

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. MARY, PETERBOROUGH

England & Wales · Charity number 1180032

Details

Other names	THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. MARY, BOONGATE, PETERBOROUGH, ST. MARY'S PCC PETERBOROUGH
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2018-09-21
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	214 Eastfield Road Peterborough PE1 4BD
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Website	http://www.peterborough-stmarys.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: A Church of England Parish Church, providing regular public worship and provision for personal prayer. Also pastoral care, and study groups to learn more about the Christian faith. Supporting other charities locally and overseas.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Peterborough City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£171,928	£124,979	-	-
2023-12-31	£124,813	£121,420	-	-
2022-12-31	£109,870	£128,355	-	-
2021-12-31	£155,761	£125,431	-	-
2020-12-31	£98,330	£98,765	-	-

Trustees

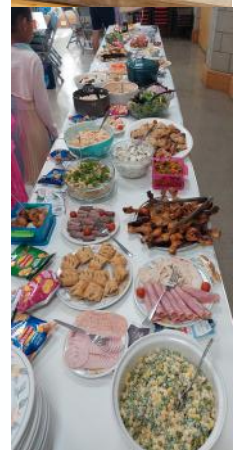
Name	Role	Appointed
Michael Peter John Moore	Chair	2011-06-13
ANDREW MARTIN HUGH CHRISTIE		2017-09-17
Carol Anne Rowles		2022-05-22
Christopher Martin Jakeman		2026-02-24
DAVID CHARLES CHRISTIE		2015-04-19
DAVID GEOFFREY DAWSON		2014-04-27
Dr HILARY MARGARET DAWSON		2007-04-15
ELIZABETH CLARE PEDLEY		2012-04-22
GEORGE CHARLES KIRK		2005-04-24
GILLIAN ALEXANDRA CHRISTIE		2013-04-21
Helen Jane Brown		2019-04-07
JAYNE ELLIS		2017-09-24
Keith Adrian Brett		2023-10-15
MAIRWEN PEASNELL		2015-04-19
Michael John Scanlon Holborn		2022-05-22
SUSAN JANE MOORE		2009-05-16
Stuart Pedley		2024-09-06
VICKY LOUISE BRETT		2018-04-22
William Treweek		2024-04-26

Accounts



St Mary's Church Peterborough

ANNUAL REPORT & STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2024



St Mary's Church is part of the Diocese of Peterborough within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St Mary's Church, New Road, Peterborough PE1 1TT. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Peterborough St Mary is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and registered with the Charity Commission in September 2018. Its Registered Charity Number is 1180032.

PCC members who served at any time during 2024 are:

Ex-officio members:

- Incumbent: The Reverend Canon Michael Moore (Chair of PCC as Trustees of St Mary's)
- Associate Priest: The Reverend Carol Rowles
- Churchwardens: Mr Andrew Christie, Mr Michael Holborn
- Readers: Mrs Elizabeth Pedley, Mr Robert Robinson
- Licensed Lay Minister (Reader in training): Mr Stuart Pedley (from November)
- Lay Pastoral Ministers: Mrs Jayne Ellis, Mrs Sue Moore, Parish Evangelist: Mr Andrew Christie, elected on Deanery Synod (until May)
- Mrs Vicky Brett, PCC Secretary, elected General Synod member
- Mr David Dawson elected representative on Deanery Synod
- Mrs Hilary Dawson elected representative on Diocesan and Deanery Synods
- Mrs Fiona Elliot elected representative on Deanery Synod (from May)
- Mr George Kirk elected representative on Deanery Synod

Elected members:

- Mr Keith Brett
- Mrs Helen Brown
- Mr David Christie
- Mrs Gillian Christie
- Mr Victor Jones (until Sept)
- Mrs Mairwen Peasnell (Lay Chair for PCC meetings)
- Mr Richard Smith, Treasurer (until May 2024)
- Mr William Treweek, Treasurer (from May 2024)
- Mrs Angela Turner
- Mrs Elena Turner (until May 2024)

Authorised Lay Pioneers: Mr Keith Brett, Mrs Vicky Brett

Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs Janette Jones-Pipe

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Jayne Ellis

Health & Safety Officer: Mrs Cassandra Charles

Independent Examiner: Mr N J Burroughs FCA,
45 Farleigh Fields, Orton Wistow, Peterborough

Banking details: St Mary's Peterborough PCC General Account is at Barclays Bank,
1 Church Street, Peterborough PE1 1XB
St Mary's Peterborough Restricted Accounts are held by the
Peterborough Diocesan Board of Finance (Registered Charity no.
250569)

GROWTH

2024 has been a good year for St Mary's for growth. At Eastertime, two people were confirmed by the Bishop at a service in Peterborough Cathedral. We ran an Alpha course with 15 participants and had our Away Day at Castor Cedar Centre. Many new people have joined us in 2024. We have seen more children attending church, some weeks over 30. Our weekly attendance has grown, and we still have a good online presence. Spiritual growth is very important, and we now have two house groups, one in the daytime and the other in the evening. We also ran a Lent group and an Advent group where we all came together to learn and deepen our faith.

PRAYER

In addition to focusing on God's Word at St Mary's, we continue to be an actively praying church. I am grateful to those who lead our 'Thursday Prayers online'; we have seen an increase of people using these prayers this year. Our 'Prayer Link' continues to be a great support to those in need of urgent prayer throughout the local community and across the country and the world. Our Prayer Board in church continues to be well used. We pray the prayers on the board each month during our Wednesday Communion service. The monthly Tuesday Prayer Evenings have been positive, with people dropping in and out as much as they can.

EXPANDING THE TEAM

In 2024, many people asked if they could help the church, and more people are involved than ever before, taking on new roles and helping in new ways. This was partly due to the Time and Talents initiative in November, but there was also a general willingness to help.

The Social Team planned many new events. We had over sixty people on the list to read on a Sunday and lead the prayers – young people, older people, and in-between. Stuart Pedley finished his training as a Reader and was licenced by Bishop Debbie at a Friday Night Worship service. The Youth Club and the Children's Church grew, too, so we are looking for new people to help run these.

REACHING OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY

St Mary's continues to be an outward-looking church. We raised a huge amount for our Summer Fundraising campaign in 2024 (£5,640). £2,820 of this went to the local charity CAP (Christians against Poverty) and the other half to St Mary's to put towards buying new chairs for the church halls. This amazing amount is a testament to the huge generosity of our church members and their families and friends. With our other giving, it totalled over £17,000. Our house-to-house collections and other events during Christian Aid Week raised £3,220.89. With the addition of almost £2,335 from the Red Bucket appeals, we raised £5,555.89 for Christian Aid this year. We also kept collecting for the Peterborough Food Bank each week.

We had a hugely successful Fun Day in August for the community and fed and watered about 200 people. The streaming of our church services also helped people to feel connected, and many who did not come to church before now regularly tune in. When meeting new people, it is helpful to point them to our online services so they can see what we are like as a church before they try it. The services are proving to be a lifeline for those who cannot get to church because of illness, as they enable them to feel part of our worshipping community still.

FINANCES

We knew finances would be tough for us at St Mary's in 2024 with the lettings income being down. However, we made some economies, which will help us moving forward. We had a small response from our Time and Talents in November and are talking to people to encourage them to increase their giving. I know that together, we can sort this. We have reached out into the community with God's love through our online services, and through those, we have ourselves been blessed as a church. We have reached out to the community with our church magazine, telling people what is happening in the church. Spare copies were also delivered to the new estates in our parish. We are busy planning a big push with this in 2025.

There is a great need in our community, not just financially but also spiritually, and I know that, as a church, we are helping in those areas. Together at St Mary's, we are making a difference in people's lives in this city. I pray that this will continue and that, as a church, we all will make a difference.

Our Parish of Peterborough St Mary's

The church of Peterborough St Mary was constituted on 27th August 1857 (as St Mary Boongate) to serve those living on the eastern side of Peterborough, principally the poor of the Boongate slums. Much of the parish was rural then, but the 20th century brought considerable residential, industrial and commercial development, particularly between 1970 and 1990 when Peterborough Development Corporation transformed the area. As part of that change, the mid-Victorian church building was demolished, and replaced with a modern building incorporating a church and chapel, with halls, meeting rooms, kitchens and toilets on two floors.

Our parish broadly equates to the civil Peterborough East Ward together with small parts of the neighbouring Central, Park and Dogsthorpe Wards. Covering an area of 3.6 square miles it forms a wedge, stretching out almost three miles north-eastwards from the city centre, from the Eastgate estates (which replaced the old Boongate slums in the 1970s), through the post-war suburb of Eastfield to the newer township of Parnwell. It also includes the extensive Eastern Industrial estates and part of the city's retail and commercial centre. The church building is situated in the south-western corner of the parish, close to the city centre.

The population is around 16,500, 65% white and 20% Asian. It is relatively young - 22% of those living in the parish in 2021 were under 15 years of age, slightly above the figure of 18% for England as a whole (*Church of England Research & Statistics Unit Parish data Jan. 2024*). It is one of the 10% most deprived parishes in the country (*based on the indicators of poverty used by the Church of England Research & Statistics Unit and the Church Urban Fund*), for each of child, working-age and pensioner poverty.

The number of people living in the parish is expected to grow, and several housing developments are either planned or underway, including the large Indigo Building scheme on the former site of the City Market, close to the church.

Within our parish we have five primary schools (*Bishop Creighton Academy; Lime Academy Abbotsmede; Lime Academy Parnwell; Newark Hill Academy; St Thomas More RC Primary*), two Secondary Schools (*City of Peterborough Academy, St John Fisher RC High School*) and two Special Schools (*Medeshamstede Academy, NeneGate School*) and a Further Education College (*City College*). The new Peterborough campus of Anglia Ruskin University, which welcomed its first students in September 2022, is also in our parish.

The Primary Purpose of St Mary's Church

Our principal objective at St Mary's is to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. Like all churches, St Mary's attempts to look three ways at once in its mission, because at all times we strive to be open to and engage with our Living God, with our community neighbours and with our own 'church family'. These three fundamental functions underpin our mission as a church.

St Mary's Parochial Church Council is committed to growing our church – not just numerically, but to grow nearer to God through worship, to grow in faith and spiritual understanding, to grow out into our local community and to grow in fellowship with each other. To facilitate this growth we consider it important to maintain the fabric and contents of our church and centre building, and also to ensure that we have sufficient resources, human, technological and monetary.

As a church, our first priority at St Mary's is worship and prayer, and we are committed to holding regular public worship that is open to all, and to provide a sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation. We teach the Christian faith through sermons, courses and small groups, and offer a pastoral ministry to the sick and bereaved. We want to promote the whole mission of the church through the provision of activities of benefit to people in our local community, and want in particular to work with the schools within our parish.

St Mary's PCC is focused on the advancement of religion for the public benefit. When compiling our action plans for each year, we consider the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, particularly the specific guidance given to charities concerned with the advancement of religion. We also consider the wider needs of the local community which we serve.

Structure, governance and management

St Mary's Peterborough PCC is a body corporate operating under the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956* and the *Church Representation Rules*. In essence its role is to work with Canon Michael, as our Vicar, in all church activities, including the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social & ecumenical; participating in local Deanery and Diocesan events; looking after our building and contents; managing our finances and ensuring that things successfully happen.

St Mary's PCC is specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church Centre complex, which is spread over two floors and comprises the church, the chapel, two halls, two kitchens, three small meeting rooms, three vestries and an office. This modern, purpose-built building was opened in 1991, replacing the original Victorian church which was in a very poor state of repair and had no community facilities.

Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has a number of committees and teams and authorises individuals to be responsible for particular areas of church activity, such as safeguarding, health and safety, stewardship, pastoral visiting and Churches Together liaison. It also employs two people: a part-time administrative assistant and a part-time cleaner/caretaker.

The day-to-day management of St Mary's Church is exercised by the Standing Committee: Revd. Canon Michael Moore (*Vicar*), Andrew Christie, Michael Holborn (*Churchwardens*), Vicky Brett (*PCC Secretary*), Richard Smith/William Treweek (*Treasurer*) and Elizabeth Pedley. This is the only committee required by law, and it has the power to transact business between PCC meetings and consider issues that may affect the church.

PCC members are appointed in accordance with the Church of England Representation Rules and are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), held each Spring. By decision of a previous APCM, elected members serve for one year only (except for those elected to Deanery Synod who serve for three years). Everyone who regularly attends St Mary's is encouraged to join our Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC. All members of the PCC are required to be DBS checked and to complete safeguarding training at a level appropriate to their role. They may also receive other external training as and when deemed appropriate.

Our APCM was held in May 2024. This meeting re-elected two churchwardens and eight lay PCC members for one year. It also elected four people to represent St Mary's at Deanery Synod for three years. St Mary's PCC met seven times during 2024. The average level of attendance during 2024 was 78.9%.

Meetings are chaired by an elected Lay Chair at the request of the Vicar, who otherwise retains chairmanship of the PCC as Trustees of St Mary's.



Our Plans for the future - the next five years

During 2024 St Mary's PCC set a new five year growth agenda for the years 2025 — 2030, which we felt would help strengthen our commitment to the core functions forming the basis of our on-going purpose, namely:

- to worship God,
- to help each other grow in faith and fellowship, and
- to spread the love of Jesus Christ and the Gospel message throughout our local community.

Our 5 Year Plan (2025 to 2030) identifies specific ways in which we hope to grow, and things we wish to achieve:

To grow nearer to God through worship:

- By offering worship opportunities in a range of different styles and on different days
- By encouraging those who come to attend more regularly

To grow in faith and spiritual understanding:

- By encouraging more of the congregation to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith through attendance at the activities we offer (e.g. House Groups, Lent Course, Alpha)
- By ensuring that our children and young people have firm foundations on which to grow their Christian faith

To grow in fellowship with one another:

- By ensuring that everyone who walks through our doors is greeted with the same high standards of warmth and hospitality, and made to feel a valued member of our community
- By offering a range of social and fund-raising activities appropriate to the age and interests of both our diverse congregation and our wider church community
- By living out the principles of Inclusive Church
- By developing a close partnership with our local Christian churches
- By actively supporting specific charities through fundraising events

To grow out into our local community through mission and outreach:

- By making contact with residents throughout the parish
- By strengthening our links with local schools
- By offering activities for local children and young people
- By making contact with local offices and businesses

To grow in numbers:

- By working to increase the numbers of those who attend our Sunday and weekday services on a regular basis

And in order to achieve these aims, we want to ensure that we:

- Have sufficient numbers of people from various age-groups with the necessary skills and training to get things done
- Have appropriate, well-maintained facilities, with improvements made where necessary
- Have enough money, whilst giving a tenth of our income away to charity each year
- Keep our church members and visitors safe and secure through robust policy and practice in safeguarding, health and safety and data protection
- Limit the damage we may be causing to our planet

What PCC wanted to achieve in 2024

The implementation of our plans for the five years 2019-2024 was adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted the original timetable and reset our priorities. By putting our focus on our core purpose as a church, we were able to move forward once the pandemic was over.

and this is what we managed to do in 2024. We:

Continued to make public worship a priority:

- Developed and expanded our online presence

Took steps to grow in faith and spiritual understanding:

- Explored ways to offer online fellowship groups, including a remote prayer group.

- Ran an Advent course.

- Ran an Alpha course, meeting weekly from January to March.

- Ran a confirmations class and held a confirmation service.

- Thy Kingdome Come Prayer Walk in Church in May

Took steps to grow in fellowship with one another:

- Improved the accuracy, consistency and accessibility of our communications, so that all were aware of forthcoming activities and feel invited

- Rebuilt our Welcoming Team, and involved children & young people wherever possible

- Supported and promoted activities offered by the Diocese and Churches Together in Central Peterborough, e.g. Advent Reflection Day in November

- Set up a monthly Book Club

Took steps to grow out into our local community through mission and outreach:

- Re-launched regular Street Prayer visits in residential areas of our parish

- Considered possible ways of rebuilding our Open the Book contact with local primary schools

- Offered a Family Fun Day in the summer for local families

- Distributed copies of '*News Around St Mary's*' to new houses in the parish.

- Continued forging links with the ARU Peterborough university.

- Supported CAP, a local charity through our Summer Fundraiser.

- Held our social events - see page 11 for details.

Took steps to ensure that we had appropriate resources and facilities to achieve our plans:

- Repainted the edges of the front steps to improve their visibility

- Investigated cost-saving measures for the regular services and maintenance.

- Continued efforts to increase the amount of money our members give to the church, and held a Stewardship Campaign

We also want to limit the damage we might cause to our planet:

- Continued our programme to replace all light fittings with LED lights

- Put up our Silver Eco Award plaque made of recycled wood.

Our Priorities for 2025

2025 is the first year of the Five Year plan adopted in Nov 2024. Our context has changed significantly over the past five years. The Market and many of the local offices have closed and are being turned into flats, leading to an influx of new residents to our immediate neighbourhood.

During 2025, we hope to achieve the following:

To grow nearer to God through worship:

By offering a range of different services on Sundays and Weekdays, including online.

To grow in faith and spiritual understanding:

By offering Alpha, Advent and Lent Courses

By offering Prayer Events in line with Bishop Debbie's desire to focus on prayer in 2025.

Grow our new monthly discussion groups – Church-based 'House' Group, Book Club.

To grow in fellowship with one another:

Have an effective Welcoming Team involving children & young people wherever possible

Launch free family-friendly film sessions for the local community when funds allow

Support and promote activities offered by the Diocese and Churches Together in Central Peterborough, e.g. Bishop's Prayer Day and Advent Reflection Day in November

To grow out into our local community through mission and outreach:

Hold regular Street Prayer visits in residential areas of our parish

Rebuild our Open the Book contact with local primary schools

Offer a Family Fun Day in the summer for local families

Offer 'Come & Sing' sessions for elderly people and their carers.

Continue the work with the local Food Bank.

And to achieve these aims, we want to improve our facilities whilst limiting damage to our planet:

Grow our volunteer base in areas where we are short, especially the pastoral team

Reconsider the feasibility of installing handrails up the Sanctuary steps

Continue efforts to increase the amount of money our members give to the church and hold a Stewardship Campaign if deemed necessary.

Work to increase our Eco Award level from Silver to Gold across all areas

Continue our programme to replace all light fittings with LED lights

Research the possibility of installing solar panels on our south-facing roof

**You are beautiful beyond description,
too marvellous for words,
too wonderful for comprehension,
like nothing ever seen or heard.
Who can grasp your infinite wisdom?
Who can fathom
the depth of your love?
You are beautiful beyond description,
majesty, enthroned above.**

**And I stand, I stand in awe of you.
I stand, I stand in awe of you.
Holy God, to whom all praise is due,
I stand in awe of you.**

Mark Altrogge 1987

Achievements & Performance

Numbers on the Electoral Roll

At the start of 2024 there were 124 names on our Electoral Roll, 60% of whom were women and 40% men. 50 (40%) lived within the parish, and 74 (60%) outside.

By May 2024, and following the revision of the Electoral Roll prior to the Annual Church Meeting in accordance with Church Regulations, numbers had increased to 130, 61% women and 39% men. 43% lived in the parish and 57% outside. Numbers remained stable at 130 up to December 2024.

Worship

All are welcome to attend [our regular services](#). We recognise that not everyone finds it helpful to worship God in the same way, and we encourage everyone to explore new ways of worship as they try to come closer to God. Our main Sunday morning service is Family Communion, but our regular pattern of services covers a wide range to suit different tastes and offer different worship experiences. Our popular monthly café style 'Friday Night Worship' appeals to those who enjoy informal worship with a live band, whilst those who value time for silent prayer and reflection are also catered for with our monthly prayer evenings. Our Compline and Evensong Sunday evening services complete our worship. Our Lay Pioneer Ministers lead 'Inclusive Church Peterborough' at St Mary's on Sunday evenings.

The online services have been offered each week since March 2020, thanks to the technical expertise of church members, and viewing figures of 4,208 views for the year, have been encouraging. Our most popular services this year were our Candelit Carol Service (17th Dec), Easter Sunday (31st Mar), the Second Sunday after Epiphany (14th Jan), and Bishop Debbie's visit to Friday Night Worship (6th Sep) - all receiving over 85 views. We know from feedback that people living miles away from St Mary's, including some from different continents, watch our services regularly. Some have an existing contact with St Mary's, and others seem to have found us by chance and stayed.



As well as our regular services, we enable people in our community to commemorate and thank God for life's milestones of [birth, marriage, and death](#). We held one wedding and 16 baptisms in church. Sadly, there were a total of seven funerals, with three in church and four at the crematorium. We were also able to live-stream funerals to enable far-flung family members to say their goodbyes. One such funera had 510 viewers!

Children, young people and families in our church and local community

[Children's work in church](#) is very important. The first Sunday of the month the children stay in the service and are encouraged to take an active role throughout the service. For other services the children leave during the first hymn for their own 'Children's Church' activities, returning for communion. They are then given the opportunity to share some of the learning they have done towards the end of the service. The number of children have slightly increased again this year to 30 and we are thankful to have an amazing team of helpers, which we also hope to grow.

Our Youth Group: for school-aged young people in Year 6 and above, had a successful year. They meet once a month on Saturday mornings and enjoy discussion and fun activities.

Children and families in our local community: On a Tuesday morning, during term times, St Mary's church members run a flourishing Baby and Toddler group. There are structured activities throughout the morning, which run alongside playtime for the children and for parents and carers to support each other. This group has fostered strong links with local families and is a successful social outreach into our community, providing a safe and warm environment for all those that come

Local primary schools: Our 'Open the book' team managed two Assemblies at Bishop Creighton Academy during 2024.

A donation was made to Newark Hill school towards some toys and equipment for a new project, a safe space for nurturing troubled children. We supported Ministry Interns to work with local young people in the Deanery.

Pastoral Care to our local community & our church

Pastoral care and service to our community are extremely important to St Mary's, both within our church and within our parish and local community. Our Pastoral Team, which has nine members, is co-ordinated by Sue Moore, one of our Licensed Lay Ministers (Lay Pastoral Minister).

The Team coordinates visiting and supports people via personal visits, phone, email, and prayer. It regularly takes House Communion to church members who are unable to attend services due to illness or mobility reasons. It also regularly takes Holy Communion to residential homes in our parish (Broadleigh and Lavender House). We have built strong links between St Mary's and the staff and residents over the years.

The Team delivers free copies of our church magazine, 'News Around St Mary's,' to local organisations, such as schools, medical centres, sheltered housing schemes, residential homes, dentists, and hairdressers, and to members who are no longer able to attend church.

The team does baptism preparation, visiting and support, including the regular sending out of baptism anniversary cards. It supports those who are bereaved through an annual Remembering Service and provides support as and when needed.

The team runs the St Mary's 'Prayer Link' for urgent prayer requests, looks after our church Prayer Board, and produces and updates our 'Prayer Shepherd' card for every church member, which ensures every person in our church is regularly prayed for.

Our weekly 'Chill and Chat' on Friday mornings continues to welcome old and new friends who enjoy company and conversation over tea and coffee and an array of delicious homemade cakes. Church members continue to support the Peterborough Food Bank with regular donations of food that are collected in church.

At our Pastoral Team meeting in December 2024, we updated our visiting lists and thanked Jayne Ellis, who has been taking Holy Communion into the Broadleigh and Lavender care homes for twenty-five years.



Social events for church and community

At St Mary's we like to have fun and socialise. Our events are open to all and give everyone a chance to chat, meet new people and spread the camaraderie that oozes out of our church. Of course, along the way we try to raise as much money as possible for charities whilst keeping ticket prices affordable for all. Each event raises money for a different charity. The following list shows the beneficiaries from 2024.

Month	Event	Charity
Dec 2023	Church Christmas Card	Sue Ryder
January	Men's Breakfast	Operation Smile
February	Pancake Party	Light Project
March	Chinese Meal	
April	Beetle Drive with Fish & Chips	HELP
May	Flavours of the World Lunch	Christian Aid
June	Picnic in the Park	
July	Men's Breakfast	St John Fisher & Dogsthorpe Infants Breakfast Clubs
July	Fun Day for the Parish	

July/August/September - Summer Fundraiser
Monies shared this year between St Mary's and 'Christians Against Poverty'

Summer Fundraiser events:

Ceilidh, Men's breakfast, Afternoon Tea, Patronal Lunch, Garden Party, 'Rat Pack' Concert, Murder Mystery Party, plus jam sales, marmalade sales, sponsored walks, lunches, bell ringing, plant sales, flower arrangement raffle, table top sales, Isla's bracelets etc.

Month	Event	Charity
October	Harvest lunch	Mary's Child
November	Quiz and Ploughman's supper	Diverse ABC
December	Christmas Singalong	Little Miracles
	Christmas Table top sales	St Mary's
	Afternoon Tea	Samaritans

These events raised £9,010 for 12 charities plus St Mary's.

Our Church Centre

St Mary's is fortunate in having a well-designed modern building incorporating a church, a chapel, two halls, meeting rooms, kitchens, and toilets, all offering good access for the disabled, including a ramp entrance, wide doors, and a lift. Until it was closed

Extended Hands (a small local charity supporting women at risk of feeling lonely, isolated, or marginalised) rent one of our rooms as their office base and regularly use rooms in our Centre for their sewing and craft sessions, Group Therapy Sessions, one-to-one Counselling sessions, fitness sessions, and coffee mornings.

Inclusive Church Peterborough, led by our Lay Pioneer Ministers, meets each Sunday evening in our Centre. We also hosted a week-long interdenominational Icon painting course in October. As extension to our outreach we have a growing band of bellringers and the 8 bells are rung very regularly and attracts a wide catchment of around 25 bellringers each week, many of whom support our Sunday service ringing.

Our policy has been to offer free or reduced rate meeting space in our Centre to several local charities, including Samaritans, Peterborough Christian Aid Committee. We are very grateful for our Church Administrator, Denise Thomas, for continuing to manage our Centre bookings so efficiently.

Maintaining our church building

Like all buildings, St Mary's needs regular maintenance and repair to prevent deterioration. This responsibility falls upon the Churchwardens, who report to the Standing Committee, who advise the PCC on maintenance issues and work needed so that the PCC can assent to work being undertaken subject to the availability of funds. Less significant work is covered by a team of church volunteers with more involved tasks or projects being covered by skilled trades, some of whom are locally based, like Nick Elks for electrical work. We are grateful to Nick and others, like Gareth Williams, Gavin Mills, Charlie Lee, and Nicholas Holborn, for using their respective professional skills to provide essential services to our church.

Minor repairs have been carried out by the Churchwardens, Andrew Christie and Michael Holborn, as necessary. The more substantial activities are detailed as follows:

- Gutters cleaned.
- Lightning conductors were tested, and a new receiver point was attached to the top of the tower.
- Following damage caused by a car collision in late 2023, the bay window in the Fellowship Hall was replaced, along with remediation to the surrounding brickwork under the insurance policy with Ecclesiastical Insurance. This work was completed in May 2024.
- The upstairs toilets are now gender-neutral, completing the work for all the toilets in the building.
- A cost-saving review resulting in a new twice yearly garden maintenance contract with Josh Barnes Landscapers, predominantly on our border hedges.
- WAHR (the Work at Height Regulations) 2005 inspections and record keeping with support from Ability Ltd, who have provided scaffolding towers to assist safely with maintenance at height levels with lighting, etc.

Keeping us safe

Health and Safety:

We take our Health and Safety responsibilities seriously so we can provide a safe environment for everyone to enjoy the facilities that St Mary's Church has to offer. A Health and Safety Inspection of the building is conducted annually by an independent inspector, with our church wardens doing a monthly check to look out for anything that needs fixing or removing.

Annual and periodical safety inspections and services are carried out by registered contractors who comply with professional and regulatory standards, thereby ensuring all our safety certificates are up to date. Including:-

- The lift is regularly serviced by Morris Vermaport, including the statutory LOLER (safety) tests.
- The fire safety equipment is maintained and checked by Churches Fire, which tests the fire alarm, fire extinguishers, and emergency lighting. A Fire Safety Floor Plan is on display.
- Blounts inspects and certifies the gas-fired boiler and heating system annually.
- The portable electrical appliances are PAT tested annually.
- The Organ and Piano tuners attend twice a year.
- Our large "Red Bin" contract is with Biffa, who empty the bin on a 4-week cycle.
- Our windows were cleaned by Beebys Limited every 6 months.
- Our contract with Cathedral Hygiene for sanitary bins in the toilets concluded at the end of 2024 and was brought in-house for additional cost-saving measures.

Finally, a thank you to the Sides Persons and all the volunteers in so many numerous roles that step forward willingly and make being a Churchwarden less of a chore and more of a pleasure to serve at St Mary's.

Safeguarding:

At St Mary's we take safeguarding very seriously. Our parish safeguarding officer is Mrs Jayne Ellis has responsibility for safeguarding in her professional role and uses this experience to keep us safe at St Mary's. During 2024 she kept the PCC fully informed on updates to policy and practice as advised by Peterborough Diocese.

Copies of our safeguarding policy are prominently displayed on lobby noticeboards and on the church website with links to the Diocesan Safeguarding website.

Safeguarding concerns are followed up promptly and in accordance with Diocesan guidelines.

St Mary's Church is registered with the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) through which renewals and new clearances for the Statutory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) are made.

The Vicar, licensed ministers, PCC members and staff working with children and vulnerable adults have been DBS registered and are completing the appropriate level of safeguarding training as set out by the Diocese. Everyone is aware that they cannot continue in their role without this training.

Data Protection:

The way in which St Mary's collects, stores and processes data on our church members was reviewed in 2018 in order to ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). PCC agreed a new Data Privacy notice, which is on display on our noticeboard together with our Health & Safety and Safeguarding policy statements.

Our links with the wider church

Our links with the wider church are strong.

Our Vicar, Canon Michael was Rural Dean of [Peterborough Deanery](#) until, and we have four elected lay representatives on [Peterborough Deanery Synod](#).

One lay member of St Mary's currently represents Peterborough Deanery on [Peterborough Diocesan Synod](#).

One of our church members was elected in October 2021 to [General Synod](#) as one of the three lay representatives for Peterborough Diocese.

St Mary's is part of the [Inclusive Church](#) network and Inclusive Church Peterborough meets in our building each week, led by our Lay Pioneer Ministers. They met throughout 2024.

St Mary's is also an active member of [Churches Together in Central Peterborough \(CTiCP\)](#), an ecumenical group of seven city centre churches of various different denominations. Its main aims are to pray and worship together, putting on the Good Friday Walk of Witness and monthly prayer and breakfast meetings and an Advent Reflection Day, which in 2024 was held at St Mary's.

St Mary's PCC is delighted with what we managed to achieve in 2024 in another challenging year. Very little of this would have been possible without ...

...our Volunteers

Almost all the work at St Mary's is done by volunteers. Canon Michael, the Churchwardens and PCC would like to thank them all for giving their time and talents free to enable St Mary's Church—whether the 'physical' church in the building, or our online presence, to function, week in and week out. We are very grateful to Denise and Ray Howard for the professional expertise they bring to their work cleaning our building during 2024. As a church community we extend our thanks to David Divers who retired as our voluntary Estate Manager at the end of 2024 and we feel blessed to have Rob Peasnell take on this key role, following a successful handover period.

Also, we thank Paul Thomas, our "Barrow Boy," for regularly taking generous donations from our congregation to the Food Bank.

Thank you!

Report from our Treasurer, William Treweek

St Mary's ended the year with a small deficit (of £3,162), which was slightly better than budgeted expectations. Regular giving from members rose during 2024. All of the increase came from the Gift Aid Reclaim line, where claims were made for two years as no submission was made in 2023. Income via contactless, text, and online giving is slightly down on 2023, while Stewardship and Loose Cash is slightly up.

Our second main income source – hiring out our halls and meeting rooms – fell back by 21% year on year but is still higher than the 2022 total. Bookings for the first quarter of 2025 have been strong, putting St Mary's in a good position to achieve the £13,986 total achieved in 2023. A regular program of fundraising activities helped to increase the amount raised for the church and local charities in 2024.

During the year, a donation of £50,000 was received. This donation is restricted solely to be used for capital expenditure on the church building, which the PCC will administer. Running costs were 3% up year on year, largely due to catching up with the Parish Share Allocation payments. Parish Share costs in the 2024 accounts include Dec 2023 as well as the settlement of the total 2024 amount.

Reserves

St Mary's operational reserve policy for 2025 remains the same which is to keep sufficient money in our reserves to cover three months' running costs in total, plus £20,000. The policy has been formally agreed by the PCC.

External Charitable Giving

St Mary's PCC aims to give 10% of our income to charity each year in obedience to the tithing principle. Part of this giving is in reduced or no-cost rentals to local charities who use our rooms, and this giving does not show in these formal accounts. In 2024 we gave £6,667 in direct donations to national & local charities & schools, including:

Christian Aid	Community Heartbeat Trust
Diverse ABC	Hampton Academies Trust
HELP	Light Project
Mary's Child	Peterborough Deanery Ministry Interns
Peterborough & District Samaritans	St John Fisher School

In addition, in 2024, St Marys made out checks to CAP, Little Miracles, and the Children's Society. These cheques have been banked by the charities in 2025. If these cheques were banked in 2024, the direct donations would have increased to £9,945.77.

We raised a total of £6,821 for Christian Aid (CA) and the Children's Society during the year: £2,848 during the CA Week in May which went directly to the charity and £2,708 from CA Appeals raised and banked with St Mary before being donated to CA. We also raised £1,266 for the Children's Society.

Our Summer Fundraising Campaign this year was for CAP and raised a total of £2,820.

Statement of Accounts for the calendar year 2024

St Mary's PCC: General Fund Receipts and Payments Account

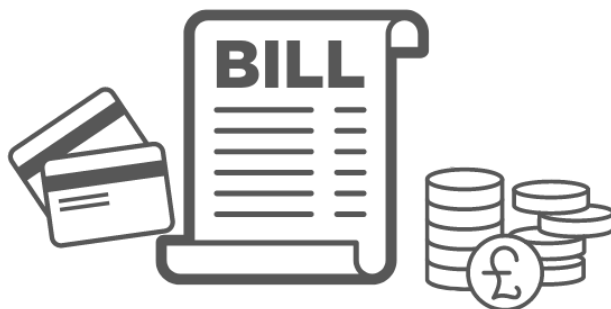
	<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>	
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
<u>Incoming resources from donors</u>				
Collections - Stewardship	75,309		75,561	
- Loose cash	3,413		3,333	
Gift Aid reclaim	10,961		-	
Online Giving	<u>4,446</u>		<u>5,389</u>	
		94,129		84,284
<u>Other voluntary incoming resources</u>				
Donations and bequests	475		14,502	
Fundraising	10,805		9,546	
Grants and similar income	2000		-	
Miscellaneous income	<u>251</u>		<u>243</u>	
		13,531		24,291
<u>Income from investments</u>				
Bank interest	556		191	
Investment interest - CBF deposit fund	1,763		501	
		2,319		692
<u>Income from charitable and ancillary trading</u>				
Wedding and funeral fees	848		560	
Centre income	10,990		13,986	
Traidcraft income	<u>-</u>		<u>1,000</u>	
		11,838		15,546
Total Receipts		121,817		124,813
Total Payments (see page 16 for detail)		<u>-124,979</u>		<u>-121,420</u>
Excess/(deficit) of receipts over payments		-3,162		3,392
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January 2024		<u>74,058</u>		<u>70,666</u>
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December 2024		<u>£70,896</u>		<u>£74,058</u>



St Mary's PCC: General Fund Receipts and Payments Account

General Fund Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
PAYMENTS		
<u>Activities relating directly to the work of the Church</u>		
Vicar's expenses	622	233
Locum	525	1,766
Salaries paid by Diocese	14,103	11,832
Upkeep of services	1,498	1,370
Organists	3,390	4,133
Water	328	189
Light and heat	10,811	6,212
Repairs and maintenance	7,738	16,951
Insurance	1,920	1,888
Telephones	836	684
Parish share	71,725	61,869
Donations (Overseas and sundry):	6,667	8,206
Sunday Club/Youth expenses	320	585
Office administration	1,225	101
Cleaning and sundry materials	344	225
Auditor (CROPS)	200	200
Training	511	1,116
Miscellaneous expenditure	2,216	3,861
Total payments (to page 15)	£124,979	£121,420

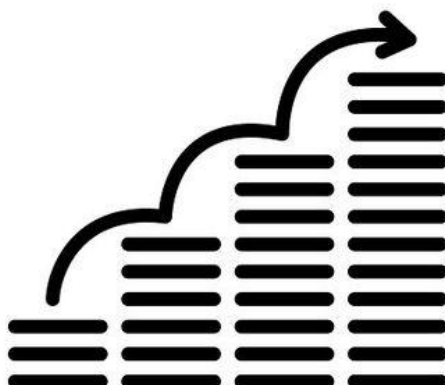


Receipts and payments accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

BUILDING FUND - RESTRICTED	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Restricted to spending on the building	£	£
Receipts		
Donation	50,000	-
Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2024	<u>£50,000</u>	<u>£0</u>

ST. MARY'S EASTGATE MISSION - ENDOWMENT

Receipts		
Interest	111	64
Bank deposit accounts at 1 January 2024	<u>2,082</u>	<u>2,018</u>
Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2024	<u>£2,193</u>	<u>£2,082</u>



St Mary's PCC: Receipts and Payments Accounts

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2024

	General Fund:		Restricted Funds :		
	<u>General</u>	Building <u>Fund</u>	St. Mary's Eastgate		Total <u>2023</u>
			<u>Mission</u>	<u>Total</u>	
	£	£	£	£	£
Monetary assets					
Cash in hand	100			100	100
Bank - current	13,768	0		13,768	23,049
- reserve	39,146			39,146	34,790
CBF deposit fund	17,882	50,000		67,882	16,119
Peterborough Diocesan Board of Finance			2,193	2,193	2,082
Total Cash & Assets	70,896	50,000	2,193	123,089	76.140

St Mary's Parochial Church Council Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

Funds

General Funds represent funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC.

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

- Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
- Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty.
- Amounts owing from the Inland Revenue where a formal claim has been made.

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 14 to 18, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('2011 Act').

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 144(2) of the 2011 Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to :-.

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act ;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act and to be found in the Church guidance issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

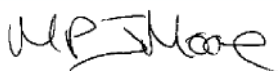
- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 131 of the 2011 Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act and the Regulations have not been met ; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



N J Burroughs FCA
45 Farleigh Fields, Orton Wistow
Peterborough

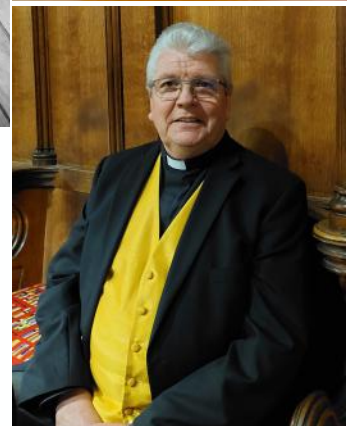
19 February 2025

This Annual Report was approved by St Mary's PCC on 25th February 2025, and signed on their behalf by:



Revd Canon Michael Moore
Vicar

Chair of Trustees of the ecclesiastical parish of Peterborough St Mary



St Mary's Church and Centre
New Road
Peterborough
PE1 1TT
www.peterborough-stmarys.org.uk
Registered Charity no. 1180032

Accounts



St Mary's Church Peterborough

ANNUAL REPORT & STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2023



St Mary's Church is part of the Diocese of Peterborough within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St Mary's Church, New Road, Peterborough PE1 1TT. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Peterborough St Mary is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and registered with the Charity Commission in September 2018. Its Registered Charity Number is 1180032.

PCC members who served at any time during 2023 are:

Ex-officio members:

- Incumbent: The Reverend Canon Michael Moore (Chair of PCC as Trustees of St Mary's)
- Associate Priest: The Reverend Carol Rowles
- Churchwardens: Mr Andrew Christie, Mr Michael Holborn
- Readers: Mrs Elizabeth Pedley, Mr Robert Robinson
- Licensed Lay Minister (Reader in training): Mr Stuart Pedley (from November)
- Lay Pastoral Ministers: Mrs Jayne Ellis, Mrs Susan Moore, Parish Evangelist: Mr Andrew Christie, elected on Deanery Synod (until March)
- Mrs Vicky Brett, PCC Secretary, elected General Synod member
- Mr David Dawson, representative on Deanery Synod
- Mrs Hilary Dawson, representative on Diocesan and Deanery Synods
- Mrs Fiona Elliot, representative on Deanery Synod (from March)
- Mr George Kirk, representative on Deanery Synod

Elected members:

- Mr Keith Brett
- Mrs Helen Brown
- Mr David Christie
- Mrs Gillian Christie
- Mr Victor Jones
- Jonathan Goodes (Until March)
- Mrs Mairwen Peasnell (Lay Chair for PCC meetings)
- Mr Richard Smith, Treasurer
- Mrs Angela Turner
- Mrs Elena Turner
- Mr Ian Cork (Elected then retired)
- Mr Christian Happy (Elected then retired)

Authorised Lay Pioneers: Mr Keith Brett, Mrs Vicky Brett

Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs Janette Jones-Pipe

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Jayne Ellis

Health & Safety Officer: Mrs Cassandra Charles

Independent Examiner: Mr N J Burroughs FCA,
45 Farleigh Fields, Orton Wistow, Peterborough

Banking details: St Mary's Peterborough PCC General Account is at Barclays Bank,
1 Church Street, Peterborough PE1 1XB
St Mary's Peterborough Restricted Accounts are held by the
Peterborough Diocesan Board of Finance (Registered Charity no.
250569)

GROWTH

2023 has been a good year for St Mary's for growth. In December, 17 people were confirmed by the bishop and we have two more planned for 2024. We ran an Alpha course with 17 participants and had our away day in Castor Cedar Centre. Many new people have joined us in 2023 and numbers are now back to pre-pandemic levels. We have seen greater amounts of children coming in to the church with some weeks attracting 30+.

We still have a big online presence, and it had been good that we can now stream funerals for those unable physically to get to the funeral service.

PRAYER

As well as focusing on God's Word at St Mary's, we continue to be an actively praying church. I am grateful to those who lead our 'Thursday Prayers online'; We have seen an increase of people using these prayers this year.

Our 'Prayer Link' continues to be a great support to those in need of urgent prayer throughout the local community and across the country and the world. Our Prayer board in Church continues to be well used too.

Monthly prayer evenings have been positive with people dropping in and out as they can. Some staying for a few minutes and some for a few hours.

EXPANDING THE TEAM

This year, many people have asked if they can help the church and more people are involved than ever before, taking on new roles and helping in new ways. The Social Team has planned and is putting on many new events. We have over sixty people reading on a Sunday and leading the prayers – young people, older people and in between. Stuart Pedley will finish his training next year to be a Licensed Reader. And volunteers for the Alpha team and the new monthly church house group have come forward to help.

REACHING OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY

St Mary's continues to be an outward-looking church. We raised a huge amount for our Summer Fundraiser in 2023 (£5,600). £2,800 of this went to the local charity 'Food for Nought' and the other half to St Mary's to put towards the replacement of lighting. This amazing amount is a testament to the huge generosity of our church members and their families and friends. With our other giving, it totalled over £15,000.

Our house-to-house collections and other events during Christian Aid Week raised £2,720. With the addition of almost £2,425 from the Red Bucket appeals we raised over £5,145 for Christian Aid this year. We also kept collecting for the Peterborough Food Bank each week. We had a hugely successful Fun Day in August for the community and fed and watered nearly 200 people.

The streaming of our church services also helped people to feel connected, and many who did not come to church before now regularly tune in. When meeting new people, it is helpful to point them to our online services, so they can see what we are like as a church before they try it. The services are proving to be a lifeline for those who cannot get to church because of illness, as they still feel part of the worshipping community.

FINANCES

We knew finances were going to be tough for us at St Mary's this year with lettings still down on pre-pandemic levels. We managed to make just a small surplus this year. God is good. However, we still need focus and to look at what we give this year and how we can all help to balance the books going forward. Together we can sort this.

We have reached out into the community with God's love through our online services and, through those, we have ourselves been blessed as a church. We have reached out to the community with our church magazine, telling people what is happening in the church. Spare copies were also delivered to the new estates in our parish.

There is a great need in our community, not just financially but also spiritually and I know that, as a church, we are helping in those areas. Together at St Mary's, we are making a difference in people's lives in this city. I pray that this will continue and that, as a church, we all will make a difference.

Our Parish of Peterborough St Mary's

The church of Peterborough St Mary was constituted on 27th August 1857 (as St Mary Boongate) to serve those living on the eastern side of Peterborough, principally the poor of the Boongate slums. Much of the parish was rural then, but the 20th century brought considerable residential, industrial and commercial development, particularly between 1970 and 1990 when Peterborough Development Corporation transformed the area. As part of that change, the mid-Victorian church building was demolished, and replaced with a modern building incorporating a church and chapel, with halls, meeting rooms, kitchens and toilets on two floors.

Our parish broadly equates to the civil Peterborough East Ward together with small parts of the neighbouring Central, Park and Dogsthorpe Wards. Covering an area of 3.6 square miles it forms a wedge, stretching out almost three miles north-eastwards from the city centre, from the Eastgate estates (which replaced the old Boongate slums in the 1970s), through the post-war suburb of Eastfield to the newer township of Parnwell. It also includes the extensive Eastern Industrial estates and part of the city's retail and commercial centre. The church building is situated in the south-western corner of the parish, close to the city centre.

The population is around 16,500, 65% white and 20% Asian. It is relatively young - 22% of those living in the parish in 2021 were under 15 years of age, slightly above the figure of 18% for England as a whole (*Church of England Research & Statistics Unit Parish data Jan. 2022*). It is one of the 10% most deprived parishes in the country (*based on the indicators of poverty used by the Church of England Research & Statistics Unit and the Church Urban Fund*), for each of child, working-age and pensioner poverty.

The number of people living in the parish is expected to grow, and several housing developments are either planned or underway, including the large Northminster scheme on the former site of the City Market, close to the church.

Within our parish we have five primary schools (*Bishop Creighton Academy; Lime Academy Abbotsmede; Lime Academy Parnwell; Newark Hill Academy; St Thomas More RC Primary*), two Secondary Schools (*City of Peterborough Academy, St John Fisher RC High School*) and two Special Schools (*Medeshamstede Academy, NeneGate School*) and a Further Education College (*City College*). The new Peterborough campus of Anglia Ruskin University, which welcomed its first students in September 2022, is also in our parish.

The Primary Purpose of St Mary's Church

Our principal objective at St Mary's is to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. Like all churches, St Mary's attempts to look three ways at once in its mission, because at all times we strive to be open to and engage with our Living God, with our community neighbours and with our own 'church family'. These three fundamental functions underpin our mission as a church.

St Mary's Parochial Church Council is committed to growing our church – not just numerically, but to grow nearer to God through worship, to grow in faith and spiritual understanding, to grow out into our local community and to grow in fellowship with each other. To facilitate this growth we consider it important to maintain the fabric and contents of our church and centre building, and also to ensure that we have sufficient resources, human, technological and monetary.

As a church, our first priority at St Mary's is worship and prayer, and we are committed to holding regular public worship that is open to all, and to provide a sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation. We teach the Christian faith through sermons, courses and small groups, and offer a pastoral ministry to the sick and bereaved. We want to promote the whole mission of the church through the provision of activities of benefit to people in our local community, and want in particular to work with the schools within our parish.

St Mary's PCC is focused on the advancement of religion for the public benefit. When compiling our action plans for each year, we consider the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, particularly the specific guidance given to charities concerned with the advancement of religion. We also consider the wider needs of the local community which we serve.

Structure, governance and management

St Mary's Peterborough PCC is a body corporate operating under the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956* and the *Church Representation Rules*. In essence its role is to work with Canon Michael, as our Vicar, in all church activities, including the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social & ecumenical; participating in local Deanery and Diocesan events; looking after our building and contents; managing our finances and ensuring that things successfully happen.

St Mary's PCC is specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church Centre complex, which is spread over two floors and comprises the church, the chapel, two halls, two kitchens, three small meeting rooms, three vestries and an office. This modern, purpose-built building was opened in 1991, replacing the original Victorian church which was in a very poor state of repair and had no community facilities.

Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has a number of committees and teams and authorises individuals to be responsible for particular areas of church activity, such as safeguarding, health and safety, stewardship, pastoral visiting and Churches Together liaison. It also employs two people: a part-time administrative assistant and a part-time cleaner/caretaker.

The day-to-day management of St Mary's Church is exercised by the Standing Committee: Revd. Canon Michael Moore (*Vicar*), Andrew Christie, Michael Holborn (*Churchwardens*), Vicky Brett (*PCC Secretary*), Richard Smith (*Treasurer*) and Elizabeth Pedley. This is the only committee required by law, and it has the power to transact business between PCC meetings and consider issues which may affect the church.

PCC members are appointed in accordance with the Church of England Representation Rules and are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), held each Spring. By decision of a previous APCM, elected members serve for one year only (except for those elected to Synod, who generally serve for three years). Everyone who regularly attends St Mary's is encouraged to join our Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC. All members of the PCC are required to be DBS checked and to complete safeguarding training at a level appropriate to their role. They may also receive other external training as and when deemed appropriate.

Our APCM was held in March 2023. This meeting elected two churchwardens, four members of Deanery Synod and twelve lay PCC members for one year (2 PCC members retired after the first meeting). St Mary's PCC met seven times during 2023. The average level of attendance during 2023 was 85.1%.

Meetings are chaired by an elected Lay Chair at the request of the Vicar, who otherwise retains chairmanship of the PCC as Trustees of St Mary's.



Our Plans for the future - the next five years

During 2019 St Mary's PCC set a new five year growth agenda for the years 2020 — 2025, which we felt would help strengthen our commitment to the core functions forming the basis of our on-going purpose, namely:

- to worship God,
- to help each other grow in faith and fellowship, and
- to spread the love of Jesus Christ and the Gospel message throughout our local community.

Our 5 Year Plan (2020 to 2025) identifies specific ways in which we hope to grow, and things we wish to achieve:

To grow nearer to God through worship:

By offering worship opportunities in a range of different styles and on different days of the week

By encouraging those who come to attend more regularly

To grow in faith and spiritual understanding:

By encouraging more of the congregation to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith through attendance at the activities we offer (e.g. Bible Study, House Groups, Lent Course)

By ensuring that our children and young people have firm foundations on which to grow their Christian faith

To grow in fellowship with one another:

By ensuring that everyone who walks through our doors is greeted with the same high standards of warmth and hospitality, and made to feel a valued member of our community

By offering a range of social and fund-raising activities appropriate to the age and interests of both our diverse congregation and our wider church community

By living out the principles of Inclusive Church

By developing a close partnership with our local Christian churches

By actively supporting specific charities through fundraising events

To grow out into our local community through mission and outreach:

By making contact with residents throughout the parish

By making contact with local offices and businesses, including those on the Eastern Industrial Estates

By strengthening our links with local schools

By offering activities for local children and young people

To grow in numbers:

By working to increase the numbers of those who attend our Sunday and weekday services on a regular basis

And in order to achieve these aims, we want to ensure that we:

Have sufficient numbers of people from various age-groups with the necessary skills and training to get things done

Have appropriate, well-maintained facilities, with improvements made where necessary

Have enough money, whilst giving a tenth of our income away to charity each year

Limit the damage we may be causing to our planet

What PCC wanted to achieve in 2023

Our 5-year implementation plans were adversely affected by the Covid pandemic, disrupting the original timetable and altering our views on what to regard as a priority.

However, it has not altered our purpose as a Church or changed our intention to achieve these aims.

and this is what we managed to do in 2023. We:

Continued to make public worship a priority:

Continued the efforts to contact church members who hadn't been seen since the pandemic started.

Took steps to grow in faith and spiritual understanding:

Explored ways to offer online fellowship groups, including a remote prayer group.

Ran an Advent course.

Ran an Alpha course, meeting weekly from January to March.

Ran a confirmations class and held a confirmation service.

Took steps to grow in fellowship with one another:

Improved the accuracy, consistency and accessibility of our communications, so that all were aware of forthcoming activities and feel invited

Rebuilt our Welcoming Team, and involved children & young people wherever possible

Supported and promoted activities offered by the Diocese and Churches Together in Central Peterborough, e.g. Bishop's Bible Day in March and Advent Reflection Day in November

Hosted a Christian Aid event for local churches to promote environmental awareness and climate justice

Took steps to grow out into our local community through mission and outreach:

Re-launched regular Street Prayer visits in residential areas of our parish

Considered possible ways of rebuilding our Open the Book contact with local primary schools

Offered a Family Fun Day in the summer for local families

Distributed copies of '*News Around St Mary's*' to new houses in the parish.

Distributed 2,000 leaflets advertising Christmas Services.

Continued forging links with the ARU Peterborough university.

Supported Food For Nought, a local charity through our Summer Fundraiser.

Held our social events - see page 11 for details.

Took steps to ensure that we had appropriate resources and facilities to achieve our plans:

Repainted the edges of the front steps to improve their visibility

Investigated cost-saving measures for the regular services and maintenance.

Continued efforts to increase the amount of money our members give to the church, and held a Stewardship Campaign

We also want to limit the damage we might cause to our planet:

Continued our programme to replace all light fittings with LED lights

Put up our Silver Eco Award plaque made of recycled wood.

Our Priorities for 2024

2024 is the final year of the Five Year plan adopted in May 2019. Our context has changed significantly over the past five years. The Market and many of the local offices have closed and are being turned into flats. The Covid closures opened our eyes to the potential offered by the internet. PCC agreed at their January meeting to focus on two key priorities:

- Address any outstanding issues
- Discuss and agree our priorities for the next five years. This will be done at the Awayday arranged for Saturday 13th July

During 2024 we hope to achieve the following:

To grow nearer to God through worship:

By encouraging those we haven't seen since the pandemic started, to come back to church

To grow in faith and spiritual understanding:

By offering Alpha, Advent and Lent Courses

Launch new monthly discussion groups – Church based 'House' Group, Book Club

To grow in fellowship with one another:

Have an effective Welcoming Team, involving children & young people where ever possible

Launch free family friendly film sessions for the local community when funds allow

Support and promote activities offered by the Diocese and Churches Together in Central Peterborough, e.g. Bishop's Bible Day and Advent Reflection Day in November

To grow out into our local community through mission and outreach:

Hold regular Street Prayer visits in residential areas of our parish

Rebuild our Open the Book contact with local primary schools

Offer a Family Fun Day in the summer for local families

Offer 'Come & Sing' sessions for elderly people and their carers.

And in order to achieve these aims, we want to improve our facilities :

Grow our volunteer base in areas where we are short

Reconsider the feasibility of installing handrails up the Sanctuary steps

Continue efforts to increase the amount of money our members give to the church, and hold a Stewardship Campaign if deemed necessary

Work to increase our Eco Award level from Silver to Gold across all areas

Continue our programme to replace all light fittings with LED lights

Research the possibility of installing solar panels on our south-facing roof

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders

Let me walk upon the waters

Wherever You would call me

Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander

And my faith will be made stronger

In the presence of my Saviour

Oceans (where feet may fail) by Hillsong

Achievements & Performance

Numbers on the Electoral Roll

At the start of 2023 there were 124 names on our Electoral Roll, 60% of whom were women and 40% men. 50 (40%) lived within the parish, and 74 (60%) outside.

By May 2023, and following the revision of the Electoral Roll prior to the Annual Church Meeting in accordance with Church Regulations, numbers had increased to 130, 61% women and 39% men. 43% lived in the parish and 57% outside. Numbers remained stable at 130 up to December 2023.

Worship

All are welcome to attend [our regular services](#). We recognise that not everyone finds it helpful to worship God in the same way, and we encourage everyone to explore new ways of worship as they try to come closer to God. Our main Sunday morning service is Family Communion, but our regular pattern of services covers a wide range to suit different tastes and offer different worship experiences. Our popular monthly café style 'Friday Night Worship' appeals to those who enjoy informal worship with a live band, whilst those who value time for silent prayer and reflection are also catered for with our monthly prayer evenings. Our Compline and Evensong Sunday evening services complete our worship. Our Lay Pioneer Ministers lead 'Inclusive Church Peterborough' at St Mary's on Sunday evenings.

The online services have been offered each week since March 2020, thanks to the technical expertise of church members, and viewing figures have been encouraging. Our most popular services this year were Easter Sunday 9th April and the Confirmation service on the 10th December with 105 views each. Our monthly online Compline services regularly have 30-40 views. We know from feedback that people living miles away from St Mary's, including some from different continents, watch our services regularly, we had over 4,216 views in 2023. Some have an existing contact with St Mary's, and others seem to have found us by chance and stayed.



As well as our regular services, we enable people in our community to commemorate and thank God for life's milestones of [birth, marriage and death](#). We held one wedding and nine baptisms in church. Sadly there were a total of eight funerals, with two in church and six at the crematorium. We were also able to live-stream funerals to enable far-flung family members to say their goodbyes. One such funeral had 138 viewers, including many from Jamaica.

Children, young people and families in our church and local community

[Children's work in church](#) is very important. The first Sunday of the month the children stay in for our All Age Communion service, and are encouraged to take an active part, with one child on the technical team. For other services the children leave during the first hymn for their own 'Children's Church' activities, returning for communion. They are then given the opportunity to share some of the learning they have done towards the end of the service. In the last 18 months the number of children attending has doubled and we are thankful to have an amazing team of helpers.

Our Youth Group: for school-aged young people in Year 6 and above, had a successful year. They meet once a month on Saturday mornings and enjoy discussion and fun activities.

Children and families in our local community: We are particularly keen to build stronger links with local families. Our St Mary's Parent & Toddler group is very popular.

Local primary schools: Our 'Open the book' team only managed one Assembly at Bishop Creighton Academy during 2023, but plan to rebuild the team and increase their visits in 2024.

A donation was made to Newark Hill school towards some toys and equipment for a new project, a safe space for nurturing troubled children. A Donation was also made to Dogsthorpe Infants School to help them provide a free breakfast to children in December 2022, January and February 2023. Although the school is outside our parish, we have a link through members of the congregation.

Pastoral Care to our local community & our church

Pastoral care and service to our community are very important to St Mary's, both within our church and within our parish and local community. Our Pastoral Team is co-ordinated by Sue Moore, one of our Lay Pastoral Ministers.

The Team coordinates visiting and takes House Communion to church members who are unable to attend services due to illness and mobility reasons. They also regularly take Holy Communion to residential homes in our parish (Broadleigh, Lavender House, and The Star). Over the years we have built strong links between St Mary's and the staff and residents.

The Team deliver free copies of our church magazine, 'News Around St Mary's', to schools, medical centres, sheltered housing schemes, residential homes, dentists and hairdressers in our local community.

Other roles include organising the 'Prayer Link' for urgent prayer requests, keeping our church Prayer Board updated and updating our 'Prayer Shepherd' card for every church member, thus ensuring every person in our church is regularly prayed for.

The team supports people via personal visits, phone, email and prayer. It is involved in baptism preparation, visiting and support, including regularly sending out baptism anniversary cards.

The team supports those who are bereaved through an annual Remembering Service and provides support, as and when needed.

We continue to broadcast our services online, and regular contact and encouragement is made via YouTube, Facebook messaging and email to our many viewers locally, throughout the UK and the world.

Church members continue to support Peterborough Food Bank with regular provision and collection of food items in church.

Our weekly 'Chill and Chat' continues to welcome old and new friends. Residents from a local care home attend our midweek Communion service.

Positive visits, connections and follow-ups continue to be made through our successful community outreach initiative, 'Street Prayer'.



God hears the cry of the poor - with permission Pat Marrin, ncronline.org

Social events for church and community

At St Mary's we like to have fun and socialise. Our events are open to all and give everyone a chance to chat, meet new people and spread the camaraderie that oozes out of our church. Of course, along the way we try to raise as much money as possible for charities whilst keeping ticket prices affordable for all. Each event raises money for a different charity. The following list shows the beneficiaries from 2023.

Month	Event	Charity
February	Pancake Party	Soup Kitchen
March	Beetle Drive with Fish and Chip Supper	Tommy's
April	Peterborough Concert Band Concert	Royal British Legion
May	Coronation Lunch	Christian Aid
June	BBQ and Treasure Hunt	National Deaf Children's

July/August/September - Summer Fundraiser
Monies shared this year between St Mary's and Food for Nought

Summer Fundraiser events:

Mens breakfast, Afternoon Tea, Patronal Lunch, Garden Party, Craft Afternoon, Murder Mystery Party, plus jam sales, marmalade sales, sponsored walks, lunches, bell ringing, plant sales, puddings sales, table top sales etc.

Month	Event	Charity
October	Harvest lunch	St Mary's
	Ceilidh	Deaf Blind UK
November	Quiz and Ploughman's supper	Little Miracles
December	Christmas Singalong	St Mary's
	Christmas Table top sales	St Mary's
	Afternoon Tea	Samaritans

These events raised £7,739 for nine charities plus St Mary's.

Our Church Centre

St Mary's is fortunate in having a well-designed modern building incorporating church, chapel, two halls, meeting rooms, kitchens and toilets, all offering good access for the disabled, including ramp entrance, wide doors and a lift. Until it was closed by the pandemic, this Church Centre was well-used, both for events run by St Mary's Church and by various groups who hire rooms on a regular or occasional basis. It is now once again coming back into life.

Extended Hands (a small local charity supporting women at risk of feeling lonely, isolated or marginalised) rent one of our rooms as their office base and regularly used rooms in our Centre for their sewing and craft sessions, IT skills classes, fitness sessions and coffee mornings.

Inclusive Church Peterborough, led by our Lay Pioneer Ministers, meets each Sunday evening in our Centre. We also hosted a week long interdenominational Icon painting course in October.

Our policy has been to offer free or reduced rate meeting space in our Centre to several local charities, including Samaritans, Peterborough Christian Aid Committee, and the Peterborough Inter-Faith Council. We are very grateful for our Church Administrator, Denise Thomas, for continuing to manage our Centre bookings so efficiently.

Maintaining our church building

Like all buildings, St Mary's needs regular maintenance and repair to prevent deterioration. This responsibility falls upon the Churchwardens, who report to Standing Committee, who in turn advise the PCC on maintenance issues and work needed, so the PCC can assent to work being undertaken subject to the availability of funds. Less significant work is covered by a team of church volunteers with more involved tasks or projects being covered by skilled trades, some of whom are locally based, like Nick Elks for electrical work, who has an association to St Mary's Church. We are grateful to Nick and others, like Gareth Williams, Gavin Mills and Charlie Lee for their continued assistance who with their respective professional skills, provide essential services to our church.

The incumbent Churchwardens, Andrew Christie and Michael Holborn have maintained the fabric of the building with minor repairs carried out as necessary and identifying tasks needing attention. The more substantial activities are detailed as follows:

- Gutters cleaned and repaired.
- Lightning conductors tested and a new receiver point attached to the top of the tower.
- In late November 2023 the bay window in the Fellowship Hall was impacted by a car, resulting in structural damage. The work should be completed in Spring 2024.
- Courtyard steps edged with white paint, replacing the peeling anti-slip strip.
- North-side border has had a membrane and bark topping put in to make gardening much easier.
- Replaced much of the lighting with LED's to adhere with our Eco-friendly policies.
- Completed an extensive window cleaning activity in Spring 2023, included all internal glass and stained glass for the first time since the opening of the St Mary's in 1991.
- Initiated the WAHR (the Work at Height Regulations) 2005 inspections and record keeping.

We are very grateful to Denise and Ray Howard for the professional expertise they bring to their work cleaning our building during 2023. We are also grateful to David Divers, for everything he did over the year as our voluntary Estate Manager, despite his ill health.

Keeping us safe

Health and Safety:

We take our Health and Safety responsibilities seriously so we can provide a safe environment for everyone to enjoy the facilities that St Mary's Church has to offer. A Health and Safety Inspection of the building is conducted annually by an independent inspector, with our church wardens doing a monthly check to look out for anything that needs fixing or removing.

Annual and periodical safety inspections and services are carried out by registered contractors who comply with professional and regulatory standards, thereby ensuring all our safety certificates are up-to-date. Including:-

- The lift is regularly serviced by Morris Vermaport, including the statutory LOLER (safety) tests.
- The fire safety equipment is maintained and checked by Churches Fire who test the fire alarm, fire extinguishers and emergency lighting. A Fire Safety Floor Plan is on display.
- The gas-fired boiler and heating system is inspected and certified annually by Blounts.
- The portable electrical appliances are PAT tested annually.
- The lightning conductor was tested by PTSG Electrical Services Ltd in 2023.
- Organ and Piano tuners attend twice a year.
- Our large "Red Bin" contract is with Biffa who empty the bin on a 4-week cycle.
- Our windows were cleaned by Beebys Limited every 6 months.
- Cathedral Hygiene attend to the sanitary bins in the toilets.

Safeguarding:

At St Mary's we take safeguarding very seriously. Our parish safeguarding officer is Mrs Jayne Ellis who has attended St Mary's for many years. During 2023 she kept the PCC fully informed on updates to policy and practice as advised by Peterborough Diocese.

Copies of our safeguarding policy are prominently displayed on lobby noticeboards and on the church website with links to the Diocesan Safeguarding website.

Safeguarding concerns are followed up promptly and in accordance with Diocesan guidelines.

St Mary's Church is registered with the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) through which renewals and new clearances for the Statutory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) are made.

The Vicar, licensed ministers, PCC members and staff working with children and vulnerable adults have been DBS registered and are completing the appropriate level of safeguarding training as set out by the Diocese. Everyone is aware that they cannot continue in their role without this training.

Data Protection:

The way in which St Mary's collects, stores and processes data on our church members was reviewed in 2018 in order to ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). PCC agreed a new Data Privacy notice, which is on display on our noticeboard together with our Health & Safety and Safeguarding policy statements.

All members of the church have completed a Consents Form to give, or withhold, permission on how their personal information can be used by St Mary's Church.

Our links with the wider church

Our links with the wider church are strong.

Our Vicar, Canon Michael is Rural Dean of [Peterborough Deanery](#), and we have four lay representatives on [Peterborough Deanery Synod](#).

One member of St Mary's currently represents Peterborough Deanery on [Peterborough Diocesan Synod](#).

One of our church members was elected in October 2021 to [General Synod](#) as one of the three lay representatives for Peterborough Diocese.

St Mary's is part of the [Inclusive Church](#) network and Inclusive Church Peterborough meets in our building each week, led by our Lay Pioneer Ministers. They met throughout 2023.

St Mary's is also an active member of [Churches Together in Central Peterborough \(CTiCP\)](#), an ecumenical group of seven city centre churches of various different denominations. Its main aims are to pray and worship together, putting on the Good Friday Walk of Witness and monthly prayer and breakfast meetings and an Advent Reflection Day.

St Mary's PCC is delighted with what we managed to achieve in 2023 in another challenging year. Very little of this would have been possible without ...

...our Volunteers

Almost all the work at St Mary's is done by volunteers. Canon Michael, the Churchwardens and PCC would like to thank them all for giving their time and talents free to enable St Mary's Church—whether the 'physical' church in the building, or our online presence, to function, week in and week out.

Thank you!

Report from our Treasurer, Richard Smith

The year ended on a positive financial note for St Mary's. Regular giving from members rose during 2023 and an autumn appeal raised just over £13,000 in donations. This meant that we ended the year with a small surplus of £3,392 (although this year-end figure is flattered by the fact that the final monthly Parish Share payment did not clear until January 2024).

Our second main income source – hiring out our halls and meeting rooms – continued to increase with a healthy 40% increase on last year's figure. Although not back to pre-Covid levels, this is a positive development.

Income via contactless, text and online giving continued to grow, bringing in over £5,000 during the year. A regular programme of fundraising activities helped to increase the amount raised for the church and local charities. Sadly the Traidcraft stall was wound up this year but still managed to raise £1,000.

Running costs during the year fell slightly. The main expenditure incurred was to replace a faulty boiler pump and repairs to the guttering.

Reserves

Our policy, which has been formally agreed by the PCC, is to keep sufficient money in our reserves to cover three months' running costs, plus £20,000.

External Charitable Giving

St Mary's PCC aim to give 10% of our income to charity each year, in obedience to the tithing principle. Part of this giving is in reduced or no-cost rent to local charities who use our rooms, and this giving does not show in these formal accounts. During 2023 we gave £7,739 in direct donations to national and local charities, including:

- British Legion
- Christian Aid
- Community Heartbeat Trust
- Deafblind UK
- Food for Nought
- Little Miracles
- National Deaf Children's Society
- Peterborough Foodbank
- Peterborough Soup Kitchen
- Tommys

We raised a total of £5,904 for Christian Aid and the Children's Society during the year: £2,720 during Christian Aid Week and £2,425 from Christian Aid/DEC Appeals. We also raised £759 for the Children's Society.

Our Summer Fundraising Campaign this year was for Food for Nought and raised a total of £2,800.

Statement of Accounts for the calendar year 2023

St Mary's PCC: General Fund Receipts and Payments Account

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
<u>Incoming resources from donors</u>				
Collections - Stewardship	75,561		70,302	
- Loose cash	3,333		4,731	
Gift Aid reclaim	-		2,622	
Online Giving	<u>5,389</u>		<u>4,350</u>	
		84,284		82,004
<u>Other voluntary incoming resources</u>				
Donations and bequests	14,502		7,409	
Fundraising	9,546		6,795	
Grants and similar income	-		419	
Miscellaneous income	<u>243</u>		<u>755</u>	
		24,291		15,378
<u>Income from investments</u>				
Bank interest	191		28	
Investment interest - CBF deposit fund	501		203	
		692		231
<u>Income from charitable and ancillary trading</u>				
Wedding and funeral fees	560		1,929	
Centre income	13,986		9,850	
Traidcraft income	<u>1,000</u>		<u>450</u>	
		15,546		12,229
<u>Transfers</u>				
Hebden trust	-			4,637
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
		0		0
Total Receipts		124,813		114,480
Total Payments (see page 16 for detail)		<u>(121,420)</u>		<u>(128,355)</u>
Excess/(deficit) of receipts over payments		3,392		(13,875)
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January 2023		<u>70,666</u>		<u>84,541</u>
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December 2023		<u>£74,058</u>		<u>£70,666</u>

General Fund Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2023

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
	£	£	£	£
PAYMENTS				
<u>Activities relating directly to the work of the Church</u>				
Vicar's expenses		233		94
Locum		1,766		351
Readers Expenses		-		619
Salaries paid by Diocese		11,832		10,886
Upkeep of services		1,370		1,108
Organists		4,133		3,345
Water		189		541
Light and heat		6,212		5,394
Repairs and maintenance		16,951		18,017
Insurance		1,888		1,716
Telephones		684		751
Parish share		61,869		67,269
Magazine		-		1,042
Donations (Overseas and sundry):				
Tithe	8,206		7,460	
Other giving	-	8,206	-	7,460
Sunday Club/Youth expenses		585		184
Stewardship envelopes		-		-
Office administration		101		589
Cleaning and sundry materials		225		324
Diocesan fees		-		654
Piano and organ expenses		-		264
Music licence		-		551
Auditor (CROPS)		200		200
Car expenses - Vicar		-		444
Training		1,116		220
Flowers		-		36
Miscellaneous expenditure		3,861		6,296
Total payments (to page 15)		<u>£121,420</u>		<u>£128,355</u>

St Mary's PCC: Receipts and Payments Accounts

Receipts and payments accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

HEBDEN TRUST FUND - RESTRICTED	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Restricted to spending on education	£	£
Receipts		
Interest	-	-
Sale of investments	-	-
Payments		
Transfer to current		(4,637)
Bank deposit accounts at 1 January 2023	<u>0</u>	<u>4,637</u>
Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2023	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>

ST. MARY'S EASTGATE MISSION - ENDOWMENT

Receipts		
Interest	64	27
Payments		
Transfer to current		
Bank deposit accounts at 1 January 2023	<u>2,018</u>	<u>1,991</u>
Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2023	<u>£2,082</u>	<u>£2,018</u>

St Mary's PCC: Receipts and Payments Accounts

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2023

	General Fund:		Restricted Funds :		
	<u>General</u>	Hebden <u>Trust</u>	St. Mary's Eastgate Mission <u>Fund</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
				£	£
Monetary assets					
Cash in hand	100			100	100
Bank - current	23,049	0		23,049	25,067
- reserve	34,790			34,790	29,880
CBF deposit fund	16,119			16,119	15,619
Peterborough Diocesan Board of Finance			2,082	2,082	2,018
Total cash & Assets	74,058	0	2,082	76,140	72,684

St Mary's Parochial Church Council Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

Funds

General Funds represent funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC.

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

- Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
- Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty.
- Amounts owing from the Inland Revenue where a formal claim has been made.

Closing bank balances as shown in the receipts and payments accounts.

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 14 to 18, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('2011 Act').

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 144(2) of the 2011 Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to :-.

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act ;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act and to be found in the Church guidance issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

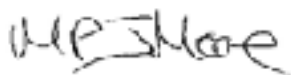
- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 131 of the 2011 Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act and the Regulations have not been met ; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



N J Burroughs FCA
45 Farleigh Fields, Orton Wistow
Peterborough

29 February 2024

This Annual Report was approved by St Mary's PCC on 7th May 2024, and signed on their behalf by:



Revd Canon Michael Moore

Vicar

Chair of Trustees of the ecclesiastical parish of Peterborough St Mary



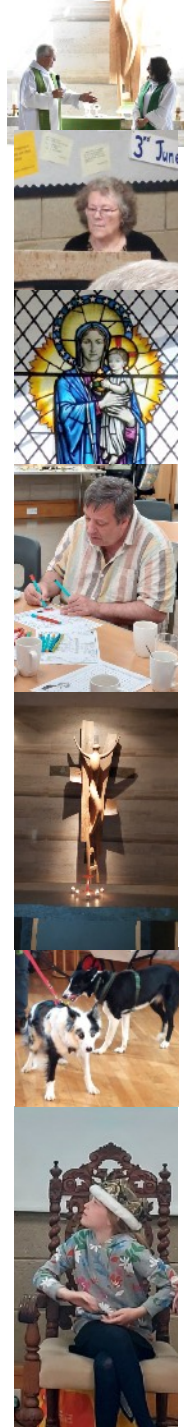
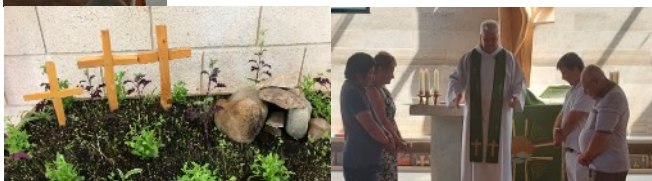
St Mary's Church and Centre
New Road
Peterborough
PE1 1TT
www.peterborough-stmarys.org.uk
Registered Charity no. 1180032

Accounts



St Mary's Church Peterborough

ANNUAL REPORT & STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2022



*St Mary's Church is part of the Diocese of Peterborough within the Church of England.
The correspondence address is St Mary's Church, New Road, Peterborough PE1 1TT.
The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Peterborough St Mary is a body corporate
(PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and registered with the Charity
Commission in September 2018. Its Registered Charity Number is 1180032.*

PCC members who served at any time during 2022 are:

Ex-officio members:

- Incumbent: The Reverend Canon Michael Moore (Chair of PCC as Trustees of St Mary's)
- Curate: The Reverend Keri Morrow (until August 2022)
- Associate Priest: The Reverend Carol Rowles
- Churchwardens: Mrs Mary Manna, Mr Chi-Man Man (Until June 2022)
- Churchwardens: Mr Andrew Christie, Mr Michael Holborn (from July)
- Readers: Mrs Elizabeth Pedley, Mr Robert Robinson
- Lay Pastoral Ministers: Mrs Jayne Ellis, Mrs Susan Moore
- Parish Evangelist: Mr Andrew Christie, elected representative on Deanery Synod

Elected members:

- Mr Norman Billyard (until May)
- Mrs Vicky Brett, PCC Secretary, elected General Synod member
- Mrs Helen Brown
- Mr David Christie
- Mrs Gillian Christie
- Mr David Dawson, representative on Deanery Synod
- Mrs Hilary Dawson, representative on Diocesan and Deanery Synods
- Mr Jonathan Goodes
- Mr Victor Jones
- Mr George Kirk, representative on Deanery Synod
- Mrs Mairwen Peasnell (Lay Chair for PCC meetings)
- Mr Stuart Pedley (Lay Worship Leader) (until May)
- Mr Paul Riddler (until March)
- Mr Richard Smith, Treasurer
- Mrs Angela Turner
- Mrs Elena Turner
- Mrs Elena Turner

Authorised Lay Pioneers: Mr Keith Brett, Mrs Vicky Brett

Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs Janette Jones-Pipe

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Jayne Ellis

Health & Safety Officer: Mr Mark Stevens

Independent Examiner: Mr N J Burroughs FCA,
45 Farleigh Fields, Orton Wistow, Peterborough

Banking details: St Mary's Peterborough PCC General Account is at Barclays Bank,
1 Church Street, Peterborough PE1 1XB
St Mary's Peterborough Restricted Accounts are held by the
Peterborough Diocesan Board of Finance (Registered Charity no.
250569)

GROWTH

Covid has changed many things, some for the better. At the start of the year, services were just coming back into the church and we have seen a steady growth in numbers as the year has gone on. Sadly, some people have drifted away. However, many new people have joined us and in 2023 we will put on an Alpha Course to help them and others learn more about the Christian faith.

We still have a big online presence, and will be continuing with this and building on it.

PRAYER

As well as focusing on God's Word at St Mary's, we continue to be an actively praying church. I am grateful to those who lead our 'Thursday Prayers online'; these are now sent via email and we gather together at home, but are praying as one.

Our 'Prayer Link' continues to be a great support to those in need of urgent prayer throughout the local community and across the country and the world. I am glad to say that our monthly Prayer Evenings in church on a Tuesday have returned and, each Tuesday, we usually have a collective prayer time of eight hours.

EXPANDING THE TEAM

This year, many people have asked if they can help the church and more people are involved than ever before, taking on new roles and helping in new ways. The Social Team has planned and is putting on new events. You may be able to help. We have over sixty people reading on a Sunday and leading the prayers – young people, older people and in between. Stuart Pedley is training to be a Licenced Reader and someone is exploring Licenced Pastoral Ministry.

REACHING OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY

St Mary's continues to be an outward-looking church. We raised a huge amount for our Summer Fundraiser in 2022 (£5,200). £2,600 of this went to the local charity 'Mary's Child' and the other half to St Mary's to put towards the rebuilding of the front steps. This amazing amount is a testament to the huge generosity of our church members and their families and friends. With our other giving, it totalled over £12,000.

We restarted our house-to-house collections during Christian Aid Week raising £1,285 of an overall total of £4,175 (including gift aid). With the addition of almost £3,000 from the Red Bucket appeals we raised over £6,600 for Christian Aid this year. We also kept collecting for the Peterborough Food Bank each week. Street Prayer within our parish has also restarted and good conversations and follow-up visits are being made

The streaming of our church services also helped people to feel connected, and many who did not come to church before now regularly tune in. When meeting new people, it is helpful to point them to our online services, so they can see what we are like as a church before they try it. The services are proving to be a lifeline for those who cannot get to church because of illness, as they still feel part of the worshipping community.

FINANCES

We knew finances were going to be tough for us at St Mary's this year with lettings still down on pre-pandemic levels. We made a large loss this year and it has been balanced out by the surplus the year before. God is good. However, we need to look at what we give this year and how we can all help to balance the books. Together we can sort this.

We have reached out into the community with God's love through our online services and, through those, we have ourselves been blessed as a church. We have reached out to the community with our church magazine, still being delivered, albeit in smaller numbers, telling people what is happening in the church. Spare copies were also delivered to the new estates in our parish.

There is a great need in our community, not just financially but also spiritually and I know that, as a church, we are helping in those areas. Together at St Mary's, we are making a difference in people's lives in this city. I pray that this will continue and that, as a church, we all will make a difference.

Our Parish of, Peterborough St Mary's

The church of Peterborough St Mary was constituted on 27th August 1857 (as St Mary Boongate) to serve those living on the eastern side of Peterborough, principally the poor of the Boongate slums. Much of the parish was rural then, but the 20th century brought considerable residential, industrial and commercial development, particularly between 1970 and 1990 when Peterborough Development Corporation transformed the area. As part of that change, the mid-Victorian church building was demolished, and replaced with a modern building incorporating a church and chapel, with halls, meeting rooms, kitchens and toilets on two floors.

Our parish broadly equates to the civil Peterborough East Ward together with small parts of the neighbouring Central, Park and Dogsthorpe Wards. Covering an area of 3.6 square miles it forms a wedge, stretching out almost three miles north-eastwards from the city centre, from the Eastgate estates (which replaced the old Boongate slums in the 1970s), through the post-war suburb of Eastfield to the newer township of Parnwell. It also includes the extensive Eastern Industrial estates and part of the city's retail and commercial centre. The church building is situated in the south-western corner of the parish, close to the city centre.

The population is around 15,900, roughly half of whom are white British. It is relatively young - 21% of those living in the parish in 2019 were under 15 years of age, slightly above the figure of 18% for England as a whole (*Church of England Research & Statistics Unit Parish data Jan. 2022*). It is one of the 10% most deprived parishes in the country (*based on the indicators of poverty used by the Church of England Research & Statistics Unit and the Church Urban Fund*), for each of child, working-age and pensioner poverty.

The number of people living in the parish is expected to grow, and several housing developments are either planned or underway, including the large Northminster scheme on the former site of the City Market, close to the church.

Within our parish we have five primary schools (*Bishop Creighton Academy; Lime Academy Abbotsmede; Lime Academy Parnwell; Newark Hill Academy; St Thomas More RC Primary*), two Secondary Schools (*City of Peterborough Academy, St John Fisher RC High School*) and two Special Schools (*Medeshamstede Academy, NeneGate School*) and a Further Education College (*City College*). The new Peterborough campus of Anglia Ruskin University, which welcomed its first students in September 2022, is also in our parish.

The Primary Purpose of St Mary's Church

Our principal objective at St Mary's is to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. Like all churches, St Mary's attempts to look three ways at once in its mission, because at all times we strive to be open to and engage with our Living God, with our community neighbours and with our own 'church family'. These three fundamental functions underpin our mission as a church.

St Mary's Parochial Church Council is committed to growing our church – not just numerically, but to grow nearer to God through worship, to grow in faith and spiritual understanding, to grow out into our local community and to grow in fellowship with each other. To facilitate this growth we consider it important to maintain the fabric and contents of our church and centre building, and also to ensure that we have sufficient resources, human, technological and monetary.

As a church, our first priority at St Mary's is worship and prayer, and we are committed to holding regular public worship that is open to all, and to provide a sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation. We teach the Christian faith through sermons, courses and small groups, and offer a pastoral ministry to the sick and bereaved. We want to promote the whole mission of the church through the provision of activities of benefit to people in our local community, and want in particular to work with the schools within our parish.

St Mary's PCC is focused on the advancement of religion for the public benefit. When compiling our action plans for each year, we consider the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, particularly the specific guidance given to charities concerned with the advancement of religion. We also consider the wider needs of the local community which we serve.

Structure, governance and management

St Mary's Peterborough PCC is a body corporate operating under the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956* and the *Church Representation Rules*. In essence its role is to work with Canon Michael, as our Vicar, in all church activities, including the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social & ecumenical; participating in local Deanery and Diocesan events; looking after our building and contents; managing our finances and ensuring that things successfully happen.

St Mary's PCC is specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church Centre complex, which is spread over two floors and comprises the church, the chapel, two halls, two kitchens, three small meeting rooms, three vestries and an office. This modern, purpose-built building was opened in 1991, replacing the original Victorian church which was in a very poor state of repair and had no community facilities.

Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has a number of committees and teams and authorises individuals to be responsible for particular areas of church activity, such as safeguarding, health and safety, stewardship, pastoral visiting and Churches Together liaison. It also employs two people: a part-time administrative assistant and a part-time cleaner/caretaker.

The day-to-day management of St Mary's Church is exercised by the Standing Committee: Revd. Canon Michael Moore (*Vicar*), Mary Manna and Chi-Man Man (*previous Churchwardens*), Andrew Christie, Michael Holborn (*Churchwardens*), Vicky Brett (*PCC Secretary*), Richard Smith (*Treasurer*) and Elizabeth Pedley. This is the only committee required by law, and it has the power to transact business between PCC meetings and consider issues which may affect the church.

PCC members are appointed in accordance with the Church of England Representation Rules and are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), normally held each May. By decision of a previous APCM, elected members serve for one year only (except for those elected to Synod, who generally serve for three years). Everyone who regularly attends St Mary's is encouraged to join our Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC. All members of the PCC are required to be DBS checked and to complete safeguarding training at a level appropriate to their role. They may also receive other external training as and when deemed appropriate.

Our APCM was held in May 2022. This meeting elected two new churchwardens and nine lay PCC members for one year. St Mary's PCC met seven times during 2022. The average level of attendance during 2022 was 77.4%.

Meetings are chaired by an elected Lay Chair at the request of the Vicar, who otherwise retains chairmanship of the PCC as Trustees of St Mary's.



Our Plans for the future - the next five years

During 2019 St Mary's PCC set a new five year growth agenda for the years 2020 — 2025, which we felt would help strengthen our commitment to the core functions forming the basis of our on-going purpose, namely:

- to worship God,
- to help each other grow in faith and fellowship, and
- to spread the love of Jesus Christ and the Gospel message throughout our local community.

Our 5 Year Plan (2020 to 2025) identifies specific ways in which we hope to grow, and things we wish to achieve:

To grow nearer to God through worship:

By offering worship opportunities in a range of different styles and on different days of the week

By encouraging those who come to attend more regularly

To grow in faith and spiritual understanding:

By encouraging more of the congregation to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith through attendance at the activities we offer (e.g. Bible Study, House Groups, Lent Course)

By ensuring that our children and young people have firm foundations on which to grow their Christian faith

To grow in fellowship with one another:

By ensuring that everyone who walks through our doors is greeted with the same high standards of warmth and hospitality, and made to feel a valued member of our community

By offering a range of social and fund-raising activities appropriate to the age and interests of both our diverse congregation and our wider church community

By living out the principles of Inclusive Church

By developing a close partnership with our local Christian churches

By actively supporting specific charities through fundraising events

To grow out into our local community through mission and outreach:

By making contact with residents throughout the parish

By making contact with local offices and businesses, including those on the Eastern Industrial Estates

By strengthening our links with local schools

By offering activities for local children and young people

To grow in numbers:

By working to increase the numbers of those who attend our Sunday and weekday services on a regular basis

And in order to achieve these aims, we want to ensure that we:

Have sufficient numbers of people from various age-groups with the necessary skills and training to get things done

Have appropriate, well-maintained facilities, with improvements made where necessary

Have enough money, whilst giving a tenth of our income away to charity each year

Limit the damage we may be causing to our planet

What PCC wanted to achieve in 2022

Our 5-year implementation plans were adversely affected by the covid pandemic, disrupting the original timetable and altering our views on what to regard as a priority.

However, it has not altered our purpose as a Church or changed our intention to achieve these aims.

Our key priority for 2022 was therefore to:

- Continue the post-pandemic recovery, opening up more activities as safety and volunteer numbers allowed.

and this is what we managed to do in 2022. We:

Continued to make public worship a priority:

Encouraged those we haven't seen since the pandemic started, to come back to church.

Took steps to grow in faith and spiritual understanding:

Explored ways to offer online fellowship groups, including a remote prayer group.

Ran an Advent course 'My Beloved Son'.

Took steps to grow in fellowship with one another:

Improved the accuracy, consistency and accessibility of our communications, so that all are aware of forthcoming activities and feel invited.

Restarted 'Men's Breakfasts' and 'Meals Out'.

Raised awareness of Inclusivity by offering a 'Living in Love and Faith' course during Lent.

Encouraged more events with other local churches.

Took steps to grow out into our local community through mission and outreach:

Distributed copies of 'News Around St Mary's' to new houses in the parish.

Investigated forging links with the ARU Peterborough university, which opened in September.

Strengthened our links with local schools by funding a Breakfast Club and Nurturing Space.

Investigated establishing free family-friendly film sessions.

Supported Mary's Child, a local charity through our Summer Fundraiser.

Restarted our social events.

Hosted 5 different U3A Church History Groups

Took steps to ensure that we had appropriate resources and facilities to achieve our plans:

Installed a new permanent projector in the Lower Hall.

Repaired the front steps.

We also want to limit the damage we might cause to our planet:

Investigated installing solar panels on our roof (deferred following Diocesan advice).

Started a program to replace halogen and fluorescent lights with LED equivalents.

Improved our recycling practices.

Applied for an Eco Church Award.

Our Priorities for 2023

During 2023 St Mary's PCC plans to focus on the following steps towards achieving the goals we set ourselves in our Five Year Plan [page 6].

During 2023 we hope to achieve the following, assuming it is safe to do so:

To grow nearer to God through worship:

By encouraging those we haven't seen since the pandemic started, to come back to church

To grow in faith and spiritual understanding:

By offering an Alpha Course, meeting weekly from January to March

To grow in fellowship with one another:

Rebuild our Welcoming Team, and involve children & young people where ever possible

Launch free family friendly film sessions for the local community when it is safe to do so

Support and promote activities offered by the Diocese and Churches Together in Central Peterborough, e.g. Bishop's Bible Day in March and Advent Reflection Day in November

Host a Christian Aid event for local churches to promote environmental awareness and climate justice

To grow out into our local community through mission and outreach:

Re-launch regular Street Prayer visits in residential areas of our parish

Research interest in offering a monthly Prayer in the Chapel for local office workers, and implement if required

Consider possible ways of rebuilding our Open the Book contact with local primary schools

Offer a Family Fun Day in the summer for local families

Offer 'Come & Sing' sessions for elderly people and their carers when it is safe to do so

And in order to achieve these aims, we want to improve our facilities :

Grow our volunteer base in areas where we are short

Repaint the edges of the front steps to improve their visibility

Reconsider the feasibility of installing handrails up the Sanctuary steps

Continue efforts to increase the amount of money our members give to the church, and hold Stewardship Campaign if deemed necessary

Work to increase our Eco Award level from Silver to Gold across all areas

Continue our program to replace all light fittings with LED lights

Research the possibility of installing solar panels on our south-facing roof

*Lord Jesus, Living God,
May we always remember that You are the head of this church,
Inspire us with Your Spirit to do Your work,
May ours be the eyes through which You look out in compassion on the world,
May ours be the feet with which You go about doing good,
May ours be the hands with which You bless Your people.
Lord Jesus, show us how best we can be Your hands, feet and eyes
as we seek to do Your will.
Amen*

Based on a prayer used by St Teresa of Avila

Achievements & Performance

Numbers on the Electoral Roll

At the start of 2022 there were 123 names on our Electoral Roll, 62% of whom were women and 38% men. 52 (40%) lived within the parish, and 78 (60%) outside.

By May 2022, and following the revision of the Electoral Roll prior to the Annual Church Meeting in accordance with Church Regulations, numbers had increased to 128, 61% women and 39% men. 41% lived in the parish and 59% outside.

Numbers have increased slightly since, bringing our Roll to 128 by December 2022.

Worship

All are welcome to attend [our regular services](#). We recognise that not everyone finds it helpful to worship God in the same way, and we encourage everyone to explore new ways of worship as they try to come closer to God. Our main Sunday morning service is Family Communion, but our regular pattern of services covers a wide range to suit different tastes and offer different worship experiences. Our popular monthly café style 'Friday Night Worship' appeals to those who enjoy informal worship with a live band, whilst those who value time for silent prayer and reflection are also catered for. Our Compline and Evensong Sunday evening services restarted. Our Lay Pioneer Ministers lead 'Inclusive Church Peterborough' at St Mary's on Sunday evenings.

When our church building was closed by the pandemic in March 2020 we were immediately able to move our [services online via YouTube](#), thanks to the technical expertise of church members. This online service has been offered each week since then, even when the church was re-opened, and viewing figures have been encouraging. Our most popular services this year were Midnight Mass on 24th December with 216 views, The Fifth Sunday after Trinity (17th July) when the new Churchwardens were celebrated with 200 views and the Pride Service on the 21st of August with 163 views. We know from feedback that people living miles away from St Mary's, including some from different continents, watch our services regularly, we had over 6,000 views in 2022. Some have an existing contact with St Mary's, and others seem to have found us by chance and stayed.

As well as our regular services, we enable people in our community to commemorate and thank God for, life's milestones of [birth, marriage and death](#). We held three weddings and 26 baptisms in church. Sadly there were more funerals — a total of 11, with eight in church and three at the crematorium.

Children, young people and families in our church and local community

[Children's work in church](#) is very important. the first Sunday of the month the children stay in for our All Age Communion service, and are encouraged to take an active part. For other services the children leave during the first hymn for their own 'Children's Church' activities, returning for communion. They are then given the opportunity to share some of the learning they have done towards the end of the service.

[Our Youth Group](#): for school-aged young people in Year 6 and above, had a successful year. They meet once a month on Saturday mornings and enjoy discussion and fun activities.

[Children and families in our local community](#): We are particularly keen to build stronger links with local families. Our popular St Mary's Parent & Toddler group was restarted in November 2021 after a twenty-month suspension, and has re-established itself with a new cohort of children.

Local primary schools: Our 'Open the book' team only managed one Assembly at Bishop Creighton Academy during 2022, but plan to rebuild the team and increase their visits in 2023.

A donation was made to Newark Hill school towards some toys and equipment for a new project, a safe space for nurturing troubled children. A Donation was also made to Dogsthorpe Infants School to help them provide a free breakfast to children in December 2022, January and February 2023. Although the school is outside our parish, we have a link through members of the congregation.

Pastoral Care to our local community & our church

Pastoral care and service to our community is very important to St Mary's. Our Pastoral Team of eleven is co-ordinated by Sue Moore, one of our Lay Pastoral Ministers.

The Team coordinates visiting and takes House Communion to church members who are unable to attend services. They also take Holy Communion to several residential homes in our parish on a regular basis (Broadleigh, Friary Court, Lavender House, and Philia Lodge). These visits have restarted following the pandemic. Over the years we have built strong links between St Mary's and the staff and residents.

The Team also deliver free copies of our church magazine, 'News Around St Mary's', to the schools, medical centres, hotels, sheltered housing schemes, residential homes, dentists and hairdressers in our local community.

In addition, they organise the 'Prayer Link' for urgent prayer requests, keep our church Prayer Board updated and produce an updated 'Prayer Shepherd' cards for every church member, ensuring every person in our church is regularly prayed for.

The Pastoral Team normally meets three times a year but, with worries about Covid and the prevalence of various bugs, it did not resume meeting in person this year. However, people were supported via phone, email, personal visits and prayer.

As we continue to broadcast our services online, regular contact and encouragement is made via YouTube and Facebook messaging and via email to our many viewers locally, throughout the UK and the world. Our Prayer Link, for urgent prayer requests, has again been extremely busy.

Church members continue to support Peterborough Food Bank with the regular collection of food items in church or help at local distribution centres.

Our popular weekly 'Chat and Chill' coffee mornings in church continue to welcome old and new friends. Residents from a local care home visit Chill and Chat and also attend our midweek Communion service.

Our successful initiative for community outreach, 'Street Prayer', has restarted, and we have made some positive visits, connections and follow-ups.

Social events for church and community

Our policy at St Mary's is to open our social events to anyone in our local community who wanted to attend. This year we put on a wide variety of social events, raising money for a different charity. Events included:

- A Pancake Night for the Foodbank;
- '1908 & All That' recreated an historic social;
- A concert by Lucy Brown for Alzheimer's;
- Platinum Jubilee lunch for Christian Aid;
- A Men's breakfast for Prostate Cancer;
- Summer Fundraiser for Mary's Child;
- Hunt our History talk and tea with U3A;
- A Harvest Lunch for Hope into Action;
- A Ceilidh for Sight Savers;
- Art with Vicky for The Green Backyard;
- Angel Drive for New Ark Play.
- Lucy's Christmas Sing-a-long for Alzheimer's
- Christmas Afternoon Tea for Period Poverty.

Our Church Centre

St Mary's is fortunate in having a well-designed modern building incorporating church, chapel, two halls, meeting rooms, kitchens and toilets, all offering good access for the disabled, including ramp entrance, wide doors and a lift. Until it was closed by the pandemic, this Church Centre was well-used, both for events run by St Mary's Church and by various groups who hire rooms on a regular or occasional basis. By mid 2021 it was once again coming back into life.

Extended Hands (a small local charity supporting women at risk of feeling lonely, isolated or marginalised) rent one of our rooms as their office base and regularly used rooms in our Centre for their sewing and craft sessions, IT skills classes, fitness sessions and coffee mornings.

Inclusive Church Peterborough, led by our Lay Pioneer Ministers, meets each Sunday evening in our Centre.

Our policy has been to offer free or reduced rate meeting space in our Centre to several local charities, including Samaritans, Peterborough Christian Aid Committee, and the Peterborough Inter-Faith Council. Prior to the pandemic the Peterborough Street Pastors used it as their base.

Our Church Administrator, Denise Thomas, worked remotely from home during the pandemic and we are very grateful to her for continuing to manage our Centre bookings so efficiently.

Maintaining our church building

Like all buildings, St Mary's needs regular maintenance and repair to prevent deterioration. This responsibility falls upon the Churchwardens, who report to Standing Committee, who in turn advise the PCC on maintenance issues and work needed, so the PCC can assent to work being undertaken subject to the availability of funds. Less significant work is covered by a team of church volunteers with more involved tasks or projects being covered by skilled trades, some of whom are locally based, like Nick Elks for electrical work, who has an association to St Mary's Church. We are grateful to Nick and others for their continued assistance.

Work undertaken this past year was the repair of the front steps, continuing with the fitting of energy-saving LED lighting in the Nene Room, and the spot lamps above the altar and vestibule. Problematical kitchen sink and toilet basin taps, plus some toilet syphon flushers have been replaced and or serviced by plumber Gavin Mills of GDM Maintenance.

We are very grateful to Denise and Ray Howard for the professional expertise they bring to their work cleaning our building during 2022, to keep the building safe during the pandemic. We are also grateful to David Divers, for everything he does over the year as our unpaid Estate Manager, regularly coming into church to liaise with tradesmen and deal with countless day-to-day issues.

Keeping us safe

Health and Safety:

We take our Health and Safety responsibilities seriously so we can provide a safe environment for everyone to enjoy the facilities that St Mary's Church has to offer. A Health and Safety Inspection of the building is conducted annually by an independent inspector.

Annual and periodical safety inspections and services are carried out by registered contractors who comply with professional and regulatory standards, thereby ensuring all our safety certificates are up-to-date. The lift is regularly serviced by Morris Vermaport, who also completes the statutory LOLER (safety) tests. Our fire safety equipment is maintained and checked by Churches Fire who test the fire alarm, fire extinguishers and emergency lighting.

Our gas-fired boiler and heating system inspected annually by Blounts, our heating engineers, who issue us with our Gas Safe Certificate. Our portable electrical appliances are PAT tested. Our Organ and Piano tuners attend twice a year. Our large "Blue Bin" contract is with Biffa. Beebys Limited clean our windows every 3 months. Cathedral Hygiene attend to the sanitary bins in the toilets.

Safeguarding:

At St Mary's we take safeguarding very seriously. Our safeguarding officer is Mrs Jayne Ellis who has many years of experience working with children and young people in the NHS. During 2022 she kept the PCC fully informed on updates to policy and practice as advised by Peterborough Diocese.

Copies of our safeguarding policy are prominently displayed on lobby noticeboards and on the church website with links to the Diocesan Safeguarding website.

Safeguarding concerns are followed up promptly and in accordance with Diocesan guidelines.

St Mary's Church is registered with the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) through which renewals and new clearances for the Statutory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) are made.

The Vicar, licensed ministers, PCC members and staff working with children and vulnerable adults have been DBS registered and are completing the appropriate level of safeguarding training as set out by the Diocese. Everyone is aware that they cannot continue in their role without this training.

Data Protection:

The way in which St Mary's collects, stores and processes data on our church members was reviewed in 2018 in order to ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). PCC agreed a new Data Privacy notice, which is on display on our noticeboard together with our Health & Safety and Safeguarding policy statements.

All members of the church have completed a Consents Form to give, or withhold, permission on how their personal information can be used by St Mary's Church.

Our links with the wider church

Our links with the wider church are strong.

Our Vicar, Canon Michael is Rural Dean of [Peterborough Deanery](#), and we have four lay representatives on [Peterborough Deanery Synod](#). In October two well-attended events were held at St Mary's; one was a Deanery Prayer Day, and the other a networking event for Churchwardens, Treasurers and Secretaries of local churches.

Two members of St Mary's currently represent Peterborough Deanery on [Peterborough Diocesan Synod](#).

One of our church members was elected in October 2021 to [General Synod](#) as one of the three lay representatives for Peterborough Diocese.

St Mary's is part of the [Inclusive Church](#) network and Inclusive Church Peterborough meets in our building each week, led by our Lay Pioneer Ministers. They met throughout 2022.

St Mary's is also an active member of [Churches Together in Central Peterborough \(CTiCP\)](#), an ecumenical group of nine city centre churches of various different denominations. Its main aims are to pray and worship together, putting on the Good Friday Walk of Witness and monthly prayer and breakfast meetings and Advent Reflection Day.

St Mary's PCC is delighted with what we managed to achieve in 2022 in another difficult year. Very little of this would have been possible without ...

...our Volunteers

Almost all the work at St Mary's is done by volunteers. Canon Michael, the Churchwardens and PCC would like to thank them all for giving their time and talents free to enable St Mary's Church—whether the 'physical' church in the building, or our online presence, to function, week in and week out.

Thank you!

Report from our Treasurer, Richard Smith

This proved to be a tough year financially for St Mary's Church. Regular giving from members fell during 2022 and it was inevitable that the generous one-off donations seen in 2021 – totalling over £38,000 – were unlikely to be repeated. The reduction in donations was reflected in lower Gift Aid tax reclaim, along with the fact that not all eligible monies were claimed during the year.

Our second main **income** source – hiring out our halls and meeting rooms – increased as the church building began to fully reopen but the total was still below pre-Covid figures.

This meant we ended the year with a deficit of nearly £14,000.

Running costs during the year remained fairly constant. The main **expenditure** incurred was to repair the church front steps, essential for health and safety reasons. Energy costs rose but the church was shielded from the worst of the energy price rises having signed fixed contracts in the autumn of 2021.

Income via contactless, text and online giving continued to grow, bringing in over £4,000 during the year.

Following the merger of the Hebden Trust charity with St Mary's charity, the funds of the former – totalling £4,637 – were transferred to St Mary's.

Reserves Policy

Our policy, which has been formally agreed by the PCC, is to keep sufficient money in our reserves to cover three months' running costs, plus £20,000.

External Charitable Giving

St Mary's PCC aim to give 10% of our income to charity each year, in obedience to the tithing principle. Part of this giving is in reduced or no-cost rent to local charities who use our rooms, principally to Extended Hands, who use our Church Centre as their office base, and this giving does not show in these formal accounts. During 2022 we gave £8,365 in direct donations to the following national and local charities:

- Alzheimer's Society;
- Christian Aid;
- The Green Backyard;
- Hope into Action;
- Mary's Child
- New Ark Play;
- Peterborough Foodbank;
- Peterborough Women's Aid;
- Prostate Cancer;
- Sight Savers;
- Sue Ryder;

Sales from our monthly Traidcraft Stall increased during 2022, benefiting the charitable work of Traidcraft as well as St Mary's Church.

We raised £6,638 for Christian Aid, including £3,720 during Christian aid Week (much of it given directly via Just Giving) and almost £3,00 to Christian Aid DEC Appeals for Afghanistan Ukraine and Pakistan Floods.

Statement of Accounts for the calendar year 2022

St Mary's PCC: General Fund Receipts and Payments Account

	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
<u>Incoming resources from donors</u>				
Collections - Stewardship	70,302		80,800	
- Loose cash	4,731		3,096	
Inland Revenue covenant rebates	2,622		9,589	
Online Giving	<u>4,350</u>		<u>2,309</u>	
		82,004		95,794
<u>Other voluntary incoming resources</u>				
Donations and bequests	7,409		38,731	
Fayres and events	6,795		4,674	
Miscellaneous income	419		120	
Grants and similar income	<u>755</u>		<u>4,871</u>	
		15,378		48,396
<u>Income from investments</u>				
Bank interest	28		2	
Investment interest - CBF deposit fund	203		8	
		231		10
<u>Income from charitable and ancillary trading</u>				
Magazine and book stall sales (net)	0		10	
Wedding and funeral fees	1,929		2,469	
Centre income	9,850		5,452	
Traidcraft income	<u>450</u>		<u>450</u>	
		12,229		8,381
<u>Transfers</u>				
Hebden trust		4,637		
Eastgate Mission Fund				
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		0		0
Total Receipts		114,480		152,581
Total Payments (see page 15 for detail)		<u>(128,355)</u>		<u>(125,430)</u>
Excess/(deficit) of receipts over payments		(13,875)		27,151
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January 2022		<u>84,541</u>		<u>57,390</u>
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December 2022		<u>£70,666</u>		<u>£84,541</u>

St Mary's PCC: General Fund Receipts and Payments Account

General Fund Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2022

	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
	£	£	£	£
PAYMENTS				
<u>Activities relating directly to the work of the Church</u>				
Vicar's expenses		94		100
Locum		351	-	
Readers Expenses		619		260
Salaries paid by Diocese		10,886		11,218
Upkeep of services		1,108		843
Organists		3,345		2,510
Water		541		90
Light and heat		5,394		3,967
Repairs and maintenance		18,017		27,840
Insurance		1,716		1,673
Telephones		751		748
Parish share		67,269		63,892
Magazine		1,042	-	
Donations (Overseas and sundry):				
Tithe		7,460		8,800
Disaster appeals		-		-
Other giving		-		-
		<u>7,460</u>		<u>8,800</u>
Sunday Club/Youth expenses		184		117
Stewardship envelopes		-		-
Office administration		589		521
Cleaning and sundry materials		324		330
Diocesan fees		654		211
Piano and organ expenses		264		120
Music licence		551		525
Auditor (CROPS)		200		150
Car expenses - Vicar		444		82
- Curate		-		13
Training		220		-
Flowers		36		-
Miscellaneous expenditure		6,296		1,420
		<u>£128,355</u>		<u>£125,430</u>

Total payments (to page 14)

St Mary's PCC: Receipts and Payments Accounts

Receipts and payments accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

HEBDEN TRUST FUND - RESTRICTED	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Restricted to spending on education	£	£
Receipts		
Interest		64
Sale of investments		3,115
Payments		
Transfer to current	(4,637)	
Bank deposit accounts at 1 January 2022	<u>4,637</u>	<u>1,458</u>
Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2022	<u>£0</u>	<u>£4,637</u>

MONEY CHARITABLE - RESTRICTED		
Restricted to spending on training		
Receipts		
Interest	-	0
Payments		
Transfer to current		
Bank deposit accounts at 1 January 2022	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2022	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>

ST. MARY'S EASTGATE MISSION - ENDOWMENT		
Receipts		
Interest	27	1
Payments		
Transfer to current		0
Bank deposit accounts at 1 January 2022	<u>1,991</u>	<u>1,990</u>
Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2022	<u>£2,018</u>	<u>£1,991</u>

St Mary's PCC: Receipts and Payments Accounts

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2022

	General fund:			Restricted Funds :		
	Hebden		Money	St. Mary's		
	<u>General</u>	<u>Trust</u>	<u>Trust</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Monetary assets						
Cash in hand	100				100	100
Bank - current	25,067	0			25,067	48,497
- reserve	29,880				29,880	25,165
CBF deposit fund	15,619		0		15,619	15,416
Peterborough Diocesan						
Board of Finance				2,018	2,018	1,992
Total cash & Assets	70,666	0	0	2,018	72,684	91,170

St Mary's Parochial Church Council Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

Funds

General Funds represent funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC.

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

- Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
- Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty.
- Amounts owing from the Inland Revenue where a formal claim has been made.

Closing bank balances as shown in the receipts and payments accounts.

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 13 to 17, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 to 2001 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('2011 Act').

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 144(2) of the 2011 Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to :-

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act ;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act and to be found in the Church guidance issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

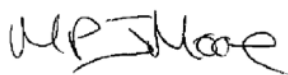
- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 131 of the 2011 Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act and the Regulations have not been met ; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



N J Burroughs FCA
45 Farleigh Fields, Orton Wistow
Peterborough

13 February 2023

This Annual Report was approved by St Mary's PCC on 7th March 2022, and signed on their behalf by:



Revd Canon Michael Moore

Vicar

Chair of Trustees of the ecclesiastical parish of Peterborough St Mary

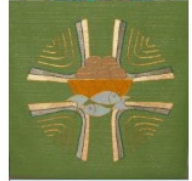
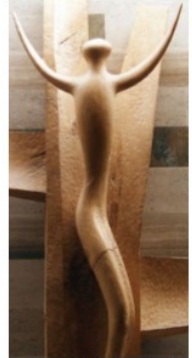


Accounts



St Mary's Church Peterborough

ANNUAL REPORT & STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2021



St Mary's Church is part of the Diocese of Peterborough within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is St Mary's Church, New Road, Peterborough PE1 1TT.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary Boongate Peterborough is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and registered with the Charity Commission in September 2018. Its Registered Charity Number is 1180032.

PCC members who served at any time during 2021 are:

Ex-officio members:

- Incumbent: The Reverend Canon Michael Moore (Chair of PCC as Trustees of St Mary's)
- Curate: The Reverend Keri Morrow
- Associate Priest: The Reverend Carol Rowles
- Churchwardens: Mrs Mary Manna, Mr Chi-man Mau
- Readers: Mrs Elizabeth Pedley, Mr Robert Robinson
- Lay Pastoral Ministers: Mrs Jayne Ellis, Mrs Susan Moore, Mrs Sheila Sutherland (*until May 2021*)
- Parish Evangelist: Mr Andrew Christie, elected representative on Deanery Synod

Elected members:

- Mr Norman Billyard
- Mrs Vicky Brett (*elected General Synod member from October 2021*)
- Mrs Helen Brown
- Mr David Christie
- Mrs Gillian Christie
- Mr David Dawson, representative on Deanery Synod
- Mrs Hilary Dawson, *PCC Secretary*, representative on Diocesan and Deanery Synods
- Mr Jonathan Goodes (*from May 2021*)
- Mr Victor Jones
- Mr George Kirk, representative on Deanery Synod
- Mr Andrew Maywhort (*until May 2021*)
- Mrs Mairwen Peasnell (*Lay Chair for PCC meetings*)
- Mr Stuart Pedley (*Lay Worship Leader*)
- Mr Paul Riddler
- Mr Richard Smith, *Treasurer*
- Mrs Angela Turner
- Mrs Elena Turner (*from May 2021*)

Authorised Lay Pioneers: Mr Keith Brett, Mrs Vicky Brett

Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs Janette Jones-Pipe (*from May 2021*)

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Jayne Ellis

Health & Safety Officer: Mr Mark Stevens

Independent Examiner: Mr N J Burroughs FCA,
45 Farleigh Fields, Orton Wistow, Peterborough

Banking details: St Mary's Peterborough PCC General Account is at Barclays Bank,
1 Church Street Peterborough PE1 1XB

St Mary's Peterborough Restricted Accounts are held by the
Peterborough Diocesan Board of Finance (*Registered Charity no. 250569*)

Our Vicar, Revd. Canon Michael Moore, summarises 2021 at St Mary's

GROWTH

Covid has many things to answer for. Events were cancelled many times and then re-arranged. We were unable to do various things. However, things still go on, and during 2021 we adapted to meet the new challenges, and started new things.

People are slowly returning to church. New people have started to come. Attendance online is holding up well with people joining us from all over the country and the world - from Miami to St Vincent, from Hampshire to Lincolnshire.

Our church services have been produced with many people helping and using their gifts, and acquiring new skills too. More people than we would have ever expected watched online each Sunday, and Friday Night Worship too. Thank you to all those who stepped up during 2021 and helped in so many ways to keep St Mary's growing.

PRAYER

As well as focusing on God's Word at St Mary's, we continued to be an actively praying church throughout 2021. I am grateful to those who lead our 'Thursday Prayers online'; these are now sent via email and we gather together at home, but are praying as one.

Our 'Prayer Link' continues to be a great support to those in need of urgent prayer throughout the local community and across the country and the world. Our monthly prayer evenings in church on a Tuesday were suspended during the pandemic, but resumed early in 2022.

EXPANDING THE TEAM

During 2021, many people asked if they could help the church, with more involved with church than ever before, taking on new roles and helping in new ways. We had over 60 people reading on a Sunday and leading the prayers – young people, older people and in between.

REACHING OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY

St Mary's continues to be an outward-looking church. We raised a huge amount for our 2021 Summer Fundraiser; £2,600 of this went to the Peterborough and District Samaritans. The other half to St Mary's to put towards the purchase of new equipment to improve the streaming of our online services. This amazing amount is testament to the huge generosity of our church members and their families and friends. With our other giving, it totalled £15,000.

We collected for the Peterborough Foodbank each week too.

Although covid stopped much of our work, the people of St Mary's rallied round looking after people, keeping in touch with them via phone and email and doing shopping as needed and to make sure everyone was well and safe. We have done our best to keep in contact with all our church members.

Our streaming of services also helped people to feel connected and many in the community, who never came to church before, now watch our service. In 2021 we spent over £30,000 on our new sound system, wi-fi network and filming and live streaming system to make sure we can broadcast our weekly services across the city and the world. We also streamed funeral services, which was a great comfort to those who could not attend them physically due to covid.

During 2021, we managed to continue our links with our local primary schools using Microsoft Teams to reach into the classrooms. We also invited schools back into the church, with Newark Hill Academy and Lime Academy Abbotsmede visiting on several occasions throughout the year.

FINANCES

We knew finances were going to be tough for us at St Mary's in 2021 with less money coming in from lettings, which were only just starting up again. However, further cost savings were made. Also, several people stepped up to the mark and gave to the church sacrificially, and I do mean sacrificially, with some giving things up so they could donate the money to the church. This kind generosity meant we finished 2021 with a surplus. Because of this, in 2022 we will be looking at renewing the lighting in our building to make it more efficient and environmentally friendly and repainting parts that were starting to look shabby. We also plan to renew the damaged steps at the front of the church.

This is only happening because of the commitment and generosity of those who attend the church both physically and virtually.

This past year has been a real joy to me in seeing people grow in their faith, and seeing many grow in their skills and confidence, and in seeing the church coming together and supporting one another. We have reached out into the community with God's love through our online services and, through that, we have ourselves been blessed as a church. We have reached out into the community with our parish magazine (which completed ten years of publication in November), telling people what is happening in the church.

There is great need in our community, not just financially but also spiritually. We are excited that the new university in Peterborough is in our parish, and we are exploring ways in which we can link up with them, and help the students too.

Together at St Mary's we are making a difference to people's lives in this city. 2022 will still be a challenge, but as covid restrictions are lifted, we pray that we will continue to innovate and be open to new ways of helping our community around us and spreading God's word. With us all working together, much will be accomplished.

Our Parish of St Mary's, Peterborough

The church of St Mary Boongate was constituted on 27th August 1857 to serve those living on the eastern side of Peterborough, principally the poor of the Boongate slums. Much of the parish was rural then, but the 20th century brought considerable residential, industrial and commercial development, particularly between 1970 and 1990 when Peterborough Development Corporation transformed the area. As part of that change, the mid-Victorian church building was demolished, and replaced with a modern building incorporating a church and chapel, with halls, meeting rooms, kitchens and toilets on two floors.

Our parish broadly equates to the civil Peterborough East Ward together with small parts of the neighbouring Central, Park and Dogsthorpe Wards. Covering an area of 3.6 square miles it forms a wedge, stretching out almost three miles north-eastwards from the city centre, from the Eastgate estates (which replaced the old Boongate slums in the 1970s), through the post-war suburb of Eastfield to the newer township of Parnwell. It also includes the extensive Eastern Industrial estates and part of the city's retail and commercial centre. The church building is situated in the south-western corner of the parish, close to the city centre.

The population is around 15,900, roughly half of whom are white British. It is relatively young - 21% of those living in the parish in 2019 were under 15 years of age, slightly above the figure of 18% for England as a whole (*Church of England Research & Statistics Unit Parish data Jan. 2022*). It is one of the 10% most deprived parishes in the country (*based on the indicators of poverty used by the Church of England Research & Statistics Unit and the Church Urban Fund*), for each of child, working-age and pensioner poverty.

The number of people living in the parish is expected to grow, and several housing developments are either planned or underway, including the large Northminster scheme on the former site of the City Market, close to the church.

Within our parish we have five primary schools (*Bishop Creighton Academy; Lime Academy Abbotsmede; Lime Academy Parnwell; Newark Hill Academy; St Thomas More RC Primary*), two Secondary Schools (*City of Peterborough Academy, St John Fisher RC High School*) and two Special Schools (*Medeshamstede Academy, NeneGate School*) and a Further Education College (*City College*). The new Peterborough campus of Anglia Ruskin University, currently preparing to welcome its first students in September 2022, is also in our parish.

The primary purpose of St Mary's Church

Our principal objective at St Mary's is to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. Like all churches, St Mary's attempts to look three ways at once in its mission, because at all times we strive to be open to and engage with our Living God, with our community neighbours and with our own 'church family'. These three fundamental functions underpin our mission as a church.

St Mary's Parochial Church Council is committed to growing our church – not just numerically, but to grow nearer to God through worship, to grow in faith and spiritual understanding, to grow

out into our local community and to grow in fellowship with each other. To facilitate this growth we consider it important to maintain the fabric and contents of our church and centre building, and also to ensure that we have sufficient resources, human, technological and monetary.

As a church, our first priority at St Mary's is worship and prayer, and we are committed to holding regular public worship that is open to all, and to provide a sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation. We teach the Christian faith through sermons, courses and small groups, and offer a pastoral ministry to the sick and bereaved. We want to promote the whole mission of the church through the provision of activities of benefit to people in our local community, and want in particular to work with the schools within our parish.

St Mary's PCC is focused on the advancement of religion for the public benefit. When compiling our action plans for each year, we consider the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, particularly the specific guidance given to charities concerned with the advancement of religion. We also consider the wider needs of the local community which we serve.

Structure, governance and management

St Mary's Peterborough PCC is a body corporate operating under the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956* and the *Church Representation Rules*. In essence its role is to work with Revd. Michael, as our Vicar, in all church activities, including the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social & ecumenical; participating in local Deanery and Diocesan events; looking after our building and contents; managing our finances and ensuring that things successfully happen.

St Mary's PCC is specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church Centre complex, which is spread over two floors and comprises the church, the chapel, two halls, two kitchens, three small meeting rooms, three vestries and an office. This modern, purpose-built building was opened in 1991, replacing the original Victorian church which was in a very poor state of repair and had no community facilities.

Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has a number of committees and teams and authorises individuals to be responsible for particular areas of church activity, such as safeguarding, health and safety, stewardship, pastoral visiting and Churches Together liaison. It also employs two people: a part-time administrative assistant and a part-time cleaner/caretaker.

The day-to-day management of St Mary's Church is exercised by the Standing Committee: Revd. Canon Michael Moore (*Vicar*), Mary Manna, Chi-man Mau (*Churchwardens*), Hilary Dawson (*PCC Secretary*), Richard Smith (*Treasurer*) and Elizabeth Pedley. This is the only committee required by law, and it has the power to transact business between PCC meetings and consider issues which may affect the church.

PCC members are appointed in accordance with the Church of England Representation Rules and are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), normally held each May. By decision of a previous APCM, elected members serve for one year only (except for those elected to Synod, who generally serve for three years). Everyone who regularly attends St Mary's is encouraged to join our Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC. All members of the PCC are required to be DBS checked and to complete safeguarding training at a level appropriate to their role. They may also receive other external training as and when deemed appropriate.

Fortunately the slight easing of covid restrictions meant we were able to hold our APCM in May 2021, albeit under strict social distancing conditions. This meeting elected two churchwardens and thirteen PCC members for one year. Elections of four people to represent St Mary's on Peterborough Deanery Synod, delayed from 2020, were also held.

St Mary's PCC met eight times during 2021. Four of the meetings were held on Zoom, because of covid safety concerns, with special provision made for those without IT access. Four of the meetings were held 'in person', including a Focus morning to consider our priority actions for 2022. The average level of attendance during 2021 was 81%.

Meetings are chaired by an elected Lay Chair at the request of the Vicar, who otherwise retains chairmanship of the PCC as Trustees of St Mary's.

Our Plans for the future - the next five years:

During 2019 St Mary's PCC set a new five year growth agenda for the years 2020 — 2025, which we felt would help strengthen our commitment to the core functions forming the basis of our on-going purpose, namely:

- to worship God,
- to help each other grow in faith and fellowship, and
- to spread the love of Jesus Christ and the Gospel message throughout our local community.

Our 5 Year Plan (2020 to 2025) identifies specific ways in which we hope to grow, and things we wish to achieve:

To grow nearer to God through worship:

- By offering worship opportunities in a range of different styles and on different days of the week
- By encouraging those who come to attend more regularly

To grow in faith and spiritual understanding:

- By encouraging more of the congregation to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith through attendance at the activities we offer (e.g. Bible Study, House Groups, Lent Course)
- By ensuring that our children and young people have firm foundations on which to grow their Christian faith

To grow in fellowship with one another:

- By ensuring that everyone who walks through our doors is greeted with the same high standards of warmth and hospitality, and made to feel a valued member of our community
- By offering a range of social and fund-raising activities appropriate to the age and interests of both our diverse congregation and our wider church community
- By living out the principles of Inclusive Church
- By developing a close partnership with our local Christian churches
- By actively supporting specific charities through fundraising events

To grow out into our local community through mission and outreach:

- By making contact with residents throughout the parish
- By making contact with local offices and businesses, including those on the Eastern Industrial Estates
- By strengthening our links with local schools
- By offering activities for local children and young people

To grow in numbers:

- By working to increase the numbers of those who attend our Sunday and weekday services on a regular basis

And in order to achieve these aims, we want to ensure that we:

- Have sufficient numbers of people from various age-groups with the necessary skills and training to get things done
- Have appropriate, well-maintained facilities, with improvements made where necessary
- Have enough money, whilst giving a tenth of our income away to charity each year
- Limit the damage we may be causing to our planet

Our implementation plans have been adversely affected by the covid pandemic, disrupting the original timetable and altering our views on what to regard as a priority.

However it has not altered our purpose as a Church, or changed our intention to achieve these aims.

What PCC wanted to achieve in 2021

The covid pandemic prompted St Mary's PCC to take a pragmatic approach to planning, because we couldn't know when it would be over and when it would be safe for people to start mixing again. But we knew we didn't want to return to exactly what we did before, but wanted to move on. We wanted to build on the good things we have discovered during the pandemic.

Our two key priorities for 2021 were therefore to:

- To spend time thinking about the shape of St Mary's post-pandemic; and to consider carefully and prayerfully how each of our activities should look in the future. We wanted to start planning now even if we aren't able to put our ideas into action for sometime.
- To make sure we have the resources available to action our plans when we are able to do so.

And this is what we managed to do in 2021. We:

Continued to make public worship a priority, even when our building was closed (between January and Easter 2021):

- Moved online and adapted our pattern of services, whilst endeavouring to involve as many church members as possible with recorded readings and prayers
- Opened our church for services when it was safe to do so, following national and Diocesan guidelines on covid precautions
- Live streamed our Sunday morning services in church to enable those who watch our online services to continue to join us this way if they wish
- Invited bereaved families to join our 'Service of Remembering' in November
- Restarted our weekly Wednesday morning Communion service in December

Took steps to grow in faith and spiritual understanding:

- Held an online Lent Course on the 'Letter to the Hebrews'
- Held weekly Advent Reflections via Zoom
- Held weekly Bible Study sessions and monthly House Group meetings "by distance"
- Hosted Peterborough Deanery Prayer Day in October

Took steps to maintain fellowship with one another:

- Emailed church members each week to keep them informed
- Rethought our main fundraising events so they could continue on line, and raised £2,600 for the Peterborough Samaritans, with a similar amount for our church funds in our Summer Fundraiser; and £1,875 during Christian Aid Week
- Established and grew our Saturday morning Youth Club, moving it from Zoom to 'live' from September
- Resumed our well-attended After-Church Coffee sessions on Sunday mornings from September

Took steps to maintain contact with our local community:

- Restarted our weekly 'Chill & Chat' group in October, and distributed leaflets to advertise it
- Restarted our weekly Parent & Toddler group in November, and distributed leaflets to advertise it
- Started 'Pray Around the Parish' to encourage church members to pray for a different road in our parish each day

Took steps to ensure that we have appropriate resources and facilities to achieve our plans:

- Improved our wi-fi reception by replacing our internet connection with fibre
- Scoped costs for replacing all our remaining fluorescent and halogen lights with LED
- Installed, with diocesan permission, a second screen, a second permanent projector and two fixed cameras in the church, together with a new sound system.

Achievements & Performance

Numbers on our Electoral Roll

At the start of 2021 there were 119 names on our Electoral Roll, 61% of whom were women and 39% men. 52 (44%) lived within the parish, and 67 (56%) outside.

By May 2021, and following the revision of the Electoral Roll prior to the Annual Church Meeting in accordance with Church Regulations, numbers had increased to 121, 61% women and 39% men. 41% lived in the parish and 59% outside.

Numbers have increased slightly since, bringing our Roll to 123 by December 2021.

Worship

All are welcome to attend [our regular services](#). We recognise that not everyone finds it helpful to worship God in the same way, and we encourage everyone to explore new ways of worship as they try to come closer to God. Our main Sunday morning service is Family Communion, but our regular pattern of services covers a wide range to suit different tastes and offer different worship experiences. Our popular monthly café style 'Friday Night Worship' appeals to those who enjoy informal worship with a live band, whilst those who value time for silent prayer and reflection are also catered for. Until lockdown in March 2020 we offered two Sunday evening services each month, a Compline service and a lay-led Evensong. Our Lay Pioneer Ministers lead 'Inclusive Church Peterborough' at St Mary's on Sunday evenings.

When our church building was closed by the pandemic in March 2020 we were immediately able to move our [services online via YouTube](#), thanks to the technical expertise of church members. This online service has been offered each week since then, even when the church was re-opened, and viewing figures have been encouraging, with 152 registered subscribers. The move to online services has proved to be a positive and much-appreciated development which has enabled us to move out into a wider sphere. We know from feedback that people living miles away from St Mary's, including some from different continents, watch our services regularly. Some have an existing contact with St Mary's, others seem to have found us by chance and stayed.

At the same time our pattern for Sunday evenings was revised, and a weekly Compline service was offered online, led by Mr and Mrs Pedley (Lay Worship Leader and Reader). They also made YouTube videos for our monthly online 'Friday Night Worship', together with special services for Holy Week and Christmas.

During 2021 our [church-based services](#) were again affected by the pandemic, particularly in the early part of the year when we were affected by lockdown closures and government restrictions. Covid rates in Peterborough were frequently above the national average, and it was necessary for us to take a cautious approach to protect our church members. For several months we worshipped under very different conditions, with no singing allowed and very little social interaction. The situation eased sufficiently for us to hold our annual Remembering Service for the bereaved in church in November, but a rise in infections in December required us to hold our Christmas Carol Service online for reasons of safety.

[Children's work in church](#) is very important. The normal pattern (which we were able to resume in late 2021 after restrictions were lifted) is for children to leave part way through the Family Communion service for their own 'Children's Church' activities, but once a month they stay in for our All Age Communion service, and are encouraged to take an active part. This involvement was continued as an important part of our online services, with the readings and prayers given by children on the first Sunday of each month.

As well as our regular services, we enable people in our community to commemorate, and thank God for, life's milestones of [birth, marriage and death](#). Unfortunately covid restrictions continued to affect family gatherings for much of the year, but we held three weddings and nine baptisms in church. Sadly there were more funerals — a total of twenty-seven, with twelve in church and fifteen at the crematorium.

Children, young people and families in our church and local community

Our newly re-established [Youth Group](#), for school-aged young people in Year 6 and above, had a successful year. They meet once a month on Saturday mornings, and by the end of 2021 were able to move into our building after several months online - a popular move as it enabled them to enjoy breakfast together, as well as discussion and fun activities.

[Children and families in our local community](#): We are particularly keen to build stronger links with local families, but unfortunately the pandemic has made this difficult. Our popular and well-established St Mary's Parent & Toddler group was restarted in November 2021 after a twenty month suspension, but has taken time to re-establish with a new cohort of children. We were unable to hold our annual Family Fun Day because of the restrictions.

Contact with our [local primary schools](#) has been severely curtailed by the virus, but Revd. Michael has been able to maintain links via Microsoft Teams. Our 'Open the Book' team were unable to take any Assemblies at Bishop Creighton Academy during 2021, but plan to resume their visits in 2022. In the autumn we welcomed pupils from both Newark Hill Academy and Lime Academy Abbotsmede into St Mary's as part of their Religious Education about Christian places of worship.

Pastoral Care to our local community & our church

Pastoral care and service to our community is very important to St Mary's. Our Pastoral Team of fifteen is co-ordinated by Sue Moore, one of our Lay Pastoral Ministers, and normally meets three times a year. Unfortunately, the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns meant they were not able to meet as usual during 2021. The pandemic also changed how they worked.

The Team's normal role is to co-ordinate visiting and take House Communion to church members who are unable to attend services. They would also take Holy Communion to several residential homes in our parish on a regular basis (*Broadleigh, Friary Court, Heritage Court, Lavender House, Philia Lodge, the Star and Stephenson Court*), and over the years have built strong links between St Mary's and the staff and residents. These visits were unfortunately curtailed during the pandemic, but Pastoral Team members have kept in touch with the residential care homes they visit and given support via telephone calls and prayer.

Pastoral Team members would normally be actively involved in social activities which are open to members of our local community, such as the weekly 'Chill & Chat' mornings. They would also normally deliver free copies of our parish magazine 'News Around St Mary's' to schools, medical centres, sheltered housing schemes, residential homes and hairdressers in our local community, but this did not prove possible during 2021.

They also organise the 'Prayer Link' for urgent prayer requests (extremely busy during 2021), and keep our church Prayer Board updated.

Covid restrictions over much of 2021 meant that the Pastoral Contact Scheme set up in March 2020 stayed in place, so church members were supported via phone and email, and with shopping volunteers. With more people now back at church and out and about, contact has changed, and is increasingly face to face for many. However, as St Mary's continues to broadcast services online, regular contact and encouragement is made via YouTube and Facebook messaging and via email to our many viewers locally, and throughout the UK and the world.

Members of St Mary's Church continue to support Peterborough Food Bank, with the regular collection of food items in church, or help at local distribution centres. Normally, some members would volunteer for shifts at the Winter Night Shelter project run by Light Project Peterborough but with government regulations not allowing this, our support for the local homeless has been through prayer, and donations of money, clothing and gifts. Our Pastoral Team Co-ordinator is a member of the Light Project Peterborough Steering Group (*'Christians for Social Action'*), and keeps us up to date with projects, campaigns, events and needs locally.

Social events for church and community

Our policy at St Mary's has been to open our social events to anyone in our local community who wanted to attend, but sadly the pandemic curtailed our usual programme of quizzes and beetle drives, and delayed our plans to offer family film sessions. However our popular weekly 'Chill and Chat' coffee mornings were able to resume from October, and have been well attended. A pre-Christmas afternoon tea before the Christingle Service was also well attended.

The resumption in September of After-Service Coffee on Sunday mornings was keenly welcomed. It is an important part of our church fellowship, and was much missed during the pandemic.

Our Church Centre

St Mary's is fortunate in having a well-designed modern building incorporating church, chapel, two halls, meeting rooms, kitchens and toilets, all offering good access for the disabled, including ramp entrance, wide doors and a lift. Until it was closed by the pandemic, this Church Centre was well-used, both for events run by St Mary's Church and by various groups who hire rooms on a regular or occasional basis. By mid 2021 it was once again coming back into life.

Extended Hands (a small local charity supporting women at risk of feeling lonely, isolated or marginalised) rent one of our rooms as their office base and regularly used rooms in our Centre for their sewing and craft sessions, IT skills classes, fitness sessions and coffee mornings.

Inclusive Church Peterborough, led by our Lay Pioneer Ministers, meets each Sunday evening in our Centre.

Our policy has been to offer free or reduced rate meeting space in our Centre to several local charities, including Samaritans, Peterborough Christian Aid Committee, and the Peterborough Inter-Faith Council. Prior to the pandemic the Peterborough Street Pastors used it as their base.

Our Church Administrator, Denise Thomas, worked remotely from home during the pandemic and we are very grateful to her for continuing to manage our Centre bookings so efficiently.

Maintaining our church building

Like all buildings, St Mary's needs regular maintenance and repair to prevent deterioration. The Churchwardens, in consultation with Standing Committee, are responsible for advising the PCC on any necessary maintenance work, and PCC then makes a decision based on funds available. Minor tasks are completed by a team of church volunteers, with more specialist work undertaken by Robert Woods for general repairs and Nick Elks for electrical work. Both are local tradesmen with links to St Mary's Church, and we are most grateful for their continued assistance.

Covid restrictions prevented us from organising our full programme of maintenance activities, but some gardening maintenance by a team of church volunteers was possible later in the year when restrictions were eased. The cleaning of the church and chapel by our team of volunteers was similarly affected; it was suspended from March 2020 due to covid restrictions, but resumed from October 2021 when restrictions eased.

The Churchwardens have spent time during 2021 scoping work to be done during 2022. They carried out a survey of all the lights in the church building, with a view to replacing all the ageing halogen and fluorescent lights with more energy efficient LED lighting. They also contacted local building contractors for quotes to replace the damaged and ageing steps at the front of the church during 2022.

We are very grateful to Denise and Ray Howard for the professional expertise they bring to their work cleaning our building, during 2021, to keep the building safe during the pandemic. We are also grateful to David Divers, for everything he does over the year as our unpaid Estate Manager, regularly coming into church to liaise with tradesmen and deal with countless day-to-day issues.

HEALTH & SAFETY:

We take our Health and Safety responsibilities seriously so we can provide a safe environment for everyone to enjoy the facilities that St Mary's Church has to offer. The annual Health and Safety inspection was held-over to 2022 due to covid restrictions.

Throughout the pandemic we maintained the covid health and safety measures at St Mary's in accordance with national and diocesan guidance, including mandatory booking and registration, socially-distanced seating, hand-sanitising, temperature checks, insistence on mask-wearing, and the scanning of the NHS 'track and trace' app until restrictions were eased in the summer. Our approach was to proceed slowly with the re-opening, and only when it was safe to do so during the latter part of the year.

Despite the reduced availability of the church, we continued to ensure that our equipment is in good working order, with regular inspections carried out within required timescales by registered contractors working to professional industry standards. The lift is regularly serviced by Morris Vermaport, who also complete the statutory LOLER (safety) tests.

All our safety certificates are up-to-date. Our fire safety equipment is maintained and checked by Churches Fire who test the fire alarm, fire extinguishers and emergency lighting. Following the recommendations from the inspections, we compiled a Fire Safety Floor plan in 2021, which is now on display.

Our boiler is inspected annually by Blounts, our heating engineers, who also complete the necessary checks for our Gas Safety Certificate. Our portable electrical appliances have all been PAT tested.

SAFEGUARDING

We take Safeguarding very seriously. Our Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Jayne Ellis, who has many years experience of working with children and young people in the NHS, where she is the professionally trained safeguarding lead for her service. During 2021 she kept PCC fully informed on policy and practice, and updated them on new safeguarding advice from Peterborough Diocese.

In late autumn PCC, acting on diocesan advice, agreed to combine our two existing safeguarding policies for children and vulnerable adults into one policy based on Church of England guidance, *'Safer Church. Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults: Policy & Practice'*. PCC adopted this at their meeting in January 2022, and will next review it in January 2023. Copies of our safeguarding policy are displayed on the lobby noticeboards and published on the church website, with links to the Diocesan Safeguarding website.

Any safeguarding concerns are followed up promptly and discreetly in accordance with diocesan guidelines. St Mary's Church is registered with the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS), through which renewals and new clearances for the statutory Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) registration are made. All licensed ministers, PCC members and staff working with children have been DBS registered. The Vicar, Curate, licensed lay ministers, and PCC members have all completed or renewed the modules of diocesan safeguarding training at the appropriate levels for their roles, and understand that they cannot continue in their roles unless they do so.

DATA PROTECTION

The way in which St Mary's collects, stores and processes data on our church members was reviewed in 2018 in order to ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). PCC agreed a new Data Privacy notice, which is on display on our noticeboard together with our Health & Safety and Safeguarding policy statements.

All members of the church have completed a Consents Form to give, or withhold, permissions on how their personal information can be used by St Mary's Church. This put us in a strong position during the pandemic as we have been able to keep in touch with all our members by email or telephone knowing that we had their full consent to contact them in this way.

Finance and Giving

The year was once again dominated by the consequences of the pandemic which continued to affect church finances in both negative and positive ways.

Our second main [income](#) source - hiring out our halls and meeting rooms - fell again due to the closure of the church building for a large part of the year. However, this was offset by an increase in regular giving from St Mary's members, supplemented by a number of generous one-off donations totalling over £38,000. This also helped to increase our Gift Tax reclaim to £9,589. In addition St Mary's received covid-related grants worth nearly £5,000. This meant we were able to end the year with a surplus. New avenues of giving, via text and online, brought in over £2,000, and we are hopeful that this income stream will grow further in future years.

The main [expenditure](#) during the year was to overhaul our antiquated sound system and update our audio/visual equipment. This cost over £22,000, but now enables services to be streamed in a professional manner. There was no significant increase in energy bills and other running costs during the year.

Reserves: Our Policy, which has been formally agreed by PCC, is to keep sufficient money in our reserves to cover three months running costs, plus £20,000 .

Our links with the wider church

Our links with the wider church are strong.

Our Vicar, Revd. Michael is Rural Dean of [Peterborough Deanery](#), and we have four lay representatives on [Peterborough Deanery Synod](#). The spring and summer meetings of Synod were via Zoom, on the community support arrangements put in place by Peterborough City Council during the pandemic, and an update by the Peterborough Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. In October two well-attended events were held at St Mary's; one was a Deanery Prayer Day, and the other a networking event for Churchwardens, Treasurers and Secretaries of local churches.

Two members of St Mary's currently represent Peterborough Deanery on [Peterborough Diocesan Synod](#). This met twice in 2021 via Zoom to agree the new Diocesan Environmental Policy, and to discuss finances and agree the annual accounts.

One of our church members was elected in October 2021 to [General Synod](#) as one of the three lay representatives for Peterborough Diocese.

St Mary's is part of the [Inclusive Church](#) network and Inclusive Church Peterborough meets in our building each week, led by our Lay Pioneer Ministers. They met throughout 2021, using Zoom when they could not meet in person because of the pandemic.

St Mary's is also an active member of [Churches Together in Central Peterborough \(CTiCP\)](#), an ecumenical group of nine city centre churches of various different denominations. Its main aims are to pray and worship together, although the pandemic prevented many of its usual events such as the Good Friday Walk of Witness or the Advent Reflection Day from happening during 2021, although we were able to support the monthly prayer meetings via Zoom.

St Mary's PCC is delighted with what we managed to achieve in 2021 in another difficult year. Very little of this would have been possible without ...

...our Volunteers

Almost all the work at St Mary's is done by volunteers. Revd. Michael, the Churchwardens and PCC would like to thank them all for giving their time and talents free to enable St Mary's Church—whether the 'physical' church in the building, or our online presence, to function, week in and week out.

Thank you!

Our Priorities for 2022:

During 2022 St Mary's PCC plans to focus on the following steps towards achieving the goals we set ourselves in our Five Year Plan [page 5]. We hope that covid won't cause any further disruption, but if necessary we will take the same pragmatic and flexible approach we adopted in 2020 and 2021, and think of different ways to achieve what we believe God wants us to do.

During 2022 we hope to achieve the following, assuming that it is safe to do so:

To grow nearer to God through worship:

By encouraging those we haven't seen since the pandemic started, to come back to church

To grow in faith and spiritual understanding:

By exploring ways to offer online fellowship groups, especially for those who do not live locally

To grow in fellowship with one another:

By improving the accuracy, consistency and accessibility of our communications, so that all are aware of forthcoming activities and feel invited

By restarting 'Men's Breakfasts' and 'Meals Out' (when safe to do so)

By raising awareness of Inclusivity by offering a 'Living in Love and Faith' course during Lent

By encouraging more events with other local churches

To grow out into our local community through mission and outreach:

By distributing copies of 'News Around St Mary's' to new houses in the parish

By opening our chapel, on a trial basis, to the public for 'Prayer in the Chapel' sessions

By forging links with the new ARU Peterborough university, opening in September 2022

By reviving our 'Open the Book' contact with local schools

By establishing free family-friendly film sessions (when safe to do so)

By establishing 'Come & Sing' sessions for the elderly (when safe to do so)

And in order to achieve these aims, we want to improve our facilities :

By installing a new permanent projector in the Lower Hall

We also want to limit the damage we might cause to our planet:

By installing solar panels on our south facing roof

By improving our recycling practices

Lord Jesus, Living God,

May we always remember that You are the head of this church,

Inspire us with Your Spirit to do Your work,

May ours be the eyes through which You look out in compassion on the world,

May ours be the feet with which You go about doing good,

May ours be the hands with which You bless Your people.

Lord Jesus, show us how best we can be Your hands, feet and eyes as we seek
to do Your will.

Amen

Based on a prayer used by St Teresa of Avila

Financial Review for 2021 *[Detailed accounts on pages 14-17]*

Report from our Treasurer, Richard Smith

The total balance on our [General Fund](#) at 31-December 2021 *[page 17]* is £84,541 an increase of £27,151 over the previous year.

Payments (*expenditure*) were £125,431 *[page 15]* against Receipts (*income*) of £152,581 *[page 14]*.

Significant movements in *income* *[page 14]* were:

- Stewardship giving rose by nearly 10% to £80,800.
- Centre income declined by 23% to £5,452.
- Gift Aid increased over 50% to £9,589.
- One-off donations were received totalling £38,731
- Grants were received totalling £4,871

Within *expenditure* *[page 15]* the significant items included:

- Repairs and maintenance rose from £5,502 to £27,840 (reflecting expenditure on the new audio/visual system).
- Energy costs remained constant at £3,967.

Our [Restricted](#) Funds – Hebden Trust, Eastgate Mission – total £6,629.

Our [General Fund's](#) closing position *[page 17]* is £84,541.

Our [Total cash and assets](#) (that include Restricted Funds) *[page 17]* increased to £91,170.

External Charity Giving

St Mary's PCC aim to give 10% of our income to charity each year, in obedience to the tithing principle. Part of this giving is in reduced or no-cost rent to local charities who use our rooms, principally to Extended Hands, who use our Church Centre as their office base, and this giving does not show in these formal accounts.

During 2021 we gave £8,800 in direct donations to the following national and local charities:

Alzheimer's Society;
Breaking Barriers;
Christians Against Poverty;
Christian Aid;
Hope into Action;
Peterborough Foodbank;
Peterborough Light Project;
Peterborough Samaritans;
Red Cross (for Afghan, Haiti and Yemen appeals);
UNICEF

Not shown in these accounts are the indirect donations, amounting to £900, to The Children's Society and HMP Peterborough and the £1,575 raised by our St Mary's Just Giving page set up for Christian Aid Week in May 2021.

Sales from our monthly Traidcraft Stall increased during 2021, benefiting the charitable work of Traidcraft as well as St Mary's Church.

Statement of Accounts for the calendar year 2021

St Mary's PCC: General Fund Receipts and Payments Account

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
<u>Incoming resources from donors</u>				
Collections - Stewardship	80,800		73,606	
- Loose cash	3,096		1,759	
Inland Revenue covenant rebates	9,589		5,999	
Online Giving	2,309			
		95,794		81,364
<u>Other voluntary incoming resources</u>				
Donations and bequests	38,731		2,116	
Fayres and events	4,674		5,859	
Miscellaneous income	120		41	
		43,525		8,016
<u>Income from investments</u>				
Bank interest	2		17	
War stock interest and capital repayment	4,871			
Investment interest - CBF deposit fund	8		65	
		4,881		82
<u>Income from charitable and ancillary trading</u>				
Magazine and book stall sales (net)	10		65	
Wedding and funeral fees	2,469		1,343	
Centre income	5,452		7,053	
Traidcraft income	450		315	
		8,381		8,776
<u>Transfers</u>				
Church Hall				
Eastgate Mission Fund				
Money charitable			301	
		0		301
Total Receipts		152,581		98,539
Total Payments (<i>see page 15 for detail</i>)		(125,431)		(98,765)
Excess/(deficit) of receipts over payments		27,151		(226)
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January 2021		57,390		57,617
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December 2021		£84,541		57,390

St Mary's PCC: General Fund Receipts and Payments Account

	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>
	£	£	£
PAYMENTS			
<u>Activities relating directly to the work of the Church</u>			
Vicar's expenses	100		-
Locum	-		151
Readers Expenses	260		-
Salaries paid by Diocese	11,218		9,200
Upkeep of services	843		561
Organists	2,510		1,970
Water	90		304
Light and heat	3,967		3,674
Repairs and maintenance	27,840		5,502
Insurance	1,673		1,666
Telephones	748		627
Parish share	63,893		67,268
Magazine	-		422
Donations (Overseas and sundry):			
Tithe	8,800		4,552
Disaster appeals	-		-
Other giving	-	8,800	-
	-	-	4,552
Sunday Club/Youth expenses	117		104
Stewardship envelopes	-		-
Office administration	521		574
Cleaning and sundry materials	330		188
Diocesan fees	211		-
Traidcraft	-		-
Vestments, robes, albs	-		-
Piano and organ expenses	120		132
Music licence	525		532
Auditor (CROPS)	150		150
Car expenses - Vicar	82		92
- Curate	13		92
Training	-		-
Flowers	-		-
Miscellaneous expenditure	1,420		1,004
Total payments (to page 14)	<u>£125,431</u>		<u>£98,765</u>

St Mary's PCC: Receipts and Payments Accounts

	<u>2021</u> £	<u>2020</u> £
HEBDEN TRUST FUND - RESTRICTED <i>Restricted to spending on education</i>		
Receipts		
Interest	64	84
Sale of investments	3,115	0
Payments		
Transfer to current	0	0
Bank deposit accounts at 1 January 2021	<u>1,458</u>	<u>1,374</u>
Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2021	<u>£4,637</u>	<u>£1,458</u>
MONEY CHARITABLE - RESTRICTED <i>Restricted to spending on training</i>		
Receipts		
Interest	0	0
Payments		
Transfer to current	0	(301)
Bank deposit accounts at 1 January 2021	<u>0</u>	<u>301</u>
Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2021	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>
ST. MARY'S CHURCH HALL - ENDOWMENT		
Receipts		
Interest	0	0
Payments		
Transfer to current	0	0
Bank deposit accounts at 1 January 2021	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2021	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>
ST. MARY'S EASTGATE MISSION - ENDOWMENT		
Receipts		
Interest	1	9
Payments		
Transfer to current	0	0
Bank deposit accounts at 1 January 2021	<u>1,991</u>	<u>1,982</u>
Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2021	<u>£1,992</u>	<u>£1,991</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Restricted Funds :						
	General fund:	Hebden	Money	St. Mary's Church	St. Mary's Eastgate Mission	2021	2020
	<u>General</u>	<u>Trust</u>	<u>Trust</u>	<u>Hall Fund</u>	<u>Fund</u>		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Monetary assets							
Cash in hand	100					100	100
Bank - current	43,860	4,637				48,497	31,087
- reserve	25,165					25,165	12,253
CBF deposit fund	15,416		0			15,416	15,408
Peterborough Diocesan Board of Finance					0	1,992	1,991
Total cash & Assets	84,541	4,637	0	0	1,992	91,170	60,839

St Mary's Parochial Church Council Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

Funds

General Funds represent funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC.

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

- Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
- Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty.
- Amounts owing from the Inland Revenue where a formal claim has been made.

Closing bank balances as shown in the receipts and payments accounts.

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on pages 13 to 16, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 to 2001 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('2011 Act').

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 144(2) of the 2011 Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to :-.

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act ;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act and to be found in the Church guidance issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

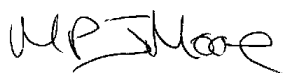
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 131 of the 2011 Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act and the Regulations have not been met ; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



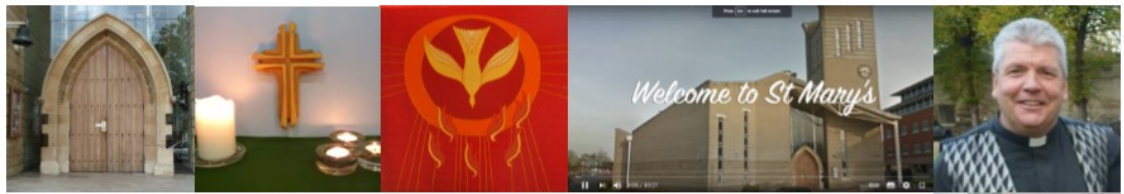
N J Burroughs FCA
45 Farleigh Fields, Orton Wistow 9 March 2022
Peterborough

This Annual Report was approved by St Mary's PCC on 11th May 2022, and signed on their behalf by:



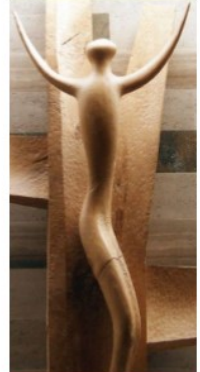
Revd Canon Michael Moore
Vicar
Chair of Trustees of the ecclesiastical parish of St Mary Boongate Peterborough

Accounts



St Mary's Church Peterborough

ANNUAL REPORT & STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2020



St Mary's Church is part of the Diocese of Peterborough within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is St Mary's Church, New Road, Peterborough PE1 1TT.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary Boongate Peterborough is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and registered with the Charity Commission in September 2018. Its Registered Charity Number is 1180032.

PCC members who have served at any time during 2020 are:

Ex-officio members:

- Incumbent: The Reverend Michael Moore (Chair of PCC as Trustees of St Mary's)
- Curate: The Reverend Keri Morrow
- Churchwardens: Mrs Mary Manna, Mr Chi-man Mau
- Readers: Mrs Elizabeth Pedley, Mr Robert Robinson
- Lay Pastoral Ministers: Mrs Jayne Ellis, Mrs Susan Moore, Mrs Sheila Sutherland
- Parish Evangelist: Mr Andrew Christie

Elected members:

- Mr David Dawson, representative on Deanery Synod
- Mrs Hilary Dawson, *PCC Secretary*, representative on both Diocesan and Deanery Synods
- Mr George Kirk, representative on Deanery Synod
- Mrs Mairwen Peasnell, representative on Deanery Synod (*Lay Chair for PCC meetings*)
- Mrs Janet Armitage (*resigned January 2020*)
- Mr Norman Billyard
- Mrs Vicky Brett
- Mrs Helen Brown
- Mr David Christie
- Mrs Gillian Christie
- Mr Victor Jones
- Mr Andrew Maywhort
- Mr Stuart Pedley (*Lay Worship Leader*)
- Mr Paul Riddler
- Mr Richard Smith, *Treasurer*
- Mrs Angela Turner

Authorised Lay Pioneers: Mr Keith Brett, Mrs Vicky Brett

Electoral Roll Officer: Vacant (*Mr Tom Tomalin until February 2020*)

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Marion Betts

Health & Safety Officer: Mr Mark Stevens

Independent Examiner: Mr N J Burroughs FCA,
45 Farleigh Fields, Orton Wistow, Peterborough

Banking details: St Mary's Peterborough PCC General Account is at Barclays Bank,
1 Church Street Peterborough PE1 1XB

St Mary's Peterborough Restricted Accounts are held by the
Peterborough Diocesan Board of Finance (*Registered Charity no.*
250569)

Our Vicar, the Revd. Michael Moore, summarises 2020 at St Mary's

GROWTH

Gosh! What a year! Many things have had to be cancelled and closed down this past year because of Covid. However, things still go on, and have changed, and we have changed to meet the new challenge.

Obviously, we have not seen physical growth in church attendance but we have had growth in our online activities.

Our church services have been produced with many people helping and using their gifts, and acquiring new skills too. More people than we would have ever expected now watch online each Sunday and on Friday Nights too.

PRAYER

As well as focusing on God's Word at St Mary's, we continue to be an actively praying church. I am grateful to those who lead our 'Thursday Prayers'; these are now sent via email and we gather together at home, but praying as one.

Our 'Prayer Link' continues to be a great support to those in need of urgent prayer throughout the local community and across the country and the world.

EXPANDING THE TEAM

This year, many people have asked if they can help the church and more people are involved with church than ever before, taking on new roles and helping in new ways. The Gardening Team really stepped up to the mark last year, keeping the church gardens clean and tidy and saving the church hundreds of pounds in the process.

REACHING OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY

St Mary's continues to be an outward-looking church. The huge amount raised for The Food Bank as part of our Summer Fundraiser is testament to the huge generosity of our church members. This is in addition to the weekly food collections we have.

In March, we held a well-attended Pet Service.

Covid stopped much of our work. However, the people of St Mary's rallied around looking after people and shopping for them. They phoned each other to make sure everyone was well and safe.

Our streaming of services also helped people to feel connected, and many in the community, who never came to church before, now watch our service.

St Mary's has committed to spend over £20,000 on a new sound system, WIFI network and filming and live streaming system to make sure we can continue to broadcast our weekly services across the city and the world. We will also be able to stream funerals.

During 2020, we have continued our links with our local primary schools using Microsoft Teams to reach into the classrooms.

FINANCES

Finances are always tough for St Mary's Church and last year we lost over £20,000 in bookings through not being able to let our rooms. However, cost savings were made and people stepped up to the mark and gave to the church sacrificially. This meant that, at the end of the year, we were only £200 in the red. A truly brilliant position all things considered.

This past year has been a real joy to me in seeing people grow in their faith, and seeing many grow in their skills and confidence, and in seeing the church coming together and supporting one another.

We have reached out into the community with God's love through our online services and, through that, we have ourselves been blessed as a church.

There is great need in our community, not just financially but also spiritually.

Together at St Mary's we are making a difference to people's lives in this city. This next year will still be a challenge. However, as Covid restrictions are slowly lifted, we pray that we will continue to innovate and be open to new ways of helping our community around us and spreading God's word. With God's blessing we will.

St Mary's, Peterborough

The church of St Mary Boongate was legally constituted on 27th August 1857 to serve the whole of the eastern part of the city, which at the time consisted mostly of the Boongate slums with fields beyond. There was considerable growth in the twentieth century, particularly between 1970 and 1990 when the Peterborough Development Corporation transformed the area.

Our parish broadly equates to the civil Peterborough East Ward together with small parts of the neighbouring Central, Park and Dogsthorpe Wards. Covering an area of 3.6 square miles it forms a wedge, stretching out almost three miles north-eastwards from the city centre, from the Eastgate estates (which replaced the old Boongate slums in the 1970s), through the post-war suburb of Eastfield to the newer township of Parnwell. It also includes the extensive Eastern Industrial estates and part of the city's retail and commercial centre. The church building is situated in the south-western corner of the parish, close to the city centre.

The population is around 13,750, roughly half of whom are white British. It is relatively young - 21% of those living in the parish in 2019 were under 15 years of age, slightly above the figure of 18% for England as a whole (*Church of England Research & Statistics Unit Parish data Jan 2020*). It is one of the 10% most deprived in the country (*based on the indicators of poverty used by the Church of England Research & Statistics Unit and the Church Urban Fund*), for each of child, working-age and pensioner poverty.

Within our parish we have five primary schools (*Bishop Creighton Academy; Lime Academy Abbotsmede; Lime Academy Parnwell; Newark Hill Academy; St Thomas More RC Primary*), two Secondary Schools (*City of Peterborough Academy, St John Fisher RC High School*) and two Special Schools (*Medeshamstede Academy, NeneGate School*) and a Further Education College (*City College*). The new University of Peterborough — currently under construction—will also be in our parish, with a proposed new student accommodation block built close to the church.

The primary purpose of St Mary's Church

Our principal objective at St Mary's is to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. Like all churches, St Mary's attempts to look three ways at once in its mission, because at all times we strive to be open to and engage with our Living God, with our community neighbours and with our own 'church family'. These three fundamental functions underpin our mission as a church.

St Mary's Parochial Church Council is committed to growing our church – not just numerically, but to grow nearer to God through worship, to grow in faith and spiritual understanding, to grow out into our local community and to grow in fellowship with each other. To facilitate this growth we consider it important to maintain the fabric of our church and centre building, and also to ensure that we have sufficient resources, both human and monetary.

As a church, our first priority at St Mary's is worship and prayer, and we are committed to holding regular public worship that is open to all, and to provide a sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation. We teach the Christian faith through sermons, courses and small groups, and offer a pastoral ministry to the sick and bereaved. We want to promote the whole mission of the church through the provision of activities of benefit to people in our local community, and want in particular to work with the schools within our parish.

St Mary's PCC is essentially focused on the advancement of religion for the public benefit. When we compile our action plans for each year, we consider the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, particularly the specific guidance given to charities concerned with the advancement of religion. We also consider the wider needs of the local community which we serve.

Structure, governance and management

St Mary's Peterborough PCC is a body corporate and operates under the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956* and the *Church Representation Rules*. In essence its role is to work with Revd. Michael, as our Vicar, in all church activities, including the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social & ecumenical; participating in local Deanery and Diocesan events; looking after our building and contents; managing our finances and ensuring that things successfully happen.

St Mary's PCC is specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church Centre complex, which is spread over two floors and comprises the church, the chapel, two halls, two kitchens, three small meeting rooms, three vestries and an office. This modern, purpose-built building was opened in 1991, replacing the original Victorian church which was in a very poor state of repair and had no community facilities.

Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has a number of committees/teams and authorises individuals to be responsible for particular areas of church activity, such as safeguarding, health and safety, stewardship, pastoral visiting and Churches Together liaison. It also employs two people: a part-time administrative assistant and a part-time cleaner/caretaker.

Day-to-day management of St Mary's Church is exercised by the Standing Committee: Revd. Michael Moore (*Vicar*), Mary Manna, Chi-man Mau (*Churchwardens*), Hilary Dawson, Richard Smith and Elizabeth Pedley. This is the only committee required by law and has the power to transact business between PCC meetings and consider issues which may affect the church.

PCC members are appointed in accordance with the Church of England Representation Rules and are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), normally held each April. By decision of a previous APCM elected members serve for one year only (except for those elected to Synod, who serve for three years). Everyone who regularly attends St Mary's is encouraged to join our Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC. All members of the PCC are required to complete safeguarding training, and may receive other external training as and when deemed appropriate.

Unfortunately restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic closed the church building in March and made it impossible to hold our planned APCM — such public gatherings were illegal. The Bishop of Peterborough made provision, under powers conferred by section 10 of the Churchwardens Measure 2001 and rule 78 of the Church Representation Rules, for the period of office of the existing churchwardens and PCC members to be extended until 31st May 2021 if necessary. In late April 2020 all members of St Mary's PCC, in whatever capacity they served, were formally asked if they would be willing to continue for a further year, and all agreed in writing that they were happy to do so.

Normally St Mary's PCC would meet seven times during the year, including an Awayday focused on planning, but this wasn't possible in 2020. The full PCC met four times, with two 'physical' meetings held before the pandemic struck, and two held later via Zoom (with special provision made for those without IT access). The average level of attendance was 83%. Meetings are chaired by an elected Lay Chair at the request of the Vicar, who otherwise retains chairmanship of the PCC as Trustees of St Mary's.

Our Plans for the future - the next five years:

During 2019 PCC set a new five year growth agenda for the years 2020 — 2025 which we felt would help strengthen our commitment to the core functions forming the basis of our on-going purpose, namely:

- to worship God,
- to help each other grow in faith and fellowship, and
- to spread the love of Jesus Christ and the Gospel message throughout our local community.

This 5 Year Plan identifies specific ways in which we hope to grow and things we wish to achieve.

Between 2020 and 2025 we want to:

Grow nearer to God through worship:

By offering worship opportunities in a range of different styles and on different days of the week

By encouraging those who come to attend more regularly

Grow in faith and spiritual understanding:

By encouraging more of the congregation to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith through attendance at the activities we offer (e.g. Bible Study, House Groups, Lent Course)

By ensuring that our children and young people have firm foundations on which to grow their Christian faith

Grow in fellowship with one another:

By ensuring that everyone who walks through our doors is greeted with the same high standards of warmth and hospitality, and made to feel a valued member of our community

By offering a range of social and fund-raising activities appropriate to the age and interests of both our diverse congregation and our wider church community

By living out the principles of Inclusive Church

By developing a close partnership with our local Christian churches

By actively supporting specific charities through fundraising events

Grow out into our local community through mission and outreach:

By making contact with residents throughout the parish

By making contact with local offices and businesses, including those on the Eastern Industrial Estates

By strengthening our links with local schools

By offering activities for local children and young people

Grow in numbers:

By working to increase the numbers of those who attend our Sunday and weekday services on a regular basis

And in order to achieve these aims, we want to ensure that we:

Have sufficient numbers of people from various age-groups with the necessary skills and training to get things done

Have appropriate, well-maintained facilities, with improvements made where necessary

Have enough money, whilst giving a tenth of our income away to charity each year

Limit the damage we may be causing to our planet

What PCC wanted to achieve in 2020

We identified the following as key tasks to be actioned in 2020, considering them to be steps towards achieving our new 5-year growth plan.

To enable us to grow out into our local community through mission and outreach:

- Establish a monthly Film Night
- Provide Prayer Space in the Chapel for local Offices on a regular basis
- Scope and establish a chaplaincy service for the Eastern Industrial Estate
- Research and scope the possibility of reviving our Youth Group

To ensure that we have appropriate resources and facilities to achieve our plans:

- Grow our volunteer base in areas where we are short
- Update our failing Sound System
- Install and promote systems for contactless giving
- Research an appropriate way of installing handrails for the Sanctuary steps
- Encourage participation in the new Parish Giving Scheme

Ten weeks into the year the coronavirus pandemic arrived to challenge the status quo!

And this is what we managed to do in 2020. We:

Continued to make public worship a priority, even when our building was closed:

- We moved online and adapted our pattern of services [see page 7 for details]
- Held a much appreciated and well-attended Pet Service in March just before Lockdown
- Invited bereaved families to join our online 'Service of Remembering' in November

Strived to growth in faith and spiritual understanding:

- Took our largest ever group to the annual Bishop's Bible Day run by the Diocese in February
- Started a Lent Course with two study groups, until closed by the pandemic
- Held weekly Advent Reflections via Zoom
- Held weekly Bible Study sessions and monthly House Group meetings "by distance"

Strived to maintain fellowship with one another:

- Started a programme of social events (e.g. Beetle Drive, meals out together) before this was curtailed by the pandemic
- Rethought our fundraising events so they could continue on line, and raised over £3,000 for the Peterborough Food Bank and Church Funds in our Summer Fundraiser and £1,320 for Christian Aid
- Emailed church members each week to keep them informed, and set up a Whats App group. Replaced our bi-monthly printed magazine with a monthly emailed version.

Strived to maintain contact with our local community:

- Grew our much appreciated weekly 'Chill & Chat' group, before its temporary closure
- Got our Youth Group ready to launch as an online venture in early 2021
- Started 'Pray Around the Parish' to encourage church members to pray for a different road in our parish each day

Worked to ensure that we have appropriate resources and facilities to achieve our plans:

- Encouraged givers to switch to the Parish Giving Scheme, which resulted in improved levels of giving
- Introduced contactless giving in church, and giving by text and online portal
- Held a very successful COVID-19 appeal during Advent
- Joined Easyfundraising.co.uk and Amazon Smile
- Sought Diocesan approval to improve our sound system and wifi reception and install a second screen, permanent projector and two fixed cameras.

Achievements & Performance

St Mary's PCC is delighted with what we managed to achieve in 2020 in a very difficult year. Where our original objectives weren't possible because of the COVID restrictions, we focused on alternatives which were! The following section highlights key areas of activity and performance.

Electoral Roll

At the start of 2020 there were 114 names on our Electoral Roll, 62% of whom were women and 38% men. 51 (45%) lived within the parish, and 63 (55%) outside.

Last Spring, in accordance with Church Regulations, we started revising our Electoral Roll prior to the Annual Church Meeting in April, and we were nearing the end of this process when the church was closed by the coronavirus pandemic. By then numbers had increased to 120, 60% of whom were women and 40% men. 53 (44%) lived in the parish and 67 (56%) outside.

Since then one long-standing church member has died, bringing our Roll to 119 by December 2020, 61% women and 39% men. 52 (44%) live within in the parish and 67 (56%) outside.

Worship

All are welcome to attend **our regular services**. We recognise that not everyone finds it helpful to worship God in the same way, and we encourage everyone to explore new ways of worship as they try to come closer to God. Our main Sunday morning service is Family Communion, but our regular pattern of services covers a wide range to suit different tastes and offer different worship experiences. Our popular monthly café style 'Friday Night Worship' appeals to those who enjoy informal worship with a live band, whilst those who value time for silent prayer and reflection are also catered for. Until Lockdown in March 2020 we offered two Sunday evening services each month, a Compline service and a lay-led Evensong. Our Lay Pioneer Ministers led 'Inclusive Church Peterborough' at St Mary's on Sunday evenings.

When our church building was closed by the pandemic in mid-March we were immediately able to move our **services online via YouTube**, thanks to the technical expertise of church members. When regulations permitted, the Sunday morning Communion service was recorded in church, otherwise it was filmed in the vicarage kitchen. This online service has been offered each week since 22nd March 2020, even when the church was re-opened in the summer, for those who wished to attend, under very strict safety conditions including booking.

At the same time our pattern for Sunday evenings was revised, and a weekly Compline service was offered online, led by Mr and Mrs Pedley (Lay Worship Leader and Reader) with assistance from members of their musical family. They also made You Tube videos for our monthly online 'Friday Night Worship', together with special services for Holy Week and Christmas.

The move to online services is seen as a positive development which has enabled us to move out into a wider sphere. We know from feedback that people living miles away from Peterborough, including some from different continents, watch our services regularly. Some have an existing contact with St Mary's, others seem to have found us by chance and stayed.

Viewing figures for our online services throughout 2020 were encouraging, with an average above 200 for our Sunday morning service when the church was closed, and 145 when the building was open for services. On average, 25 viewed Compline each week, and 62 'Friday Night Worship'. Services for special events, such as the 'Service of Remembering' in early November and the Christmas Carol Service, logged over 170 views.

However we are well aware that the number of views does not equate with the number of people who fully participate in a service. A figure of '1' could equally be a family watching the full length of the service together from a single device, or someone who turned off after two minutes. We do know that, for all our services, the average length of viewing time is significantly less than the length of the service—it would seem that several viewers are using the flexibility offered by online services to 'dip in', to fast-forward sections or turn off before the end.

As well as our regular services, we enable people in our community to celebrate and thank God at life's milestones of **birth, marriage and death**. The pandemic altered things, and we could only conduct three baptisms (one adult and two child), and one wedding rather than the six planned. Sadly there were more funerals—twenty-six funerals (18 in church and 8 at the crematorium).

Pastoral Care to our local community & our church

Pastoral care and service to our community is very important to St Mary's. Our Pastoral Team of fifteen is co-ordinated by Sue Moore, one of our Lay Pastoral Ministers, and normally meets three times a year.

The Team's normal role is to co-ordinate visiting and take House Communion to church members who are unable to attend services. They also take Holy Communion to several residential homes in our parish on a regular basis (Broadleigh, Friary Court, Heritage Court, Lavender House, Philia Lodge, the Star and Stephenson Court), and over the years have built strong links between St Mary's and the staff and residents — for example liaising with Broadleigh and Lavender House over social activities and articles for our magazine. The Team also deliver free copies of our church magazine 'News Around St Mary's' to the schools, medical centres, sheltered housing schemes, residential homes and hairdressers in our local community. In addition they organise the 'Prayer Link' for urgent prayer requests, keep our church Prayer Board updated and produce and update 'Prayer Shepherd' cards for every church member.

Whilst these activities continued as usual during January and February 2020, everything changed with the arrival of the pandemic. Lockdown life both intensified the need for pastoral support and the urgency of finding different ways to offer it. Our Pastoral Team Co-ordinator quickly set up a Pastoral Contact Scheme to enable those who are elderly, or live alone, or are vulnerable due to illness or disability or having to self-isolate, to stay in regular contact with St Mary's and get any support they might need (e.g. help with shopping). Members of the Pastoral Team, together with other volunteers from St Mary's, have been assigned contacts, and keep in regular touch with them by phone or email (in line with Data Protection regulations and maintaining confidentiality at all times). This scheme has proved very successful and is much appreciated. Throughout the pandemic Pastoral Team members have kept in touch with the residential care homes they visit and given support via telephone calls and prayer. Our Prayer Link, for urgent prayer requests, has been extremely busy this year.

Members of St Mary's Church support Peterborough Food Bank with the regular collection of food items in church or help at local distribution centres. Normally, some members volunteer for shifts at the Winter Night Shelter project run by Light Project Peterborough (as they did until February 2020), but government regulations have meant that for most of 2020 our support for the local homeless has been given through prayer, monetary donations and donations of clothing and gifts. Our Pastoral Team Co-ordinator is a member of the Light Project Peterborough Steering Group.

Sadly our popular weekly 'Chat & Chill' coffee mornings in church have been suspended since March, although contact has been maintained with some of the local people who attended. The pandemic has also curtailed our other successful initiative for community outreach, 'Street Prayer', but instead we have been praying for all the streets in our parish, week by week.

Children and families in our local community & our church

Children and families in our local community: We are particularly keen to build stronger links with local families, but unfortunately our popular and well-established St Mary's Parent & Toddler group has been unable to meet since the start of the pandemic. We were in the early stages of planning our annual Fun Day for local families when the pandemic made this impossible.

Contact with our **local primary schools** has been severely curtailed by the virus. A group from Bishop Creighton Academy visited St Mary's before the start of the pandemic, but planned visits by other schools couldn't happen, and we could not host any Christmas services. Neither could Revd. Michael or our 'Open the Book' team take any school Assemblies in person, although one primary school invited Revd. Michael to participate via video link. He has also maintained contact with local head teachers, offering prayer and support through these very challenging times.

Children's work in church is very important. The normal pattern is for them to leave part way through the Family Communion service for their own 'Sunday Club' activities, but once a month they stay in for our All Age Communion service, and are encouraged to take an active part. This involvement has been continued as an important part of our online services, with the readings and prayers given by children on the first Sunday of each month. This has proved very successful, with the children displaying greater confidence at video recording than several adult readers! The children's puzzle page (produced by the Redemptorists and based on the week's Gospel) which is emailed to all church members each week, irrespective of age, has also proved popular.

Our Church Centre

Until it was closed by the pandemic, our Church Centre was well-used, both for events run by St Mary's Church and by those who hire it. In the first three months of 2020 it was used regularly by a Pentecostal church and by a variety of groups including a Gospel Choir, a Tutor Group and a small group of iconographers. Our smaller meeting rooms were regularly used by Peterborough City Council for Family Group Conferences.

Our policy has been to offer free or reduced rate meeting space in our Centre to several local charities, including Samaritans, Christian Aid, the Peterborough Inter-Faith Council and the Peterborough Street Pastors, who use St Mary's as their local base.

Extended Hands (a small local charity supporting women at risk of feeling lonely, isolated or marginalised) rent one of our rooms as their office base — although we are not charging them during the pandemic. Until March 2020 they used rooms in our Centre for their regular sewing and craft sessions, IT skills classes, fitness sessions and weekly coffee mornings.

Our Church Administrator, Denise Thomas, has worked remotely from home during the pandemic and we are very grateful to her for continuing to manage our Centre bookings so efficiently.

Maintaining our church building

Like all buildings, St Mary's needs regular maintenance and repair to prevent deterioration. The Churchwardens, in consultation with Standing Committee, are responsible for advising the PCC on any necessary maintenance work, and PCC then makes a decision based on funds available. Minor tasks are completed by a team of church volunteers, with more specialist work undertaken by Robert Woods for general repairs and Nick Elks for electrical work. Both are local tradesmen with links to St Mary's Church, and we are most grateful for their continued assistance.

Now that the building is almost thirty years old regular maintenance is required to keep both church and grounds in good condition, however COVID-19 restrictions meant that during 2020 we were unable to hold any 'maintenance mornings' for church volunteers. The upstairs kitchen was repainted in February and minor repairs completed on the water heater and one of the hand dryers. Later in the year essential repair work was carried out on the lift after a fault was identified by the bi-annual lift inspection.

Our Quinquennial Inspection was carried out by our Church Architect in November, and identified various minor issues which PCC will address during 2021.

We are very grateful to Denise and Ray Howard for the professional expertise they bring to their work cleaning our building, which during much of 2020 was complicated by the frequent need to sanitise the church between each use. Our team of volunteers who come in each week to keep the church and chapel clean and tidy has been stood down since March, though individuals have been able to keep the external grounds under control.

We are also grateful to David Divers, for everything he does over the year as our unpaid Estate Manager, coming into church regularly to liaise with tradesmen and to deal with countless day-to-day issues.

Keeping us safe

We take our **Health and Safety** responsibilities seriously so we can provide a safe environment for everyone to enjoy the facilities that St Mary's Church has to offer. The annual Health and Safety inspection was held-over to 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

However, a COVID risk assessment took place between Revd. Michael and the Churchwardens to ensure that the church building was safe for the once a week Sunday worship and any funerals that needed to take place. This risk assessment enabled us to implement new COVID health and safety measures, including mandatory booking and registration, socially-distanced seating, hand sanitising, temperature checks, insistence on mask-wearing, and the scanning of the NHS track and trace app.

Despite the reduced availability of the church, we continue to ensure that our equipment is in

good working order, with regular inspections carried out within required timescales by registered contractors working to professional industry standards. The lift is regularly serviced by Morris Vermaport, who also complete the statutory LOLER (safety) tests.

All our safety certificates are up-to-date. Our fire safety equipment is maintained and checked by Churches Fire who test the fire alarm, fire extinguishers and emergency lighting.

Our boiler is inspected annually by Blounts, our heating engineers, who also complete the necessary checks for our Gas Safety Certificate. Our portable electrical appliances have all been PAT tested.

We take **Safeguarding** very seriously. Our Safeguarding Officer until December 2020 was Marion Betts, a position she has held since 2005. During 2020 she kept PCC fully informed on policy and practice, and updated them on new safeguarding advice from Peterborough Diocese. In November 2020 the PCC, acting on diocesan advice, combined our two existing safeguarding policies for children and vulnerable adults into one policy "Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults". This policy will be reviewed in November 2021. Copies of our safeguarding policies are displayed on the lobby noticeboards and published on the church website, with links to the Diocesan Safeguarding website.

Any safeguarding concerns are followed up promptly and discreetly in accordance with diocesan guidelines. St Mary's Church is registered with the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS), through which renewals and new clearances for the statutory Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) registration are made. All licensed ministers and staff working with children have been registered. The Vicar, Curate, licensed lay ministers, and PCC members have completed or renewed the modules of diocesan safeguarding training at the appropriate levels for their roles.

St Mary's PCC have appointed Jayne Ellis, one of our Lay Pastoral Ministers, as our new Safeguarding Officer. She is well suited for the role, having worked with children and young people in the NHS for the last 23 years, where she is the professionally trained safeguarding lead for her service.

Data Protection: The way in which St Mary's collects, stores and processes data on our church members was reviewed in 2018 in order to ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). PCC agreed a new Data Privacy notice, which is on display on our noticeboard together with our Health and Safety and Safeguarding policy statements.

All members of the church have completed a Consents Form to give, or withhold, permissions on how their personal information can be used by St Mary's Church. This put us in a strong position when Lockdown closed the church buildings in March 2020 as we were immediately able to keep in touch with all our members by email or telephone knowing that we had their full consent to contact them in this way.

Our links with the wider church

Our links with the wider church remain strong. We have four lay representatives on **Peterborough Deanery Synod**, and in March 2020 Revd. Michael was appointed Rural Dean. Only one meeting was possible in 2020, when Synod heard about the work to help the homeless by the "Safer Off the Streets Partnership" and "Light Project Peterborough", including a speaker from St Mary's describing our positive experience hosting the Winter Night Shelter in December 2019, and encouraging other churches to do the same.

Two members of St Mary's are currently on **Peterborough Diocesan Synod**, which met once in 2020 via Zoom to discuss finances and share experiences of 'online church'.

St Mary's is also an active member of **Churches Together in Central Peterborough (CTiCP)**, an ecumenical group of nine city centre churches of various different denominations. Its main aims are to pray and worship together, although the pandemic prevented many of its usual events such as the Good Friday Walk of Witness, joint Easter Sunday Sunrise Service and breakfast and the annual Advent Reflection Day. However St Mary's participated fully in CTiCP events at the start of the year, taking part in the annual pulpit swap in the Week of Church Unity, and later in the year has supported the regular joint Sunday evening Prayer Meetings via Zoom.

Until the pandemic, St Mary's hosted the monthly prayer meetings of the local **Julian Group**, led by one of our own members but with ecumenical membership and support.

Finance and Giving

The year was dominated by the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic which affected church finances in both negative and positive ways.

On the negative side our second main income source - hiring out our halls and meeting rooms - fell by three-quarters due to the closure of the church building in mid-March 2020. This meant a sizable shortfall in our income which we feared could only be covered by drawing on our reserves.

However St Mary's members responded generously to the situation leading to a sizable increase in stewardship donations. Also, with the building closed there was a reduction in energy, cleaning and maintenance costs. Reduced costs and increased giving meant that we were able to end the year with only a small shortfall (£226) and no need to draw on our reserves.

With physical services cancelled for a large part of the year giving in cash, via the plate, was much reduced. However the PCC took steps to open up new avenues of giving, both via text and online. This allowed donations to be made easily, in particular from the increasing number of people who access our weekly services online.

During the year St Mary's signed up to online fundraising schemes such as Easyfundraising.com, and Amazon Smile allowing members to raise money for the church whilst shopping online, and set up a JustGiving page for charitable giving during our Summer Fundraiser.

We also moved to the new Parish Giving Scheme promoted by the Diocese, which will hopefully lead to increased levels of giving in 2021.

The Gift Aid tax reclaim provided a welcome boost to our finances with £5,999 reimbursed during 2020.

The move to online streamed services highlighted the shortfall in our antiquated sound system and the PCC have taken the decision to update the audio/visual equipment as soon as possible to enable services to be streamed in a professional manner. This cost will be met in 2021.

Reserves: Our Policy, which has been formally agreed by PCC, is to keep sufficient money in our reserves to cover three months running costs, plus £20,000.

Our Volunteers

Almost all the work at St Mary's is done by volunteers. Revd. Michael, the Churchwardens and PCC would like to thank them all for giving their time and talents free to enable St Mary's Church—whether the 'physical' church in the building, or our online presence, to function, week in and week out. **Thank you!**

Our Priorities for 2021:

Our priorities for 2021 will be shaped by the coronavirus pandemic and its aftermath. We don't know when it will finish, and when it will be safe for people to start mixing again.

But we do know that we don't want to return to exactly what we were doing before. We want to move on, to build on the good things we have discovered during the pandemic.

St Mary's PCC have identified two clear priorities for 2021:

- To spend time thinking about the shape of St Mary's post-pandemic; and to consider carefully and prayerfully how each of our activities should look in the future. We might not be able to put our ideas into action for sometime, but we want to start planning now.
- To make sure we have the resources available to action our plans without risking our financial security.

Financial Review for 2020 *[Detailed accounts on pages 13-16]*

Report from our Treasurer, Richard Smith

The total balance on our **General Fund** at 31st December 2020 *[page 16]* is £57,390, a decrease of £226 over the previous year.

Payments (*expenditure*) were £98,765 *[page 14]* against Receipts (*income*) of £98,539 *[page 13]*.

Significant movements in *income* *[page 13]* were:

- Stewardship donations rose by 7% to £73,606.
- Centre income declined by 75% to £7,053.
- Gift Aid increased over 50% to £5,999.

Within *expenditure* *[page 14]* the significant items included:

- Parish share increased by £2,775 to £67,268, a rise of 4%.
- Repairs and maintenance fell from £45,513 to £5,502 (reflecting expenditure in 2019 of £35,000 on the refurbishment of the toilets and a new boiler).
- Energy costs fell 40% to £3,674.

Our **Restricted Funds** – Hebden Trust, Money Charitable, Eastgate Mission – remained constant at £3,750.

Our **General Fund's** closing position *[page 16]* is £57,390.

Our **Total cash and assets** (that include Restricted Funds) *[page 16]* decreased slightly to £60,839.

External Charity Giving

During 2020 our **direct giving to charity** totalled £4,552.

This included £1,500 for the Peterborough Food Bank resulting from our Summer Fund-raising campaign. Other national and local charities we helped included Community Heartbeat Trust, Christian Aid, The Children's Society, Churches Across Peterborough and Mercy Ships.

This was a smaller number than we would normally support because our programme of social and fundraising activities was severely curtailed by the pandemic.

The **free or reduced rent** provided to local charities amounted to £8,841, meaning we met our target of giving the equivalent of 10% (our 'Tithe Giving') of income to good causes.

Statement of Accounts for the calendar year 2020

St Mary's PCC: General Fund Receipts and Payments Account

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
<u>Incoming resources from donors</u>				
Collections - Stewardship	73,606		68,889	
- Loose cash	1,759		5,544	
Inland Revenue covenant rebates	5,999		3,917	
		81,364		78,350
<u>Other voluntary incoming resources</u>				
Donations and bequests	2,116		1,577	
Fayres and events	5,859		6,196	
Miscellaneous income	41		1,972	
		8,016		9,745
<u>Income from investments</u>				
Bank interest	17		43	
War stock interest and capital repayment			0	
Investment interest - CBF deposit fund	65		114	
		82		157
<u>Income from charitable and ancillary trading</u>				
Magazine and book stall sales (net)	65		767	
Wedding and funeral fees	1,343		2,288	
Centre income	7,053		27,735	
Traidcraft income	315		375	
		8,776		31,165
<u>Transfers</u>				
Church Hall			5,230	
Eastgate Mission Fund			19,642	
Money charitable	301		-	
		301		24,872
Total Receipts		98,539		144,289
Total Payments (see page 14 for detail)		(98,765)		(145,917)
Excess/(deficit) of receipts over payments		(226)		(1,629)
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January 2020		57,617		59,245
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December 2020		57,390		£57,617

St Mary's PCC: General Fund Receipts and Payment Account

	<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>
	£	£	£
PAYMENTS			
<u>Activities relating directly to the work of the Church</u>			
Vicar's expenses	-		-
Locum	151		360
Church secretary	-		-
Salaries paid by Diocese	9,200		9,795
Upkeep of services	561		852
Organists	1,970		3,105
Water	304		365
Light and heat	3,674		6,285
Repairs and maintenance	5,502		45,513
Insurance	1,666		1,700
Telephones	627		661
Parish share	67,268		64,493
Magazine	422		1,254
Donations (Overseas and sundry):			
Tithe	4,552		4,635
Disaster appeals	-		-
Other giving	-	4,552	-
	-	-	4,635
Sunday Club/Youth expenses	104		119
Stewardship envelopes	-		50
Office administration	574		888
Cleaning and sundry materials	188		1,355
Diocesan fees	-		271
Traidcraft	-		-
Vestments, robes, albs	-		180
Piano and organ expenses	132		132
Music licence	532		440
Auditor (CROPS)	150		150
Car expenses - Vicar	92		601
- Curate	92		175
Training	-		-
Flowers	-		54
Miscellaneous expenditure	1,004		2,484
Total payments (to page 13)	<u>£98,765</u>		<u>£145,917</u>

St Mary's PCC: Receipts and Payments Accounts

	<u>2020</u> £	<u>2019</u> £
HEBDEN TRUST FUND - RESTRICTED <i>Restricted to spending on education</i>		
Receipts		
Interest	84	82
Payments		
Transfer to current		
Bank deposit accounts at 1 January 2020	<u>1,374</u>	<u>1,292</u>
Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2020	<u>£1,458</u>	<u>£1,374</u>
MONEY CHARITABLE - RESTRICTED <i>Restricted to spending on training</i>		
Receipts		
Interest	-	-
Payments		
Transfer to current	(301)	-
Bank deposit accounts at 1 January 2020	<u>301</u>	<u>301</u>
Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2020	<u>£0</u>	<u>£301</u>
ST. MARY'S CHURCH HALL - ENDOWMENT		
Receipts		
Interest	0	27
Payments		
Transfer to current		(5,230)
Bank deposit accounts at 1 January 2020	<u>0</u>	<u>5,204</u>
Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2020	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>
ST. MARY'S EASTGATE MISSION - ENDOWMENT		
Receipts		
Interest	9	114
Payments		
Transfer to current		(19,642)
Bank deposit accounts at 1 January 2020	<u>1,982</u>	<u>21,510</u>
Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2020	<u>£1,991</u>	<u>£1,982</u>

St Mary's PCC: Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2020

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Restricted Funds :						
	General fund:	Hebden Trust	Money Trust	St. Mary's Church Hall Fund	St. Mary's Eastgate Mission Fund	2020	2019
	<u>General</u>	<u>Trust</u>	<u>Trust</u>	<u>Hall Fund</u>	<u>Fund</u>		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Monetary assets							
Cash in hand	100					100	100
Bank - current	29,629	1,458				31,087	22,526
- reserve	12,253					12,253	21,022
CBF deposit fund	15,408		0			15,408	15,644
Peterborough Diocesan Board of Finance					0	1,991	1,982
Total cash & Assets	57,390	1,458	0	0	1,991	60,839	61,274

St Mary's Parochial Church Council Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

Funds

General Funds represent funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC.

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

- Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
- Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty.
- Amounts owing from the Inland Revenue where a formal claim has been made.

Closing bank balances as shown in the receipts and payments accounts.

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on pages 13 to 16, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 to 2001 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('2011 Act').

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 144(2) of the 2011 Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to :-.

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act ;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act and to be found in the Church guidance issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

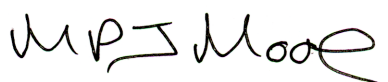
- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 131 of the 2011 Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act and the Regulations have not been met ; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



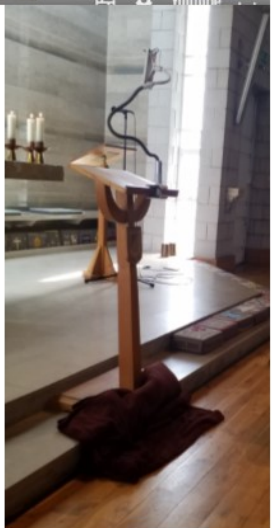
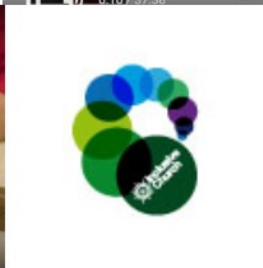
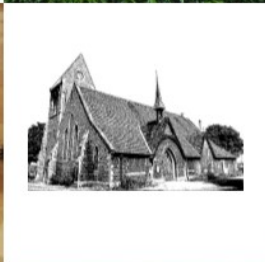
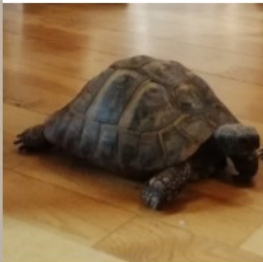
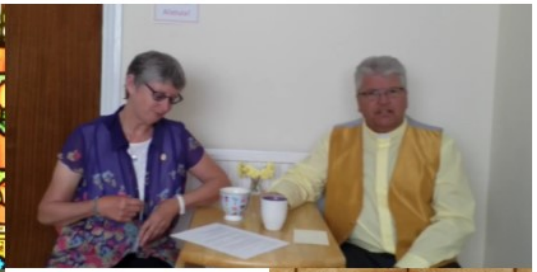
N J Burroughs FCA
45 Farleigh Fields, Orton Wistow
Peterborough

5 March 2021

This Annual Report was approved by St Mary's PCC on 10th March 2021, and signed on their behalf by:



Revd Michael Moore
Vicar
Chair of Trustees of the ecclesiastical parish of St Mary Boongate Peterborough



St Mary's Church and Centre
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Registered Charity no. 1180032