



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

Contents

| | |
|---|--|
| Administrative Information (3) | |
| Structure, Governance and Management (3-4) | |
| Other Information (4) | |
| Objectives and Activities (4) | |
| Occasional Offices (4-5) | |
| Church Wardens Report (5) | |
| Ministers Report (5-7) | |
| Electorall Roll (7) | |
| Huntingdon Deanery Synod Annual Report (7) | |
| Safeguarding (7-8) | |
| Grafham Church (8-9) | |
| Ellington Church (9-10) | |
| Impact Groups (10-21) | |
| Mission and Outreach Impact Group (10-11) | |
| -Christian Aid (10-11) | |
| -Children's Society (11) | |
| Communication Impact Group (11-12) | |
| Young Peoples Impact Group (12-13) | |
| Buildings Impact Group (13-18) | |
| -Quinquennial Inspection and Maintenance (13) | |
| -Ellington (13-15) | |
| -Grafham (15) | |
| -Brampton (15-18) | |
| -St Mary Magdalene Church Hall, Brampton (19) | |
| Fellowship Impact Group (20) | |
| Worship Impact Group (20-21) | |
| Community Outreach (21-26) | |
| -Pastoral Care (21) | |
| -Brampton Befrienders (21-22) | |
| -Brampton Mothers Union (23-25) | |
| -Brampton Flower Guild (25-26) | |
| Financial Report | |
| Overall Picture (27) | |
| Report of the Independent Examiner (28) | |
| Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023 (29) | |
| Designated Funds (30) | |
| Restricted Funds (31) | |
| Statement of Assets and Liabilities (32) | |
| Accounting Policy (32) | |

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:

- 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.
- 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.



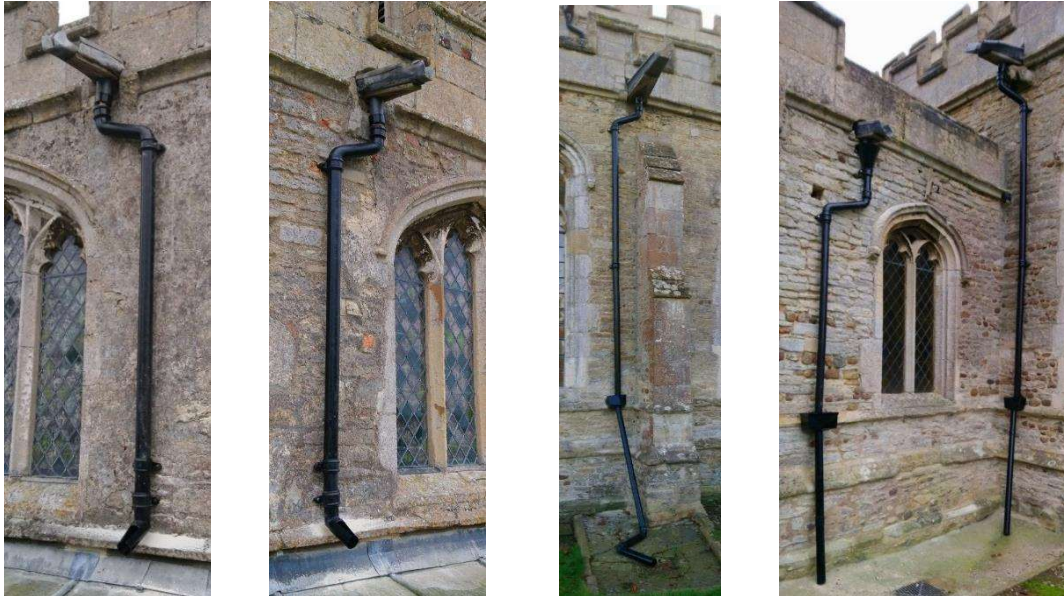
Installing the lightning protection upgrade.



Repaired lead outlet and north Nave gutter and flashing.

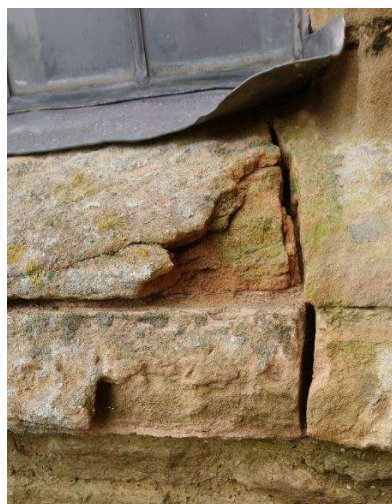
In January 2024 we received List 'B' approval to proceed with the repairs to the **leadwork roofs** that were identified in the inspection of March 2023. 'Award - Specialised Leadwork and Plumbing' from Cambridge, was engaged and they completed the repairs between 11 April and 28 May 2024. The total 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.



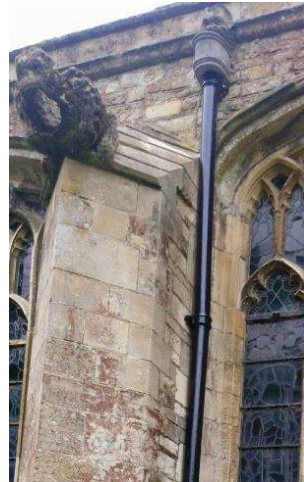
The rainwater downpipes RWP08 on the Chancel, and RWP02 on the north aisle were refurbished or replaced as necessary. And a temporary plastic liner was installed to the catchpit at RWP07 to stop water seeping into the foundations at the north west corner of the vestry.



RWP08 top



RWP08 bottom

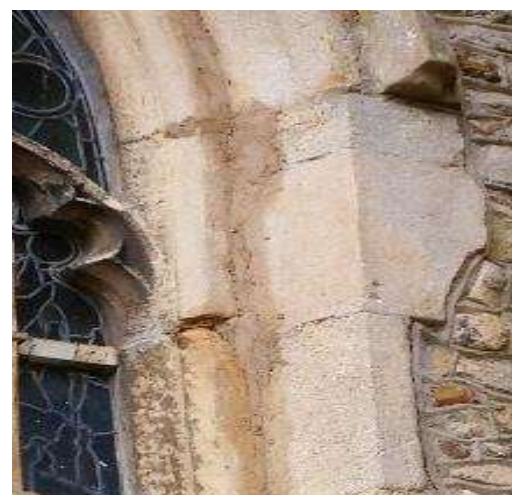


RWP02 top



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

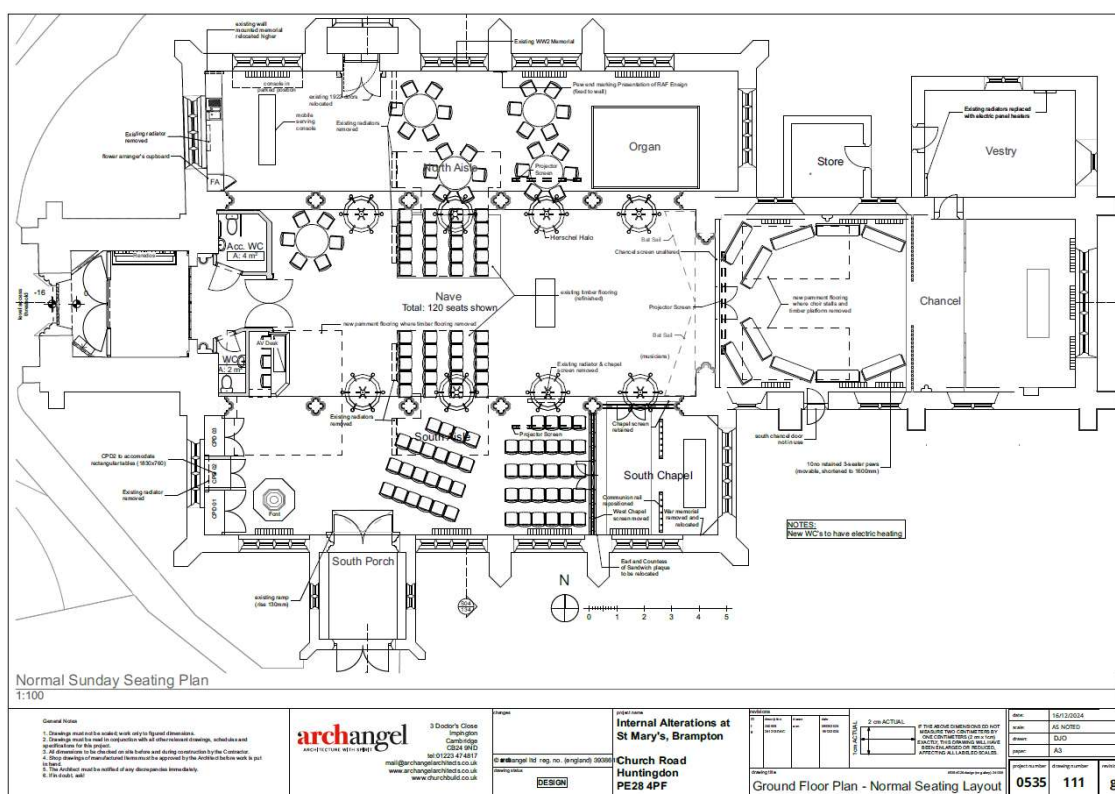
agreed by Duncan, ELPCC and Buildings working group, the plans and all the associated evidence could be re-submitted to the DAC Working Group for their consideration.

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, Bampton

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.

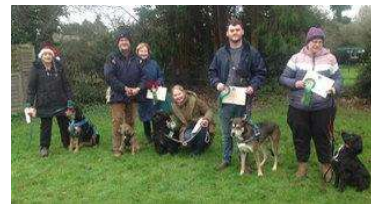
Bookings. As well as church groups, we now have some 18 regular users, as well as one-off and short-term bookings. Regular bookings again include a variety of groups, some weekly, some monthly, and some twice monthly, which can present our booking secretary with something of a challenge. After the U3A 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 |
| | 47,015 | - | - | - | - | 47,015 | 2,900 |
| 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 | - |
| | 52,980 | - | - | 245 | - | 53,225 | 10,169 |
| Surplus/Deficit for the Year | (5,965) | - | - | (245) | - | (6,210) | (7,269) |
| Transfer between funds | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Cash at Bank 01/01/2024 | 22,220 | 1,208 | 69 | 2,209 | 1,376 | 27,082 | 34,351 |
| Cash at Bank 31/12/2024 | 16,255 | 1,208 | 69 | 1,964 | 1,376 | 20,872 | 27,082 |

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