£93,448	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Brian Radbone		2025-04-16
Dr HEATHER FRANCES STEAD		2018-05-28
Keith George Wood		2017-01-01
RICHARD WILLIAM HOWELLS		2019-03-17
Susan Lynda Morgan		2020-09-27
Susan Roberts		2019-01-17

Accounts



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

**The Parish of East Leightonstone
The Rectory, 15 Church Road, Brampton PE28 4PF**

**St Mary Magdalene Parish Church
Church Road, Brampton PE28 4PF**

**All Saints Church
High Street, Ellington PE28 0AB**

All Saints Church , Church Road, Grafham, PE28 OBB

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Administrative Information

The East Leightonstone Parochial Church Council (“the PCC”) works with the incumbent, the Reverend Duncan Goldthorpe, in order to promote in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is a body corporate and operates under the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956* and the *Church Representation Rules*.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Role and stand for election to the PCC.

Structure, Governance and Management

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting or are co-opted or appointed by the PCC itself.

PCC for 2024-25

Ex-Officio Members:

Rector:	The Reverend Duncan Goldthorpe
Church Wardens:	Mr Keith Wood Mrs Susan Roberts
Curates:	Rev Dr Sarah West (from Jan 24) Revd Jenny Forester (from Jul 24)
ALM & Deanery Synod Representatives:	Dr Frances Stead Mrs Jill Dighton

Elected Members:

Mr Richard Howells
Mrs Patricia Jordan
Mrs Dee Wormald
Mr Neil Brown
Mrs Sue Morgan
Mr Graham Smith (from Apr 24)
Mr Brian Radbone (from Apr 24)

Appointed Members:

Treasurer:	Mr Graham Heywood (til Nov 24)
Secretary:	Mrs Dawn Ryder

The PCC had 10 subordinate committees during 2024:

- a. **Standing Committee** – has the power to transact business between meetings of the full PCC and sets the agendas for those meetings.
- b. **Church Hall Management Committee** – manages the day to day running of the Brampton Church Hall and actions routine minor maintenance requirements.
- c. **Worship Impact Group (WIG)** – develops our worship across the parish
- d. **Buildings Impact Group (BIG)** – responsible for maintaining our buildings, how spaces can be used effectively both in the building and also our outside areas.
- e. **Young People’s Impact Group (YPIG)** – provides opportunities for children and young people to have a positive experience of church and be nurtured in their faith.
- f. **Communications Impact Group (CIG)** – develops how we connect with one another and our community

- g. **Mission Impact Group (MIG)** – explores supporting mission partners, local, national and global projects, raising the profile of mission as followers of Christ.
- h. **Fellowship Impact Group (FIG)** – organises social events for our church family and community and provides hospitality in support of church events.
- i. **Resources Impact Group (RIG)** – responsible for stewardship of our money, physical resources (linking with BIG) and fund raising.
- j. **Strategic Development Impact Group (SDIG)** – develops strategy, vision and planning.

Other information

Correspondence address: The Rectory, 15 Church Road, Brampton PE28 4PF

Independent examiner: Tim Johnson FCA

Bankers: Barclays Bank plc, 1 Market Hill, Huntingdon

Safeguarding Officer: Jane Rowley

Lay Eucharist Assistants: Sue Roberts

Keith Wood

Authorised Lay Ministers: Frances Stead

Jill Dighton

Worship Group Leader: Ysanne Smith

Mothers Union Branch Leader: Julie Barker

Electoral Roll Officer: Lyndon Hutchison and Rachel Hutchison

Brampton Befrienders: Dawn Ryder

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to encouraging and enabling as many people as possible to become worshipping members of the church community across the parish. We take seriously the Charity Commission's requirement that we operate in the public benefit and so seek to help the people here to live out their faith in our community through:

- Worship and Prayer
- Community Outreach
- Pastoral Care
- Occasional Offices

Occasional Offices



The PCC recognises that for many people the Parish Church is still the place to go for major life events.

There were 3 weddings in the parish in 2024.

2024 saw 7 baptisms and we hope to maintain these relationships in the future.

Confirmations – it was a joy to host the Deanery Confirmation Service in St Mary Magdalene, Brampton where Matthew Goldthorpe and Freya Harris were confirmed with members from Hilton and Hartford parishes.

Burial of Ashes: Margaret Ewen, Jean Batchelor, Vincent Doyle, George Cottam, Joan Challis, Gerald Challis.

Memorial Service – None.

There was much to celebrate in 2024, but it was also a year marked by sadness. During the course of the year we faced the death of Alan Rowe, Margaret Ewen, Jean Batchelor, Vincent Doyle, Dorothy Lamacraft, Jean Harris, Lynda Elis, Mary Neat, Sheila Allen, George Cottam, Joan and Gerald Challis.

We do not underestimate the significance of being invited to share such times as we commit the deceased into God's loving mercy and pray that the bereaved may find comfort. We give thanks and praise to God for these good and faithful servants.

Church Warden's Report

The Parish has enjoyed a good year on many counts. We have seen a healthy growth in the number of parishioners attending all 3 churches and we are particularly pleased that we have enjoyed an excellent number of young people attending children's church at Brampton. Thanks to all the helpers including Emily Jenkins who leads an enthusiastic group of helpers. We were also blessed by being joined by Sarah and Jen as curates during the year. Both have brought much to the Parish and have given Duncan excellent support through their time with us.

We have also been blessed by the exciting decision by Heather to study for the LLM within our Parish. We must give her all the support necessary to achieve this goal.

We also said farewell to our music maestro, John Barron, who moved to the south coast and we wish him well and thank him for all his support over the years.

As we write this, we are in the final throes of obtaining formal consent to begin our re-ordering of Brampton church. We will then appoint a quantity surveyor to obtain an estimated cost of the refurbishment and to guide our fundraising team. We will then appoint a builder and hope that the work begins in earnest later this year. An enormous thanks must also go to Rob Barker for his support in undertaking repairs for all 3 churches.

Finally, an enormous thanks to all of our volunteers who help to maintain so many activities in the Parish. We sincerely value all of the support.

Sue Roberts and Keith Wood, Church Wardens

Minister's Report



Gathering. One of our core values at East Leightonstone is Gathering – for word, worship and ministry, in the power of the Spirit. Over 2024 we spent our Sunday sermon series looking at Unity in Diversity, Trusting in God, The Psalms, Prayer, God's Kingdom, the Book of Acts, the Five Marks of Mission, Inspiring Women of the Bible, concluding with our Advent sermons focussed on the Meaning of Waiting. Here we were able to spend time looking at sitting under God's word and saturating it in our everyday lives. It has been a joy to see more people join the ministry team as Revd Dr Sarah West and Revd Jen Forester joined us to serve their title posts.

I continue to be thankful for the support from Frankie Stead, Jill Dighton, David Kinder and Sylvia Kinder as members of the ministry team who support me with leading and preaching services. In the last year we have also been blessed with the ministry from The Revd Geoff Boucher and The Revd Catherine Wright in providing cover for me whilst I have been on annual leave. Not all parishes are blessed with such people. Thank you.

We continue to bless so many people who can no longer come into our buildings but still attend weekly worship through our live streaming of services. Thank you to the team who ensure that our audio-visual systems run so smoothly week after week.

Growing. Another of our values at East Leightonstone is Growing - in depth, in number, & younger, in the power of the Spirit. It has been a real joy over 2024 to see our church grow- numerically, spiritually, and younger. We regularly see a combined number of over 80 at our Sunday morning gatherings, of which we have seen 10-15 younger members who enjoy our children's groups. 2024 also saw a new joint venture with All Saints Huntingdon – Sunday Evening Youth- a time where our

teenagers can meet together to get to know God and one another. Thank you to Frankie Stead and Ruth Hunt who lead this ministry.

Part of this growth has been seen in the regular celebrations of baptisms, building relationships in our communities through Little Fishes, Brampton Befrienders, Tea & Chat, Montague House and school links. But it's not just numbers- we've seen a rise in the willingness of people to contribute on a Sunday morning through prayer ministry, words of knowledge, supporting behind the scenes, our musicians, our newsletter team, and those who have stepped into a new ministry.

It was a joy for us that in the summer Frankie Stead was accepted for theological training at ERMCC. Her hope is to remain with us after she has completed her curacy.



Mission Partnership with Rev'd Bosco Habinshuti. We continue to strengthen our link with the work of Bosco and Agnes in Nyamata in the Diocese of Kigali. We continue to develop an understanding of what is required to ensure that their parish is viable and flourishes. Prayer, finance and mutual ministry continues to be our focus. We plan to send a team out in February 2025.

Going. Another of our values here is Going- to love, tell and transform, in the power of the Spirit. We have good news of life in all its fullness that we long to share across Brampton, Ellington and Grafham. It was a joy to welcome so many people to festive services throughout the year, as well as the Ellington Gala and Ellington Flower Festival that celebrated its 50th Year, The Grafham Flower Festival & Bio. Blitz – these are times where we can come together and celebrate our God given creativity and the beauty of creation. We also have continued to strengthen our links with the community through holding The START Course as well as Curry & Carols, Carol Singing at The Mermaid and Black Bull.



Worship. Our worship continues to change and evolve which is reflecting our congregations spiritualities, diversity, enthusiasm and inclusivity. A range of musicians and worship leaders also bring variety to our weekly services.

As ever it was amazing to be able to hold all of our Christmas offerings across the parish. I give thanks for the extensive team of people who have ensured that services happened from those who prepare audio visual screens, prayers, flowers, the musicians, and singers.

Our Christmas celebrations in the 'Cinnamon' in Grafham was as popular as ever for "Curry and Carols." We had a good attendance with people from all three villages attending the Midnight Communion service in Ellington. Carol singing in The Mermaid and Black Bull helped to make the time of year special and shares our worship to the wider community. Our three Carol Services were full, as usual, wonderful festive services guided by Kia Howells and Kate Gentles, and a committed team who formed the augmented choir. Thank you one and all.

A Final Thank You. I would also like to thank all of you who lock and unlock our churches, serve refreshments each week, provide flowers, welcome people, clean our church buildings, verge at funerals, attend Home Groups, support Mother's Union, build relationships and pray. You all make such a difference to the life of our parish, thank you.

I once again say a huge thank you to Keith and Sue as our Church Wardens who continue to provide us with a wonderful commitment and wisdom in helping me holding everything together with the help of so many of you.

As I write this report in Lent the following passage seems so appropriate to us for 2025.

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it: I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

A huge thank you to all of you, the wonderful, committed church members that you are.

Reverend Duncan Goldthorpe

Electoral Roll

Our revised electoral roll stands at 115 people.

Huntingdon Deanery Synod Annual Report

Deanery planning has been continuing this year, focussing on the four Working Groups as set out in the Deanery Planning document which was formulated in March. These are: Fruitful Churches, Fruitful Assets, Fruitful Workers and New Shoots. Each of these workstreams is now being developed with Frankie Stead, Jen Forester, Duncan and Jill Dighton all being involved in the Fruitful Workers Group. We have spent much of this year collecting data from across the Deanery to understand where the fruitful workers are. This data will be used to develop a strategy for identifying areas of our Ministry which are fruitful – and how we can learn from this to help the whole Deanery be fruitful in our work for Christ.

Deanery Synod also reports Finance for the Deanery. Concern has been voiced regarding the payment of Ministry Parish Share, which is sent by the Deanery as a whole and Deanery reserves would need to be used to meet this. It was reported that for 2025 there will be an expected 4.5% increase on Ministry Share. Increases in N.I payments announced in the 2024 budget would also impact the Diocesan budget but not necessarily the Ministry share.

The November meeting also saw the introduction of concerns regarding how all parishes/benefices deal with their Safeguarding commitments. Wide discussion revealed some parishes are struggling to deal with varying aspects around Safeguarding. Thoughts were voiced around what help can be offered from across the Deanery and this will be brought forward to the 2025 agendas. It was reported that the appointment of a new Bishop of Ely will not be until 2026.

Frances Stead and Jill Dighton – Deanery Synod Representatives

Safeguarding

As a Church, we recognise and affirm the place of children, young people (aged under 18) and vulnerable adults in the life and ministry of the church and we take our responsibility for their safety and well-being seriously. We are committed to safeguarding all those who attend the worship and other activities that we offer in our parish. We promote Safeguarding as everyone's responsibility.

Our core commitments are:

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

The PCC adopted 'Promoting a Safer Church' (2017) as our own policy on 25th August 2020 and confirmed this again most recently on 19th November 2024. The policy can be found on the Safeguarding page of the Church of England website. It confirms that we follow the House of Bishops' Policies 'Protecting All God's Children' (2010). We expect updated guidance to be published in 2025.

Jane Rowley is the Parish Safeguarding Officer. Large Safeguarding posters are on display in all three churches giving details of who to contact if anyone has any concerns. There is also Safeguarding information on our church website.

All PCC members and all church volunteers who work with children and vulnerable adults are required to have DBS clearance, complete Confidential Declaration forms and complete the appropriate safeguarding training modules. The PSO ensures that we comply with this in our parish. The current requirement is that DBS clearance, Confidential Declaration forms and training are renewed every three years.

Jane Rowley – Safeguarding Officer

Prayer Ministry

The Prayer Trees are used by visitors to the church who will write a prayer request which is subsequently prayed for by a member of the church. At Brampton, there is in person prayer ministry each Sunday after the 11am service. Although take up is not every week, it is encouraging that members of the congregation have come forward for prayer, the majority for the first time. The weekly prayer ministry is covered by the intercessor plus one other member of the Prayer Ministry Team, with team members volunteering to cover at the start of each month.

There were 2 half days of prayer; 1st August for healing and 10th October 2024 for world peace. Half hour slots were arranged from 0800-2000, with options for prayer in the church or remotely. For both days the sign up sheet was filled up by members of the Parish.

The Prayer Ministry Team communicates via a WhatsApp group, which is an effective way of communicating prayer requests amongst the group. There have been answers to prayer, which is very encouraging for the group.

The weekly prayer diary is published in the newsletter. It was expanded to include a prayer for each day of the week as well as including names of the roads in Brampton, Ellington and Grafham on a rotational basis.

It would be lovely to have more members join the Prayer Ministry Team and new members are being actively sought to join. Further half days of prayer are planned for 2025.

Heather Clarke

Grafham Church

Over the year Grafham's Sunday services have been well attended including our Taize services on the second Sunday evening of each month. Our church is lovingly cared for by our team of cleaners and flower arrangers, making it welcoming for all of us and our many visitors during the year.

Sessions in Grafham Village Hall of a period of bible study and reflection marked the beginning of Lent on 14th February. Each session was followed by a simple lunch of soup and bread and donations were passed to the Christian Aid and FIG funds.

Messy Church was held on Good Friday attracting family groups to craft activities, songs and a bible story followed by a buffet lunch.

Although Grafham was not scheduled to have a service on Easter Day, Open Church during the afternoon welcomed many to tea and cake and traditional music. The lovely setting of Easter Flowers arranged by our flower volunteers made this afternoon very special.

Thanks to Jill Tyack we now have a designated Prayer Corner in the south aisle. Jill renovated the area with paint and polish, comfortable chairs and cushions. A prayer "tree" invites visitors to write their special prayers on leaves to hang on the tree and these prayer requests are observed at our morning prayer sessions. Jill also upgraded the Children's Corner in the north aisle. The screens are decorated with characters from Noah's Ark. There are books and puzzles to interest the children.



During June our Flower Festival theme was Fairy Stories reminding us all of our childhood. Afternoon tea was popular as ever including traditional live music to complete the enjoyment. We are grateful to FIG for their continued support with cake for our events. The Bioblitz attracted lots of children as usual, setting up hedgehog tunnels and studying and releasing small mammals on Sunday morning. The Plant Team identified 95 species in the churchyard.



Our Harvest lunch in September was held in the Village Hall and followed by Harvest Praise in church. Donations for Godmanchester Foodbank were delivered by our volunteers.

During November a number of us met in our Prayer Corner to pray for the state of the world, the many wars and conflicts and the victims therein. We prayed for the peacemakers, the rescuers and aid teams and the medical teams who are under such pressure.

Two representatives from Grafham church took part in the Act of Remembrance at the Village Hall and at Ellington.

December was the time for Curry and Carols at the Cinnamon, the Carol Service, Crib Service and donations of Christmas goodies for Godmanchester Foodbank.

Several villagers have kindly donated new roses for our churchyard to replace a few who had given us good service but were at the end of their blossoming time. We look forward to the joy these new roses will bring us for many summers to come.

Hazel Powell

Ellington Church

The current Service pattern allows Ellington to enjoy two 9:30 Services a month. With friends from Grafham and Brampton often attending, the average congregation has remained steady at 16 plus children. Our Wednesday Morning Prayer is regularly attended by two Parishioners, which is actually an increase on last year!

Outside these Services, All Saints continues to be well attended during the yearly life of the village. Once again this year, Ann Davies organised a Flower Festival, the 50th to be held at the church, over the weekend of the Village Gala. The weekend closed with Songs of Praise attended by 53 people. Taken with the 44 people who attended the Remembrance Sunday Service, the 85 who attended the carol service, and the 31 at Christmas Eve communion it can be seen that we will have to continue to challenge ourselves to find ways to draw some of these people to our regular services. The tradition of Carols at the Mermaid, revived last year, was also very successful, as was the distribution of hot cross buns, provided by the Townlands Trust, on Good Friday.

Walter Howell, Dennis Jolley, and the Parish Council continue to maintain the churchyard in excellent condition, and the Village litter pick and Churchyard clean up weekends have been well attended. Finally, the fabric of the church continues to benefit from the hard work and attention of Rob Barker, and the interiors from the efforts of Ann Davies and the flower group. This is very much appreciated.

Neil Brown

Impact Groups

Mission Impact Group

The Mission Impact Group met 3 times in 2024: 24 April, 29 July and 17 October. Jen Forester was appointed Chair of the MIG Group at the July Meeting.

During 2024 MIG focused on 3 parish events - Grafham Bioblitz and Flower Festival, Ellington Flower Festival and the Brampton Fete. At our October meeting a number of learnings were discussed from these events, the main theme being that we were not easily identifiable as the Local Church especially in Brampton and this, and the weather at the Brampton Fete, may have contributed to poor interaction with the community. The Group will be looking to support parish events differently in 2025 based on this experience.

We have 3 existing mission partners. £1531 was raised for Christian Aid. Centre Medicale Evangelique (CME) was invited to speak at our services on Sunday 24th November, and we continue to support Rev Bosco and his church in Rwanda prayerfully. Christians Against Poverty (CAP) has been identified as a potential mission partner. We have started to investigate what shape this partnership could take in 2025. In the meantime over £600 was raised for CAP through the Christmas Carol collections.

A START course was held within the parish led by Rev. Sarah West. A review was held after the course and a report with findings sent to the PCC. Other local Mission includes building links with schools and outreach.

We Thank Jan for all her efforts over the years in building and shaping the work of the group as she stepped down from active involvement in October 2024 and we welcome her continuing support through prayer.

Rev Jen Forester

Christian Aid



In May 2024 we again enjoyed 'Cakes for Cash' and welcomed back Chris Lacey to speak in our Christian Aid service. Despite being on sabbatical from his post as Chief Technology Officer for Christian Aid, Chris especially rearranged his schedule to visit Brampton again having been

impressed by our previous efforts to support Christian Aid. He provided another interesting and informative update on the vital work of Christian Aid. Together with 'Counting our Blessings' and other opportunities for coffee and cakes our **grand total of cash raised was £1,531.00.**

Thank you again to all loyal supporters who are 'loving their neighbour as themselves' and helping to make a difference. Lives will be improved or saved. Well Done!!!

Nicola Childs

Children's Society

We raised £275.83 for the Children's Society in 2024. This was collected from 5 Coin Box Holders in Brampton. The number of Coin Box Holders reduces each year as people decide to donate by direct debit instead. The money raised will be used by the Children's Society to help children aged between 10 and 19 years old. The Children's Society offers one to one counselling, intensive support and group work for children who have been mentally or physically hurt or who are at high risk. The Church organised a Christingle Event at Brampton Village School for 100 Year 2 children on 11th December which followed a special assembly the week before.

Julie Barker, Children's Society Co-ordinator

Communications Impact Group

This year Rev Sarah West became chair of the group, replacing John Rowley who stepped down before the June meeting. We have met 3 times (4th Jun, 25th Sep 2024 and 13th Jan 2025).

We utilised Canva for producing the Parish weekly newsletter and enabling other members to check and edit the document prior to sending out and different members to contribute to it. Sending a link by email removed the need to send PDFs by email and allowed for live editing. It is also still available on the website and as a printable PDF if required. We have also increased and fine-tuned our usage of ChurchSuite for the production of rotas and inclusion of service information, and the sending out of rotas and reminder emails. We have encouraged the use of My ChurchSuite by those on the rotas so that they can add unavailability dates and check where they have been assigned duties on the rota. It is also possible to arrange swaps through this app.

'How to' documents have been produced for using My ChurchSuite and for the whole process of creation through to communicating the rota. Several people have now signed up to using My ChurchSuite and are adding their own unavailability, which is really helpful for us when creating the rotas. We now have 51 people with a My ChurchSuite account. There are 43 people on a rota and 5 of these do not have a My ChurchSuite account. There is still some work to do as there are people with MyChurchSuite accounts who do not need them, there are people with MyChurchSuite accounts who do not use them or don't submit unavailability using the app, and there are those without an account, but on a church rota who we need to engage with. Additionally, there are rotas, such as Children's church and Little Fishes that are not currently captured in ChurchSuite. So there is still room for improvement.

This year we produced and delivered a Christmas Card to everyone in the parish with details of Christmas Services. The Welcome Leaflet, started last year, was also reproduced and redesigned in Canva and is awaiting some further editing and approval of the text describing the church before publishing.

Planning going forward: CIG cover, Parish weekly newsletter, Proclaim slides for services, administration through ChurchSuite (including general communications and rotas), Parish Website and socials (Facebook), communications leaflets and notices

Recruitment and teams - there was an emphasis at the last CIG meeting on sharing the load of work (and to remove single points of failure) and encouraging and equipping others to contribute and take on roles within the group. To this end, 'How to' documents are being prepared for major processes and admin tasks to enable others to help, and teams are being set up for the main tasks that the CIG covers.

We will continue to develop our use of ChurchSuite for administrative tasks, to enable a connected view of activities in the Parish and to encourage the use of My ChurchSuite.

Rev Sarah West

Young People's Impact Group

Children's Church - This takes place in the church hall during the 11am service in St. Mary Magdalene, Brampton. We have a wonderful group of volunteers and supportive families. Thank you to everyone and a big thank you to the new volunteers who joined us this year.

We have two groups, one for 3-10 year olds and one for 11-14 year olds. The younger group meet downstairs in the hall and the older ones meet in the Upper Room. This year we started using a new resource called Energize Teaching Programme across all age groups. We have gone through Bible characters both in the Old Testament and the New. And then we have completed some Christian foundation sessions including 'God, Who is He?' 'Why did Jesus come to earth?', 'How do I become a Christian?'. We also did studies around the events of the year including Harvest, Advent and Christmas. In 2025 we plan to continue using Energize and will go through the journey of Jesus for the younger group and the journey of Paul for the older group.

All-Age Services - We have had four all-aged services this year. These have included Palm Sunday, Powerful Prayer, Mary Magdalene and Christmas. There is now a team of people involved in this. They have included Sarah, Jen and Frankie as well as Chris and Emily. In 2025 we hope to add Toks to the team as well.

Little Fishes in Grafham - This is still going very well. We meet in the Grafham village hall on Wednesday mornings from 10-11.30am in term time. We have a good number of children who attend regularly, either with parents or grandparents. Our leaders until July were Jane, Kia and Jo. Unfortunately Jo had to leave us in September. We are very thankful to Jo for the two years she helped out as a leader, especially considering she was only going to do maternity cover for a few weeks! We miss her. We also need to thank Sarah, our curate, who helped out as a leader on a few occasions. We are hoping to find a third leader for 2025.



We are very grateful to the team of volunteers who serve the tea and coffee for us every week. We would welcome any new people who would be willing to join our 'refreshments' team.

We enjoyed taking part in the Ellington and Grafham Flower festivals as usual. We did the pew ends in the Ellington church for the theme 'Songs of Praise'.



For the first time this year we were invited by the Grafham Parish Council to contribute to the Remembrance Day service in Grafham. They gave us funding for materials which we used to make poppies. These were placed around the memorial and looked great.

Little Fishes in Brampton - This is going well. We meet at The Methodist Church on the Green in the school room at the rear, on Tuesday mornings 9.00 to 10.00, term time only. We have a regular group of children who attend with parents and grandparents – it's lovely to see them joining in each week making friends and being excited to place their own fish on the board. Our leaders are Gill, Rosemary and Brenda. Special thanks to Rosemary who also manages to serve tea and coffee during the session. We have a steady number of children that come regularly and some that come from time to time when they can. The session starts with some free play and the parents chat then we tidy the toys away and we do some singing and dancing, stories and activities and then a craft which the children enjoy and get to take home. We say a pray where we name each child and ask a blessing over them at the end.

Messy Easter 2024 - On Good Friday, nearly 90 of our church family and friends gathered in Grafham Village Hall to think about the events of Easter and to celebrate new life. We enjoyed crafts such as sowing seeds, making Easter Gardens, decorating biscuits to look like an Easter garden, potato printing, decorating Easter cards & making Easter shapes from Playdough. We put up a tent as a rest area which was much appreciated by those with babies & toddlers. The children loved the Easter story trail which Rev Sarah had organised around the walls of the hall and her talk after the craft session. After some singing, it was time for our shared lunch, with sandwiches and other refreshments kindly prepared by our team of volunteers. This is never an easy task when we have no idea how many people will be attending! Many thanks to everyone who helped with Messy Church, whether supervising the crafts or by making and serving the delicious lunch. It is wonderful to see so

many of our church family enjoying being together, learning about this central event in the Church year.

Glow Party - On the 31st October we celebrated Jesus as the light and had a Glow party. This was a real success as 20 children and their families attended. We had a huge response from the church to help on the day and to also help us with supplying sweets, pizza and money to support the cost of the events. We had crafts, games and a disco, as well as a glow stick hunt in the church garden.

Emily Jenkins

Buildings Impact Group

Quinquennial Inspection Reports and Maintenance.

In November 2024 the latest Quinquennial Inspection and report was carried out for All Saints Church at Ellington. The report summarises the condition of the fabric of the building and advises on works that need to be actioned. A copy was circulated to the PCC. These reports are paid for by the Diocese Advisory Committee (DAC), but the amount they will pay is only £600. This has been the set fee for many years and has not been increased. Hence the previous reports cover more detail in their assessment of condition, and proposed works. If these works have not been actioned since the report was issued, then they still provide very useful advice on how and where to direct our actions. One of our primary goals is, as always, to control rainwater and prevent it getting into our buildings wherever possible.

We struggled to arrange all our 'maintenance mornings' this year, due to bad weather and the pressure of the other works. We hope to get back to two per church; three in the Spring and three in the Autumn, in 2025, as we greatly value them. The Ely Diocese is proposing a new collective approach to help with maintenance of church buildings. The Leightonstone parishes have been selected to trial the proposals, and Ely are setting up the Leightonstone Building Maintenance Partnership. BIG members have attended the set up meetings and completed the questionnaires requested.

Ellington

We did manage to carry out a general **maintenance** morning at Ellington in the spring. Works, included cleaning gutters, repairing roof tiles, weed-killing, linseed oiling doors, repairing bird-netting, polishing pews, clearing bird's nests, re-grouting leaded windows, replacing floodlight bulbs and painting replacement rainwater downpipes. During the year the servicing of fire extinguishers and servicing of roof alarms was all carried out. In January 2024 the contractors Bacon Ltd were engaged to upgrade of the **lightning protection** system to meet current standards. Ellington Town Lands Charity covered the costs of £3,457 + vat.



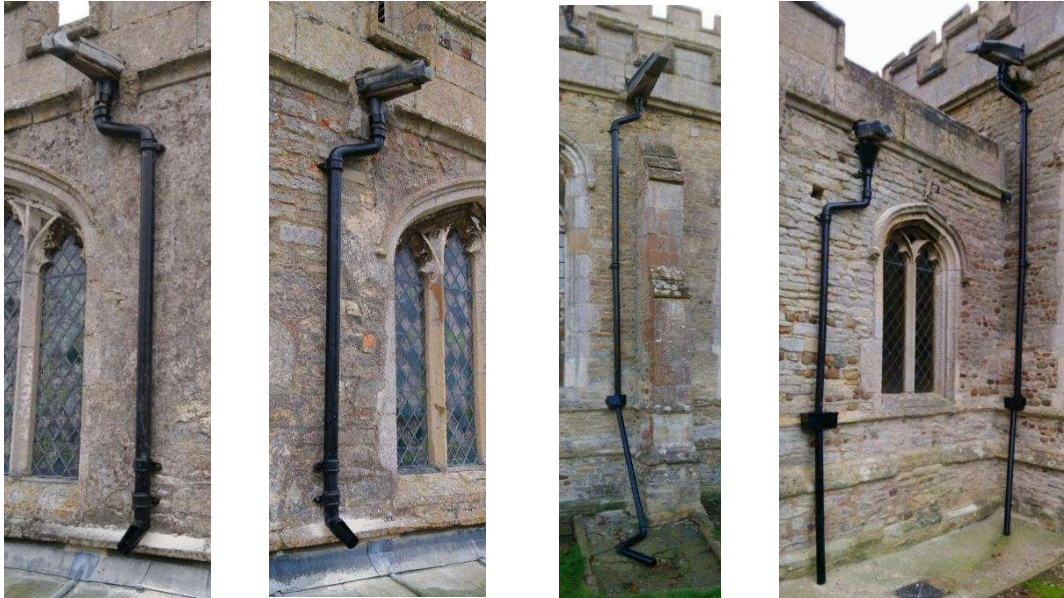
Installing the lightning protection upgrade.



Repaired lead outlet and north Nave gutter and flashing.

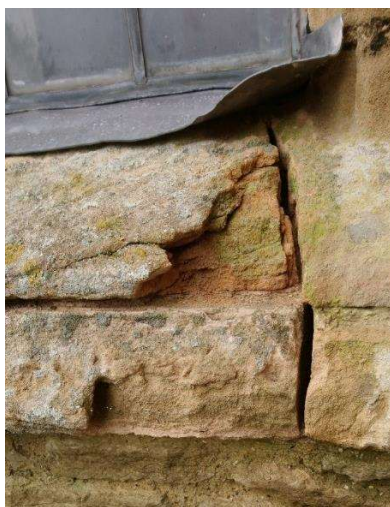
In January 2024 we received List 'B' approval to proceed with the repairs to the **leadwork roofs** that were identified in the inspection of March 2023. 'Award - Specialised Leadwork and Plumbing' from Cambridge, was engaged and they completed the repairs between 11 April and 28 May 2024. The total cost was £9,365.00 + vat. This included additional repairs to the north Nave gutter, repairs to the south Nave rainwater outlets and six new outlets to the north Nave, North Aisle and North porch. These new outlets were part of the upgrade to the rainwater system (see below). Ellington Town Lands Charity covered the full costs.

In April 2024 an application for a faculty was made through the DAC online application system to upgrade the **rainwater downpipes and gullies** system that deals with the rainwater. New permanent, cast-iron downpipes for the north aisle and north porch will take the normal rainwater flows that has previously discharged over the masonry. Also, all the existing, leaking, silt trap gullies are to be replaced with new plastic fittings to prevent the saturation of the foundations. Following the submission of further support documents a Faculty was received in October 2024.



New cast-iron downpipes have been installed to the north clerestory, north aisle and west side of the north porch. At ground level the temporary arrangements remain in place until the replacement below ground drainage is installed. We have only just started to do this, on the south side of the church. All the material costs of these works are being covered by Ellington Town Lands Charity.

We have continued with the **repointing of joints** in the masonry where there has been considerable loss of lime mortar material and there are deep voids. Sections of the north aisle walls, below the window level, have been actioned.



Before



After

The roof alarm system, the fire extinguishers and the lightning protection system have all been tested and serviced during the year. The second north aisle roof floodlight bulb was replaced. Numerous **faults to the leaded windows** have been actioned during the year. Some window condensation drains have been unblocked. Lead flashings that act as condensation drains have been installed under the bottom of some windows. Leaking lead/glass junctions of several windows have been re-sealed with lead window cement sealant.

Where lead 'comes' have missing edges to the leadwork or gaps between the glass panes and the leadwork due to poor fitting glass, then strips of self-adhesive lead have been installed to close up the gaps. This then makes it easier to seal the windows with the special window cement. Where the glass panes are cracked the same self-adhesive lead strips have been used to seal over the crack on the inside and outside faces of the glass.



Grafham

Following on from the work to manage/trim the trees surrounding the church undertaken the previous year (2023), further **works to the trees** on the north boundary were undertaken by our neighbour, Mr Brown. The large trees were trimmed back, including high level work on our side of the boundary. General **maintenance** works, including cleaning the gutters and downpipes was completed. The two Chancel spotlights were replaced. Some woodworm treatment was undertaken and the broken front fence, where the tree blew down last year, was removed and the ground levelled. The base of the walls and vegetation growing out of the walls at roof level was weed-killed. The regular grass cutting of the churchyard was supported by members of the BIG group, including strimming between the graves.

The **roof alarm** system was serviced in December 2023 and then early in January 2025, so not actually during 2024.

Brampton

General **maintenance** works were carried out, including the clearing of the roof gutters, re-fixing of a south clerestory downpipe, clearing the ground level brick channel and weed-killing the wall bases. The **roof alarm** system was serviced in Feb 2024. In Oct the system developed a fault and a sensor and battery were replaced. Then in Dec 'strobe' notifications were suppressed at our request to end nuisance alarm notifications.

The fire extinguishers, lightning protection system and oil-fired boilers were also all serviced. The cast iron gutters to the vestry and the south side of the Chancel were repaired with **replacement gutter** sections and the falls of the gutters made better.



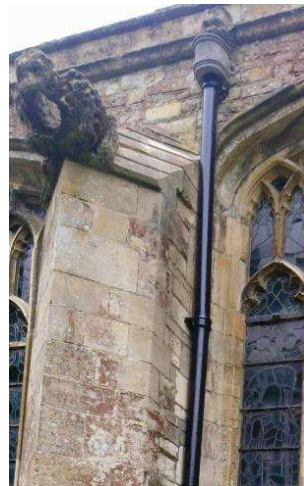
The rainwater downpipes RWP08 on the Chancel, and RWP02 on the north aisle were refurbished or replaced as necessary. And a temporary plastic liner was installed to the catchpit at RWP07 to stop water seeping into the foundations at the at the north west corner of the vestry.



RWP08 top



RWP08 bottom

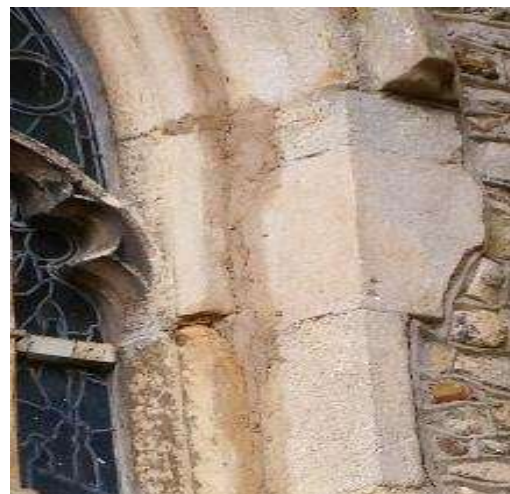


RWP02 top



RWP02 bottom

Wall at RWP08 was **repointed** where they had been water damaged by the broken downpipes. Other wall areas of deep material loss that were also repaired were located at the window jamb of the east wall of the south aisle, the vestry east parapet copings, the top of the central buttress to the north aisle and the Chancel south wall.



Before and after pictures of the window jamb at the east wall of the south aisle.

A 'List B' approval to carry out **leadwork roof** repairs was received in January 2024. In January lead-sheet sealant was applied to cracks and defects in the tower lead roof by our own volunteers. Then later, between June and September 2024 the specialist contractor repaired the Nave and north aisle leadwork roofs. The Nave gutter had leaked and the support timbers and some side timbers had rotted away.



From the outlet looking west.

The west edge of the outlet.

Looking west at rotten timbers.

The north aisle roof was found to be a two-layer construction, with diagonal 2" x 3" spacer beams between two sets of upper and lower horizontal 1" planking, with 'penny' gaps between the planks. There is a layer of sarking felt between the diagonal spacer beams and the lower set of planking. This construction arrangement saved the lower planking, together with the main, oak support timbers and wall plates, from serious damage by the water leak.



Hence it simplified and cheapened the repairs needed in this location. New treated softwood diagonals and upper planking were installed to match the originals. The rolled joints of the lead sheets were 'loose' enough to enable them to be un-rolled so that the lead sheets could be re-used.

The repairs, including additional requirements discovered whilst the work was being carried out, cost £18,870 including VAT. Thanks to Brampton Church Lands Trust for £6,207.00, the Benefact Trust for £1,750.00 grants, and a further donation from a congregation member of £8,342. The VAT element of the costs was subject of a successful claim for a grant from the 'Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme'

With regard to **the re-ordering work**, in January 2024 the ELPCC approved the further engagement of Illuminous Consultants to develop and detail the heating and lighting proposals. The first draft was received from illuminous in mid-April. This was circulated for comment from ELPCC, the Buildings Impact Group, and was displayed in the church. The comments were fed back to the consultant so the report could be finalised. At beginning of May, John Morgan of the DAC issued an email stating that proposals for the change in heating and lighting now need to be accompanied by two completed forms to show that the proposals are compatible with the Diocese targets towards 'net zero'. (At the same time Nigel Walter of Archangel Architects advised that from Easter 2024 he would be taking a six-month sabbatical. In his absence other staff from Archangel (principally Alexandros Michalitsianos) would cover for him). When these latest requirements for the proposals had been completed and

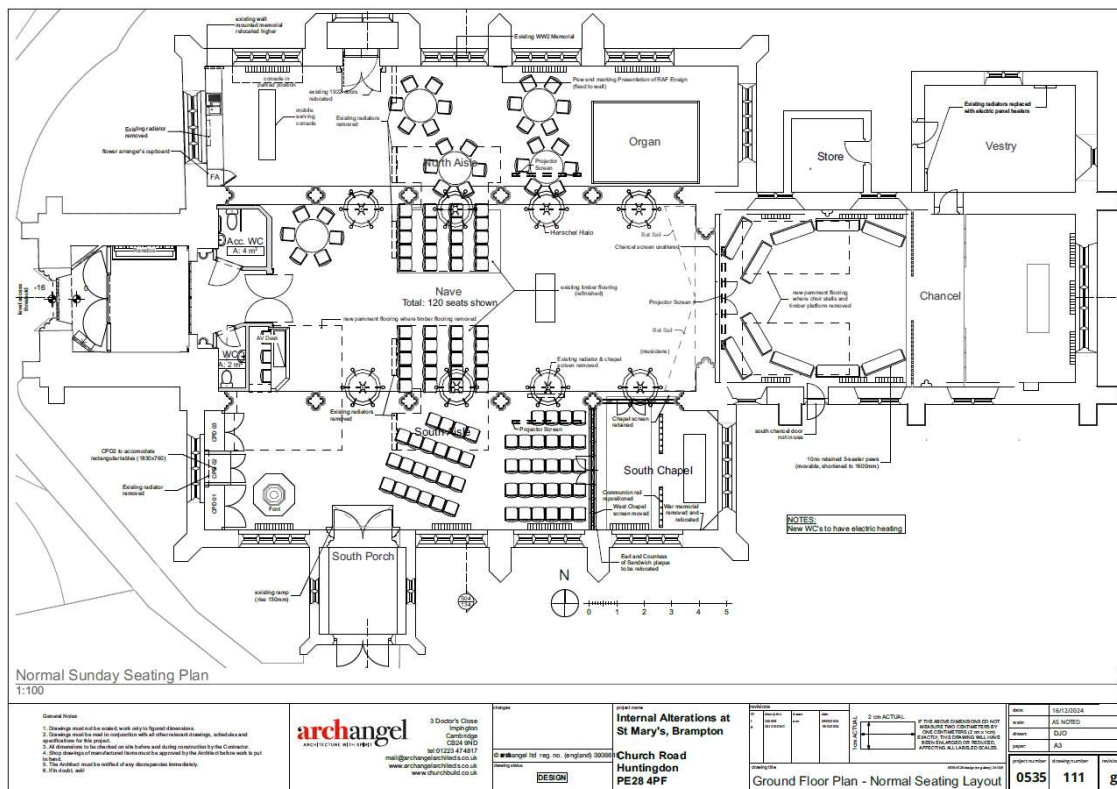
agreed by Duncan, ELPCC and Buildings working group, the plans and all the associated evidence could be re-submitted to the DAC Working Group for their consideration.

A review meeting between the Architects, the heating and lighting consultant and representatives from our church was held on Tuesday 16th July at St M M, and from that meeting a revised set of plans were issued at the end of August. The changes were incorporated into the other proposal documents, including the 'Statement of Significance and Needs' and the general layout drawings from the architect.

Once revised, all the new versions were again considered by the ELPCC so that their support could be formally recorded at their September meeting. The documents were all loaded onto the DAC on-line system on 09 September 2024 for the consideration of DAC at their September meeting. However, it was discovered that DAC hadn't discussed the matter at their September meeting because the changes required another round of consultation.

The submission and responses from that consultation were discussed by the DAC at their November meeting and we received an email reiterating their concerns with the proposals over six items. After consultation with the ELPCC and BIG members, a 'zoom' meeting was held between the Architect, Duncan, the churchwardens and myself on 06 December. It was agreed that the documents should be revised (again) in accordance with the desires of the DAC as detailed in the six items, rather than asking them to present to the Chancellor a proposal that they didn't fully support. The revised drawings and a summary document were received from the Architect on 16 December 2023 and circulated to the ELPCC and BIG members on 20 December 2023. John Morgan retired from the DAC at the end of December.

The latest documents were put to the ELPCC at their January 2025 meeting so they could be formally agreed to, and the documents can then be submitted by Duncan via the online application system, to the DAC for presentation to the Chancellor for approval (or otherwise) of a faculty.



The latest proposed re-ordering layout.

Rob Barker

St Mary Magdalene Church Hall, Brampton

Introduction. The Church Hall has been well-used in 2024, with an increase in bookings from the University of the Third Age (U3A). Most of our maintenance has continued to be carried out by our volunteer team, although 2025 may see an increase in decorating costs.

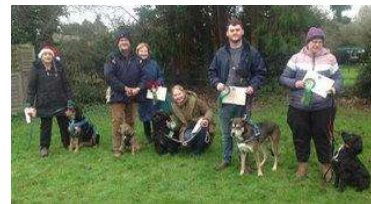
Bookings. As well as church groups, we now have some 18 regular users, as well as one-off and short-term bookings. Regular bookings again include a variety of groups, some weekly, some monthly, and some twice monthly, which can present our booking secretary with something of a challenge. After the U3A Transport group found us, the word quickly got around, and we now have six regular U3A group bookings.



User Comments. I asked our regular user groups for their thoughts about the Hall. Comments include that they love the hall and find it light, airy and warm, that they welcome wi-fi access (something increasingly expected of venues today), that it is spacious, with comfortable seating and very useful facilities, and several that they find the hall to be warm in winter and cool in the summer. We have four groups from the Guide Association.



They use the Hall and garden for just about everything conceivable, including games, debating, first aid, nature activities and even stargazing. Finally, "Dogs Lead On", a mainstay of Hall use during Covid restrictions, has continued to work in the garden on Saturday mornings.



Maintenance. Once again, Tim Johnson has led and managed the grounds and building maintenance activities throughout the year. That has included grass cutting, hedge trimming, drain clearance, weeding, renewing the car park white lines (which had become extremely faint), and more. We've been fortunate to have a dedicated team regularly meeting to keep things under control. However, we could do with a few more volunteers, not only to cover the current work, but also to provide for a smooth transition as members of the team will at some point have to drop out – none of us is getting any younger! I'll be looking for any able-bodied men or women who might like to join us. We have continued piecemeal decoration of the inside of the hall, and didn't get around to the more comprehensive and professional redecoration we had considered the previous year. Despite continuing attention from our dedicated volunteer team, some parts of the Hall are getting a little tatty and, particularly with such high walls and ceilings, it would be sensible to pay a contractor to do much of the work. We were sorry to lose our regular cleaners, Heather Coffin and Tina Leigh. They did sterling work keeping the Hall clean and tidy. Heather and Tina had been able to fit us in just once a week, but, we looked for a replacement who could come in, as we had originally planned, twice each week. That made it easier not only to clear up after one week's bookings, but also to get ready for the next after the weekend. We obtained the services of Jacky Hammond, and she has done a great job.

Finances. Rental income was nearly £7,500 in 2024. Utilities, maintenance, and cleaning cost us some £5,800, Overall, that produced a surplus of £1,700, although £336 of the costs were for hire of our waste skip, which is used by the church as well as hall users. The apparent reduction in costs and income in comparison with 2023 is largely due to spending on that year's new heating system, and the balancing grant received from the Church Lands Trust to pay for it.

The Hall Committee. Finally, I am again grateful to the Hall Committee for all their support and hard work throughout the year, and to the maintenance team. It would be invidious to pick out any one of them for special mention; we could do nothing without them all.

Hall Committee Members: Ken Mackenzie (Chair), Tim Johnson (Secretary), Sally Mackenzie (Booking Secretary), Rob Barker, Dawn Ryder.

Grounds Maintenance Team: Tim Johnson, Rob Barker, Shaun Hagan, Ken Mackenzie, Alastair Reed and Graham Smith.

Ken Mackenzie, Chair Church Hall Committee

Fellowship Impact Group

The Fellowship Impact Group (FIG) is responsible for the planning, resourcing and delivery of events focused on the development of fellowship within the parish. We are a small team with representatives from the 3 churches (Hazel, Anne, Elizabeth, Nicola and Dawn) and meet regularly to plan and support social events.

We began 2024 by organising a “Bring and Share” lunch on 7th January to welcome Rev Sarah to the Parish, the event was very well supported and there was an array of lovely food to enjoy. We supported Sue Roberts and the Grafham ladies providing weekly lent lunches at Grafham from 19th February-18th March. We provided Hazel and the team at the Grafham Open Church on Easter Day with an array of cakes and scones. In May Nicola organised the “Cakes for Sale” event and the FIG group donated £100 from their funds to go towards the Christian Aid fund raising. In June we were able to support Hazel with cakes at the wonderful Grafham Flower Festival and Bioblitz. On the 30th June FIG provided some sparkling drinks and nibbles after the service to welcome Rev Jen and then on 7th July cakes and bubbles again to celebrate Rev Sarah’s first communion service.

To see everyone off on their summer break FIG joined forces with YPIG (Young People’s Impact Group) for a Family Picnic. About 60 people enjoyed the lovely weather, the delicious food, the bouncy castle, which provided lots of laughs for big and small people, and the church hall garden looked amazing, thanks to the dedicated team of volunteers who look after it.



On 29th September, Nicola made arrangements for cake and Prosecco after the Confirmation Service. In October FIG supported the annual Service of Prayers and Thanksgiving by providing refreshments for those attending. We were also able to support the family and friends attending Derick Uys’ funeral by providing refreshments after the service.

We are busy planning our next big event so put the 5th April in your diaries for a Ceilidh. This is an evening event not to be missed as the Scottish Country Dancing will be led again by the aficionados that are Kate and Bruce Gentles, with food and drinks to keep you going and on your toes.

We enjoy providing hospitality and opportunities for our church family to be together in fellowship and would love you to join us, or we would willingly support any events that you are planning or would like to put on for our church family and friends.

Dawn Ryder

Worship Impact Group

Choir

As usual, the choir met from mid-October to rehearse for the carol services, which were again sung in all three churches. We were very grateful to Tony Humes for accompanying us in Grafham and Ellington, and to Matthew for working extremely hard to play the carols in Brampton.

The service started with the choir singing the very peaceful, contemplative and challenging *There is no Rose* by Ronald Center (same words but a different setting to the previous year). The service continued with the more familiar solo verse of *Once in Royal David’s City*. In addition to *There is no Rose*, the choir sang *Blessed be thata Maid Marie* (an old English carol from about 1600), *Born is the Light* (a contemporary carol by Sally DeFord), and *The Zither Carol* (a Czech folk tune arranged by Malcolm Sargent, where the lower parts imitate the plucked strings of the zither!). As ever, the choir sang beautifully at all three services.

Many thanks go to Kia Howells for taking over conducting the choir, as Kate was away over Christmas – and for being so good at it that she could have the job for life!!

Kate Gentles

Taize

We met for the Taize Service every second Sunday last year omitting the month when we had a Songs of Praise for the Flower Festival . Average attendance was ten people most of whom come regularly. Grateful thanks to Frankie Stead and Heather Clarke for taking this beautiful and meditative service when I could not. Thanks also to our musicians, Heather Joyner, Kate Gentles and Sally Gogna.

Jill Tyack

Community Outreach

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is something that everyone can be involved in, simply by taking to heart Jesus command to love our neighbour as ourselves. As a result much of the pastoral care in our community is unseen and unsung – but God sees it and rejoices in our keeping of his commandment to love on another. Examples of this include the lovely Thursday Tea and Chat afternoons organised in Grafham, (by members of the Grafham congregation) where there is opportunity to socialise with people who might not want to go to a more formal church activity.

On a more formal basis, Holy Communion is taken into two care homes in the Parish with the music for these recently updated by Rev Sarah. We also did a Harvest festival service at Montague in October. On a less formal basis, a small number of us go into Montague House for the coffee and chat sessions on Thursday afternoons. Others would be welcome to come along to these afternoons, as they provide a much appreciated link to the community for the residents.

Going in to 2025, we are planning to build on the foundations of care that so many individuals are involved with, to recognise what pastoral care looks like more fully in our Parish.

Frankie Stead – Pastoral Assistant ALM

Brampton Befrienders

We were able to celebrate one of the Befrienders 90th Birthdays in February with her family providing a lovely cake for everyone to share. We had the Spring Lunch of roast chicken and steamed pudding on 22 March just before the Easter break. The delicious food was provided by the wonderful Measures team and 45 people attended, the largest number so far for one of the meals. On Friday 21st June Befrienders had their Summer Lunch. The volunteers provided a varied selection of food to go with a lovely platter of ham from Measures. The amazing food was washed down with the aid of a few glasses of Pimms.



On Friday 12th July Befrienders and Brampton MU came together to celebrate a 100th Birthday, a lovely morning with lots of cards, presents and a birthday cake and birthday cup cakes provided by our celebrity bakers (Elizabeth and Mary). Brampton Befrienders were treated to a fish and chip lunch from Atlantis Fish Bar on Friday 20th September for £2 per head thanks to a wonderful donation from The Thrift Shop. The staff delivered everything piping hot and the portion sizes were very generous. Needless to say, the room went very quiet while everyone was tucking in.



Due to the kitchen being refurbished at the Community Hall, Befrienders moved to the Memorial Hall, on the Thrapston Road Friday 27th September (Macmillan Coffee Morning) and Friday 4th October. We returned to the Community Centre on Friday 11th October to a lovely bright, white and clean kitchen area and once we had found a home for everything in the cupboards were ready to resume normal service. On 18th October one very, dedicated volunteer came along on her 80th birthday rather than have the day off but it meant we were able to celebrate with her. On 6th December we were relocated back to the Memorial Hall due to remedial works but fortunately the Brampton School Year 3 and Year 5 choirs found us and performed a wonderful selection of Christmas carols and songs. They sounded amazing and we were the first to hear their new song that they had been learning. On 13th December we had a wonderful Turkey lunch with all the trimmings followed by Christmas pudding provided by Measures, delivered piping hot with the usual very generous portions. A couple of glasses of wine to wash it all down and a couple of seasonal quizzes to keep everyone going. On 20th December Montague House gifted Prosecco, mince pies and Christmas cake to round of the year at the last Befrienders before the Christmas break.



We sadly lost a couple of our Befrienders, also a married couple who had been a part of the Befrienders family for a very long time and one gentleman recently, who despite mobility issues and dwindling health still enjoyed coming along on a Friday.

I would like to thank the Parish Council for their support in the use of the Community Centre and especially with the setting up and clearing away every Friday, without which we would not be able to manage. I would also like to thank the committee for their support: Norma, Pat, Judy, Margaret, Nicola, Barbara, Billie, Pat our rep from the floor, and Ann our secretary. Our amazing team includes the volunteers who are here on Fridays to help us serve the drinks and make the cakes and sausage rolls: Angie, Gill, Pauline, Elizabeth, Lin, Janet, Chris, Bob and not forgetting Mary who makes the scones fresh every week and also helps serve every Friday.

That was 2024 and we look forward to continuing to welcome Befrienders in 2025 in a warm and friendly space to enjoy each other's company with a lovely cuppa and cake. We will be having the Spring Lunch in March, and in May the Befrienders drop in has been going for 15 years so we will have a party to celebrate. We could do with one or two more volunteers to help bake a cake or be on the rota just once a month so if you have a spare couple of hours please call in and see what Befrienders is all about, and hopefully join us.

Dawn Ryder

Brampton Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union in Brampton in 2024 was busy with a combination of afternoon and evening meetings. The Mothers' Union is an international Christian charity which supports families worldwide. This branch has played their part by supporting local Mothers' Union projects. Our actions may seem small but hopefully we have reached out to people who need help.

In 2024, we continued to raise money for the "Away from It All Holiday Scheme" (AFIAH) and we managed to raise £984.19 which will support several families to take a holiday break "away from it all". These families are sponsored by clergy, social services or schools. A holiday gives the family the opportunity of space to make positive memories, build relationships and strengthen family bonds. The scheme is organised by Ely Diocese Mothers' Union and the money raised is used to pay for the accommodation and travel expenses for a three day break in a caravan in Hunstanton. The money was raised throughout 2024 but in particular at our Garden Party in June, the Village Fete on the Green in July and the Pudding Evening in October. Thank you to everyone who contributed to these events and made them a success. We have also sent money to the Overseas fund (now called Worldwide fund) and to the Mothering Sunday Appeal.

We have supported Mid Cambs and Fenland Women's Refuges. We collected money at several meetings and managed to raise £327.15. We were able to buy gifts for the mothers and a selection of chocolates and sweets for the children for Mothers' Day. At our meeting in May, we gave away 10 bags of personal items to hand out to women arriving without anything and we learnt firsthand about the need for clothes hangers and new bedding. We were able to donate 35 hangers and purchased 4 pillows in the immediate days after the meeting. Later in the year we donated more toiletries that had been collected and purchased and donated pillow cases and sheets.

We have donated 5 handmade quilts to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital Chaplaincy Team to be given as a gift to parents at the funeral service of a baby. We also knitted and donated 18 lap blankets and 5 twiddle muffs for the dementia wards of both Hinchingsbrooke and Peterborough Hospitals. One of our members knitted lovely school cardigans ready for the start of term in September. These were sent to the Fenland Family Bank which supports families in need in Wisbech. We were able to donate nearly 30 baby hats to the Hinchingsbrooke Hospital Lilac ward and several smaller knitted blankets went to the Baby Bank near Peterborough which supports families to provide for their babies. Please don't underestimate the impact of our knitting effort as a small gift in a time of need can be very important. Thank you to all our knitters. We purchased a "Sum up" machine to allow people to pay contactless. The machine has been used in meetings and at the Village Fete.



In 2024, we had a dedicated committee of 7 members. I am the Branch Leader but I have relied on the generous support of the committee. My grateful thanks to Shirley Johnson, Sally Mackenzie, Sheila Richardson, Elizabeth Arkle, Nicola Childs and Ruth Goldthorpe.

We have continued to advertise our meetings in The Brampton Magazine and thank you to Sheila Richardson for doing this for us. Thank you to Dawn Ryder for sending birthday cards to our members and thank you to Gill Stracey for sending out baptism cards. Thank you to Sylvia Collen for coordinating and everyone on the flower rota for the Lady Chapel flowers.

At the end of 2023 we had 33 members. Jan Stokes moved away in November 2023 and we have been delighted to welcome 8 new members in 2024. This brings our membership to 40 in 2024 which is amazing.



Freda Smith was 100 years old on 12th July and Mothers Union members helped to celebrate with Freda at Brampton Befrienders. We provided the cake and the special birthday card from our headquarters, Mary Sumner House, arrived a few days before. At our garden party in June, Freda was presented by our Diocesan President, Hazel Williams, with a long service award and flowers. Freda has been a member of Mothers Union since 1951 and definitely our longest serving member. She is an example for us all to follow.

In January we held our Annual General Meeting and welcomed our new members and friends. In February we held two meetings. In the afternoon, Frankie Stead told us about her 5 years of pastoral work in our parish. She was particularly appreciative of the help and support she has received from the Mothers Union in Brampton especially in our recent efforts to welcome the Afghan families to our community. We are delighted to learn that Frankie is now training for ministry and we look forward to supporting her in the future. In the evening, we held our informal "Craft, Chat and Charity Café" meeting when we made items to donate to our causes, supported each other with fellowship and bought items to raise funds for the Away from it All Holiday Scheme. We held other "Craft, Chat and Charity Café" evenings during April and November. In April, we tried something new and created some craft items with a Christian theme. I still have the stained-glass effect cross and daffodil in my kitchen. The ladies from Afghanistan and the new family in Brampton from Georgia have come to these meetings and brought food to share. Together with their children they have enjoyed the shared fellowship.

In March, Rev David Kinder and Sheila Richardson told us about their work at Little Hey prison. David was the Chaplain and Shiela was part of a team from Mothers Union who run relationship courses at the prison. Both gave an interesting insight into the life and work behind bars and the positive impact both the Chaplaincy team and Mothers Union are having to transform the lives of the prisoners. Our members read the bible passages and the prayers at the Mothering Sunday service in Brampton on 10th March and the church sent the money collection to Agnes in Rwanda to help fund a new Mothers Union branch in their new parish.



In May, Rev Sylvia Kinder led us in a special service about the Mothers Union RISE UP campaign. RISE UP stands for Respond, Inform, Support, Empower, Unite and Pray. The service of prayers and readings focused our thoughts about domestic abuse. We were pleased to welcome Mandy Gerraghty, CEO of the Peterborough Women's Refuge and Carolyn Shaw, Manager of Hunts and Fenland Women's Refuge who gave us firsthand information about their work. Thank you to Deirdre Reed for helping to make this evening a success. The picture shows the new sheets we donated.

In June, we all enjoyed the summer garden party in the church hall due the terrible weather forecast. We invited the Godmanchester wives, the Mothers Union members from St Neots, the ladies from Afghanistan and the new family from Georgia. We transformed the church hall into a garden with table decorations of flowers. Everyone enjoyed tea, scones and cakes and chatting. We sold cakes, flapjacks, cookies, jams and marmalades at the Brampton Village Fete on the Village Green on another day of bad weather in July. We were able to tell people about the Mothers' Union as well as raise money for the Away from it all Holiday scheme and Womens' refuges. In July a small group of us set off to St Neots and walked through Riverside Park, in the rain, to St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, where we were welcomed by the members of St Neots Mothers Union. We were treated to refreshments and a guided tour around their historical church.



In August, Ely Diocesan Mothers Union held an exhibition of 44 Mothers Union banners from the Diocese. Our banner, which was made in 1928, took a prominent position in the Lady Chapel of Ely Cathedral quite close to the Diocesan Banner. Several of us went to see the exhibition and joined in the Mary Sumner Day Service on 9th August with over 100 Mothers Union members from all over the Diocese and beyond. The whole event was a wonderful show case of the work of the Mothers Union.

In September, Rev Scott Watts told us about his ministry as Hospital Chaplain at Addenbrookes Hospital. We were fully informed with the facts and figures about the work that the team of Chaplains carry out on across the Addenbrookes site which consists of several hospitals including the Rosie Maternity Hospital and Royal Papworth Hospital. Scott and the team show compassion and support to staff and patients alike in the most vulnerable of times.

In October, we held our famous pudding evening. The terrible weather on the evening meant a lower attendance but despite this we raised a significant amount of money for the AFIAM holiday fund. Everyone who came enjoyed homemade puddings with cream, ice cream or custard and we attracted some new members as well.

For the afternoon meeting in November, we attended a communion service at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital Chapel run by the Chaplaincy team. We were able to donate our items to the Hospital as well as meet Sherly our contact with the dementia wards of both Hinchingsbrooke and Peterborough Hospitals. In December, we ended our year with a Christmas Social. John Childs and Mary Thomas played music and led us in Carol Singing then we enjoyed refreshments. Another fun evening was enjoyed by all.

Julie Barker – Branch Leader

Flower Guild

As with last year we began our year with Easter lilies in March. In May we joined with Brampton Flower Club to do the funeral flowers for Jean Harris; a long time and much loved member of Brampton Flower Club, Church Flower Guild and the Church Community.

In July the Sheddars from Bramshed made us a wonderful font cover to put our arrangements on following the loss of our old cover. We were so grateful as the new cover is a beautiful oak block that will last, probably indefinitely!

In August we did the flowers for the wedding of Mr & Mrs Christian. The bride and groom had selected peach and cream and the colours were an absolute delight to arrange. In September we did our usual Harvest festival flowers. We ended our year with red and gold arrangements in church for Christmas.

Guild Members:- Diane Hodgetts, Christine McLean, Jan Dobie, Ruth Wood, Sylvia Collen and Kath Brown.



Diane Hodgetts

Financial Report

The Overall Picture

The overall accounts for 2024 are looking healthy due to a tight control on spending in year despite the inevitable price increases. We have received grants from the Brampton's Lands Trust and Ellington Towns Land to cover work carried out on Brampton Church and Ellington Church that has enabled the PCC to maintain the fabric of all the churches in the parish. The consultancy costs will be recouped from a further grant from Brampton's Lands Trust in 2025.

The Parish Share

It was decided by the PCC that our contribution to the Parish Share was to be 27% less than requested by the Diocese in line with setting a zero net budget for 2024. Moving forward we are actively working towards paying our full allocation for the coming years.

Giving to the Church

It is encouraging that Parish Share Giving is up by 11.6% from the previous year and we are actively promoting our congregation to sign up to the scheme. It is an effective way to give regularly to ensure stability and sustainability for ministry and mission.

Legacies

The Parish received three legacies which have been allocated to the forthcoming reordering of Brampton Church.

Sue Morgan, Treasurer

Report of the Independent Examiner to the members of East Leightonstone Parochial Church Council

I report to the members of the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC'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 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act, or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

(Original Copy Signed)

Timothy Johnson
Chartered Accountant
31 Cranfield Way
Brampton
Huntingdon
PE28 4QZ

Date: **25th March 2025**

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024

The Parochial Church Council of East Leightonstone

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Cash Basis

Account	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income & Expenditure Report					
Receipts					
Giving & Gift Aid	87,581	0	0	87,581	81,930
Grants & Donations	0	0	34,887	34,887	0
Investment Income	1,814	0	0	1,814	1,325
Legacies	0	0	10,900	10,900	2,000
Other Income	4,533	7,461	1,228	13,222	15,583
Mission Donations	0	3,385	0	3,385	2,246
Total Receipts	93,928	10,846	47,015	151,789	103,084
Payments					
Parish Share	52,052	0	0	52,052	50,000
Rector/Curate's costs	1,353	0	0	1,353	1,021
Churches/Church Hall Running Costs	20,968	5,757	34,887	61,612	25,120
Service Costs	1,428	0	0	1,428	267
Administration	5,329	0	0	5,329	3,905
Other Costs	202	3,233	0	3,435	(2,779)
Consultancy Costs	0	0	18,093	18,093	6,373
Mission Costs	549	5,015	245	5,809	3,982
Total Payments	81,881	14,005	53,225	149,111	88,428
Net Income/Expenditure	12,047	(3,159)	(6,210)	2,678	14,656
Cash at Bank 01/01/2024	10,467	21,653	27,081	59,201	44,545
Cash at Bank 31/12/2024	22,514	18,494	20,871	61,879	59,201

Annual Accounts for year ending 31st December 2024 Designated Funds

	Church Hall	Mission	Other	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£		£	£
Receipts - Other Income	-	-	-	-	2,833
Lettings	7,461	-	-	7,461	8,787
Other Income	-	-	-	-	-
Mission Giving, Christian Aid	-	3,385	-	3,385	3,038
	7,461	3,385	-	10,846	14,658
Payments:					
Church Hall Running Costs	5,758	-	-	5,758	4,448
Other Expenditure	-	-	3,233	3,233	-
Mission Giving, Christian Aid	-	5,015	-	5,015	1,286
	5,758	5,015	3,233	14,006	5,734
Surplus for the year	1,703	(1,630)	(3,233)	(3,160)	8,924
Transfer between funds					
Cash at Bank 01/01/2024	16,261	5,393	-	21,654	12,730
Cash at Bank 31/12/2024	17,964	3,763	3,233	18,494	21,654

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2024

Restricted Funds

	Fabric Fund	Bell Fund	Flower Fund	Mission Grant	AV Donation	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£		£
Receipts	-	-	-				
Grants & Donations	45,787	-	-	-	-	45,787	950
Grants & Donations Grafham	1,228	-	-	-	-	1,228	-
Donations - Church Hall	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,950
	<u>47,015</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,015</u>	<u>2,900</u>
Payments							
Fabric Fund	34,887	-	-	-	-	34,887	6,373
Fabric Fund - Church Hall	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,950
Fabric Fund - Grafham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mission Grant	-	-	-	245	-	245	1,846
Consultancy Costs	18,093	-	-	-	-	18,093	-
	<u>52,980</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>245</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>53,225</u>	<u>10,169</u>
Surplus/Deficit for the Year	(5,965)	-	-	(245)	-	(6,210)	(7,269)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at Bank 01/01/2024	<u>22,220</u>	<u>1,208</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>2,209</u>	<u>1,376</u>	<u>27,082</u>	<u>34,351</u>
Cash at Bank 31/12/2024	<u>16,255</u>	<u>1,208</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>1,964</u>	<u>1,376</u>	<u>20,872</u>	<u>27,082</u>

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2024

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024	2023
Cash at bank and in hand					
Barclays	18,684	10,030	1,007	27,707	25,030
CCLA		8,464	25,708	34,172	34,172
Cash in hand			-		
	18,684	18,494	24,701	61,879	59,202
Assets retained for church use					
Church Hall improvements	130,439	-	-	130,439	130,439
Equipment	26,398	-	-	26,398	26,398
	156,837			156,837	156,837
Cash due to creditors	1,347	-	2,354	3,701	902
Cash due from debtors		299		299	1,263

Accounting Policy

The accounts have been prepared on a cash accounting basis. The cash accounting basis means that the various funds show only receipts and payments of East Leightonstone Parochial Church Council without taking into account of any amounts owing or owed by East Leightonstone Parochial Church Council as at 31 December 2024

Accounts



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

**The Parish of East Leightonstone
The Rectory, 15 Church Road, Brampton PE28 4PF**

**St Mary Magdalene Parish Church
Church Road, Brampton PE28 4PF**

**All Saints Church
High Street, Ellington PE28 0AB**

All Saints Church , Church Road, Grafham, PE28 OBB

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Administrative Information

The East Leightonstone Parochial Church Council (“the PCC”) works with the incumbent, the Reverend Duncan Goldthorpe, in order to promote in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is a body corporate and operates under the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956* and the *Church Representation Rules*.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Role and stand for election to the PCC.

Structure, Governance and Management

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting or are co-opted or appointed by the PCC itself.

PCC for 2023-24

Ex-Officio Members:

Rector:	The Reverend Duncan Goldthorpe
Church Wardens:	Mr Keith Wood Mrs Susan Roberts
Curate:	Rev Dr Sarah West (from Jan 24)
ALM:	Mrs Jill Dighton (from May 23)
ALM & Deanery Synod Representative:	Dr Frances Stead

Elected Members:

Mrs Ann Davies (until Mar 23)
Mr Richard Howells
Mr Ian Stracey (until Mar 23)
Mrs Hazel Powell (Until Mar 23)
Mrs Patricia Jordan
Mr John Rowley
Mrs Dee Wormald
Mr Neil Brown (from Mar 23)
Mrs Sue Morgan (from Mar 23)

Appointed Members:

Treasurer:	Mr Graham Heywood (from May 23)
Secretary:	Mrs Dawn Ryder

The PCC had 10 subordinate committees during 2023:

- Standing Committee** – has the power to transact business between meetings of the full PCC and sets the agendas for those meetings.
- Church Hall Management Committee** – manages the day to day running of the Brampton Church Hall and actions routine minor maintenance requirements.
- Worship Impact Group (WIG)** – develops our worship across the parish
- Buildings Impact Group (BIG)** – responsible for maintaining our buildings, how spaces can be used effectively both in the building and also our outside areas.
- Young People’s Impact Group (YPIG)** – provides opportunities for children and young people to have a positive experience of church and be nurtured in their faith.

- f. **Communications Impact Group (CIG)** – develops how we connect with one another and our community
- g. **Mission Impact Group (MIG)** – explores supporting mission partners, local, national and global projects, raising the profile of mission as followers of Christ.
- h. **Fellowship Impact Group (FIG)** – organises social events for our church family and community and provides hospitality in support of church events.
- i. **Resources Impact Group (RIG)** – responsible for stewardship of our money, physical resources (linking with BIG) and fund raising.
- j. **Strategic Development Impact Group (SDIG)** – develops strategy, vision and planning.

Other information

Correspondence address: The Rectory, 15 Church Road, Brampton PE28 4PF

Independent examiner: Tim Johnson FCA

Bankers: Barclays Bank plc, 1 Market Hill, Huntingdon

Safeguarding Officer: Jane Rowley

Lay Eucharist Assistants: Sue Roberts
Keith Wood

Authorised Lay Ministers: Frances Stead
Jill Dighton

Worship Group Leader: Ysanne Smith

Mothers Union Branch Leader: Julie Barker

Electoral Roll Officer: Lyndon Hutchison and Rachel Hutchison (from May 23)

Brampton Befrienders: Dawn Ryder

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to encouraging and enabling as many people as possible to become worshipping members of the church community across the parish. We take seriously the Charity Commission's requirement that we operate in the public benefit and so seek to help the people here to live out their faith in our community through:

- Worship and Prayer
- Community Outreach
- Pastoral Care
- Occasional Offices

Occasional Offices

The PCC recognises that for many people the Parish Church is still the place to go for major life events.

There were two weddings in the parish in 2023.

2023 saw 6 baptisms and we hope to maintain these relationships in the future. It was also wonderful to take Pam Clark to Cambridge and support her as she was confirmed by Bishop Dagmar in the Autumn.

Burial of ashes: Garry St Pierre, Shirley Wickert, Walter Northfield, Barbara Perry and David Porter
Memorial Services: Patricia Sledge

There was much to celebrate in 2023, but it was also a year marked by sadness. During the course of the year we faced the deaths of Dora Cromer, Frances Jenkins, Sylvia Garner, William Fletcher, John Gate, Doreen Claydon, Patricia Sledge, Norma Williams, John Boylen, Walter Northfield, Barbara

Perry, Bob Carr and Brian Wickert. We do not underestimate the significance of being invited to share such times as we commit the deceased into God's loving mercy and pray that the bereaved may find comfort. Yes, it is important to mourn, but at the same time, by God's grace, we can celebrate their lives now that they have been promoted to glory. We give thanks and praise to God for these good and faithful servants.

Church Warden's Report

We ended 2023 with the green shoots of new energy and hope for the parish. Service patterns had become established, and it was encouraging to see growth in all three churches as people chose to take communion in whichever church it was offered across the parish, and we are indebted to our music group who add to the joy of worship wherever they are.

Our buildings have started to receive the TLC they needed and thanks to Rob Barker and the Buildings Impact Group for their expert help in prioritising and actioning repairs needed to all three churches.

The establishment of the impact groups in the previous year started to come to fruition and flourish with plans for children's work, fellowship and worship demonstrating a new energy in the life of our Parish.

As Church Wardens we are much indebted to all the teams who offer their time and dedication to all the roles needed to offer a warm and welcoming environment for all to enjoy. The cleaners, the locking up team, the flower ladies, the refreshment team as well as our sidesmen, AV teams, and the bell ringers, all these people make up a living church, which not only is wonderful to be part of but has played a crucial role in growth in the parish.

During this year we have been encouraged by the people willing to be helpers at children's church, Befrienders, and outreach. It should be noted that our Safeguarding Officer, Jane Rowley, has singlehandedly ensured all who have volunteered have DBS certificates in place as well as being appraised of the safeguarding training necessary for these roles.

As ever as wardens we have been privileged over this year to work alongside Duncan, whose energy and love for all in the community and the parish has been inexhaustible and is demonstrated by the growth in the parish and his ability to be part of the wider community in all three villages, as well as in Rwanda where he has established links with Bosco and Agnes.

As we enter 2024 it is with hope for our continued growth and thanks for all the people who have made that last year a year of hope and growth.

Sue Roberts and Keith Wood, Church Wardens

Minister's Report



Introduction. Last year we focused on our viability and connecting with the community. This continues to bring many challenges, especially in relating to expectations of meeting our parish share and growing our worshipping community. It is a joy to report that our giving is growing, but I also realise that we have a long way to go. We are also seeing stability with regards to our worshipping communities in all three villages. We continue to bless so many people who can no longer come into our buildings but still attend weekly worship through our live streaming of services. Thank you to the team who ensure that our audio visual systems run so smoothly week after week.

Impact Groups. Impact Groups continue to play a vital role in ensuring that we flourish and function as a church community. We have seen more people join the impact groups which work hard in meeting our targets. East Leightonston's focus continues to be:

- 1. To improve provision, develop and grow children's and young people's work in the church.***
- 2. To have multi-functional church buildings with facilities.***

3. To provide a range of activities/events that meet the spiritual and social needs of our communities

You can read more of this from our impact groups in this report.

Mission Partnership with Rev'd Bosco Habinshuti. We continue to strengthen our link with the work of Bosco and Agnes in the Diocese of Kigali. We have a clear understanding of what is required to ensure that their parish is viable and flourishes. Prayer, finance and mutual ministry continues to be our focus. We are planning to send a team out in the next 12 months.

Growing Church. We have seen growth of 50% in the numbers of people of all ages attending our regular Sunday services. Our children and young people's ministry has seen numbers reach a regular average of 15 children and we have approximately 32 children connected with our parish. Ellington and Grafham have sustained a stable regular attendance. It is wonderful to see the growth of fellowship after Sunday services where people are deepening relationships with one another.

Worship. We have seen our worship change and evolve which is reflecting our congregations spiritualities, diversity, enthusiasm and inclusivity. A range of musicians and worship leaders also bring variety to our weekly services.

As ever it was amazing to be able to hold all of our Christmas offerings across the parish. I give thanks for the extensive team of people who have ensured that services happened from those who prepare audio visual screens, prayers, flowers, the musicians, and singers. Our Christmas celebrations in the 'Cinnamon' in Grafham was as popular as ever for "Curry and Carols". We had a good attendance with people from all three villages attending the Midnight Communion service in Ellington. Carol singing in The Mermaid and Black Bull helped to make the time of year special and also shares our worship to the wider community. Our three Carol Services were full to capacity, as usual, wonderful festive services guided by Kate Gentles, and a committed team who formed the augmented choir. Thank you one and all.

I would also like to thank all of you who lock and unlock our churches, serve refreshments each week, provide flowers, welcome people, clean our church buildings, and also verge at funerals. You all make such a difference to the life of our parish, thank you.

I once again say a huge thank you to Keith and Sue as our Church Wardens they continue to provide us with a wonderful commitment and also wisdom in helping me hold everything together with the help of so many of you.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to all of you, the wonderful, committed church members that you are.

Reverend Duncan Goldthorpe

Electoral Roll

Our electoral roll stands at 141 people.

Huntingdon Deanery Synod Annual Report

The first Deanery Synod meeting of 2023 included the installation of our Rector, Duncan, as Rural Dean. During the year, the Revd Philip Howson was also appointed as Assistant Rural Dean.

Much of the year has been focussed on Deanery planning, a document on which has been written and sent to the Diocese. Archdeacon Richard came to our November meeting and encouraged us to start by identifying a small number of achievable targets. As part of the Deanery plan, a SWOT analysis has been carried out, which identifies issues of finance across the Deanery as both a weakness and a threat, while identifying the people (both Lay and Ordained) as a strength, especially with the willingness to collaborate that is obvious across the Deanery.

Four work streams have been identified to pursue which are, Fruitfulness in Mission; Fruitfulness in Ministry; Fruitful buildings and finances; Fruitful children and youth ministry. Mission in particular has been identified as an activity that can be carried out using expertise across the Deanery with joint activities such as the Sunday evening youth, which is a joint activity across Huntingdon and East Leightonstone.

The Deanery also organised a well attended session about Living in Love and Faith at which Canon Nick Moir put the matter into context as a starting point for the Deanery.

Frances Stead – Deanery Synod Representative

Safeguarding

We are committed to safeguarding all those who attend the worship and other activities that we offer in our parish. Our core commitments are:

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

The PCC adopted 'Promoting a Safer Church' (2017) as our own policy on 25th August 2020 and confirmed this again on 14th November 2023. The policy can be found on the Safeguarding page of the Church of England website. It confirms that we follow the House of Bishops' Policies 'Protecting All God's Children' (2010). We promote safeguarding as everyone's responsibility. Jane Rowley is the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO). Large Safeguarding posters are on display in all three churches giving details of who to contact if anyone has any concerns.

All PCC members and all church volunteers who work with children and vulnerable adults are required to have DBS clearance, complete Confidential Declaration forms and complete the appropriate Safeguarding training modules. The PSO ensures that we comply with this. DBS clearance, Confidential Declaration forms and training are renewed every three years.

Jane Rowley – Safeguarding Officer

Grafham Church

After the rigours of Covid it was good to enjoy several social events during the year. These began with a superb Supper night in January, albeit in Brampton church hall but at which members of all three churches enjoyed delicious warming casseroles and lovely desserts, all set off with flowers and twinkling lights on the tables. During Lent a course of Bible study took place each week in Grafham village hall followed by a soup lunch. This was open to one and all and was well attended. Generous donations were raised and we were able to donate £100.00 to the Christian Aid fund. During Holy week Compline took place at a short evening service. Messy church was held in Grafham village hall which attracted many children and their families. Various activities included making miniature Easter gardens both with flowers and foliage and also an edible version which was very popular! On Easter day afternoon Open church welcomed many visitors to enjoy tea and cake and hear lovely tunes played by our local musicians. During May Christian Aid was celebrated by hearing from a preacher about how the people of Malawi have been helped by the charity. We were able to donate money from selling of cakes at our services. Every Second Sunday a Taize Service is held at 6.30 pm. It is a quiet meditative service of about 40 minutes with candlelit singing, prayers and a period of silence. It is an opportunity to reflect, contemplate or just 'be'.

Our big event of the year was the famous Flower Festival whose theme was 'Water'. This challenging theme was well represented by depictions such as a waterfall, a fountain, washing up and fishing, such is the imagination and inventiveness of our flower arrangers! A hydroponic display attracted much attention as did the WC! the Bioblitz as ever attracted many children as they are always fascinated to see the small mammals being checked before they are released in the morning. Teas were as popular as always with a fine selection of homemade cakes. Once again our local musicians kept us entertained with their lively music. The two day Festival ended with Songs of Praise. The second weekend of June has been reserved for future Flower Festivals and Bioblitz so that this date can always be kept free from other bookings in the church.

Our Harvest Festival lunch was held for the first time in Grafham village hall. This made arrangements very convenient with the availability of the kitchen equipment and tables and chairs. A delectable array of dishes were brought by attendees, washed down with a glass or two of wine. Following a quick "clear up" by diners we repaired to the church for our Harvest Songs of Praise which

was led by members of the congregation. Donations of non-perishable food were taken to Diamond Hampers Social Supermarket.

Members of Grafham's congregation enjoyed a delicious bacon and sausage butty breakfast at Brampton church hall before the October fifth Sunday service together with other church members. An act of Remembrance took place at Ellington attended by Grafham congregation. Before Christmas Curry and Carols was celebrated at the local Cinnamon Restaurant. Our Carol Service and Crib Service were attended by a record number of people with the church filled to overflowing. The mulled wine and Christmas cake following the Carol Service were a welcome addition to the joy of the service. Holy Communion was held on Christmas Day.

We are indebted to the Fellowship Impact Group for their help with provision of cakes and serving at our events. Many hands make light work and we are very grateful for their assistance.

Hazel Powell

Ellington Church

The All Saints Church in Ellington continues to benefit from two Sunday services each month and the support of a small band of regular worshippers from the village. Bolstering the numbers all our friends from Grafham and Brampton, together with occasional visitors from Easton and beyond. Average Sunday 9:30 services including the officiant and children is 17. The Wednesday morning prayer attract an average of 2, including the officiant. We had a successful flower festival over the weekend of the Ellington Village Gala, raising funds for various village organisations, including the Church. Ann Davies continues to muster various contributors to this, as well as making the church look beautiful to the congregation and visitors. The Gala weekend finished with a 'Songs of Praise' at the church, with 32 villagers in attendance.

A thoughtful compline was held during Holy Week Ellington. Good Friday saw the Townlands Charity distribute 100 packs of hot cross buns to villagers which was well received and promoted the newly installed book/swap food bank drop off point. With the Harvest Festival services now held in September, there was no Harvest Supper, due to term time bookings in the Village Hall. Christmas saw a successful Carol service supported by the choir (thanks to Kate for organising this) with an attendance including the choir of 89 and a Christmas Eve communion at 11:00 PM, attended by 29. Well-attended carols at The Mermaid returned after a few years in abeyance due to Covid.

The churchyard continues to be well maintained by Walter Howell, Dennis Jolley and the Parish Council. Additionally, the church continues to enjoy the hard work and attention of Rob Barker and volunteers from the village and beyond maintaining the building. This is very much appreciated. Additionally, prior to Remembrance Sunday villagers turned out to tidy up the churchyard in preparation for the Act of remembrance at 11:00 on the Sunday. This was attended by 31 from both Ellington and Grafham.

Richard Howells

Impact Groups

Mission and Outreach Impact Group

The Mission Impact group met several times in 2023 and this year concentrated mainly on our 3 selected Mission Partners and development of the long term relationship with Revd Bosco in Rwanda. The three Mission partner charities for this year were supported through a Giving Sunday for each charity. The Children's society service was supported through giving at our Messy Christingle raising £120.24. Christian Aid was supported over Christian Aid week, as well as through the Count Your Blessings Jars (ably co ordinated by Nicola Childs – thank you Nicola) raising £1000.88 and Friends of CME was supported on 1st October when Chris Almond visited us to tell us about their work. This raised over nearly £400 on the day, with several other church members also donating directly online after the service. It was decided that Christmas service giving should focus on supporting Bosco, Agnes and their ministry in the parish.

The relationship with Revd Bosco in Rwanda and how this can be developed into an ongoing partnership in the Parish is a current focus and there is a trip out there planned for 2024 or 2025.

Frankie Stead



**COUNT YOUR
BLESSINGS**



Thank you very much to everyone who supported Christian Aid in 2023, especially in the light of the current economic crisis. For the second time, 'Cakes for Cash' was our principal fund raising event when we welcomed Chris Lacey to speak in our Christian Aid Sunday services and we sold cakes afterwards. Chris is the Chief Technology Officer for Christian Aid. He has worked for Christian Aid for some time and recently visited C.A. partners in Ethiopia and Kenya. This recent first hand experience enabled him to share with enthusiasm the interesting and life changing work of Christian Aid. Chris also explained that from every pound raised 85p goes directly to C.A. charitable purposes with the remaining 15p going towards fund raising. Thank you all again, for Counting Your Blessings, for helping dreams to come true and for raising hope that the next morning will bring a better day. Lives will be improved or saved. Well done! Grand Total of cash raised in 2023 was £1,000.88.

Nicola Childs

Children's Society

We raised £654.34 for the Children's Society in 2023. The collection at the Mothering Sunday service on 19th March raised £176 and the Messy Church Christingle Service held on Saturday 9th December raised £120.24. The remaining £358.10 was collected from 8 Coin Box Holders in Brampton. One Coin Box holder raised an amazing £198.28. The number of Coin Box Holders reduces each year as people decide to donate by direct debit instead. The money raised will be used by the Children's Society to help children aged between 10 and 19 years old. The Children's Society offers one to one counselling, intensive support and group work for children who have been mentally or physically hurt or who are at high risk.

Julie Barker, Children's Society Co-ordinator

Strategic and Development Impact Group

As SDIG we meet regularly to plan, evaluate and discuss what is going on in our impact groups, and the life of the church relating to the three targets that came out from our PCC Away Day in September 2021. This year we have met less frequently. We realised that it has been important to give time for our initial plans to be embedded in what we do. Next year SDIG will take a more strategic role in supporting impact groups and the whole church community in meeting our targets.

Reverend Duncan Goldthorpe

Communications Impact Group

There were quarterly meetings of the Communications Impact Group (CIG) in 2023.

The most important achievement was replacing the previous website with its misinformation and confusing links with a new website that presents a professional face to the world. Thanks go to Neil Brown for the hours he expended helping me determine in the early stages what information should be retained and what would be superfluous on the new website. Enormous thanks must go to John Barron for the new website's creation and swift implementation and to Mark Leeman for its ongoing maintenance and updating.

The parish continued to benefit from the Newsletter that is compiled and conscientiously emailed every week by Jenny Leeman.

The three churches in the parish were also fortunate to have Frankie Stead continue to post and update information on Facebook.

The Church of All Saints in Ellington received a new noticeboard by the entrance gate.

A leaflet to welcome visitors to our three churches was designed and approved but printing was delayed; it is anticipated that 2024 will see this implemented using new publicity software that will also be utilised in a number of areas to raise the profile of the parish.

John Rowley

Young People's Impact Group

Children's Church - This takes place in the church hall during the 11am service in St. Mary Magdalene, Brampton. We have a wonderful group of volunteers and supportive families. Thank you to everyone and a big thank you to the new volunteers who joined us this year.

We have two groups, one for 3-10 year olds and one for 11-14 year olds. The younger group meet downstairs in the hall and the older ones meet in the Upper Room. This year we followed the ROOTS teaching programme across all age groups. It followed the church lectionary which we hoped would encourage conversation and learning to continue at home. In 2024 we plan to follow a programme called Urban Saints produced by Energize. It offers resources suitable for all our age groups.

Special Sundays - Graham Smith led a special Sunday for the combined groups in October which was enjoyed by all.

All-Age Services - We have been blessed. Chris and Emily Jenkins have volunteered to organise All-Age services throughout the year. There were five in 2023 covering Harvest, Palm Sunday, Christmas, Miracles and one focused on 'Being a living sacrifice'. We plan to have four in 2024.

Little Fishes in Grafham - This is going very well. We have a good number of children who attend regularly, either with parents or grandparents. Our leaders are Jane, Kia and Jo. As always, we are very grateful for Hazel and her team who serve the tea and coffee every week. We meet in the Grafham village hall on Wednesday mornings from 10.00am - 11.30am in term time.



We enjoyed taking part in the Ellington and Grafham Flower festivals.

The Grafham village hall received a donation of small chairs and bought two small tables for our use. We greatly appreciate these as they make our craft sessions much easier to manage. Thank you.



Little Fishes in Brampton - This is going well. We meet at The Methodist Church on the Green in the school room at the rear, on Tuesday mornings 9.00 to 10.00, term time only. We have a regular group of children who attend with parents and grandparents – it's lovely to see them joining in each week making friends and being excited to place their own fish on the board. Our leaders are Gill, Rosemary and Brenda. Special thanks to Rosemary who also manages to serve tea and coffee during the session. Our children's numbers have dwindled since September as many of our regulars have now moved on to attend school and preschool - however we still have a regular group - but smaller. We have placed 'Little Fishes' notices around the village in shops and the community halls and intend to give out flyers to people outside the school. Also, we are currently looking for more leaders or willing people to assist with refreshments during the session.

Messy Church - "Messy Church is a way of being church for people of all ages. It is Christ-centred, based on fun, creativity, hospitality and celebration, to enable people to encounter Jesus". (www.messychurch.brf.org.uk)

We held two Messy Church mornings this year, one on Good Friday at Grafham Village Hall and a Messy Christingle in December at Ellington Village Hall. On Good Friday, we had various crafts to help us think about the events of Good Friday, Easter Sunday, and new life. We made and decorated different types of crosses, painted a giant colourful cross and hammered nails into a wooden cross. We had fun sowing seeds, making Easter Gardens and making Easter baskets filled with mini eggs. Rev Duncan then talked about the events of Easter, and we all enjoyed a shared lunch afterwards.

Messy Christingle was certainly messy, making traditional Christingles with candles and oranges ("The red ribbon is like God giving a hug to the whole world"). Christingle cakes, headbands, Advent wreaths and candles were created, along with some amazing playdough Christingles! Rev Duncan taught us a song which explained the significance of the different elements of a Christingle, which was followed by lunch together.



Nearly 60 people attended from all three villages in our parish and beyond. Some had previously been 'Little Fishes', so it was a lovely chance for them to renew contact.

Donations at Messy Christingle and across the parish raised over £120 to support the work of The Children's Society. We were blessed by a very kind donation from Sainsbury's to help with buying the Christingle oranges and some of the food for our lunch.

Many thanks go to everyone who has been involved with Messy Church, whether with planning, preparation, helping with crafts and the food or joining us. It is wonderful to see so many of our church family enjoying being together, learning more about Jesus!

Co-ordinator - Our prayers have been answered! Emily (ably assisted by Chris and Sylvia) has offered to take over as our co-ordinator in 2024. Thank you to Emily, Chris and Sylvia. The team will support you in all you do.

We are delighted with the way our children's work is developing and look forward to welcoming more families with children in 2024. We are very thankful for the current group of volunteers but will always welcome more. We already have three new volunteers for 2024 which is very encouraging.

Jane Rowley

Buildings Impact Group

Quinquennial Inspection Reports and Maintenance

Another busy year. As part of the prevention of water getting into the buildings, masonry repairs and re-pointing have been progressed in some areas. Three 'List B' submissions (one for each church) for lime mortar re-pointing and lime washing were approved by Dioceses Advisory Committee (DAC) early in 2023. Six maintenance mornings were arranged. Two per church, three in the Spring and three in the Autumn. They were well attended and lots of essential maintenance works were done as well as promoting fellowship, enthusiasm, unity and support for each other across the three parish churches.

Ellington

General maintenance works, including cleaning and repairing the gutters and downpipes, polishing pews, clearing birds nests, re-grouting leaded windows, servicing of fire extinguishers and servicing of roof alarms was all carried out.



The temporary arrangements installed to better manage rainwater flows remain in place. The plastic liners installed in the gullies are functioning well, and the water is being discharged correctly into the outfall pipes, not the foundations. The temporary plastic downpipes and hoppers installed to the north aisle roof outfalls have stopped the rainwater cascading over the masonry, allowing it to dry out and be repaired. A new inspection chamber was installed to the drainage on the south side of the church.

Where water had been discharging over the masonry of the north porch wall there was considerable loss of material below the window level. It needed to be extensively re-pointed. To ensure that there wasn't any danger of sections of the wall collapsing, the works had to be done in small areas, with each area allowed to gain strength before doing the next. The masonry at the base of the middle, north-aisle buttress had also suffered from extensive water damage as had the upper section of the Chancel north east buttress. The middle north aisle buttress and the upper section of the Chancel north east buttress were both re-pointed during the summer. Following a roof leak, the inside of the west parapet to the south aisle roof was also re-pointed in the Autumn.



A quotation for the upgrade of the lightning protection system to meet current standards was received and Ellington Town Lands Charity confirmed that they will cover the costs. List B approval was applied for from the DAC and this was emailed in November 2023. We received approval in late December 2023 and the works were undertaken in early 2024.

The leadwork roofs were inspected (Mar 23) and quotes for the numerous repairs required were received (Aug 23). A 'List B' application was submitted to the DAC for permission to carry out the repairs in Sep 23. Further information was supplied in Oct 23. We received approval to proceed in Jan 24 and will not undertake the repairs.

Grafham

An application to manage/trim the trees affected by Tree Preservation Orders was made to Hunts District Council in Jan 23 and approval was granted in Jun 23. List B approval was applied for from the DAC (Jul 23). Further information was requested by DAC and this was emailed (Aug 23) and approval was granted in Sep 23. The works to the trees and the cutting up of a large tree that was blown down in storm winds was completed in Sep and Oct 23, by both a local contractor and our maintenance volunteers.



General maintenance works, including cleaning the gutters and downpipes, cleaning windows, linseed oiling doors and window frames, cutting back trees, etc, was all carried out at two well attended maintenance mornings in March and October. The rotten threshold to the north nave door was removed. It will be replaced by reclaimed, buff, clay, pammert tiles.



Brampton

General maintenance works were carried out, including the repair of rainwater down pipes at the west end of the north aisle and the east end of the north clerestory. Walls were repointed where they had been water damaged by the broken downpipes.



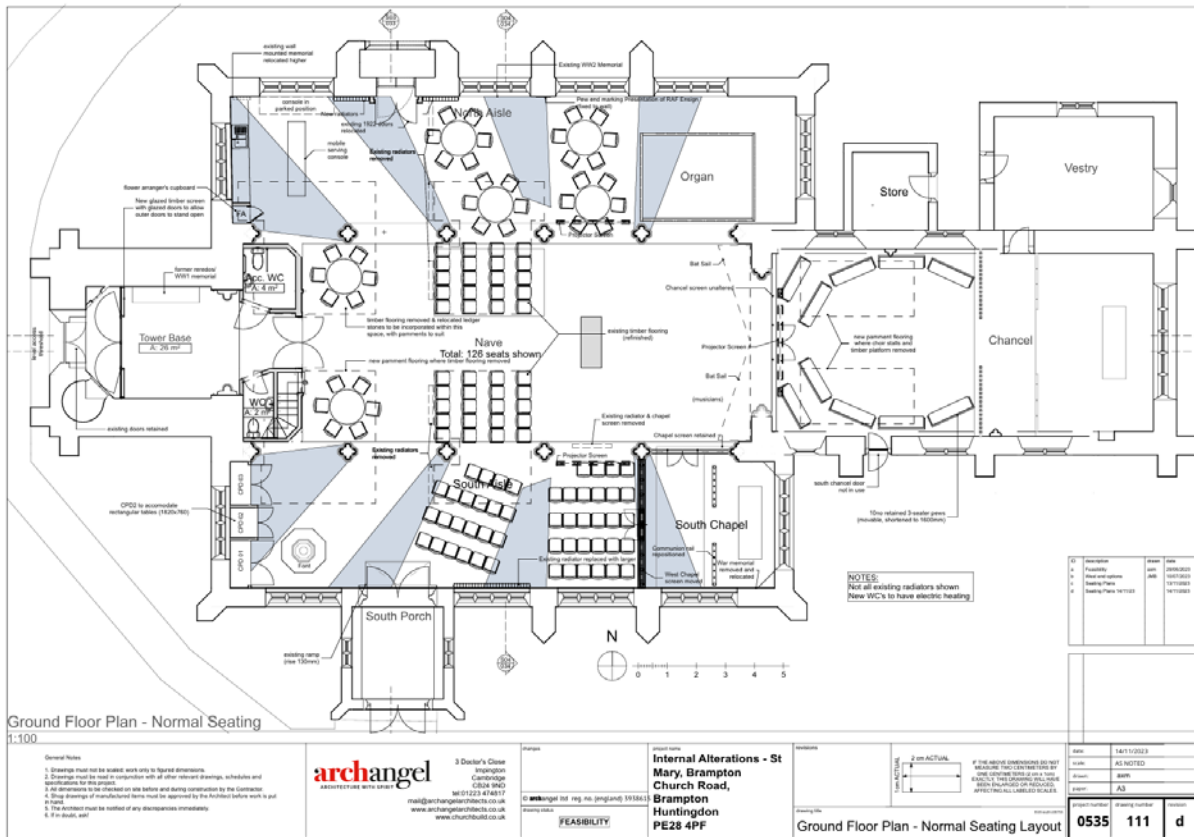
Several timber doors were painted and/or waterproofed and the underground drains were rodded and cleared and mapped out as much as possible. The retaining post to the south porch door was replaced. The roof alarms, fire extinguishers, organ and boilers were all serviced. Some of the stained glass windows were vandalised in the south aisle. One of these was boarded over, repairs by specialists will be progressed in 2024.

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Re-ordering Proposals

Extensive consultation for the Re-ordering Proposals for St Mary Magdalene at Brampton including toilets and a kitchenette, was undertaken in the first half of the year, including with the DAC. Then a revised submission was made to DAC in July for their consideration, and we hoped approval of a faculty to proceed. DAC had various further queries and set up a working party to better deal with the issues. Following further consultation and another site visit in October, the proposals have been revised again and together with further supporting material has been supplied to the members of the working party. We also need to provide details of the changes to the heating and lighting arrangements that will be needed due to the re-ordering works. A separate specialist consultant has been engaged to carry out this design work. When the heating and lighting are better outlined in early 2024, and we have addressed the other DAC queries (including the need and accessibility of the proposed gallery), we can again consider a re-submission to DAC.

The latest proposed re-ordering layout:



Rob Barker

(Please see full report which includes numerous additional photographs)

St Mary Magdalene Church Hall, Brampton

Introduction. 2023 has been a good year for the Hall, both in bookings and facilities. The constraints of the Covid pandemic restrictions are now behind us but, in the aftermath, we have seen fewer casual party bookings. Happily, losses have been more than balanced by an increase in regular users, and Hall and garden continue to be a very useful facility for Church events.

Bookings. Church groups and activities such as the Mothers' Union, children's activities, special events, a regular home group, Warm Spaces and the PCC make good use of the Hall. Regular community users generating a steady stream of income include Girl Guide sections, dog training in the garden, a Contemporary Textile Art group, and an eclectic range of University of the Third Age (U3A) groups such as Drama, French Conversation, Italian Language, Rail Interest, Photography, and Ukulele playing. Casual users include NHS "Health and Wellbeing" sessions and family parties. Not all the regular groups meet every week, so Sally Mackenzie has coordinated a patchwork of weekly, alternative week, and monthly bookings. The Contemporary Textile Art group was keen to have more working and display space, and generously paid over £200 to donate two new tables to match our current stock. The tables are kept in the store and are available to all users.

Maintenance. Our old gas boiler had become increasingly unreliable, so the decision was taken in February that it should be replaced. It wasn't clear then whether bookings would continue to recover after Covid pandemic restrictions. However, the Church Lands' Trust made a very welcome grant of £1,950 for the upgrade, which included a "Hive" control system. It has been a great success, allowing much more flexible programming remotely over a mobile phone or computer to suit daily bookings; hitherto it was impractical to do other than set up a standard heating schedule for winter or summer. Tim Johnson has again led and managed grounds maintenance activities. That has included grass cutting, hedge trimming, drain clearance, weeding, and more, throughout the year. We've been fortunate to have a dedicated team regularly meeting to keep things under control. However, we could do with a few more volunteers, so I'd be glad to hear from any able-bodied men or women who

might like to help. Heather Coffin and Tina Leigh have been keen, reliable and efficient in keeping the Hall clean and tidy over the last year. They have been in only once per week, readying the Hall for the weekend, but have done a great job. The Hall interior will soon need a more comprehensive redecoration than the fairly piecemeal work we have done in the past few years. Only so much can be undertaken by self-help, particularly with such high walls and ceilings, so it may be appropriate to pay a contractor to come in during the coming year.

Finances. Rental income was over £9,000 in 2023. Utilities, maintenance, and cleaning cost us some £6,500, bringing in a surplus of a little over £2,500. Those figures do not include the one-off £1,950 Church Lands Trust grant for our new boiler.

The Hall Committee. Finally, I am again grateful to the Hall Committee for all their support and hard work throughout the year. I'm sorry to report that Ian Stracey has decided to stand down from the committee after the APCM in 2024. He has put a huge amount of effort into supporting the Hall over many years, and his advice and practical support will be sorely missed.

Hall Committee Members: Ken Mackenzie (Chair), Tim Johnson (Secretary), Sally Mackenzie (Booking Secretary), Rob Barker, Dawn Ryder, Ian Stracey.

Grounds Maintenance Team: Tim Johnson, Rob Barker, Shaun Hagan, Ken Mackenzie, Alastair Reed and Graham Smith.

Ken Mackenzie, Chair Church Hall Committee

Fellowship Impact Group

The Fellowship Impact Group (FIG) is responsible for the planning, resourcing and delivery of events focused on the development of fellowship within the parish. We are a small team with representatives from the 3 churches and meet regularly to plan and support social events.

We began 2023 with a Supper Night in January, and those that braved the weather enjoyed some wonderful food, desserts and company for the evening. We supported the lent lunches 27th February-27th March. We provided Hazel and the team at the Grafham Open Church on Easter Day with an array of cakes and scones. For Christian Aid in May Ann had coffee and cake at Ellington and Nicola organised an amazing array for the cake sale at Brampton. Also, in May we were able to support Hazel with cakes and serving tea and coffee at the wonderful Grafham Flower Festival and Bioblitz. We wore our MU hats and baked again to add to the vast array of cakes for the MU stall at the Brampton Village Fete in July.

Nicola coordinated refreshments and cake at the Brampton Village Show in September to fuel the contributors and the visitors. FIG provided a warm welcome, tea and cake before the 'In Memory' service in October. We opened a breakfast café in the church hall on 29th October before the all together service and bacon and sausage butties etc went down well, especially with the bell ringers who asked why we didn't do it every Sunday!! Nicola again in November had the happy task of supporting the Christmas Bazaar with you guessed it tea, coffee and cake.

We don't just do cake, honest, but we do love providing hospitality and opportunities for our church family to be together in fellowship. We would love you to join our happy team, or we would willingly support any events that you are planning or would like to put on for our church family and communities.

Dawn Ryder

Community Outreach

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care covers multiple activities in the parish, and while it is co ordinated by Frankie, the actual activity is something that everyone can be involved in, simply by taking to heart Jesus command to love our neighbour as ourselves.

The roaming tablet paid for by Brampton Lands Trust is now being regularly passed across several parishioners. This enables the YouTube services to be watched by them at a time that suits their daily

rhythm, as it can be used either when the service is actually being streamed, or to watch the recorded service later in the week. A small team are now taking Holy Communion regularly into 2 Care Homes in the parish, and connections with staff at the Manor and Montague House are enabling some people to come to services (with the help of some lovely church volunteers) and also the streaming of Sunday Services for those unable to come out. We are still supporting the Afghan families to some extent, and several members of the Mothers Union are getting to know the ladies from the English classes to help them get to know women in the community. The remainder of the grant money that we were awarded to help support these families is being used to support several of the ladies, who are struggling with their English, to have small group lessons.

The Friendship Café, which started as a Warm Space activity at the end of 2022, continued into the early summer, but has since stopped as attendance was declining. As the main attendees were from the Montague Care Home, we have now turned this activity into an afternoon coffee in the Bistro at Montague in the same time slot, as this enables us to meet with residents who were unable to make the journey up to the church hall. Anyone interested in joining this or any other activity across the parish is welcome. If you would like to know more about pastoral visiting in the parish and get involved, please contact Frankie.

Frankie Stead – Pastoral Assistant ALM

Brampton Befrienders

2023 was a busy year, when things definitely felt back to normal. The numbers attending Befrienders gradually increased from a slow start and since the return from the Christmas break this year, we have had over 35 each week keeping the volunteers on their toes.

Our first event of 2023 was the Spring Lunch. We were treated to roast chicken followed by spotted dick and custard from Measures, which was delicious as always. Followed on 5th May by a Coronation Party. This was a wonderful event to celebrate with our Befrienders and they very much



enjoyed it. The hall was festooned in red, white and blue, the volunteers provided amazing and traditional tea party food and we had a couple of themed quizzes which kept everyone busy and provoked much discussion and arguing which drowned out the themed music playing in the background. For the Summer Lunch, Measures provided meat platters and the volunteers provided the wonderful variety of side

dishes that made up a lovely spread. For the Autumn lunch we had Fish and Chips delivered by Atlantis. We had not had this option for a while and it went down really well.



December was a lovely festive month. We had the children's choir from the school on the 1st December. This was the first time they had been back post COVID and we were treated to a wonderful performance. On the 8th December was the annual turkey and all the trimmings lunch provided by Measures. We had crackers, drinks, quizzes, fairy lights and festive music in the background and everyone went home happy, with rosy cheeks and ready for a snooze. 43 lunches were served which is a record. We were all back again on the 15th December for the Christmas party. Lovely food and drinks were provided by the volunteers and Kate Gentles provided a lovely selection of festive music for the guests to listen to as they relaxed and enjoyed the morning. Everyone was given a gift of a large box of chocolates to take home.



We also had a Christian Aid coffee morning in May and a Macmillan one in September and the collections were donated accordingly.

On the admin side we had fewer formal committee meetings in 2023 but met instead to make arrangements for the social events. We reviewed and updated the risk assessment and continued to discuss safeguarding awareness. We also received a very generous donation from The Thrift Shop of £300 which enabled us to provide the summer lunch as a free event and went towards some of the Christmas event costs.

That was all the fun in 2023 but we also had some sadness. Patricia Sledge, a founding member of Befrienders as well as long serving chair and treasurer, died peacefully at home with her family in June and many of us were able to attend her very fitting Service of Thanksgiving. We also lost two gentlemen members of the Befrienders family.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Befrienders Committee members: Judy, Norma, Nicola, Margaret, Pat L, Barbara, Billie, Anne and our Treasurer Pat P. This group are not only on the committee but also support with helping on the rota and making cakes. We the committee could not cope without the help of our amazing band of helpers: Mary (who comes every week, bakes scones and looks after the lunch tickets), Chris, Angie, Pauline, Elizabeth, Gill, Lin, Bob, Janet and Dorothy. We are very blessed to have such a large team of volunteers as many groups struggle. We and the guests also enjoy Duncan's regular visits. Thank you also to the invaluable support of the Parish Council, especially with the setting up and clearing away of all the

tables and chairs each week.

Brampton Befrienders continues to offer a welcoming and friendly place every Friday morning for a chance to chat over tea, coffee and homemade cakes, so come along and enjoy, or join our fun and sociable volunteers. Also, if you have a family member or neighbour who would enjoy some company please bring them along.

Dawn Ryder



Brampton Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union in Brampton in 2023 was busy with a combination of afternoon and evening meetings. The Mothers' Union is an international Christian charity which supports families worldwide. This branch has played their part by supporting local Mothers' Union projects. Our actions seem small but hopefully we have reached out to people who need help.



In 2023, we continued to raise money for the "Away from It All Holiday Scheme" and we achieved an amazing total of £1076.70 which will support several families to take a holiday break "away from it all". These families are sponsored by clergy, social services or schools. A holiday gives the family the opportunity of space to make positive memories, build relationships and strengthen family bonds. The scheme is organised by Ely Diocese Mothers' Union and the money raised is used to pay for the accommodation and travel expenses for a three day break in a caravan in Hunstanton. The money was raised

throughout 2023 but in particular at our Garden Party in June, the Village Fete on the Green in July and the Pudding Evening in October. Thank you to everyone who contributed to these events and make them a success.

We have also sent money to the Overseas fund (now called Worldwide fund) and to the Numeracy programme which operates in Rwanda. Hence our efforts are helping people in other countries as well.

We have supported Mid Cambs and Fenland Women's Refuges. We were able to fill 10 bags of personal items to hand out to Women arriving at the refuges without anything. The bags contained a hair brush, lip salve, deodorant, tissues, face wipes, face cream, shower puff, panty pads, towel, flannel and socks. We also collected money to buy a gift for the mothers and a selection of chocolates and sweets for the children for Mothers' Day.

Last year we collected items to donate to the Antenatal Ward of Hinchingsbrooke Hospital for expectant mums who arrive with nothing. In May, we visited Lilac Ward to see how they had made up welcome packs using our items. At least two packs have been given out so far.



We have given 6 handmade quilts to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital Chaplaincy Team to be given as a gift to parents at the funeral service of a baby. We also knitted and donated 25 lap blankets and 5 twiddle muffs for the dementia wards of both Hinchingsbrooke and Peterborough Hospitals.

In 2023, we had a dedicated committee of 6 members: Julie Barker, Shirley Johnson, Sally Mackenzie, Sheila Richardson, Elizabeth Arkle and Nicola Childs.

We have continued to advertise our meetings in The Brampton Magazine and thank you to Sheila Richardson for doing this for us. Thank you to Dawn Ryder for sending birthday cards to our members and thank you to Gill Stracey for sending out baptism cards. Thank you to everyone on the flower rota for the Lady Chapel flowers.

At the end of 2022 we had 23 members. Since then 2 decided not to renew and 1 member has moved away. Very sadly, Pat Cartwright who was a long time member until a few years ago died in June 2023 and we were pleased to learn that the donations from the funeral were made to Ely Diocesan Mothers Union. In 2023, we have welcomed 13 new members so this brings our membership total to 33.



In January we held our Annual General Meeting and we decided to celebrate the fact that our branch was at least 100 years old. We have records since 1923 and we displayed these along with old photographs.

In February we held two meetings. In the afternoon, Gill Stracey told us about her experiences as a foster parent and how she is still in contact with the children she helped. In the evening, we held our informal "Craft, Chat and Charity Café" meeting when we made items to donate to our causes, supported each other with fellowship and bought items to

raise funds for the Away from it All Holiday Scheme. We held our second “Craft, Chat and Charity Café” evening during November.

In March, Jill Dighton led us in a quiet time of reflection, music and prayer during the period of Lent. This was a popular meeting and thank you to Jill for providing an opportunity to put aside our worries and look to God.

We were invited to read the bible passages and the prayers at the Mothering Sunday service in March.

In May, Julie Barker gave a talk about the Stained Glass windows in St Mary Magdalene church. In June, we all enjoyed the summer garden party at Julie and Keith’s home. We invited the Godmanchester wives and the Mothers Union members from St Neots. It was a windy day but this didn’t stop everyone enjoying tea, scones and cakes and chatting. Thank you to Julie and Keith for welcoming everyone to your lovely garden.

In July a small group of us set off to Huntingdon and we walked through the town identifying key places and the history of Cromwell. Unfortunately, it decided to rain so it was fun to end the evening eating hot fish and chips inside at the back of a cafe.

In September we welcomed Sue Clayton and Rev Duncan Goldthorpe to tell us all about Rwanda. Sue was very informative about her visit to Shyogwe in Rwanda and she included photographs and facts about the history and geography of the country. Duncan followed with photographs of his visit to Kigali and this was interesting as the parish of Eastleightonstone has now established a link with Reverend Bosco, who he met on that visit.

In October, we held our famous pudding evening. This was very popular with 38 people attending. Everyone enjoyed homemade puddings with cream, ice cream or custard.



For the afternoon meeting in November, we attended a communion service at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital Chapel run by the Chaplaincy team. We were able to donate our items to the Hospital as well as invite the NHS staff we have made contact with.

In December, we ended our year with an evening about bells. Julie Barker gave a talk about how bells are made then we enjoyed some sausage rolls, cheese scones and mince pies. Gill and Ian

Stracey then taught us how to ring hand bells. Many of us had a go and it was good fun with much laughter. An enjoyable end to a busy year.

Julie Barker – Branch Leader

Parish Choir

As usual, the choir met from mid-October to rehearse for the carol services, which were again sung in all three churches – this time over the same weekend. We were very grateful to Tony Humes for accompanying us in Grafham and Ellington, and Bronwen Taylor in Brampton.

The service started with all but the choir in darkness as we sang the very peaceful, contemplative *There is no Rose*, a modern but medieval-sounding carol by Tim Porter. The service continued with the more familiar solo verse of *Once in Royal David’s City*. In addition to *There is no Rose*, the choir sang *Tomorrow Shall be My Dancing Day* (a 16th century carol), *Oh My Dear Heart* (a medieval lullaby to a modern setting by Peter Aston), and *Masters in this Hall* (a traditional French carol arranged by David Willcocks). The choir sang beautifully – although had little voice left by the end of the third service in a single weekend!

Kate Gentles

Bellringing Brampton Tower



Monday evening practises are continuing as normal. We get between 3 and 7 people each week out of our 9 members. At the moment we have 2 leaders/teachers and various members ranging from long experience to near beginners. With only 3 experienced method ringers, teaching others to ring methods is a struggle, but we have two members who are at this stage of learning and making steady progress.

Of the beginners who have started in the last year or so, one is comfortable with call changes and will be moving on to methods soon, two are learning to cope with other bells in different orders after call changes, and one is at the stage of developing basic bell control. From this group we managed to field almost a complete band to ring for the recent wedding in the church.

Attendance for service ringing is on a best efforts basis, we rarely have 6 people more often only 3, and some weeks not enough to ring. This should improve as our recent beginners improve.

Looking forward we are planning to replace the bell ropes during the coming year, for which we will need some funds. We would welcome anyone who wants to join.

Bruce Gentles

Flower Guild

We began our year with Easter lilies followed by flowers for the Coronation of King Charles III in May. In July we did the arrangements for a memorial service for Patricia Sledge who was well known in church community and especially in our Flower Guild being a founder member of the Guild.



We bought in a new stock of hessian pew ends for weddings and used them for the first for a wedding in August which the bride and groom were delighted with, so we hope to get plenty of use out of them in the future. In September we did our usual Harvest festival flowers. We ended our year with white and silver arrangements in church for Christmas. Guild Members:- Diane Hodgetts, Christine McLean, Jan Dobie, Ruth Wood and Sylvia Collen.



Diane Hodgetts

Financial Report

The Overall Picture

2023 proved to be a challenging year, but thanks to prudence in expenditure, we were able to achieve a small surplus at the end of the financial year. Part of this reflects the significant increase in parish giving during 2023 and based on the latter part of 2023, the potential growth in this section augurs well for 2024

Conversely, we paid £50,000 only of a required £69,000 to the Diocese as our parish share. This shortfall, not for the first time, has been noted by the Diocese as an exception to most of the parishes in the Diocese and it is an item which PCC must address in 2024. The expected parish share payment in 2024 is £72,000. This is a major challenge for us and requires us to maintain our frugal approach to expenditure during the coming year.

For the avoidance of doubt, our problem is not one of over expenditure but insufficient income, and this could be achieved only by a continuing increase in parish giving.

On a brighter note, the planned 2024 budget offers the potential to achieve a surplus in this year.

Keith Wood, Church Warden

Report of the Independent Examiner to the members of East Leightonstone Parochial Church Council

I report to the members of the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC'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 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act, or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

(Original Copy Signed)

Timothy Johnson
Chartered Accountant
31 Cranfield Way
Brampton
Huntingdon
PE28 4QZ

Date: 2 April 2024

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023

The Parochial Church Council of
East Leightonstone
For the year ended 31 December 2023
Cash Basis

Account	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income & Expenditure Report					
Receipts					
Giving & Gift Aid	80,189	792	950	81,930	71,348
Investment Income	1,325	0	0	1,325	242
Legacies	2,000	0	0	2,000	0
Other Income	4,846	8,787	1,950	15,583	20,094
Mission Donations	0	2,246		2,246	3,322
Total Receipts	88,359	11,825	2,900	103,084	95,007
Payments					
Parish Share	50,000	0	0	50,000	50,861
Rector/Curators Costs	1,021	0	0	1,021	1,028
Church/Hall running costs	18,722	4,448	1,950	25,120	31,708
Service Costs inc honoraia	317	(50)	0	267	1,140
Organ Tuning	538	0	0	538	670
Administration	3,779	0	126	3,905	4,206
Other Costs	4	(2,783)	0	(2,779)	83
Consultancy Costs	0	0	6,373	6,373	8,466
Mission Costs	975	1,286	1,721	3,982	2,227
Total Payments	75,356	2,901	10,170	88,428	100,390
Net Income/Expenditure	13,003	8,923	(7,270)	14,656	(5,383)
Cash at Bank 01/01/2023	(2,536)	12,730	34,351	44,545	49,928
Cash at Bank 31/12/2023	10,467	21,653	27,081	59,201	44,545

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023

Designated Funds

	Church Hall £	Mission £	DBF Fees £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Receipts - Other Income				-	
Lettings	8,787			8,787	9,846
Other Income			2,833	2,833	-
Mission Giving, Christian Aid		3,038		3,038	598
	8,787	3,038	2,833	14,658	10,444
Payments:					
Church Hall Running Costs	4448			4,448	6,347
Other Expenditure				-	-
Mission Giving, Christian Aid		1,286		1,286	232
	4,448	1,286	-	5,734	6,579
Surplus for the year	4,339	1,752	2,833	8,924	3,865
Transfer between funds					
Cash at Bank 01/01/2023	11,922	808		12,730	4,199
Cash at Bank 31/12/2023	16,261	2,560	2,833	21,654	8,865

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023

Restricted Funds

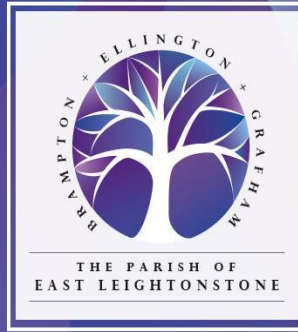
	Fabric Fund	Bell Fund	Flower Fund	Mission Grant	AV Donation	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts	-	-	-	-	-		
Donations	950	-	-	-	-	950	7,239
Donations - Church Hall	1,950					1,950	7,000
	<u>2,900</u>	-	-	-	-	<u>2,900</u>	<u>14,239</u>
Payments							
Fabric Fund	6,373	-	-	-	-	6,373	8,466
Fabric Fund - Church Hall	1,950	-	-	-	-	1,950	6,191
Fabric Fund - Grafham						-	1,803
Mission Grant	-	-	-	1,846	-	1,846	1,450
Other Costs	-	-				-	-
	<u>8,323</u>	-	-	<u>1,846</u>	-	<u>10,169</u>	<u>17,910</u>
Surplus/Deficit for the Year	(5,423)	-	-	(1,846)	-	(7,269)	(3,671)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at Bank 01/01/2023	27,643	1,208	69	4,055	1,376	34,351	38,022
Cash at Bank 31/12/2023	<u>22,220</u>	<u>1,208</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>2,209</u>	<u>1,376</u>	<u>27,082</u>	<u>34,351</u>

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023	Total 2022
Cash at bank and in hand					
Barclays	10,467	13,189	1,374	25,030	10,373
CCLA		8,464	25,708	34,172	34,172
Cash in hand					
	10,467	21,653	27,082	59,202	44,545
Assets retained for church use					
Church Hall improvements	130,439	-	-	130,439	130,439
Equipment	26,398	-	-	26,398	26,398
	156,837			156,837	156,837
Cash due to creditors	1,179	4,233	5,364	10,776	902
Cash due from debtors		1,337		1,337	1,263

Accounts



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

The Parish of East Leightonstone
The Rectory, 15 Church Road, Brampton PE28 4PF

St Mary Magdalene Parish Church
Church Road, Brampton PE28 4PF

All Saints Church
High Street, Ellington PE28 0AB

All Saints Church , Church Road, Grafham, PE28 0BB



THE PARISH OF
EAST LEIGHTONSTONE

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Administrative Information

The East Leightonstone Parochial Church Council (“the PCC”) works with the incumbent, the Reverend Duncan Goldthorpe, in order to promote in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is a body corporate and operates under the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956* and the *Church Representation Rules*.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Role and stand for election to the PCC.

Structure, Governance and Management

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting or are co-opted or appointed by the PCC itself.

PCC for 2022-23

Ex-Officio Members:

Rector:	The Reverend Duncan Goldthorpe
Church Wardens:	Mr Keith Wood Mrs Susan Roberts
Deanery Synod Representative:	Dr Frances Stead

Elected Members:

Mrs Ann Davies
Mr Richard Howells
Mrs Gill Stracey (until Apr 22)
Mr Ian Stracey
Mrs Hazel Powell
Mrs Patricia Jordan
Mr John Rowley (from Apr 22)
Mrs Dee Wormald (from Apr 22)
Mrs Sue Morgan

Treasurer:

Appointed Members:

Secretary: Mrs Dawn Ryder

The PCC had 10 subordinate committees during 2022:

- a. **Standing Committee** – has the power to transact business between meetings of the full PCC and sets the agendas for those meetings.
- b. **Church Hall Management Committee** – manages the day to day running of the Church Hall and actions routine minor maintenance requirements.
- c. **Worship Impact Group (WIG)** – develops our worship across the parish
- d. **Buildings Impact Group (BIG)** – responsible for maintaining our buildings, how spaces can be used effectively both in the building and also our outside areas.
- e. **Young People’s Impact Group (YPIG)** – provides opportunities for children and young people to have a positive experience of church and be nurtured in their faith.
- f. **Communications Impact Group (CIG)** – develops how we connect with one another and our community
- g. **Mission Impact Group (MIG)** – explores supporting mission partners, local, national and global projects, raising the profile of mission as followers of Christ.
- h. **Fellowship Impact Group (FIG)** – organises social events for our church family and community and provides hospitality in support of church events.

- i. **Resources Impact Group (RIG)** – responsible for stewardship of our money, physical resources (linking with BIG) and fund raising.
- j. **Strategic Development Impact Group (SDIG)** – develops strategy, vision and planning.

Other information

Correspondence address: The Rectory, 15 Church Road, Brampton PE28 4PF

Independent examiner: Tim Johnson FCA

Bankers: Barclays Bank plc, 1 Market Hill, Huntingdon

Safeguarding Coordinator: Jane Rowley

Lay Eucharist Assistants: Sue Morgan

Sue Roberts

Keith Wood

Authorised Lay Minister: Frances Stead

Worship Group Leader: Ysanne Smith

Mothers Union Branch Leader: Julie Barker

Electoral Roll Officer: Vacant

Brampton Befrienders: Dawn Ryder

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to encouraging and enabling as many people as possible to become worshipping members of the church community across the parish. We take seriously the Charity Commission's requirement that we operate in the public benefit and so seek to help the people here to live out their faith in our community through:

- Worship and Prayer
- Community Outreach
- Pastoral Care
- Occasional Offices

Occasional Offices

The PCC recognises that for many people the Parish Church is still the place to go for major life events.

There were no weddings in the parish in 2022.

2022 saw 11 baptisms and we hope to maintain these relationships in the future. It was also wonderful to take Shaun to St John's, Stanground and support him as he was confirmed by Bishop Dagmar in the Autumn.

Burial of ashes: Phyllis Allen, Geoffrey Heckford, Shirley Fendley, Frank Baker, Ralph Boddington, Ernest Boswell, Betty Clayton, Susan Pearson, Ronald Hodgkins, John Blyth

Memorial Service: Betty Clayton

There was much to celebrate in 2022, but it was also a year marked by sadness. During the course of the year we faced the death of Tony Glover, Kyley Munene, Shirley Fendley, Ernest Boswell, Ann Hooper, Jim Lamacraft, Alan Footner, Jim Dixon, Patricia Boylen, Pamela Northfield, Viv Jenkins, John Blyth, Maureen Sewell, Nick Jenkins, Ron Kenney. We do not underestimate the significance of being invited to share such times as we commit the deceased into God's loving mercy and pray that the bereaved may find comfort. Yes, it is important to mourn, but at the same time, by God's grace, we can celebrate their lives now that they have been promoted to glory. We give thanks and praise to God for these good and faithful servants.

Church Warden's Report

The last year has seen so much energy going into the parish, it's people and particularly the fellowship and worship we now enjoy. As ever there are so many people and groups to thank for this and I feel that we have been blessed with so many who are part of our church community who are committed to making East Leightonstone parish a meaningful and vibrant place to worship God.

In Brampton Ellington and Grafham there are dedicated people who enhance the life of each church in their own way allowing the churches own personality to thrive. Our impact groups are working hard to achieve the thoughts and wishes made on our display boards so that all who contributed have a voice in the life of the parish. We even have a sustainable plan for the reordering of Brampton Church something we have talked about for many years.

None of this would have been possible without the energy and vision that Duncan brings to his role as Rector of the parish and his ability to listen and respond to the needs of our church family, and the wider community . His ability to bring people together in a common purpose has been the key to the positive changes seen in the last year and as Church Wardens we have been privileged to support Duncan in this pivotal time for all three churches. As previously stated, it's nearly impossible to thank everyone as it is inevitable someone will be missed. However I do feel thanks should be given to Ruth, Matthew and Sam, who have supported Duncan in his ministry and so generously welcomed us into their home on so many occasions for church meetings.

Looking forward to the year ahead, its is an exciting prospect to see plans come to fruition and the work already started in bringing the parish together gaining more energy.

Sue Roberts and Keith Wood, Church Wardens

Minister's Report



It doesn't seem five minutes since our last APCM in which I reflected on being new to the parish and also the effects on the church as we come through Covid 19. A year on and there is much to thank God for. Firstly, it was encouraging and affirming of our work in the parish that in May we were lifted out of suspension and I was formally instituted as incumbent of this parish. To all intents and purposes for many of you, you will have seen no difference. I am the same person, and we are the same three villages that make up this wonderful parish of East Leightonstone. The key difference is that the diocese see that as we are currently, the parish is viable and has much to do, especially with regards to the new housing developments that have grown the parish quite considerably.

This too brings different pressures, especially in relating to expectations of meeting our parish share and growing our worshipping community.

I continue to be thankful for the support of Ian Stracey, Marissa Harris, Frankie Stead, Alastair Reed, and Scott Watts who support me with leading and preaching services. In the last year we have also been blessed with the ministry from The Revd. Geoff Boucher and The Revd. Catherine Wright in providing cover for me whilst I have been on annual leave. Not all parishes are blessed with such people. Thank you.

It is also important for us to remember the importance of our ability to connect with others in our worship and indeed provide a facility where they now attend church on a regular basis from the comfort of their own home. This is such an important ministry that blesses others on Sundays and also when we have our occasional offices eg baptisms and funerals. A special thanks goes to Ian Stracey, John Barron, Brian Radbone, Alastair Reed, Sheila Richardson, Colin Bashford, Frankie Stead without you are worship would look very different both inside the church and also in making sure that our live stream reaches out to others each week.

Last year I wrote *'I also had a strong sense of excitement that we were coming to a place where we would feel welcomed and would be able to flourish as a family and also in our walk with the Lord. I felt a great sense of hope for the future and looked forward to putting some roots down, getting to know the local communities in Grafham, Ellington and Brampton and discerning what God had in store for myself and the Parish of East Leightonstone.'* And I can honestly say what a blessing you all have been and continue to be for myself, Ruth and the boys. Without such support my work here would have been very different.

And then we get down to the business of the year. And then the work began! We have continued to work on areas highlighted in the parish profile with the theme of 'unity' being at the heart of all that we do. Moving on from this, and the targets that came out from the PCC Away Day in September 2021, the church has made inroads into making a difference and sharing God's love across the parish. The reintroduction of the Diocesan Lent Course 'Baggage and Treasure' gave people the opportunity to reflect on our buildings, ourselves as a church community and also the future. Some heart searching questions were had and we saw fruit in the terms of developing what we do as a PCC (Parochial Church Council) and also in the work of our Impact Groups. It was a joy to also hold our Lent lunches again, a time for fellowship in an important penitential season.

The life of the Queen in all its joy and sadness impacted on our live last year. It was wonderful to hold a weekend of fun events across the parish to celebrate our Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This would not have been possible without the wonderful work from the Fellowship Impact Group, thanks you. And later in the year we had the sadness of connecting with our community as we mourned the death of Queen Elizabeth II. I know from the feed back from parishioners, that they appreciated our response in terms of opening the churches for people to sign books of commemoration and also in terms of the services that were held.

The flourishing of impact groups has been a particular highlight for us in 2022. It is a real joy to see some of them finding their identity and feet, resulting in a wonderful impact across the whole parish. Other impact groups still need some encouragement and nurturing. This is only to be expected as we are in the early stages of their development. You can read more of this in our impact group reports in this booklet.

In October I had a chance to go to Rwanda with a team from the diocese. The theme for this visit was new opportunities both in terms of church planting and reaching previously unreached areas. With that in mind the group consisted of, Beth Cope (North Stowe), Nick Moir (Marleigh), Duncan Goldthorpe (East Leightonstone), Kathryn Waite (Sawston) Peter Leech (Deputy Director of Ministry & Mission) and Hugh McCurdy.

My focus was to see if it was possible to develop and link with East Leightonstone and a parish or group in Kigali. It was also an opportunity for us to reconnect with members of the Prince of Peace Choir. Bishop Nathan asked Revd. Bosco and Revd. Innocent (Pastors based in the Diocesan Office) to work on a programme which was both varied and fascinating. Building relationships is at the core of what we do as Christians. And in the context of church planting, reaching out and strategies that are used both in Rwanda and here in the UK it is clear that there is much that we can learn from one another as fellow sisters and brothers in Christ. In our time within the parishes and newly planted communities we were able to see faithful followers who responded to God's call to come and meet together regularly. And when they come together a joyful sound of praise can be heard. There is excitement and an enthusiasm for the gospel in all the churches that we visited. These communities which are rooted in prayer, valued our commitment to pray for them whilst we were there and also on our return. It became clear that developing relationships with existing and growing communities was part of the reason we were there. We are called to be encouragers like Barnabas. Encouragement can bring about flourishing and growth. On a parish level therefore, we had opportunities to connect with the pastors and their congregations. These insights and new relationships informed us of how we might develop parish links that are life giving on both continents.

We are in the initial phase of developing this link with Revd. Bosco Hobinshuti and the Ntarama Parish consisting of three churches: Kibungo, Cyugaro and Ntarama. This is taking the form of weekly WhatsApp messages/prayer and is moving on to a Zoom meeting. In order for such a link to develop we are laying the foundations through prayer and conversations. The next stage will be for me to share with the Parish of East Leightonstone more of what I saw and encountered. I am also in conversation with Bosco to see if we can bring him over here sometime this year.

Meeting the needs of situations as they arise has always been at the heart of what we do as Christians. We all know that being a Christian isn't a 'spectator sport' but a way of life where we have a collective responsibility to work together in transforming our communities through the way that we share God's love. Our links with the Brampton Hub are a part of this where we continue to support the refugee who join us from both Afghanistan and Ukraine. Added to this we continue to offer a warm space for those who are in need of company, a warm space and a chat. This venture seems to initially had a slow take up but we will see where it takes us.

Our Sunday worship continues to develop in style and content with the purpose that when we come together to worship and praise the living God that we will come with expectancy to meet with God and that our lives will be transformed as a result of allowing the Holy Spirit to work within and through us. And it has been a joy to see new people, young and old, attending our services on a regular basis. I have been particularly encouraged in seeing people go to services in different villages and not just the one where they live. This is encouraging and exciting. It is also providing new opportunities for fellowship and the development of new friendships. Where there are new people, there are new opportunities. I cannot finish talking about our services without thanking our committed wandering band of minstrels who support our regular and also 'bespoke' services. Thank you all for providing colour to our sung worship, you continue to be such a blessing.

As we see new families join our community there are new opportunities. A prime example is the arrival of Chris and Emily Jenkins, who are such a blessing as they work with me as we develop an All Age Services team. It has been a real joy to offer three All Age services that have not only been well received but have generated a thirst and excitement in people of all ages taking part in our services. It was amazing to be able to hold all of our Christmas offerings across the parish this year once again. 2021 was such a disappointment for many I know when at the last minute we had to change what we were doing because of Covid 19. Christmas continues to be a highlight of the church's year. I must say how blessed I felt to see how many people attended the services and appreciated what they heard and saw. I give thanks for the extensive team of people who have ensured that services happened from those who prepare audio visual screens, prayers, flowers, the musicians, and singers. Our Christmas celebrations in the 'Cinnamon' in Grafham was full for "Curry and Carols", not once but on two evenings! It was wonderful to see people from all our villages attend the Midnight Communion service in Ellington. Our three Carol Services were a delight guided by Kate Gentles, and a committed team who formed the augmented choir. Thank you one and all.

I would also like to thank all of you who lock and unlock our churches, serve refreshments each week, clean our church buildings, and also verge at funerals. You all make such a difference to the life of our parish, thank you.

I once again say a huge thank you to Keith and Sue as our Church Wardens they continue to provide us with a wonderful commitment and also wisdom in helping me holding everything together with the help of so many of you.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to all of you, the wonderful, committed church members that you are.

Reverend Duncan Goldthorpe

Electoral Roll

Our electoral roll stands at 125 people.

Huntingdon Deanery Synod Annual Report

Deanery Synod meets 3 or so times a year and consists of a mix of Clergy and Lay representatives across the Deanery. We currently have one representative, but are allowed one per church, so there are opportunities for others to join this group if they are interested. All meetings this year have continued to be held on Zoom and in 2022 mainly concentrated on Deanery Planning.

Rev Rob Paddison is heading this up the steering group within the Deanery. The group has undertaken to communicate well through PCCs and synod representatives, to gather information from parishes before trying to formulate conclusions, to focus on rural parishes as well as market towns, and to establish priorities for limited available resources. Feedback from parishes, including ours has now been received, and will help the new Rural Dean and Archdeacon as they looked to the future work of the Deanery Plan. Rev Rob has said the process had seemed to him like a large deanery conversation from which priorities were starting to emerge and which could also influence future parish share and allocation of diocesan resources. This year the group will start its analysis, keeping

parishes and synod fully informed. It is worth knowing that members of the steering group will be glad to provide input to parishes if asked.

We have also been introduced to the new Archdeacon, who attended the November meeting online and shared some of his background and thoughts for the future.

Rural Dean Ian Brennand retired earlier this year and his role was temporarily taken over by Canon Mike Booker for the latter part of 2022. Revd Duncan Goldthorpe will be taking over and licensed in 2023.

Frances Stead – Deanery Synod Representative

Safeguarding

We are committed to safeguarding all those who attend the worship and other activities that we offer in our parish. The PCC adopted 'Promoting a Safer Church' (2017) as our own policy on 25th August 2020 and confirmed this again on 22nd November 2022. The policy can be found on the Safeguarding page of the Church of England website. It confirms that we follow the House of Bishops' Policies 'Protecting All God's Children' (2010). We promote safeguarding as everyone's responsibility. Jane Rowley is the Parish Safeguarding Officer. Large Safeguarding posters are on display in the churches giving details of who to contact if anyone has any concerns.

All PCC members and all church volunteers who work with children and vulnerable adults are required to have DBS clearance, complete Confidential Declaration forms and complete the appropriate Safeguarding training modules. DBS clearance and Confidential Declaration forms are now being renewed every three years instead of every five years.

Jane Rowley – Safeguarding Coordinator

Prayer Ministry

The start of the Covid pandemic coincided with a crisis in my stamina as a doctor. I reduced my working week to four days and found myself almost by accident falling into praying with friends by zoom on my day off. This soon became a regular zoom church prayer meeting, and this in turn grew into a weekly prayer diary for our church and the opportunity to lead and learn from courses on prayer. I have seen truly remarkable (dare I even use the word miraculous?) answers to prayer for illness, family problems and work problems. Our next phase is to introduce prayer ministry at the end of services-look out for this exciting opportunity.

Along with church, Christian fellowship and prayer, regular reading of the Bible is also essential to anyone who wants to progress in their journey of faith. Christianity, it seems to me, can be as simple or as hard as you want. There are a lot of theological questions and debates going on at the moment and always have been. But really the core message is simple: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3: 16). After his resurrection Jesus appeared to two people on the road to Emmaus and conducted a Bible study starting with Moses and all the Prophets explaining what the scriptures said concerning himself (Luke 24:13-35). The Bible is the living word and reveals Jesus to us. By focusing on Jesus, what he would do and how he would react, I have learned that I don't need to know all the answers to all the theological questions. I will know when I need to. If I have a question I need to look in the Bible. We have just embarked on Lectio Divina Course for Lent. Lectio Divina (literally sacred reading) is an ancient practice of reading the Bible meditatively and ***prayerfully***, thereby learning to hear God's voice more clearly which helps us to grow in our relationship with God, pray more effectively, and experience more peace. I look forward to seeing the benefits this will bring to individuals and the wider church.

Sally Bashford

Home Groups

Our Thursday home group comprises of eight enthusiastic members who have enjoyed another successful year in exploring our Christian beliefs. The discussions are open-minded, good humoured and fun. The group tackles various topics in a caring way which has helped the group members to develop and grow. We have enjoyed the Peter Gieg's prayer course, tackled Deuteronomy with steely determination and discovered the role and impact of women in the bible.

Our Wednesday morning group have just completed 'Fruitfulness on the front line' by Mark Green. It is an eight week course with a video each week, includes discussion and bible references and

discussion. We found it very good for our small goup. Somebody has to sign up with the Lice.org.uk at a cost of five pounds to obtain the material.

Dee Wormald

Grafham Church

Grafham church is open daily for visitors. We have our regular services twice a month plus morning prayer on Wednesdays.

A volunteer cleaning rota and flower rota make the church welcoming for visitors at all times.

During the year events have included an Open Church on Easter day afternoon consisting of tea and cakes and live music by our volunteer musicians. Our 2 day Flower Festival with the theme of Poetry together with the Bioblitz involving observing mammals and wildflowers in the churchyard took place in June. The churchyard is managed according to the Bishop's project of "Caring for God's Acre". The various areas of meadow and mown grass are controlled to benefit the maximum opportunity for wildlife and wildflowers to thrive.

Harvest festival was followed by a bring and share lunch enjoyed by the congregations of our three churches. Food donated was taken to Diamond Hampers foodbank afterwards.

At Christmas our Carol service was well attended and was followed by mulled wine and Christmas cake. A jolly evening was enjoyed at the Cinnamon restaurant with Curry and Carols.



A tremendous effort was made with Christmas giving in which our villagers took part. We were delighted that so many non-churchgoers gave Christmas goodies which we gave to Diamond Hampers and the Godmanchester foodbank.

We are very fortunate in having so many generous people giving their time, coming in to clean our church, arrange flowers, make cakes for events and unlocking and locking the church daily. It is truly gratifying.

Hazel Powell

Ellington Church

The church in Ellington has built on the progress of 2021 to normality following the restrictions placed by Covid. Four services are held each month (Communion, All-age and two mid-week Morning Worships). Attendance for the Sunday services averaged over the year at 15, (*2021 attendance average 16*) and 3 for the morning worship, (*2021, 3*). Additionally services included a Harvest festival 22, Carol service 32 and Christmas Eve communion 28 (*2021, 23*). All figures include choirs, musicians and service leader. Additionally, the Village held a Remembrance memorial attracting 45 from the villages of Ellington and Grafham at the war memorial. The church is cleaned periodically and for significant services and the flower rota ensures that the church interior looks bright and usually, flaking plaster and a few cobwebs aside, beautiful.

The church held several social events including, as part of the FIG groups Jubilee celebrations, a Cream Tea at Brook Lodge, kindly host by Ann Davies. A 'Design a new crown for the Queen' competition was held over the Village's weekend Jubilee celebrations, which attracted a number of entries from young and not-so-young, with prizes sponsored by the Townlands Charity. The popular Harvest Supper returned, once again in the Village Hall.

The Townlands Charity reintroduced the giving out of bread to Villagers on Good Friday, with Lucy Lumbers organising a collection of Hot Cross Buns from Tesco to be collected from the church. This was well received by many of the Villagers. The Townlands Charity continues to be ready to support the Church in its Maintenance. The Fabric report identifies many of the priorities required to maintain and improve the building and the Trustees look forward to providing funds for this and attract funding from other bodies to address the more extensive works.

The churchyard continues to be maintained by a combination of Ellington volunteers and the Parish Council; mowing of the grass is divided between two individuals with the balance being covered by the Parish Council on a fortnightly basis. It should be noted that one of the mowers also maintains the church clock and the other opens and closes the church on a daily basis. A successful working party organised by the BIG was held in early Autumn, addressing some of the maintenance identified previously. The general clean-up in November was attended by a number of village volunteers. There are a number of families in Ellington who take a pride in maintaining specific graves and their surrounds. As a result of all of this work the churchyard always has a well maintained appearance.

Richard Howells

Impact Groups

Mission and Outreach Impact Group

The MIG aims to

- **share** – God’s love by supporting Christian mission and people in need
- **identify and engage** – with communities in need and resources required to meet needs
- **communicate** – mission and outreach priorities and needs internally and externally
- **serve** – beyond our church and develop partnerships
- **involve** – all generations and actively include the younger generation

We are committed to:

- Enabling individuals and community life to flourish through developing, supporting and resourcing UK and overseas mission partners and churches.
- Engage with the church family to identify mission and outreach projects and partners that we might support.
- Publicise the mission and outreach partners and projects that we will be supporting.
- Inform and challenge members of the congregation by seeking their support through prayer, by giving and being practically involved in projects

We have met four times over 2022 and in that time have reviewed the mission groups that we as a Parish are committed to supporting and sought to develop further links with these groups:

1. Diamond Hampers – Giving to Diamond Hampers was focused mainly through collections at Christmas
2. Christian Aid – which will continue to be focused around CA week in May
3. Friends of CME Trust, a small local charity that supports the Centre Medical Evangelique Hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo
4. The Children’s Society

We have strengthened our relationships in the community by being more active in working with the Brampton Hub, which has been mainly so far through working with resettled families from Afghanistan in the area. Later in the year this extended to the Warm Spaces initiative with the Parish Council and the Hub. Support for refugees has included involvement in a social event for families and volunteers on May 7th and also help with regular English conversation classes. Our Warm Spaces has now developed into a regular Coffee and Cake social, which is less about keeping warm, and more about the warmth of friendship and hospitality.

We are a small group and could use new members who are passionate about caring for our neighbour out in the community and sharing the love of God across the Parish. If you think this might be you, please come and talk to one of us: Duncan Goldthorpe, Frankie Stead, Ian Stracey, Jan Edwards.

Frankie Stead

Christian Aid

Thank you very much to everyone who supported Christian Aid 2022, especially in the light of the DEC Ukraine Appeal. Many people recognised the significant immediate need to respond to the desperate plight of those affected by the war in Ukraine and contributed personally by direct debit

bank payment to the DEC Ukraine Appeal. This year, 'Cakes for Cash' was our principal fund raising event when we welcomed Lottie Taylor to speak in our Christian Aid Sunday services and sold cakes afterwards. Lottie has supported Christian Aid for many years and has personally visited project in Ethiopia so had much of interest to share. Lottie's 'incredible head shave', which raised £2,400, was indicative of her infectious enthusiasm for the work of Christian Aid.



Sale of 'Cakes for Cash'	£200.00
'Count Your Blessings' coin collection	£371.50
Brampton Befrienders' coffee morning	£ 37.50
Methodist and Parish Church collections	£ 64.50
Grand Total of Cash Raised	£673.50

Nicola Childs

Children's Society

We have raised £364.95 for the Children's Society in 2022. Traditionally, St Mary Magdalene Church in Brampton supports the Children's Society by hosting a Christingle Church Service and collecting coins from Coin Box Holders. In 2022, we did not hold a Christingle service. Hence the total money raised was collected in from 9 Coin Box Holders in Brampton. In 2021 there were 12 Coin Box Holders but 3 have decided to donate by direct debit instead. The money raised will be used by the Children's Society to help children aged between 10 and 19 years old. The Children's Society offer one to one counselling, intensive support and group work for children who have been mentally or physically hurt or who are at high risk.

Julie Barker, Children's Society Co-ordinator

Strategic and Development Impact Group

As SDIG we meet regularly to plan, evaluate and discuss what is going on in our Impact Groups, and the life of the church relating to the three targets that came out from our PCC Away Day in September 2021.

East Leightonstone's focus for the next three years is as follows:

- 1-to improve provision, develop & grow children's, and young people's work in the church
 - 2-To have multi-functional church buildings with facilities
 - 3- to provide a range of activities/events that meet the spiritual and social needs of our communities
- As with other impact groups we are evolving in how we support the wider church community. Each member of SDIG is in an Impact Group and can therefore also talk about what is going on at the 'coal face'.

Last year we focused our discussions on:

- Reviewing the Big Conversation and PCC Vision Day
- Establishing Children and Young People's Work – including resources
- Home Groups
- Our buildings as multi-functional spaces
- Our communication
- Finances
- Courses-eg Alpha, The Prayer Course, Christianity Explored
- Reaching out to the community

Rev Duncan Goldthorpe

Communications Impact Group

The communications group has a wide remit. This has needed careful consideration. We have been working on the processes needed in order to reach the wider worshipping community in a more effective way. The following areas are being considered for improvement: the website, Facebook, newsletter and email.

Our newsletter and updating of our website have been a key focus over the last twelve months.

Rev Duncan Goldthorpe

Resource Impact Group

The Resources Impact Group is responsible for stewardship of our money, physical resources in conjunction with the Buildings Impact Group and fundraising.

On the stewardship of money, this matter is covered in the financial section later in this report. On the physical resource issues we have been able to obtain generous grants from Brampton Lands Trust to undertake essential repairs to the church hall and the church building itself. Similar grants have been made by Ellington Lands Trust for other quinquennial related repairs to Ellington church. Repairs undertaken at Grafham church have been supported financially by monies within the designated/restricted funds, which remain exclusively under the aegis of Grafham church, albeit within the Parish of East Leightonstone. Most of these repairs have been coordinated under the excellent direction of Rob Barker. This group has also achieved a healthy amount of fundraising towards the re-ordering of Saint Mary Magdalene church Brampton. The majority of the £160,000 raised has been through pledges made by Brampton Lands Trust and we are very grateful for their support.

It is the group's intention to extend the search for funds during the first half of 2023, including local businesses and local and national charities. This will begin when we have received formal approval from the Diocese to our plans to refurbish the church.

Keith Wood

Young People's Impact Group

The Young People's Impact Group met 5 times in 2022. During this year we have extended what we offer for the young people in the following areas:

Children's Church – This takes place in the church hall during the 11am service in St. Mary Magdalene, Brampton. Over the year we have built up a wonderful group of volunteers and supportive families, including a new leader who joined us in November. However, we will always welcome more.

At the start of the year we had sessions in the Upper room in the church hall for the 9-14 year olds. We were very fortunate to have a volunteer who was doing her Duke of Edinburgh award helping with this group for a term. We had activities for the 3-8 year olds in the Children's corner in the church. By Easter we had enough younger children to start taking the 3-8s to the church hall. In March we started using a teaching programme produced by the Freedom in Christ Ministries for the 9-14s. The 3-8s used Splash by Scripture Union. On special occasions like Mothering Sunday and Easter Sunday we ran activities and crafts in the Children's corner in church. See also special Sundays below. In 2023 we plan to follow the ROOTS teaching programme across all age groups; this follows the church lectionary and as such will encourage the conversation and learning to continue at home.

Special Sundays – We organised three special Sundays this year. We had an outdoor activity based on **Geocaching** which was a great success. **Apple Sunday** took place in Autumn and was a lot of fun. Who knew you could do so many things with apples?! **N is for Christmas** was an all-age service in Brampton which involved the whole congregation as well as the children and went very well. It was a lovely way for the children to celebrate the Nativity. Thank you to those who worked hard to make these Sundays special. It has been agreed that in 2023 there will be an all-age service whenever there is a fifth Sunday in the month.

Messy Church – We had two Messy Church sessions, one at Easter in Grafham and one in the Summer in Brampton. These were well attended and enjoyed by all.

Training – We arranged for Debbie Hill, the Ely Diocese Development Officer for Children and Families, to provide a session for us on Story telling. This was attended by volunteers from all three churches and we all found it very helpful and inspiring.

Shared lunch – We had a shared lunch for all the volunteers, parents and children at the end of the summer term. The weather was warm and sunny and we all had a good time. It was an opportunity for families to get to know each other.

We are pleased with the way our children's work is developing and hope to welcome more families with children in 2023. We are very thankful for the current YPIG members. We are also delighted to have a new, enthusiastic couple who have joined the YPIG but we are still looking for someone to coordinate and guide us through the coming year.



Grafham Little Fishes is still going well. Our leaders are now Jane, Kia and Jo. In July we said goodbye and a BIG thank you to Gill for being a leader since we started back in 2015. Gill left to restart Little Fishes in Brampton. We welcomed Jo as a new leader in September. Kia had a baby in September but has stayed on a leader for which we are extremely grateful. As always, we are very thankful to Hazel and her team who serve the tea and coffee.

Little Fishes enjoyed taking part in the Ellington and Grafham Flower festivals. We were delighted to receive a very generous donation of just over £200 from the Grafham Social/Firework committee. This enabled us to purchase all the lovely new toys in the photograph.



Brampton Little Fishes restarted in May. Gill and Rosemary returned as leaders and we were delighted to welcome Brenda as a new leader. The number of children attending since April has grown which is very encouraging.

Jane Rowley

Buildings Impact Group

Early in 2022 new Architects (Archangel of Cambridge) were appointed to undertake Quinquennial Inspections of the churches at Grafham and Brampton. These inspections were completed and the reports issued in May. These architects were also appointed to support us in the installation of "bat sails" and plans for reordering (including toilets and a kitchenette) at Brampton.

Quinquennial Inspection Reports and Maintenance

The recommendation of all QI reports and church building maintenance publications is to prioritize the management of rain water. The prevention of water getting into the buildings and ensuring the water is collected and disposed of efficiently. So, our main focus has been on this.

Masonry repairs and re-pointing have also been raised as re-occurring issues throughout the QI reports. Three submissions (one for each church) have been made to the Dioceses advisory Committee (DAC) for approval. One application for Brampton was approved in Jan 2023. It is hoped these repairs can be undertaken in a programme of 'in house' self-help at minimal cost (material costs only).

The first three maintenance 'mornings' were initiated. It is planned to have two per church, per year. Three in the Spring and three in the Autumn. The initial three were well attended and lots of essential maintenance works were done, as well as promoting fellowship, enthusiasm, unity and support for each other.

Ellington

The 2019 report for Ellington Church was reviewed and a short report of 'Temporary Holding Repairs and Investigation Works' was produced. During the year the old brick gullies were cleared and some temporary arrangements were installed to ensure the water flows into the gullies. The gullies (which all leaked) have been fitted with plastic liners so the water discharges correctly into the outfall pipes. The outfall pipes have been rodded to ensure they are not blocked.

The gutters to the lower roofs have been cleared and the cast iron Chancel gutters have been painted. The rainwater downpipes have all been checked and some slightly modified or repaired to ensure the water doesn't escape down the walls. Temporary plastic downpipes and hoppers have been installed to the main north roof outfalls, to direct the water into the gullies (not over the masonry).

The tiled roofs on the Chancel and North Porch were mostly cleaned of moss and inspected. Repairs of tiles were undertaken. Temporary repairs were made to the leadwork on the South Aisle roof. In December a leak was discovered in the high-level Nave roof and an inspection and report of the roof has just been instructed (Jan 2023) Permanent repairs will then be costed and instructed. Some critically urgent mortar and leadwork flashing repairs have also been completed.

Grafham

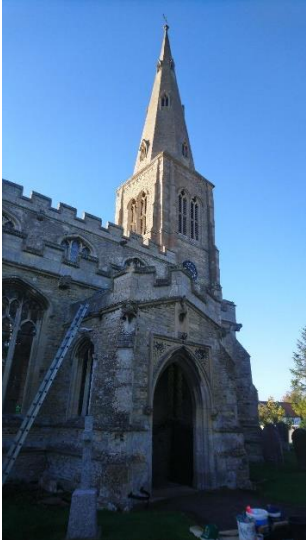
The Quinquennial Inspection report was received in May and the recommendations are being actioned. Gutter and downpipe clearing has been completed. Timber doors waterproofed and internal wood work treated for woodworm. Tiled roofs have been mostly cleaned of moss and repairs of tiles completed.

Heavy rain at the end of the prolonged dry summer has caused cracking of the internal walls to reappear because of movement in the foundations. The architect has been advised, but not further action is planned at the moment.

The church is surrounded by trees that are either subject to Tree Preservation Orders or are within a Conservation Area. An application to manage/trim the trees in accordance with an Arboriculture report of 2013 has been made to Hunts District Council. No response as yet. Some critically urgent trimming of trees has been carried out due to Health and Safety concerns and interference with the security alarm system.

Brampton

The Brampton Church Quinquennial Inspection report was received in May. During the year the gullies were cleared and temporary arrangements were installed to ensure the water flows into the gullies or at least away from the base of the walls. The rainwater downpipes have all been checked and some temporary repairs done to ensure the water doesn't escape through broken collars and down the walls. One clerestory downpipe had to be replaced with a temporary plastic downpipe and hopper. Several timber doors were waterproofed. The gutters were cleared where necessary. Temporary repairs were made to the leadwork on the North Aisle roof, but several leadwork flashings still require repairs. An inspection and report of the roofs has just been instructed (Jan 2023). Permanent repairs will then be costed and instructed.



Asset Management Plan (AMP)

A parish Asset Management Plan (AMP) was produced. The AMP will assist the church in the better planning and management of the maintenance and capital works proposed for the church buildings. It provides a single document to give an over-view of past activities and costs, which assists the

planning of future costs and activities. It can be used to set realistic budgets and aid the applications for financial grants. As more detail is added to the AMP the more it will be of value. No budget for 2022 was delegated to the BIG.

Development Works

'Bat sails' at Brampton were installed in October to better manage the defecation mess caused by the bats in the church. The faculty issued by the Diocese is temporary and is to be reviewed after five years.

Brampton reordering, to include toilets and a kitchenette, has been progressed to the 'Feasibility' stage and original documents were submitted to DAC for consideration. Comments from DAC members after a site visit, further historic information gathered by the Architect and comments from consultation exercises were all incorporated into the Statements of Need and Significance. DAC is managing the consultation with statutory groups and societies. After this the documents will require further updating and the programme will move on to detailed design and specification, pricing, tendering and fund raising and grant applications.

Rob Barker

St Mary Magdalene Church Hall, Brampton

Introduction. Post-pandemic restrictions were eased substantially throughout 2022, accompanied by steadily increasing bookings. Children's parties were again able to be held in the building, and the Hall used for other church and village social activities.

Bookings. 2022 saw a continuing increase in Hall and grounds bookings. It has again been available for children's Sunday activities, and other church events including a Lent Course, socials, Parochial Church Council meetings, and a home group. The Hall continued to be used for refugee support activities, and in December started to host one of the weekly "Warm Spaces" venues in the village. Children's party bookings were perhaps a little down, but the Hall became quite busy, with regular users including Mothers' Union, Guides sections, house groups, Thrive Youth Café, and University of the Third Age (U3A) classes. Some of the U3A groups meet just weekly, fortnightly, or even monthly, which gives Sally a challenge in scheduling a patchwork of bookings.

Maintenance. The grounds team has continued routine maintenance, including grass cutting, hedge trimming, drain clearance, weeding, and more, throughout the year, under Tim Johnson's capable control. That was supplemented by some internal painting, and by the intrepid Rob Barker laying improved loft insulation. We also set about a number of projects to address some features that had been neglected during the Pandemic restrictions.

The automatic doors to the garden entrance had been unreliable for a considerable time, with only one side operating with any kind of consistency since before the pandemic started. Power-actuated doors are not essential under disability regulations; however, the PCC preferred to see them reinstated, and funding was obtained from the Church Lands Trust to have them replaced. Vehicle access to the rear grounds had been difficult for a considerable time. Our recent solution had been to unbolt a heavy section of fence and lift it to one side for those odd occasions when necessary, for example for special events parking or grounds maintenance. Unfortunately, the fence section and adjacent posts had deteriorated badly, and it was apparent that we needed a gate. A robust and attractive double gate funded by the Church Lands Trust was made and fitted by Huntree Fencing Ltd. At the same time as servicing the Hall gas boiler, we had a "Hive" control system fitted, allowing us much greater flexibility of control, and thus the ability to make more efficient use of the heating, including remote programming to cater for irregular bookings. We will try to assess the effect more flexible heating control has on next year's gas consumption, although separating the effects of more efficient control from changes in post-pandemic heating requirements in recent years up until early 2022 may prove a challenge. Unfortunately, in the course of servicing the boiler, it became apparent that it was well past its best and would need to be replaced; in fact, the boiler engineer had some reservations about its ability to last the year out. Happily, it did, and funding has been sought from the Church Lands Trust to support its replacement.

We have continued to cope with a single cleaning session each week by our two dedicated ladies, Heather and Tina. We do rely on hirers leaving the building as they would wish to find it, although that is not always the case.

Finances. Routine expenditure and returning rental clientele meant that Hall finances looked in fairly good shape. However, the reinstatement of the automatic doors to the garden, along with the gate replacement and Hive heating control would have exceeded our income. We needed additional funding to cover the expenditure, which was provided through a generous grant from the Church Lands Trust.

Finally, I am grateful to the Hall Committee for all their support and hard work throughout the year. **Hall Committee:** Ken Mackenzie (Chair), Tim Johnson (Secretary), Rob Barker, Sally Mackenzie (Booking Secretary), Dawn Ryder, Ian Stracey. **Grounds Maintenance Team:** Tim Johnson, Rob Barker, Mike Lenton, Ken Mackenzie, and Alastair Reed.

Ken Mackenzie, Chair Church Hall Committee

Worship Impact Group

The worship group and the worship impact group are now one of the same thing. The worship group has continued to provide worship in all 3 churches every Sunday for the last year. Kate, John C, Mary Thomas and Gill Stratton have been the stalwarts who have attended Grafham and Ellington alternately every Sunday. John, Mary and Gill have then returned to Brampton for the 11 o'clock service as well. We have welcomed Ros back into the worship group and the extra singer has meant more rotation has been possible allowing each of us to have services within the congregation from time to time. We have also enjoyed Scott's contribution on the keyboard and look forward to this more in the coming year.

We have contributed to many different services over the last year. These include Christmas, Easter and flower festivals throughout the 3 churches. We have introduced quite a few new songs throughout the year which have had a mixed reception, however we are now introducing these more slowly via the communion slot and before/after services, this has been well received. We do as a group appreciate the feedback of the congregation.

We thank Duncan, Mary and John C for meeting regularly to put the song choices together. We also say a big thank you to John Barron for all of his technical ability which allows us to produce the best we can every Sunday. This is an enjoyable service to God and the church that we undertake each week. Our aim is to serve God in both our and your (as the congregation) sung worship each Sunday.

Ysanne Smith

Taize Services



The Taizé Service is a gentle candle lit service of readings, singing and meditation. This monthly service has a core congregation of 8-10 people who worship regularly. We have been very fortunate this year to have three musicians who play the keyboard for us and I am very grateful for their support.

Jill Tyack

Brampton Choir

As usual, the choir met from mid-October to rehearse for the carol services. And it was a joy to sing in all three churches, **with** a congregation! We were very grateful to Mingwei for accompanying us in Grafham and Ellington and David Gibbs in Brampton.

As is almost a tradition (it will be by next year!) we started with a rousing *Gaudete* in a darkened church, before continuing with the more familiar solo verse of *Once in Royal David's City*. In addition to *Gaudete*, the choir sang *As Sunne Through Glass*, a modern but medieval-sounding carol by Tim Porter, *O Holy Night* to a setting by Sally de Forde and *Bethlehem* by William Billings. However, Covid still had an impact on the choir – by the time of the final carol service in Brampton on Christmas Eve we were down to three sopranos, one alto, two tenors and seven basses. But the sopranos sang their hearts out and the basses reined themselves in, so the choir achieved a lovely balance.

Kate Gentles

Fellowship Impact Group

The Fellowship Impact Group is a small friendly team from all 3 churches and is responsible for the planning, resourcing and delivery of events focused on the development of fellowship within the parish. During 2022 the FIG group organised or assisted with the following events:

- Lent Lunches March-April.
- Provided cakes for the Grafham Open Church on Easter Sunday.
- Held a cake sale after church for Christian Aid in May.
- Provided drinks and nibbles for Duncan's installation service on 18th May.
- Organised a Parish Jubilee Celebration Weekend, 20-22 May, a Ceilidh with ploughman's supper at Grafham, an afternoon tea at Ellington and a picnic and celebration concert at Brampton
- Helped with cakes for the Grafham Flower Festival on the 18/19 June.
- Provided an Altogether Breakfast and pop-up café before the joint service at Brampton on 31 July.
- Harvest Weekend in October: Helped with Bring and Share Lunch at Grafham, coffee and cake and Harvest Supper at Ellington.
- Afternoon tea for those attending the Thanksgiving in Memory Service on 23 October.



If you are looking to get involved in a fun way with the church, join our group. If you are a quizmaster or could lead a wine tasting, or a musical evening or have any other talents to share we would love to organise an event with you for our church family to enjoy.

Dawn Ryder

Community Outreach

Pastoral Care

After a couple of years when Covid has made pastoral care something that has had to be done using communication methods such as phones and Zoom, we are finally managing to have more "in person" contact with people.

At the beginning of the year, efforts were being concentrated on the influx of new families arriving in the UK from Afghanistan and then feeling the war in Ukraine. This work enabled us to work closely with the Brampton Hub, and strengthened our links with them and the organisations that work with them, such as Diamond Hampers.

Pastoral visits continue in The Leonard Cheshire Home and Cromwell House. We have made contact with Montague House, the new care home that has opened up on Brampton Park, and have been visiting residents there and in the course of 2023 hope to start to provide services such as Holy Communion. This has also been planned for other places in the Parish such as Hill House, Ellington in the Spring of 2022.

Personal visits to parishioners across the Parish continue and now include home communion. If you know if anyone who is unable to come to the church and would like to have Holy Communion at home, please talk to Duncan or Frankie.

Frankie Stead

Brampton Befrienders

Thank you to the Brampton Befrienders committee: Norma, Nicola, Judy, Margaret, Pat P, Pat L, Barbara, Billie, Jen and Ann for their help and support. We could not do what we do without the added friendly and willing support of our drop in helpers – Mary, Chris, Sheila, Angie, Pauline, Elizabeth, Gill and Lin.

2022 was a busy year and with the help of Jane Rowley we made updating our Safeguarding procedures and paperwork a priority. At the Friday drop in we had a visit from AGE UK in January and Dr Alan Bennett came in March to talk on dementia and all the groups and help available in Brampton.

On the social side we celebrated Pat's 90th birthday with him in March, had a Spring lunch in April. May was a busy month with Christian Aid, a musical show and quite a few of the Befrienders came along to the Jubilee choir concert in church. We had a wonderful Befrienders Jubilee Party on 3rd June with a lovely atmosphere and lots of homemade sandwiches, sausage rolls and of course cake and more cake.



This was followed in July with the Summer Lunch. Jen's farewell was in September and she is much missed by the team and our guests who were very fond of her. In October we had the Autumn Lunch which warmed us up nicely for the Christmas Lunch and Christmas Party to finish the year off. The lunches are always well attended and a great opportunity for us all to be together and enjoy the amazing food that Measures provide and we really appreciate what they do for the price, such good value for money.



We would like to thank the Parish Council for their support, especially with setting up and clearing away the tables and chairs each week, we would not be able to carry on with the drop in without this service.

We have between 25-35 attendees most weeks, the old favourites and a few new faces. We look forward to continuing offering a warm welcome every Friday in 2023.

Dawn Ryder



Brampton Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union in Brampton in 2022 was busy with a combination of afternoon and evening meetings. The Mothers' Union is an international Christian charity which supports families worldwide. This branch has played their part by supporting local Mothers' Union projects.

We decided to raise money for the "Away from It All Holiday Scheme" and we achieved a total of £751 which will support at least two families to take a holiday break "away from it all". These families are sponsored by clergy, social services or schools. A holiday gives the family the opportunity of space to make positive memories, build relationships and strengthen family bonds. The scheme is organised by Ely Diocese Mothers' Union and the money raised is used to pay for the accommodation and travel expenses for a three day break in a caravan in Hunstanton.

We supported Huntingdon Women's Refuge by collecting toilet rolls, shower gels, shampoos, conditioner, tampons/panty pads and body lotion to donate to the refuge. We also collected money to buy scented candles for the mothers and a selection of chocolates and sweets for the children for Mothers' Day.



We also collected items such as nappies, nighties and disposal knickers to donate to the Antenatal Ward of Hinchingsbrooke Hospital for expectant mums who arrive with nothing. We knitted lap blankets and twiddle muffs for the dementia wards of both Hinchingsbrooke and Peterborough Hospitals and knitted hats for the Homeless in Wisbech and Peterborough. Finally, we collected and donated more than 15 winter coats for the Ukrainian women who fled to this country last year because of the war in their country. This has been an amazing level of activity and I hope we can continue this momentum in 2023.

Julie Barker took over as Branch Leader in January 2022 and she had the generous support of the committee: Shirley Johnson, Sally Mackenzie, Sheila Richardson, Elizabeth Arkle and Nicola Childs.

At the end of 2021 we had 23 members and 2 of these decided not to renew their membership in 2022. Very sadly, one of our long standing members, Jean Carter, died in October. We have attracted nearly 30 new people who have signed up to our email list and attended at least one of our meetings. This has generated an interest in our projects with generous donations of goods and money. We have continued to advertise our meetings in The Brampton Magazine and thank you to Sheila Richardson for doing this for us. Thank you to Dawn Ryder for sending birthday cards to our members and thank you to Gill Stracey for sending out baptism cards. Thank you to everyone on the flower rota for the Lady Chapel flowers.

In February last year we heard Alan Barrett talk about how Brampton is a Dementia Friendly Community and in March we launched our "Craft, Chat and Charity Café" type meetings when we made items to donate to our causes, support each other with fellowship and buy items to raise funds for the Away from it All Holiday Scheme. We held further "Craft, Chat and Charity Café" evenings during June, September and November, which meant we have been able to meet once a month in the evenings. These meetings have attracted new interest in the Mothers' Union from both existing members and non-members alike. In April during the afternoon, we held a Stations of the Cross service in the church. This was a quiet meditation type service with pictures, music, readings and reflection. 22 people joined us to follow the journey of Jesus to the Cross. This was followed by refreshments. In May, Catherina Griffiths told us about her travels including the adventures, blessings and challenges especially when the transport had broken down and trying to find help in a time before mobile phones. We all left the meeting wanting to travel more despite hearing about the challenges

she faced. In June, we all enjoyed the summer garden party at Julie and Keith's home. It was one of the hottest afternoons last year but we gathered in the shade and chatted away with tea, scones and cakes. The Godmanchester wives joined us for the afternoon and they were especially pleased to be invited.



We raised £260 by selling cakes, jams, marmalades and plants at the Brampton Village Fete on the Village Green in July. We were able to tell people about the Mothers' Union and in particular inform them about the Away from it all Holiday scheme.

In July a small group of us set off across Portholme Meadow for our pilgrimage to Godmanchester. More joined us for a picnic by the river then more joined us at St Mary the Virgin church. The Godmanchester Wives treated us to a tour around the historical church and tea and refreshments in their church hall. We all sang Happy Birthday to Freda Smith and Hilary Garth. An enjoyable summer evening.



In September we attended a service in the Hinchingbrooke Hospital chapel organised by the chaplaincy team. We were happy to welcome Sherly and Alison, the Dementia Advisers for the hospital, at the end of the service and we presented them with our knitted blankets and twiddle muffs. They were pleased to meet us and to make that personal contact. Each patient in the dementia ward is given a lap blanket and twiddle muff and these items go home with the patient so they need a constant supply. In October, we held

our famous pudding evening. We were worried we might exceed the capacity of the hall as 50 people came to enjoy homemade puddings with cream, ice cream or custard. Some had heard from friends but others came because they saw it in the Brampton magazine. We managed to raise £271.50 during the evening for Away from it All Holiday Scheme. For the afternoon meeting in November, Julie Barker gave a talk about Lady Olivia Bernard Sparrow, a local benefactress who lived in Brampton. Lady Olivia died aged 85 in 1863 and is buried under the lady chapel in the church in Brampton. In her lifetime, she opened a school and educated the children in the village, housed the poor, gave land for allotments and built her own church on the outskirts of Huntingdon. In December, we ended our year with a winter social evening. We watched a film lounging in our garden chair recliners and eating chocolates. A relaxing end to a busy year.

Julie Barker – Branch Leader

Flower Guild

A busy year of arranging this year covering the Jubilee and the Queen's funeral in addition to our normal festivals. We began our year with Easter lilies followed by the Jubilee in May. Our ladies were wonderfully inventive with their flowers for jubilee displaying a crown, an orb, the Queen's beloved headscarves and handbags; her tartan and her love of horseracing.





In June we did the arrangements for a funeral and in August Jan and I supplied and arranged the flowers for a double Christening in beautiful pinks and creams for two little girls in the village. A sad floral tribute was provided in September for the Queen's passing and related services. At the end of September we arranged flowers, fruits and vegetables for Harvest festival, always a favourite time of year for our flower arrangers.

We ended our year with red and gold arrangements in church for Christmas. We also took on a couple of private commissions to boost flower guild funds providing 4 posies for a birthday celebration and 4 Christmas table arrangements for Befrienders.

Guild Members:- Diane Hodgetts, Christine McLean, Jan Dobie, Ruth Wood, Sylvia McCollen and Kath Brown.

Diane Hodgetts

Financial Report

The Overall Picture

2022 was a challenging year so far as keeping our finances afloat. However, after taking into account the current balances in designated and restricted funds we achieved a surplus of nearly £7,000. Items to be highlighted are as follows:

- We adopted a frugal approach to any non-essential expenditure.
- We incurred above budget costs to provide fuel and energy to the three churches. (We received an energy support grant from the Diocese of £1,800 in 2022 to alleviate the rise in our utility costs.)
- The parish giving was disappointing for the majority of the year, although the last two months of 2022 showed a healthy increase in monthly giving and we hope this will continue in 2023.
- We made a parish share payment to the Diocese of £50,861 although this was below the amount requested by the Diocese which was £65,000.

It is clear that unless our parish giving by individuals in the parish improves considerably in 2023 we will have difficulty to match the Diocesan requirements which may lead to closer scrutiny of our financial performance.

Report of the Independent Examiner

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's report

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

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

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 to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

(Original Copy Signed)

Marissa Lebeau
F.C.C.A
5 Mandeville Road
Brampton
Huntingdon
Cambs
PE28 4SB

Date: 19 March 2023

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2022

The Parochial Church Council of East Leightonstone

For the year ended 31 December 2022

Cash Basis

Account	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income & Expenditure Report					
Receipts					
Giving & Gift Aid	66,784	0	4,514	71,298	63,546
Investment Income	242	0	0	242	39
Legacies	0	0	0	0	10,000
Other Income	3,347	9,847	7,000	20,194	17,339
Mission Donations	0	597	2,725	3,322	2,012
Total Receipts	70,373	10,444	14,239	95,057	92,937
Payments					
Parish Share	50,861	0	0	50,861	50,000
Rector/Curators Costs	1,028	0	0	1,028	2,177
Church/Hall running costs	17,367	6,347	7,994	31,708	20,212
Service Costs inc honoraia	1,190	0	0	1,190	922
Organ Tuning	670	0	0	670	935
Administration	4,251	0	(45)	4,206	4,137
Other Costs	83	0	0	83	2,536
Consultancy Costs	0	0	8,466	8,466	1,738
Mission Costs	500	232	1,495	2,227	3,790
Total Payments	75,951	6,579	17,910	100,440	86,445
Net Income/Expenditure	(5,577)	3,865	(3,671)	(5,383)	6,492
Cash at Bank 01/01/2022	3,041	8,865	38,022	49,928	43,795
Cash at Bank 31/12/2022	(2,536)	12,730	34,351	44,545	49,928

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022

Designated Funds

	Church Hall	Mission	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Receipts - Other Income				
Lettings	9,846		9,846	4,936
Other Income			-	3,000
Mission Giving, Christian Aid		598	598	1,462
	9,846	598	10,444	9,398
Payments:				
Church Hall Running Costs	6,347		6,347	3,712
Other Expenditure			-	
Mission Giving, Christian Aid		232	232	1,020
	6,347	232	6,579	4,732
Surplus for the year	3,499	366	3,865	4,666
Transfer between funds				
Cash at Bank 01/01/2022	8,423	442	8,865	4,199
Cash at Bank 31/12/2022	11,922	808	12,730	8,865

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022

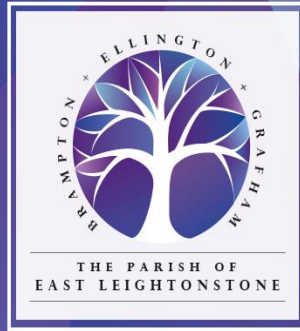
Restricted Funds

	Fabric Fund	Bell Fund	Flower Fund	Mission Grant	AV Donation	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts	-	-	-				-
Donations	4,514	-	-	2,725		7,239	14,426
Donations - Church Hall	7,000					7,000	
	11,514	-	-	2,725	-	14,239	14,426
Payments							
Fabric Fund	8466					8466	1,738
Fabric Fund - Church Hall	6191					6191	
Fabric Fund - Grafham	1803					1803	
Mission Grant	-	-	-	1,450		1450	270
Other Costs	-	-	-			0	104
	16,460	-	-	1,450	-	17,910	2,112
Surplus/Deficit for the Year	(4,946)	0	0	1,275	0	(3,671)	12,314
Transfer between funds	-	-	-				
Cash at Bank 01/01/2022	32,589	1,208	69	2,780	1,376	38,022	25,708
Cash at Bank 31/12/2022	27,643	1,208	69	4,055	1,376	34,351	38,022

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022
Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022	Total 2021
Cash at bank and in hand					
Barclays	(2,536)	4,266	8,643	10,373	15,756
CCLA		8,464	25,708	34,172	34,172
Cash in hand					
	(2,536)	12,730	34,351	44,545	49,928
Assets retained for church use					
Church Hall improvements	130,439	-	-	130,439	130,439
Equipment	26,398	-	-	26,398	26,398
	156,837			156,837	156,837
Cash due to creditors	210	487	251	948	902
Cash due from debtors	268	-	-	268	1,263

Accounts



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

The Parish of East Leightonstone
The Rectory, 15 Church Road, Brampton PE28 4PF

St Mary Magdalene Parish Church
Church Road, Brampton PE28 4PF

All Saints Church
High Street, Ellington PE28 0AB

All Saints Church
Church Road, Grafham PE28 0BB



THE PARISH OF
EAST LEIGHTONSTONE

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Introduction

2020 proved to be a very strange year for our parish. As we reached the middle of March not only did the pandemic take hold preventing worship in church but Jason Taylor announced that he would be leaving the parish at the beginning of July.

We were very fortunate in East Leightonstone in that we already had the necessary equipment in St Mary Magdalene Brampton and the technical ability of Mike Bigg to enable us to provide on-line services through YouTube.

We were particularly blessed by Mike's presence when Jason left as the parish was in a very safe pair of hands. We always knew that Mike's time with us would be limited so it came as no great surprise when he advised that he would be leaving in August.

So at the start of the year we had a vicar, a curate and were able to worship in church and by the end of September we no longer had a vicar or curate and worshipping together in church had been suspended.

As acting chairman of the PCC I am well aware of the wonderful dedication of many members of our congregations in Brampton, Ellington and Grafham. Their work has ensured that the churches have been opened when possible, kept clean and maintained, and that on-line services have continued, often with visiting vicars celebrating communion.

It would not be fair to name individuals but as a result of all the work they have done we have weathered an extremely difficult year and can view the future with optimism

Administrative Information

The East Leightonstone Parochial Church Council ("the PCC") works with the incumbent, in order to promote in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is a body corporate and operates under the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956* and the *Church Representation Rules*.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Structure, Governance and Management

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting or are co-opted or appointed by the PCC itself.

PCC for 2020-21

Ex-Officio Members:

Rector:	The Reverend Jason Taylor (until Jul 20)
Curate:	The Reverend Michael Bigg (until Aug 20)
Church Wardens:	Mr Keith Wood Mrs Susan Roberts
Deanery Synod Representative:	Dr Frances Stead

Elected Members:

Mrs Ann Davies
Mr Richard Howells
Miss Lollita Masuku
Mr John Rowley
Mrs Gill Stracey
Mr Ian Stracey
Mrs Gill Stratton
Mrs Dee Wormald
Mrs Marissa Harris
Mrs Hazel Powell
Mrs Karolyn Owen
Mrs Sue Morgan

Treasurer:

Appointed Members:

Secretary:

Mrs Gill Stratton

The PCC had 2 subordinate committees during 2019:

- a. Standing Committee – has the power to transact business between meetings of the full PCC and sets the agendas for those meetings. Members were Jason Taylor (Rector), Gill Stratton (Secretary), Michael Bigg (Curate), Marissa Harris (Treasurer), Keith Wood (Church Warden), John Rowley and Dee Wormald
- b. Church Hall Management Committee – manages the day to day running of the Church Hall and actions routine minor maintenance requirements. Members were Tim Johnson, Rob Barker, Dawn Ryder, Sally Mackenzie, Ken Mackenzie, Ian Stracey.

Other information

Correspondence address: The Rectory, 15 Church Road, Brampton PE28 4PF
Independent examiner: Tim Johnson FCA
Bankers: Barclays Bank plc, 1 Market Hill, Huntingdon
Youth Worker: Sarah Gosling
Safeguarding Coordinator: Jane Rowley
Lay Eucharist Assistants: Ian Stracey
Gill Stracey
Sue Morgan
Sue Roberts
Jan Edwards
Authorised Lay Ministers: Frances Stead
Organist: Ian White
Worship Group Leader: Ysanne Smith
Mothers Union Branch Leader: Elizabeth Arkle
Electoral Roll Officer: John Rowley
Brampton Befrienders: Dawn Ryder

Safeguarding

We are committed to safeguarding all those who attend the worship and other activities that we offer in our parish. The PCC adopted 'Promoting a Safer Church' (2017) as our own policy on 25th August 2020. This can be found on the Safeguarding page of the Church of England website. It confirms that we follow the House of Bishops' Policies 'Protecting All God's Children' (2010). We promote safeguarding as everyone's responsibility. Jane Rowley is the Parish Safeguarding Officer. Large Safeguarding posters are on display in the church giving details of who to contact if anyone has any concerns. We use the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard which is a great help with safeguarding administration.

All PCC members and all church volunteers who work with children and vulnerable adults are required to have DBS clearance, complete Confidential Declaration forms and complete the appropriate Safeguarding training modules.

Jane Rowley – Safeguarding Coordinator

Church Warden's Comments

2020 has proved to be a challenging year for our parish. We have had to contend with and overcome the difficulty of being unable to meet face to face for most of the year and particularly on Sundays because of the pandemic which decimated everyone's lives to a considerable extent. Although we were able to meet as normal during January to March, the enormity of the pandemic issues led the government to cancel all meetings in person and a major casualty for us was the cancellation of communal worship including the celebration of Holy Communion in all of our three churches. Nevertheless the installation of audiovisual equipment, albeit in Brampton church only, allowed us to continue communicating with one another through online services being held by a combination of Jason Taylor and Mike Bigg and their extraordinary talent in understanding the wonders of online technology.

No sooner had we achieved communication links within the parish by online technology we then were hit by two body blows to the parish. Firstly our vicar Jason Taylor announced his intention to leave the parish to take up a wonderful opportunity as chaplain to the Bishop of Gloucester. Shortly after this devastating announcement Mike Bigg also announced that he was leaving in August to take up a post as vicar of Madingley and Girton. To be fair to Mike he was coming to the end of his fixed term curacy with us and was scheduled to leave us around this time. However his exceptional performance whilst with us just made it all the more difficult to cope with his planned departure. It was particularly galling that owing to the idiosyncratic policies of the Church of England we were unable to begin recruitment for Jason's replacement until Jason had formally left us in July. To make matters worse the Diocese imposed a recruitment freeze throughout the diocese which was not lifted until January 2021.

On a brighter note a number of technologically able persons stepped in to maintain the Sunday morning online service from Brampton. The PCC also rose to the challenge brilliantly to keep the church alive and well, in spite of the communication difficulties created by the Coronavirus pandemic. We were fortunate that our Rural Dean, Ian Brennan, ensured that we were usually provided a priest for our online Sunday services. Moreover we were blessed by wonderful support from a number of our congregation who led a number of services of the Word; this includes Ian Tracey, Alastair Reed, Frankie Stead, Hazel Powell and Marissa Harris. There were many others who gave support including: flower ladies, locker uppers, sides persons, cleaners, readers and laptop operators. It was extremely heartening to witness the diligence and enthusiasm from so many when everything seemed to be against us.

Hopefully 2021 will bring us good fortune, with an end to the pandemic, a return to communal worship, and the appointment of our new vicar. Thank you to everyone who has offered unselfish support during this Annus Horribilus."

Keith Wood (in the absence of a Minister)

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to encouraging and enabling as many people as possible to become worshipping members of the church community across the parish. We take seriously the Charity Commission's requirement that we operate in the public benefit and so seek to help the people here to live out their faith in our community through:

- Worship and Prayer
- Community Outreach
- Pastoral Care
- Occasional Offices

Achievements and Performance

Electoral Roll

Our electoral roll stands at 148 people.

Worship and The Year in Statistics

As mentioned in the Church Warden's comments above, this has been a year like no other in living memory through the entire disruption of communal worship. We were fortunate during the first three months of 2020 that our attendance numbers in Brampton, Ellington and Grafham maintained the encouraging improvement during 2019. However from March until December inclusive Covid constraints required us to cancel communal worship in each church and to impose extensive social distancing during this lengthy period. This also prevented the celebration of baptisms and weddings but funerals continued but with the limited attendance of 15 persons increased to 30 towards the end of the year.

Fortunately Brampton church was blessed by the wise purchase of audiovisual equipment in February by Reverend Jason Taylor and, supported by Mike Biggs' extraordinary knowledge of audiovisual matters, we were able to produce an online version of our Sunday services which was relayed by the YouTube channel to many parishioners. This facility was welcomed greatly by our parishioners and was also able to be transmitted to our friends in Grafham and Ellington.

The number of persons who logged in was extremely encouraging and it is hoped that when we return to communal worship many viewers will also join us physically. However a number of elderly parishioners have commented on how convenient it is to join the service in their own home particularly for those who may have difficulty in their mobility.

Keith Wood, Church Warden

Junior Church, Brampton

It's been a quiet year for Junior Church due to the pandemic. Junior Church has not been able to meet. However we have been able to keep in touch with families with 4 x Christmas and 6 x Easter packs to keep families engaged with their faith journeys and the Church. We are very thankful to Freya and Mehran who continue to be key members in the church rotas for reading and live-streaming respectively. The Church website has been updated and restrictions permitting we will be able to offer various ways for children to grow in their faith. We hope that the next few months will allow us to meet face to face. We have lots of activities we will be launching and our hope is that children and families will feel able to join us safely. We look forward to seeing them all soon.

Lollita Masuku

Community Outreach

Brampton Befrienders

Brampton Befrienders held the last Friday morning drop in before lock-down on 13 March 2020. The committee and helpers telephoned all those Befrienders we had contact details for to make sure they were OK and to ask if they wanted any support. "Keep in Touch" letters were sent out in May, August, September and November. We surprised our Befrienders with a cream tea and homemade cake delivery in September and took orders for a free Christmas lunch with all the trimmings cooked by Measures for delivery in December. We received a donation from The Brampton Thrift Shop which helped towards the costs of the 47 Christmas lunches that were enjoyed and much appreciated.

A free Spring lunch was delivered in March 2021 and we plan on holding a committee meeting in June 2021 to review the guidelines and restrictions and hopefully be able to plan to meet again in July.

The Brampton Befrienders Committee, an ecumenical partnership with the Methodist Church, looks forward to continuing to provide a warm welcome at the Friday drop-in and encouraging friendships and support in the community when restrictions permit in 2021.

Dawn Ryder

Little Fishes

Grafham Little Fishes kept going throughout 2020. We were able to meet as usual in the Grafham Village hall until mid-March. In May we started meeting via Zoom with up to 13 children joining us each week. In July we said farewell and a big thank you to Jean Clark who left us for pastures new. In September we were delighted to welcome Kia Howells as a new leader. Gill Stracey and I continue to be leaders.

Brampton Little Fishes has unfortunately been put on hold due to the pandemic.

Jane Rowley

Thrive Youth Work, Brampton

Thrive Youth Work is an organisation that has been running youth programs in Huntingdonshire for the last three years. Our programs include three youth Cafes in the Huntingdon area, a mentoring program in one of the local secondary schools, summer residential and a small group that explore Christianity together. At our Brampton Café we have table tennis, a pool table, football and games on the field, a play station and provide snacks.

Over the last year we have had to adapt significantly to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Since the first lockdown last March, we had to stop running our cafes and so took this as an opportunity to improve our online presence; posting videos and pictures every week with fun challenges and activities for the young people to do at home. As we are a Christian organisation some of our videos included short faith based similar to the Thrive Extra slots we hold at our Cafés – these are opt-in talks where we explore faith questions. During this time in particular we wanted to show young people that we are still here, we are still accessible even though our normal programs had stopped and so we felt it very important to maintain frequent online presence.

As a substitute for in-person cafes we ran a weekly café on Zoom. Along with many other youth organisations in the country, we discovered that this was a rather specialised service which had a small up take. However, we believe the value for those few that attended our online Cafes was a vital life line for them in a time where contact with others was so rare and home-schooling challenging.

Since various lockdowns and restriction changes over the last few months we have learnt to be adaptable. The experience has been a great learning curve for the leaders and we are pleased to say that, despite all the changes, we have been able to maintain good relationships with most of the young people we worked with pre-Covid. Over the last few weeks, we've been able to open up our Cafes again (with Covid safe measures) and have had the joy of meeting with them again in person! We asked a few of the young people at Brampton Café why they come to Thrive, these are some of their responses:

"I love meeting new people"

"I love the range of activities available"

"I like the fact that no one is left alone"

"Relaxing" "Friendly" "Warm community"

It is a common fear for many that young people in particular will suffer long term effects from this pandemic. It is certainly something that Thrive is conscious of and we are passionate about supporting all the young people we work with for years to come. So far, the support from our volunteers, charities and donors has meant that we are able to support the well-being of the young people in our community. Even after being able to run our Cafes again for just two weeks, we have seen the benefit of being able to offer a safe space where young people can be vulnerable, seek help from the leadership and, where necessary, and provide extra support or raise awareness to the schools where more support is needed.

In the future we will continue our mentorship program once we are allowed back in schools and are planning on hosting lots of activities over the summer including a mix of low-key events such as BBQ's as well day trips with fun activities! If you would like to know more about what we will do in the future, we post updates on our website thriveyouthwork.com and our Instagram @thrivehuntingdon or email our team at thrivehuntingdon@gmail.com.

Sarah Gosling, Diocese of Ely

Pastoral Visiting

Pastoral Visiting in the Parish in normal times is predominantly through visits to people in their homes, either on a regular basis if they are unable to get out for some reason, or as a one off visit if requested. Many, but not all of these visits are to members of our church family who, for reasons of health or age, are no longer able to come to the church building. However we also visit other people who would like to see someone from the church for any reason.

Pastoral visiting is normally carried out by one of a group of volunteers headed up by Frankie Stead. The majority of visits are to members of our church family on a regular basis, such as monthly. In some cases Home Communion is provided either by a Priest or by extension. The onset of the Pandemic in 2020 necessitated a halt to normal pastoral visiting, but this has not prevented us keeping in touch with people during the various lockdowns, with regular phone calls to people who were known to be on their own being instigated. For some people these calls have continued over the entire year and into 2021, as many people are still housebound, but parish visiting has been unable to re-start. However, a simple phone call (or in some cases a text) has remained a crucial way to ensure that members of our church family know that they have not been forgotten and that they are loved and prayed for. In a few cases we were able to give people help and support in getting facilities such as Zoom up and running and this has enabled some members of our church family to keep in touch through events such as online compline and Zoom Bible studies at various times, as well as be able to worship through the Live streamed services. In addition, we were able to facilitate people phoning into our online services in the earlier part of lockdown through a complex set of programmes set up by Revd Mike Bigg, although with his departure, we have been unable to continue this facility. However, now that online Streaming has become a part of our regular worship, moves are afoot to try and find ways in which the less mobile members of our church family can join with us in worship remotely.

Frankie also spent the first half of 2020 completing the ALM Pastoral assistant course and will be commissioned to this role in 2021.

Anyone who would like to be involved in Pastoral visiting or who knows of someone who needs a visit can contact Frankie via the Pastoral@eastleightonstone.com e mail address.

Frankie Stead

Home Groups

Gill Stracey ran a successful Lent home group and by the end some real fellowship was developing. When the Sledges' home group recommenced some members of the Lent group expressed an interest in joining.

Several of our house groups have paused meeting up via Zoom until they can meet face to face. The Wednesday morning, Tuesday and Thursday evening house groups have continued meeting via Zoom throughout the whole of 2020.

Dee Wormald

Occasional Offices

There was one baptism, 3 weddings and 7 funerals in 2020.

Financial Report

The Overall Picture

The accounts are reported on cash accounting basis and does not reflect any payments or receipts that come after the 31 Dec that relate to the accounting year. Due to the nature of 2020 and the Covid pandemic the income and expenditure varied from 2019. Giving and gifts were down by £8,720 from the previous year but other income was slightly up by £570. The Parish received two legacies totalling £7,000 that were not included in the 2020 budget forecast.

It was decided by the PCC that due to a tight 2020 budget we could not fulfil our total contribution to the parish share, therefore we held back on paying £6,814. Fortunately, our running costs were down by £4,000 compared to the previous year, this in part would be due to the churches being closed for a large part of the year. The net effect on the year income & expenditure is therefore a £400 surplus.

Giving to the Church

Donations to the parish were 10% down from the previous year and this is an area moving forward that the PCC need to encourage new donors to sign up to through the Parish Giving Scheme which has been successful in managing the kind donations we have received to date. East Leightonstone parish has been fortunate to have received legacies over the years, but this can't be guaranteed as a source of income.

Outward Giving

2020 saw the PCC continue to commit to mission giving from East Leightonstone parish to three chosen charities. These being Christians Against Poverty, Just Care, The Rathelder Family Trust in South Africa and a local charity, Cornerstone.

Report of the Independent Examiner

I report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2020

Respective responsibility of the PCC and examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the presentation of the financial statements. You 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.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and section 144 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)b of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission, and to be found in Church Guidance, 2006 edition. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC 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 give a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:
which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act: and
to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records have not been met; or
to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable understanding of the
accounts to be reached.

T P Johnson FCA
31 Cranfield Way
Brampton
HUNTINGDON
PE28 4QZ

Signed: TP Johnson

Date: 7th May 2021

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2020

Summary of Receipts and Payments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020	Total 2019
Receipts:					
Giving and Gift Aid	77,745	-	-	77,745	86,523
Investment Income	206	-	-	206	279
Legacies	7,000	-	-	7,000	
Other Income	6,180	1,959	-	8,139	10,271
	91,131	1,959	-	93,090	97,073
Payments:					
Parish Share	56,920	-	-	56,920	63,734
Rector/Curate Costs	1,862	-	-	1,862	2,299
Church/hall/youth/running costs	16,599	-	-	16,599	22,355
Service Costs inc. honoraria	977	-	-	977	1,628
Organ Tuning		-	-	-	1,188
Administration	2,301	-	-	2,301	1,977
Other Costs	(2,157)	1,813	35	(309)	8,513
Audio and IT	4,071	-	-	4,071	18,302
Consultancy Costs	4,837	-	-	4,837	
Mission Costs	6,190	-	-	6,190	14,300
	91,600	1,813	35	93,448	134,296
	(469)	146	(35)	(358)	(37,223)
Cash at Bank 01/01/2020	13,999	4,053	25,743	43,795	81,018
Cash at Bank 31/12/2020	13,530	4,199	25,708	43,437	43,795

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2020

Designated Funds

	Church Hall £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Receipts - Other Income			
Lettings	1,959	1,959	4,661
	1,959	1,959	4,661
Payments:			
Church Hall Running Costs	1,813	1,813	2,664
Other Expenditure			
	1,813	1,813	2,664
Surplus for the year	146	146	1,997
Transfer between funds	-	-	(4,000)
Cash at Bank 01/01/2020	4,053	4,053	6,056
Cash at Bank 31/12/2020	4,199	4,199	4,053

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2020

Restricted Funds

	Fabric Fund £	Bell Fund £	Flower Fund £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Receipts	-	-	-	-	-
Donations	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Payments					
Mission Grant	-	-	-	-	6,410
Repairs	-	-	-	-	1,849
Other Costs	-	-	35	35	7,412
	-	-	35	35	15,671
Surplus/Deficit for the Year	-	-	-	(35)	(8,928)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at Bank 01/01/2019	24,327	1,208	208	25,743	41,414
Cash at Bank 31/12/2020	24,327	1,208	173	25,708	25,743

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2020
Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020	Total 2019
Cash at bank and in hand					
Barclays	5,065	4,199	-	9,264	9,623
CCLA	8,465	-	25,708	34,173	34,172
Cash in hand					
	13,530	4,199	25,708	43,437	43,795
Assets retained for church use					
Church Hall improvements	130,439	-	-	130,439	130,439
Equipment	26,398	-	-	26,398	26,398
	156,837			156,837	156,837
Cash due to creditors	3,447	-	-	3,447	678
Cash due from debtors	509	-	-	509	969

Accounting Policy

The accounts have been prepared on a cash accounting basis. The cash accounting basis means that the various funds show only receipts and payments of East Leightonstone Parochial Church Council without taking account of any amounts owing or owed by East Leightonstone Parochial Church Council as at 31 December 2020

Mission & Charity Giving

Throughout 2020 the parish supported three charities with regular monthly donations to each, apart from Just Care who were paid for a full year, due to the inability to set up a monthly payment because of it being based abroad. PCC decided to support one local charity (*Cornerstone Pregnancy Advice Centre*) in Huntingdon, one national (*Christians Against Poverty*) and one international (*Just Care*) in South Africa.

Cornerstone Pregnancy Services

An extract from the website of Cornerstone Pregnancy Services:

You may be facing an unplanned pregnancy and feeling worried and anxious about what to do. Or you may have had an abortion and you're now experiencing emotional pain and finding it difficult to understand why you feel the way you do. Help is available from people who genuinely care. Our vision is to reach every woman in Huntingdonshire facing an unplanned pregnancy so that we can offer her time, space and non-directive information in order that they can make a fully informed choice and to offer her on-going support, whatever decision they make. We care, we won't judge, and we have time – no one else can give you the support we can. We have helped others in your situation. Our services are free and available to both men and women

Christians Against Poverty

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) are one of the best-known debt advice charities operating in Britain. In partnership with local churches they help people deal with debt and give them the skills to stay debt-free. CAP literally saves lives and transforms lives every year. There are over 300 local debt advice centres run through local churches and last year 8,377 families were visited by a CAP debt coach in their home. Over 31,000 people called the free debt advice line last year

Their work keeps families together, relieves stress, restores health, keeps families in their homes, provides friendship and can connect people to church and to the God that loves them.

<https://capuk.org>

Just Care

Just Care is located in the coastal town of Hermanus in South Africa. Hermanus is renowned as a whale watching location with visitors from all over the world. The area of the town that they do not see is where Just Care is situated; an area of deprivation, drugs, street crime and often hunger.

The year 2020 has to be viewed in two sections: January to March; pre-Covid and March to December; post-Covid

From January to March the charity fulfilled its chosen function; after school care from 1pm to 5pm every week day for 130 children, (with a waiting list), providing two square meals, assistance with homework, structured sport and some peer group structure within a stable environment.

Then in March the pandemic changed everything. The Charity had to close its doors to comply with Covid regulations and could no longer operate.

The staff, who are nearly all volunteers, realised quickly that hunger was a very present threat in the community that their children come from. There are no social services comparable to ours and certainly no furloughing of staff and as this is a community living hand to mouth at the best of times certainly no savings to fall back on.

A twice weekly delivery of food to those families whose children were enrolled at Just Care was the Charity's initial goal but, confronted by a wider community in desperate straits, the deliveries

expanded. At the same time Just Care was suffering a drop in funding as local businesses that supported them were no longer able to do so.

Despite the challenges the food supplies were maintained. It's worth telling how one grandmother who, on receiving a food delivery on a Wednesday said, "We ate our last food on Sunday but now we know God is watching."

An unseen benefit in making a donation from Great Britain to South Africa is the exchange rate; £1.00 = SA Rand 20.00

We should remember that in normal times the total daily running cost of Just Care including providing 130 children with two good meals a day equates to £35.00.

To give an idea of comparative costs; in Cambridgeshire two school meals per day, (nothing else), for 130 children would cost over £500.00

Any contribution from Great Britain in sterling has a significant beneficial impact on Just Care.

As a footnote: although it is post 2020 and not technically part of this report, Just Care in 2021 is now returning to its core mission.

John Rowley

Christian Aid

In addition to the regular support we have given, Nicola Childs has continued to fundraise for Christian Aid, whose work involves transforming lives in the developing world.

Services and Events

Grafham Church

Grafham church had sadly remained closed for most of 2020 due to the pandemic. There is therefore no information to report at this time.

Hazel Powell

Taize Services

Due to the Pandemic there were no Taize services in 2020.

Jill Tyack

Ellington Church

Ellington church, like all our buildings, has sadly remained closed for a lot of 2020 due to the pandemic. However, there have been a few services when buildings were open, including an out door service of Remembrance in November. During Interregnum, communion services started to be held on the first Sunday of the month, in addition to the monthly Family Service, although we sadly only managed two of these due to the lockdowns. There was also a lovely Harvest Service with donations to the local Food bank, as we were unable to have our usual Auction and also a midnight service on Christmas Eve. Although live streamed Services have been held in Brampton church, we have managed to include people from Ellington using pre recording and the building has also been used as a venue for some of the Bible readings and intercessions.

The tap to provide water for use in the church is now nearly finished but once it is will be really useful.
(See fabric report)

Frankie Stead

Brampton Church

Social Activities

While there was every intention to reactivate a social events calendar the arrival of the pandemic with resulting lockdowns and social distancing meant that no social events were possible.

John Rowley

Our Church Buildings

Fabric Report for Brampton Church

The inventory has been updated to include the new camera equipment in Brampton Church but has not had a complete check because of the difficulty of doing so during the Covid epidemic.

Routine maintenance for the church has been carried out throughout the year and we are grateful to Ian Stracey for his diligent support. The following services or inspections were undertaken during the calendar year: Clock service, roof alarm service, boiler service, PAT put off until 2021 because of Covid, organ service and tuning, fire appliance testing, and lightning protection due 2021.

A new camera and electronic equipment to enable Live Streaming of services was installed in the summer. This has enabled us to continue weekly worship streamed to our congregation throughout the periods of Covid lock-down. We shall continue to live stream for the foreseeable future.

Bats in their mating season continued to plague us, but seemed to be less trouble than before or perhaps we are simply getting used to them! The churchyard and gardens were regularly tended through Brampton parish council and we are grateful to them for their continued support. Owing to an adverse financial situation in the parish, we have been unable to address issues identified in the Quinquennial report.

Teams of dedicated volunteers have worked tirelessly throughout the year arranging Flowers when needed, cleaning the church regularly, laundering the linen and carrying out many of the routine maintenance tasks which inevitably arise. Sadly we do not have anybody at present to clean and polishing silver and brass candlesticks and crosses, Their efforts do much to enhance the beauty of our church building and we are much indebted to these parishioners. Particular thanks for dedication to duty go to Ian Stracey, Ken Mackenzie, Billie Leighton, Hilary Garth and Sue Roberts.

Keith Wood – Church Warden

Fabric Report for Ellington Church

The churchyard is maintained by a combination of Ellington volunteers and to a lesser extent, the Parish Council; mowing of the grass is divided between two individuals with the balance being covered by the Parish Council on a fortnightly basis. It should be noted that one of the mowers also maintains the church clock. There is a general clean-up every autumn by village volunteers and, depending on the winter, another in spring if deemed necessary. There are a number of families in Ellington who take a pride in maintaining specific graves and their surrounds. As a result of all of this work the churchyard always has a well maintained appearance.

Due to Covid restrictions the church was closed for services for much of the year but when possible it was unlocked allowing access for private prayer.

There are a number of areas which come under ongoing maintenance and good housekeeping:

- a. All gutters and drains are checked routinely to ensure effectiveness.
- b. The church is cleaned regularly and in normal times there is a flower rota in place with the latter often provided and arranged by people at times of the year holding a particular significance for them.
- c. The perimeter is inspected and maintained as necessary; the churchyard gates have been repainted.

There is a more formalised annual routine for the following:

1. The fire extinguishers were checked in January 2020.
2. The lightning conductor was tested in June 2020.
3. PAT testing was carried out in July 2020
4. There was a maintenance check on the roof alarm in October 2020.

Completed work:

- The new churchyard tap was installed but requires a final check by Anglian Water before it can be connected and activated.
- The wooden perimeter fence on the south east boundary was replaced.

Future considerations:

1. Flaking plaster; there is an ongoing problem with plaster flaking from the walls particularly in the chancel and the corner where the font is located. This presumably has a damp related cause and will have to be "lived with" as any effective solution will probably be disproportionately costly.
2. The scheduled quinquennial inspection was carried out by Iain Frearson of Freeland Rees Roberts Architects with the disturbing assessment that £800K might be necessary to restore the fabric. A request has been made that this report be broken down into areas of priority so that a reasoned decision on the most practical way forward can be made.

John Rowley

Fabric Report for Grafham Church

The church has been open daily for private prayer (from Friday to Monday only during the pandemic). After Easter we will resume daily opening. The church is very popular with visitors from the campsite, walkers and cyclists.

We rely very much on the goodwill of volunteers for most of the church maintenance. The drains are regularly checked and any blockages are cleared.

The roof alarm has its routine maintenance in November. The gutters are normally cleared twice yearly but owing to our helper being less active we are in need of some help with this. The fire extinguishers were serviced this March.

The weekly cleaning rota and monthly flower rota continue as before.

Our bookstall in the porch is still a thriving attraction for villagers and visitors alike. We managed to keep it open during lockdown using a 'quarantine box' for books touched but not bought and the

donation box bolted to the porch table. Surplus books are sold by the warden at the campsite with money raised coming back to the church.

The church grass is kept mown by one or two volunteers. However following a visit by a retired Ecologist from the Hunts. Flora and Fauna Society who gave good advice on churchyard management, a working group has been formed, again with volunteers from the village. According to Bishop Stephen's suggestions about "caring for God's acre" a plan has been drawn up to keep the grass mown in the areas near the church but to retain a "natural area" on the boundary to encourage grasses and wildflowers to flourish. More wildflowers have been introduced during the year. Also a bug hotel has been built by the congregation. At our Harvest Festival in October 2020 the Bishop presented us with a Bronze award. Following further additions to the project we are well on the way to a Silver award in 2022.

In the Remembrance Garden the hedge has been brought under control and this area will continue to be managed.

Details of organ tuning and testing the lightning conductor are arranged by the churchwarden so we do not have dates for these events. An insurance assessment was carried out in November 2019. The roof alarm is maintained annually, the last visit being in November 2020. The next visit is in February 2022, a slight delay owing to Covid delays. A Quinquennial Inspection is due this year.

Our thoughts about the composting toilet are on hold for now.

Hazel Powell

St Mary Magdalene Church Hall, Brampton

It will come as no surprise that 2020 was difficult for the Church Hall. At the beginning of the year we had a good level of regular and casual bookings, and the Hall was, of course, available for youth and other church activities. Our regular bookings included Brownies, Guides, Mothers' Union, Ouse Valley Chorus, Thrive Youth Group, and the Friday Group. However, that all came to an end with the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown on 24 March. All bookings were suspended, as was cleaning, although in June we were able to let the outside area to a dog training group, which helped with finances.

When restrictions eased in late summer, we undertook a risk assessment for potential use of the Hall, and decided to close the kitchen and the Upper Room. New cleaners were recruited as the previous cleaner was unable to resume, and a deep clean was undertaken, allowing the Hall to reopen under new Covid guidelines on 14 September. Bookings were reduced, but included an art group for home schooled children, and a Triathlon training group.

Use of the Hall had to be kept under review as national Covid restrictions changed. As a result, we closed again in November, reopened in December, and close again in the New Year. The uncertain availability, and restrictions on gatherings, meant that by the end of 2020 our only regular bookings were the home education art group in the Hall, and the dog training group in the garden. With the approval of the PCC a charity clothing collection bin for the Children's Air Ambulance Service was sited by the garden entrance in December.

Routine grounds maintenance, including grass cutting, hedge trimming, and weeding has continued when permitted, as well as a partial re-paint of the interior, with Tim Johnson again leading our volunteer team.

We look forward to further reductions in restrictions in 2021, and hope to increase Hall use by the middle of the year, although it may be a considerable time before we can bring group and party bookings up to previous levels. Perhaps surprisingly, the Hall ended 2020 with a very modest surplus of £90.82.

Grounds maintenance team: Tim Johnson, Rob Barker, Mike Lenton, Ken Mackenzie, and Alastair Reed

Hall Committee: Ken Mackenzie (Chair), Tim Johnson (Secretary), Rob Barker, Sally Mackenzie, Dawn Ryder, Ian Stracey

Ken Mackenzie

Huntingdon Deanery Synod Annual Report

Due to the pandemic there were no meetings of the Deanery Synod in 2020, although some documents were circulated. At time of writing Synod has commenced meeting by Zoom in 2021.

Frances Stead – Deanery Synod Representative

Brampton Flower Guild

Due to the pandemic there is nothing to report for 2020.

Diane Hodgetts

Brampton Mothers' Union

Brampton has a thriving Mothers' Union branch and 2020 got off to a good start with a well-attended AGM at our evening meeting in January. The formal part was followed by a very interesting and informative talk from the manager of the local Women's Refuge. As a group we have regularly supported the refuge. In February two of our members led the afternoon meeting on the 2020 Mothers' Union theme 'Building Hope and Confidence'. In March we welcomed our curate, Mike for his talk – Reflections on Lent. Little did we realise, after this sociable and meaningful evening together it would be the last time that we could all be together for the remainder of the year and during that time Mike would be moving to his own parish in Cambridge.

During lock down a few of us shared a telephone rota to make regular contact with members who lived alone and we felt would value some conversation. This seemed to be much appreciated and continued until the summertime when some of the restrictions were lifted. As advent approached we made arrangements to contact all our members by post or in person. Everyone received a letter and service sheet and was encouraged to spend time reflecting on our November meeting date. Personal deliveries also included a chocolate biscuit to have with their cuppa!

We were able to repeat this venture for the 8th December which would have been the date for our Christmas meeting. This time a Christmas card, letter, MU bookmark, service sheet and details of the Wave of Prayer (10th – 12th December) went to every member and for those where we could make a personal delivery chocolates and homemade flapjack were also included in the goodie bag.

As a branch we wanted to give a Christmas gift to the local Women's Refuge. One of our members has contact with the refuge manager through her work and was able to find out that a pair of slipper socks for each lady would be well received. These were duly purchased and then gift wrapped and labelled prior to the delivery pre-Christmas along with tins of chocolates for all residents to share along with 3 Christmas flower bouquets to brighten each lounge. In addition, we have been able to send £638 this year to Mothers' Union - for the Overseas Fund (£138), Special Relief Fund (£100), Away from it All Holidays (£100) and the Covid Appeal Fund (£300).

Elizabeth Arkle – Branch Leader

Brampton Choir

Due to the pandemic the choir did not meet in 2020.

Kate Gentles

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